



Dear friends and colleagues,

On behalf of the University of California San Diego, Bossier Parish Community College, and The Cure Starts Now, we cordially invite you to the Fourth Annual Just Keep Swimming Virtual Charity debates. This event will be held on September 6th, 2025, via Forensicstournament.net and Yaatly.

This competition will be a unique experience and will be strictly for charity. We will feature 4 preliminary and up to 3 out rounds. This will model the TIPDA format but allow debaters who fall into the professional category of IPDA eligibility to participate. Teams do not have to be made up of participants from the same program; in fact, we are encouraging teams to be made up of members from around the country, past and present. The JKS Charity tournament will feature unique opportunities that will allow us to raise more money for a worthwhile cause while making the tournament more fun for its participants; details are in the invite below. This event will not be a sanctioned tournament. Further information on the tournament is detailed below. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me anytime. We will offer a variety of in-tournament opportunities, such as bounty rounds, special preparation help, and tag in a ringer, for extra donations (see details below)

Please note that this tournament is meant to be fun and not taken seriously. We hope that all participants will enjoy the camaraderie and collegiality while working towards raising funds to fight pediatric cancer. Additionally, as our goal is to raise as much money as possible for the fight against cancer, there is a unique opportunity: **The team that raises the most money is guaranteed a spot in the elimination rounds.** At <https://events.thecurestartsnow.org/just-keep-swimming-charity-debate-tournament/> you can click on "Fundraise" and then create a unique link where you'll be able to raise funds directly for the organization. The team raising the most money will be guaranteed a spot in elimination rounds.

Sincerely,

AJ Edwards

Director of Speech and Debate UCSD
Aedwardsjr@ucsd.edu

Schedule (all times are in Central Time)

Just Keep Swimming Charity Event

Saturday

9:00 am: Announcements

9:30 am Draw Round 1

11:00 pm: Draw Round 2

12:30 pm: Draw Round 3

2:00 pm Lunch

2:30 pm: Draw Round 4

4:00 pm: Elim 1

5:45 pm Elim 2

7:15 ASAP if needed

FTN Link for registration: <https://forensictournament.net/JUSTKEEPSWIMMING/25>

Fee Payments: <https://events.thecurestartsnow.org/just-keep-swimming-charity-debate-tournament/>

Notes: To keep the tournament on schedule, if a team is 5 minutes late to a round, then that team will automatically forfeit the round. If a team loses connection during a round, then they should reenter the room ASAP, and teams will be allowed up to 5 minutes to reenter upon the first disconnect (after five minutes, they automatically forfeit the round). If a team disconnects a second time during a round, they shall automatically forfeit the round.

1. Tiebreakers: A. For determining competitors advancing to elimination rounds in individual debate, we will look first to the number of wins, second to total speaker points, third to high/low adjusted speaker points, fourth to total ranks, and fifth to opposition wins. For determining speaker awards in individual debate, we will look first to total speaker points, second to high/low adjusted speaker points, third to total ranks, and fourth to opposition wins.
2. Judges: As this is a charity event and non-sanctioned tournament, we will be relying on the charity of the contestants to provide judges for use in the tournament. WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE MANY STUDENT JUDGES. Please try to have 1 judge per 2 entries for the entirety of the tournament.
3. Ethics:
 - a. The behavior of all attending the JKS Charity Tournament will be in keeping with the NCA Policy on Anti-Harassment Code of Conduct (available at: https://www.natcom.org/sites/default/files/annualconvention/NCA_Convention_Resources_Anti_Harassment_Policy.pdf). We encourage all programs to review these expectations prior to entering this tournament.
 - b. The JKS Charity Tournament expects that behavior between all participants, coaches, judges, and guests be respectful and appropriate at all times. If any participant has concerns over propriety or good sportsmanship, they should discuss the matter with their coaching staff. Any coach, judge, or guest should address any concerns with the Tournament Director / Tabulation Room Staff.
 - c. As a condition of entry, all participants, coaches, judges, and guests agree that any decision issued by the Tournament Director is binding and final.

VIRTUAL DEBATE INFORMATION:

In addition to entering the tournament via ForensicsTournament.net, coaches should create the appropriate team Yaatly accounts several days prior to the tournament. During the tournament,

- All competitors and judges should be in their competition room 5 minutes before the start of the round and test their audio. If a competitor or judge is not present in the room by the start of the round please contact Tournament Director AJ Edwards through Yaatly chat immediately.

- Coaches should confirm that all team judges have their ballots five minutes prior to the beginning of each round. All ballots will be delivered electronically via the email addresses the team's coach has provided.

- If a competitor's internet drops in the middle of a round, the competitor should try to reenter the competition room first; if this does not work then please contact AJ Edwards through Yaatly chat immediately or have a coach or team member enter the Tab Room portal to inform the tab staff of the problem.

- If a competitor drops connection, the competitor will have a maximum of five minutes to reconnect before the round is forfeit. Due to the constraints of a virtual tournament, rounds will not be re-run.

- If a judge drops connection, the competitors should immediately pause their timers and contact AJ Edwards through Yaatly chat after two minutes have elapsed.

- Competitors and judge webcams must be activated the entire debate round, and they should not change their backgrounds.

- Competitors should mute their video during competitor speeches, only during cross-ex should both microphones be turned on. It is useful to use headphones during the round to help ensure everyone can hear you properly. Judges should also mute their microphones once the round has started.

- Judges should activate the in-round timer function appropriate for each debate segment.

- Oral critiques should not be offered by judges after the round, this is important for keeping the rounds on-time Notes on In-Round Disconnects

- Competitors should maintain an active video feed throughout a round.

- Competitors must run independent timers following IPDA Constitution & Bylaws, whether or not a judge utilizes the in-round timer in Yaatly.

- Judges will freeze the clock for no more than five minutes to allow a competitor who has lost connection to reenter the round. If the competitor does not reestablish connection within that period then the round is forfeited.

- Any drops in connection by a competitor or a judge must be noted on the judge's ballot.
- If a competitor loses connection a second time in a single round then the competitor will not be readmitted to the round. In this case, the judge may assign speaker points based on the affected speaker's performance up to the point of the second disconnect.
- If a competitor has more than three disconnections in a tournament then they will forfeit any remaining rounds.

Familiarizing Your Team With Yaatly: Accessing this platform prior to the start of the tournament will be especially useful to familiarize your team with the interface and to confirm that cameras and microphones are functioning properly in your Team Room. We encourage anyone new to Yaatly to get a quick feel for the layout and functions.

Yaatly Functions & Features: We have a "Tab Room" and "Lounge" set up where you can interact with others or confer with the Tab Room staff regarding questions and concerns (though we will not discuss student records or performance). We know that the social element of tournaments is sorely missed, and we hope this provides you with a chance to reconnect with your peers and plan for the rest of the semester.

JUST KEEP SWIMMING CHARITY DEBATE

FORMAT: The Just Keep Swimming Charity Debate will follow the Team IPDA format for time and rules. All strikes and competitions will be done in the same manner and with the same rules and regulations as TIPDA competitions.

- 1. Entries:** All competitors will be eligible to participate in this event regardless of division eligibility. For example, two competitors that would only qualify for the professional division are eligible to compete in the JKS Charity tournament as a team. **Teams do not have to be comprised of members from the same program. We are expecting and encouraging intra-squad participation, or Mule teams.**
- 2. Sanctioning.** The JKS Charity Debate is not an IPDA or TIPDA-sanctioned event and will not count toward any season-long awards.
- 3. Eligibility Implications.** This event will count as a debate tournament and may impact eligibility for students in the Novice or JV divisions.
- 4. Entries:** All entries should be made via ForensicsTournament.net, and all competitions will be held on a Yaatly link that will be distributed before the tournament.
- 5. Competition Pool:** All competitors, regardless of school affiliation, will be put into one competition pool. If one program has multiple entries, those entries may debate one another. For this tournament, programs will not be protected from hitting one another.
- 6. Fees:** Since this tournament will be a charity event, all fees per team will be raised. \$50 dollars per team. In addition, there will be an additional \$10 fee for observers.
- 7. Tournament Registration**
 - a. All fees and in tournament bonuses can be paid here:
<https://events.thecurestartsnow.org/just-keep-swimming-charity-debate-tournament/>
 - b. Registration will be conducted using Forensics Tournament.net:
<https://forensicstournament.net/JUSTKEEPSWIMMING/25>

8. **Prizes.** All entry fees will be placed into The Cure Starts Now Fight Like Emilie Chapter.
9. **Rules:** All rounds will be governed by the rules and regulations set forth in the IPDA constitution, best practices, and virtual debate best practices documents.
10. **Tab Room:** All decisions made by the tab room are final.
11. **Disconnects and No Shows:** The same rules that govern the JKS TIPDA tournament for disconnects and no shows, will govern the JKS Charity Event.
12. **Sportspersonship:** Please remember this event is for charity and as such we hope that everyone will conduct themselves appropriately. All rules issued by governing bodies laid out above will apply to the charity debate as well.
13. **Registration:** Please register your teams at:
<https://forensicstournament.net/JUSTKEEPSWIMMING/23>
14. **Judges:** Each team will be required to provide one judge to cover their entry. All entries must be covered.
15. **Yaarly.** It may be advantageous for each team to create a separate Yaarly team page. This will allow access for both team members to the team room in case members are in different locations.
16. **UNIQUE OPPURTUNITIES:** This year we will be offering a few unique twists to the tournament. These are designed to not only raise money, but to make the tournament more fun for all participants. For each of these, use the "Fee Submission" link on The Cure Starts Now fee page, choose "Donation Only" and donate the appropriate amount for your choice(s) below / then message the tournament (either via emailing AJ or Bob directly or via the messaging option on FTN) to let us know which of these choices you have paid for.
 - a. **Bounty Round:** Choose your opponent for one round. This can be done in one of two ways. First, you may choose to donate \$40 along with your entry fee and select an opponent ahead of time, the round will be determined by the tab staff. Second, you can wait till the tournament is underway and donate \$50 during the tournament. Round again will be determined by the tab staff.
 - b. **Ringer Room:** In this room you will be able to bring in a ringer at a donation price TBD. They will debate with you for one round. OR, you can pay for both Ringers and you and your partner can debate against them for the round. The pool of ringers will be announced at the start of the tournament.
 - c. **Prep Help:** For \$25 you can pull a member of the Ringer Room or tab staff in to help with prep on a round.
 - d. **Other Unique twists may be advertised during the tournament.**

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions about either of the tournaments. We look forward to a wonderful weekend and lots of fun for a good cause.

All the best,

AJ Edwards