



Dear friends and colleagues,

On behalf of Louisiana State University Shreveport, the College of Arts and Sciences, the LSUS Debate team, and the James Smith Noel Foundation, I invite you to the first annual LSUS Just Keep Swimming Virtual Team IPDA tournament and Charity debates. This event will be held on March 19-21, 2021, via Forensicstournament.net and Yaatly and will be hosted by Louisiana State University Shreveport.

This competition will be a unique experience. We will feature 4 preliminary rounds of Team IPDA debate and the appropriate number of elimination rounds. In addition, we will feature a charity Team Debate event. This will model the TIPDA format but will allow debaters that 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 charity portion of this event will not be a sanctioned tournament, but will count against eligibility requirements. Further information on both portions of the tournament are detailed below. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

AJ Edwards

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AJ.Edwards@lsus.edu

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Schedule (all times are in Central Time)

Just Keep Swimming TIPDA Event

Friday March 19	Saturday March 20
8:30 am: Announcements	9:30 am Elim 3 (if needed)
9:00 am: Draw for Round 1	
10:45 am: Draw for Round 2	
12:30 pm: Draw for Round 3	
2:15-2:45pm Break	
2:45 pm: Draw for Round 4	
4:30-5:00 pm: Coaches Review and Elim Postings	
5:00 Awards	
5:30 pm: Draw Elim 1	
7:30 pm Draw Elim 2	

Just Keep Swimming Charity Event

Saturday March 20	Sunday March 21
12:00 pm: Announcements	9:00 am Elim 1
12:30 pm Draw Round 1	11:00 am Elim 2
2:30 pm: Draw Round 2	1:00 Elim 3
4:30 pm: Draw Round 3	3:00 Announcement of Champion and Charity
6:30 pm: Draw Round 4	
Review	

Notes: In order to keep the tournament on schedule, if a team is 5 minutes late to a round then that team will automatically forfeit the round. In the event that 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). Upon a second disconnect by a team during a round then they shall automatically forfeit the round.

EVENT INFORMATION FOR THE JUST KEEP SWIMMING TIPDA TOURNAMENT

1. PDF Awards shall be sent to all elimination round participants, the top five speakers in each division of debate, the top three programs and the top community college.
2. All rounds shall follow the e 4-2-5-2-5-2-4-2-3-4-4-3 time format with 30 minutes preparation time and follow the rules established under the International Public Debate Association. Four Preliminary rounds and the appropriate number of elimination rounds will be offered.
 - a. Although this is a team format each competitor must log in to Yaarly on separate devices. If team members are physically together they must still log in to Yaarly on separate devices.
 - b. For team members who are participating in a socially distanced capacity during debates, they will be allowed to communicate with each other via text and/or a chat program of

their choice. Please note, this is simply a replacement for how team members could communicate with each other via whispering and/or passing notes in a traditional face to face context; therefore, no communication with others should occur during the course of the round (nor should they be looking up information during the course of the round). Obviously, this requires an honor system in enforcing and we are relying on the ethics of all involved to ensure that this is utilized only within the spirit of IPDA practices for traditional face to face competitions

3. Points formula
 - a. A school's top two teams will count toward sweepstakes totals.
 - b. Points will be awarded according to the following formula: -6 points for each preliminary round win -6 points for advancing to elimination rounds -5 points for 1st speaker -4 points for 2nd speaker -3 points for 3rd speaker -2 points for 4th speaker -1 points for 5th speaker
4. 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. B. Sweepstakes: In the event of a sweepstakes tie, we will look first to the number of teams advancing to elimination rounds, second to total squad prelim round win percentage, third to head-to-head record between programs, and fourth to which squad had the highest ranked speaker in the competition.
5. Judges: Programs MUST cover all of their entries. There are no exceptions. One judge covers up to 2 entries. **All judges are obligated to judge the entire tournament.** If your team is out of the competition all judges must remain in the judging pool until the end of the tournament. This helps to provide a diverse judging pool through elimination rounds. If judges leave the tournament it will be treated as a withdrawal of your team and drop fees shall apply.
6. Tournament Ethics Statement:
 - a. The behavior of all attending the BPC Online Team 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 BPC Online Team 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.
7. Division Eligibility: per the IPDA bylaws, entries must adhere to the following definition: Competitors must be currently enrolled students at the institution they are representing and must be representing an official program affiliated with an academic institution; they will no longer be eligible to compete in the division:
 - a. once they have been awarded a 4-year, undergraduate, Bachelor's-level degree
 - b. and/or following competition in any format of debate while representing a college/university during ten semesters of competition or fifteen quarters of competition (depending upon the classification system of their academic institution).

For institutions observing the semester system, a semester of eligibility is used when a student competes in more than 2 debate tournaments during that period; for institutions observing the quarter system, a quarter of eligibility is used when a student competes in 2 or more debate tournaments during that period.

8. Fees: TIPDA entries are \$30 each and coaches, judges, and observers shall be free (as the tournament host must pay for capacity for coaches and observers we ask that you keep these to a minimum and each should still be entered in the appropriate category in ForensicsTournament.net so that we know how much space to reserve for the tournament)> Change Fees: Changes will be accepted without charge until 12:00 noon, Wednesday, November 11, 2020. Any drops or changes after that date will be charged a processing fee of \$15.00 per alteration. At noon on Friday, November 13 ForensicsTournament.net will be shut down for accepting changes and those should be sent directly either via email (AJ.Edwards@lsus.edu) or via text (318-751-8350). No new teams may be added after Thursday, November 12.
9. FEE WAIVERS: For any program whose budget has been significantly cut and/or eliminated, we are happy to extend a fee waiver. Please email AJ Edwards (AJ.Edwards@lsus.edu) to let him know you would like a fee waiver so that we may have a record for budgeting purposes.
10. Entry Deadline: All entries must be received by Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 5:00 pm. All entries should be made at: <https://forensicstournament.net/LSUSJUSTKEEPSWIMMING/21>
11. Payment/Receipts: PDF signed receipts shall be emailed upon receipt of payment. If you need a different format of receipt, please contact AJ Edwards at AJ.Edwards@lsus.edu
 - a. Checks can be made out to

LSUS Continuing Education
One University Place
Shreveport, La. 71115
Attention Angela Taylor

We can also make arrangements for a credit card transaction if needed.

FEE WAIVERS: For any program whose budget has been significantly cut and/or eliminated, we are happy to extend a fee waiver. Please email AJ Edwards (AJ.Edwards@lsus.edu) to let him know you would like a fee waiver so that we may have a record for budgeting purposes.

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 active 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 in accordance with 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 "Coaches'/Judges' Lounge" set up where you can interact with other coaches 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.

Coaches' Check & Review of Ballots: We will offer a coaches review and check at the end of the preliminary rounds. We simply ask that this is done as quickly as possible to allow elimination rounds to proceed on time.

JUST KEEP SWIMMING CHARITY DEBATE

After the completion of the TIPDA tournament we will be offering a unique experience to help raise money to defeat childhood cancer. With the necessary shift to online tournaments, the ability to raise funds via Emilies café and debate for life programs has taken a dramatic hit. In order to continue the efforts of our organization we are offering the Just Keep Swimming Charity Debate. Please note that below is outlined the rules and regulations for the tournament as well as the entry fees which **MUST BE MADE SEPERATLY FROM THE JUST KEEP SWIMMING TIPDA TOURNAMENT.**

1. **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.
2. **Entries:** All competitors will be eligible to participant in this event regardless of division eligibilities. 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.**
3. **Sanctioning.** The JKS Charity Debate is not an IPDA or TIPDA sanctioned event and will not count toward any season long awards.
4. **Eligibility Implications.** This event will count as a debate tournament and may impact eligibility for students in the Novice or JV divisions.
5. **Entries:** All entries should be made via a separate ForensicsTournament.net account and all competition will be held on a separate Yaatly link.
6. **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.
7. **Fees:** Since this tournament will be a charity event all fees per team will be raised. \$50 dollars per team. In addition we will not charge for observers that are direct members of a program, but there will be an additional \$10 fee for observers that are not directly affiliated with programs but that wish to watch the debates.
 - a. Checks for the charity portion should be made out to IPDA and mailed to:

Keith Milstead
3528 Cisoforo Dr.
Denton, Tx. 76207

- b. **Once again please be sure that entry fees for the charity debate are made separate from those of the TIPDA debate.**
8. **Prizes.** All entry fees, which must be made separately from the JKS TIPDA Tournament, will be placed into the IPDA account. At the end of the tournament the championship team will choose the

childhood cancer charity of their choice and a donation in the names of the winners will be made by an IPDA representative.

9. **Sponsorship:** In addition to the entry fees we would love any outside sponsorship that teams are able to secure. This will only work to add to the total amount donated to defeat childhood cancer. The James Smith Noel Foundation has generously agreed to sponsor this event by adding to the pool of donations to be made. We encourage participants to seek sponsorship on behalf of their team.
10. **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.
11. **Tab Room:** The tab room will be headed up by none other than Jorji Jarzabek. All decisions made by the tab room are final.
12. **Disconnects and No Shows:** The same rules that govern the JKS TIPDA tournament for disconnects and no shows, will govern the JKS Charity Event.
13. **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.
14. **Registration:** Please register your teams at:
<https://forensicstournament.net/LSUSJUSTKEEPSWIMMING/21>
15. **Judges:** Each team will be required to provide one judge to cover their entry. All entries must be covered.
16. **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.

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