

QUEENS COLLEGE
SPEECH & DEBATE SOCIETY
PRESENTS



Big Apple Debate Tournament

September 26 - 27,
2025



@QCFORNSICS



Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of Queens College at the City University of New York (CUNY) and the Queens College Speech and Debate Society, I would like to cordially invite you to attend our 6th annual Big Apple Debate Tournament online on **Friday, September 26th, and Saturday, September 27th, 2025.**

****This tournament will be a synchronous online tournament on Zoom, with registration & tabulation taking place on Speechwire.com and online payment via PayPal. ****

The competition will feature novice and varsity divisions of IPDA Debate and open divisions of NPDA and NFA-LD Lincoln Douglas debate. On Friday, September 26th, and Saturday, September 27th, competitors will compete in **SIX** preliminary rounds of IPDA Debate and **FOUR** preliminary rounds of NPDA and NFA-LD. **IPDA resolutions in preliminary rounds will contain a variety of domestic, international, and NYC-themed topics!!**

All entries must be received by Tuesday, September 23rd, 2025, at 1:00PM ET. You must register at the Speechwire.com website, which provides all of our tournament information. Emailed entries will not be accepted. Changes will be accepted without charge until Wednesday, September 24th, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. ET at which point fees will be set. Late fees will be charged for any changes after the 25th at noon (in addition to any fees associated with the entry).

My hope is that this will be an excellent opportunity for new debaters to have their first tournament experience and for returning varsity competitors within our district to get into their groove for the 2025-2026 competition season. Pre-tournament updates will be distributed via the Speechwire website.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Randy Perez, M.A.

Director, Queens College Speech and Debate Society

(516) 858-3156 | qcspeechteam@gmail.com



ALL TIMES POSTED ARE IN EASTERN TIME (ET)!!

Registration for IPDA will commence at **6:00PM ET** on Friday evening and NPDA & NFA- LD Debate on Saturday morning at **8:00AM ET** at our virtual tab and registration room to permit timely preliminary rounds. We anticipate debate rounds to be “flighted” so that everyone will be accommodated with minimal delays.

Friday, Sept. 26 EASTERN TIME (ET)

6:00PM ET IPDA Registration Only	7:45 Draw for Round 2 of IPDA Debate
6:30 Draw for Round 1 of IPDA Debate	8:15 Round 2, IPDA
7:00 Round 1, IPDA	9:00 – 9:15 PM ET Tournament End

Saturday, Sept. 27 EASTERN TIME (ET)

8:00 – 8:30AM ET NPDA/LD Registration Only	2:45 – 3:00 Coaches Review
8:30 Draw for Round 3 of IPDA Debate	3:00 Draw for IPDA Debate Elim Round 1
8:45 Topic Released for NPDA Round 1	3:15 Topic Released for NPDA Elim Round 1
9:00 Round 1, NPDA/LD & Round 3, IPDA	3:30 NPDA, LD & IPDA Elimination Round 1
10:00 Draw for Round 4 of IPDA Debate	4:15 Draw for IPDA Elimination Round 2
10:15 Topic Released for NPDA Round 2	4:30 Topic Released for NPDA Elim Round 2
10:30 Round 2, NPDA/LD & Round 4, IPDA	4:45 NPDA, LD & IPDA Elimination Round 2
11:15 Draw for Round 5 of IPDA Debate	5:30 Draw for IPDA Elimination Round 3
11:30 Topic Released for NPDA Round 3	5:45 Topic Released for NPDA Elim Round 3
11:45 Round 3, NPDA/LD & Round 5, IPDA	6:00 NPDA, LD & IPDA Elimination Round 3
12:45 – 1:15PM Tournament Break	7:15 PM ET (approximate time) Awards & Results
1:15PM ET Draw for Round 6 of IPDA Debate	
1:30 Topic Released for NPDA Round 4	
1:45 Round 4, NPDA/LD & Round 6, IPDA	

- The 15-minute forfeit rule will apply if a debater fails to appear at their designated virtual debate room.
- Updates to the schedule will be posted on Speechwire if they occur. Please be vigilant!

ENTRY RULES

- All entries are due by Tuesday, September 23rd at 1pm ET via Speechwire.
- All debaters must be undergraduate students enrolled at their respective institutions.
- Students are allowed to use timers or phones as timekeeping devices during debate rounds.
- **All teams are expected to cover at least 50% of their entries by entering an adequate number of judges to the tournament.**
- It is up to your discretion to place and enter students in their proper division in IPDA debate (i.e. novice or varsity).
- **Experienced debaters found to be in Novice IPDA debate will face tournament disqualification and the team will be charged a nuisance drop entry fee! Please do not place experienced debaters in the novice division of IPDA.**
- Absolutely no individual can cross-enter in both IPDA and NPDA or NFA-LD debate.
- Absolutely no individual can debate without a partner in NPDA debate.
- You are encouraged to add pronunciations and your student's preferred pronouns by entering them on your team's roster on Speechwire.

FORMAT OF DEBATE DIVISIONS

We will be offering novice and varsity divisions of IPDA Debate and open divisions of NPDA debate and NFA-LD.

(NOTE: A novice IPDA debater is a student who has absolutely NO prior debate experience, including middle and high school. Experienced debaters found in Novice IPDA will be disqualified and the team will be charged a nuisance drop entry fee. Please do not place experienced debaters in the novice division of IPDA.)

AWARDS

1. Awards will be presented to each finalist within their respective divisions.
2. In IPDA, NPDA, and NFA-LD, there will be one, two, or three elimination rounds depending on the number of entries: Quarterfinals, Semifinals, and Finals.
3. Sweepstake points are....

POINTS FOR IPDA, NPDA, & NFA-LD DEBATE:

- a. 3 points for each preliminary win (regardless of how many teams per division; teams earning less than 2 wins receive no sweepstakes points)
 - b. 3 additional points for reaching Quarterfinal Rounds
 - c. 3 additional points for reaching Semifinal Rounds
 - d. 3 additional points for reaching Final Round
4. In addition, the top individual speakers and top debate schools within the two debate formats will be recognized.
 5. If IPDA entries are collapsed into one single, open division, we will also have an IPDA Novice breakout final for the top two non-advancing novices.

WARM ROOMS

Our tournament will not have "warm rooms." While we encourage cordial and constructive feedback between judges and debaters, judges should not be obliged to engage in conversation with students. Debaters should not pressure their judges for commentary after rounds. **JUDGES SHOULD NOT DISCLOSE THEIR REASON FOR DECISIONS (RFD) DURING OR AFTER ROUNDS!**

JUDGING

All schools should attempt to properly cover their entries. If you don't feel comfortable judging a particular debate format, please note it on your Speechwire entry so that we can accommodate you. We are fortunate to be placed in a region of many highly qualified judges, volunteers, educators, and former debaters.

TOURNAMENT FORFEIT RULE

Any debater who is more than 15 minutes late automatically forfeits their round, resulting in a "bye" or automatic win for the opposing debater. Please make every effort to have your debaters appear at their appointed rounds so that our tournament runs smoothly.

ETHICS STANDARDS OF IPDA / NPDA / NFA-LD DEBATE

The Big Apple Debate Tournament will adhere to the rules prescribed by the International Public Debate Association for IPDA Debate, the National Parliamentary Debate Association for NPDA Debate and the National Forensic Association (NFA) for NFA-LD. Before tournament day, please take time to familiarize yourself and your team with the rules contained within the Constitution and the Bylaws of these three organizations.

DEBATE PRELIMINARY ROUND PAIRINGS

Rounds 1 – 3 of IPDA and Rounds 1 and 2 of NPDA & NFA-LD Debate will be randomly paired. However, Rounds 4 – 6 of IPDA and Rounds 3 and 4 of NPDA and NFA-LD will be power-matched. Brackets will not be broken in elimination rounds.

IPDA COMPETITION RULES

Our tournament will follow IPDA rules found within the IPDA Constitution and Bylaws, which were last updated in October 2018. To view the constitution, please visit the website at: <http://www.ipdadebate.info/constitution--bylaws.html>.

According to the IPDA Constitution, "IPDA" or the "International Public Debate Association" is an audience-friendly debate format with great emphasis on persuasion, rhetorical speaking abilities, and inclusivity of interested individuals who are encouraged to debate "regardless of educational background, prior experience, or any other demographics." The philosophic tenets of the IPDA Constitution are sevenfold: *inclusivity*, *lay judging*, *limited preparation*, *extemporaneous delivery*, *rhetorical delivery*, and *ethos*.

It is important to note that IPDA Debate differs from other collegiate debate formats since it encourages *lay judging* – judges with limited debate experience and training to ensure fairness within debate rounds. Therefore, handouts of the IPDA debate format will be distributed at check-in to all lay judges who request a copy of the IPDA Debate rules.

The IPDA Debate format is as follows:

Topics will be announced in rounds with 5 topics (2 value, 2 policy, 1 metaphor) provided for strikes. Negative strikes first, and then turns are taken until one topic remains to be debated.

Topic disclosure is encouraged, and debaters will be allowed to consult with teammates during prep time - including coaches. Additionally, for our tournament, students are allowed to keep their own time using a timer or phone as a timekeeping device.

Per IPDA rules, they will be allowed paper and/or electronic research material, which may be quoted or paraphrased from notes during the round, but not read directly, as extemporaneous delivery is required.

Time limits:

Affirmative Constructive	5 minutes
Cross-Examination	2 minutes
Negative Constructive	6 minutes
Cross-Examination	2 minutes
First Affirmative Rebuttal	3 minutes
First Negative Rebuttal	5 minutes
Second Affirmative Rebuttal	3 minutes

Coaches must enter their IPDA entries in the appropriate division—novice or Varsity. For our tournament, a novice IPDA debater is defined as one with no prior debate experience. This also includes middle and high school debate! Experienced debaters found to be in Novice IPDA debate will face tournament disqualification and the team will be charged a nuisance drop entry fee!

ADDITIONAL NOTES ON THE IPDA DEBATE FORMAT

Competitors will receive their topics at their designated competition room 30 MINUTES BEFORE THE ACTUAL ROUND BEGINS. (Example: if the first round starts at 9:00AM, then competitors MUST be at their designated rooms **no later** than 8:30AM).

- Judges are expected to keep time during the debate round. Following the first negative strike, IPDA competitors will have exactly 30 minutes of preparation time.
- IPDA strike sheets will cover a variety of topics, from domestic, economic, social, and international events to NYC-themed issues.

NPDA DEBATE RULES

NPDA is the National Parliamentary Debate Association. Our tournament will follow the NPDA rules last updated in March 2008. NPDA Debate rules can be accessed here: <https://parlidebate.org/npda-rules/>

The NPDA Debate format is as follows

- A. Topics will be announced 15 minutes prior to the debate, where the Government and Opposition teams will receive their topic in rounds.
- B. **Debaters will not be allowed to consult any other person during prep time, including coaches.** Per NPDA rules, they will be allowed paper and/or electronic research material during their prep time. This material may be paraphrased from notes during the round but not read directly, as extemporaneous delivery is required.
- C. The topic of each round will be centered on current affairs or philosophy. The resolutions will be general enough that a well-educated college student can debate them. They may be phrased in literal or metaphorical language.
- D. Rounds 1 and 2 will be randomly preset. Rounds 3 and 4 will be power-matched. Brackets will NOT be broken in elimination rounds.
- E. Time limits:

Prime Minister Constructive	7 minutes
Opposition Flex Time	2 minutes
Opposition Leader Constructive	8 minutes
Government Flex Time	2 minutes
Member of Government Constructive	8 minutes
Opposition Flex Time	1 minute
Member of Opposition Constructive	8 minutes
Opposition Leader Rebuttal	4 minutes
Government Flex Time	1 minute
Prime Minister Rebuttal	5 minutes

NFA - LD DEBATE RULES

“NFA - LD” is Lincoln-Douglas Debate of the National Forensic Association. We will use the most recent rules and bylaws within the NFA Constitution.

The NFA-LD Debate format is as follows

- A. The 2025 – 2026 resolution shall be used.
- B. Rounds 1 and 2 will be randomly preset. Rounds 3 and 4 will be power-matched. Brackets will NOT be broken in elimination rounds.
- C. Time limits: 6-3-7-3-6-6-3 with 4 minutes of flexible prep time.
- D. All participants in NFA-LD are advised to visit the NFA website and familiarize themselves with the NFA-LD by-laws.
- E. NO disclosure in debate rounds. Please turn in ballots before offering any oral critiques.

TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION

Registration for the tournament will commence online at Speechwire on Friday, August 15th and will continue until the entry deadline on **Tuesday, September 23rd, 2025, at 1PM ET**. As stated before, emailed entries will not be accepted. You will have an opportunity to confirm your entries at check-in for IPDA Debate on Friday evening at 6:00 PM ET and NPDA and NFA-LD entries on Saturday morning at 8:00 am ET at our virtual tournament registration and tab room.

TAB ROOM

The tournament tab room will be at a specified breakout room on Zoom. The tabroom staff can answer questions about schematics. However, judges may direct all complaints, grievances, and serious matters to me. You will find me either in the tab room or at registration.

TOURNAMENT ENTRY FEES

IF YOU ARE MAKING A PAYMENT EITHER BY CREDIT/DEBIT CARD OR BY CHECK, YOU CAN SEND US PAYMENT VIA YOUR PAYPAL INVOICE. DETAILS WILL BE PROVIDED IN THE COMING DAYS NEAR TOURNAMENT DAY.

ALL FEES MUST BE PAID PRIOR TO OR AT REGISTRATION UNLESS PRIOR ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE!

1. The following entry fees shall be assessed:
 - School fee \$30 per school
 - IPDA slot \$35 per debater
 - NFA-LD slot \$35 per debater
 - NPDA slot \$60 per team

2. Fees for uncovered debaters will be assessed:
 - Every uncovered debater =
\$50 per IPDA & NFA-LD debater

 - Every uncovered team = \$100 per NPDA team

3. Fees will initially be calculated on Tuesday, September 23rd at 1PM ET. Late adds/drops will be as follows:
 - Add/drops on Wednesday, Sept 24th: \$25 per change, plus entry fee
 - **NO MORE ADDS ALLOWED ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH!!!!**
 - Drops on Thursday, Sept 25th: \$70 per drop, plus entry fee
 - **Drops at IPDA registration on Friday, Sept 26th & NPDA/NFA-LD registration on Saturday, Sept 27th \$100 per entry drop, plus original entry fee**
 - **ABSOLUTELY NO ADDS ALLOWED ON SATURDAY!!!**

4. **Each judge covers two individual IPDA / NFA-LD debaters or one NPDA team.** Therefore, teams with excess debaters will be charged “uncovered slots” for every debater that is not covered by a judge. So please make every effort to cover your entry. Schools are responsible for entering their judges as the right judge type when calculating fees.

5. Judges who fail to pick their ballots will render their students ineligible for elimination rounds.

6. Lastly, student-run and small teams are the lifeblood of our forensics community. We recognize that many teams are threatened with budget cuts, coaching staff turnover, and diminished resources from their institutions. If this is your first debate tournament and do not have the means to cover your entire entry fee, please reach out to us, and we will be happy to accommodate you. We want you to attend our tournament and have a great debate experience. We only ask that you bring enough judges to adequately cover your entry.

JUDGES (PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!)

To encourage fairness to our competitors – and if you're a coach – I ask that you bring as many of your judges as possible. We'd much rather have your judges than your money. ***For our tournament, a judge who is available for all of the preliminary rounds and one elimination round will cover two IPDA debaters or one NPDA team.*** IPDA and NPDA encourage a broad range of lay judges, which includes coaches, forensics alumni, students (ONLY IF THEY AREN'T COMPETITORS), fellow parents, educators, and members of the academic community.

Since the team has a very small budget, we are only able to hire judges on a very limited basis. Nevertheless, if you would like to hire a judge, please contact me at gcspeechteam@gmail.com as soon as possible. We are very fortunate to have a supportive and thriving pool of qualified hired judges within our Northeastern district and NYC metro area.