

## PUNTA CANA DEBATE & SPEECH INTERNATIONAL CUP

Dear Coaches,

We are delighted to invite you to attend the I PUNTA CANA DEBATE & SPEECH INTERNATIONAL CUP, an in-person tournament that will be held in the beautiful Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, on November 21-22, 2026.

This exciting international event will be hosted by DIAR – Dialéctica Argumentativa, a company established in the Dominican Republic dedicated to the promotion and organization of school debate and oratory activities. It is an HDC/ISDI approved International Tournament.

We have several announcements concerning this year's tournament:

Registration. The registration process will begin on September 01, 2026

Events. We will offer the following divisions:

- Public Forum (Novice, JV and Varsity)
- World School Novice (English)
- World School Novice (Spanish)
- World School Championship (English)
- Impromptu Speech (English)
- Impromptu Speech (Spanish)
- Duo Interpretation (English)

There is Great News: We are excited to **offer bids for the 2027 Tournament of Champions**. for World Schools Champions Finals.

We LOVE to start this unforgettable Caribbean experience with you and your students!

We look forward to seeing you in Punta Cana!

Sincerely yours,

*Reinaldo Martinez Plaza*

**Tournament Chair**

## **TOURNAMENT EXPECTATIONS**

### **Registration:**

Punta Cana International Cup will be holding all registrations through the tournament website on Tabroom.com. We will not take requests from other methods of communication. Registration will open on September 1st, 2026, at 8:00 am where schools can begin to enter students or reserve “TBA” slots. At the beginning, all students will be placed on the wait-list until we begin clearing on September 30 (taking into account the order of those who have submitted the legal form) . Registration will close on October 23. The school must submit each competitor's legal release form so that the invoice can be generated.

On September 1<sup>st</sup> we will release every requirement forms.

### **Tournament Check-In**

We will not offer in-person registration on Friday before the tournament. All registration and final confirmation must be completed online.

On Friday, November 20, 2026, tabroom will have a button that you can access through your school account to confirm your information is correct. Even if you have no changes to your entry, you must click the button for your entries to be scheduled into the tournament.

### **Independent Entries:**

This year the tournament does not accept independent entries.

### **Hybrid Entries:**

Entries comprised of competitors from multiple schools are allowed, exclusively for World Schools Debate. While hybrid entries can earn TOC bids, they are not able to use them as part of their qualification for the TOC unless at least two members of the team are from the same school, and only that school may use the bid.

### **Adult Supervision:**

Students at the tournament must be with a parent, legal guardian, or a school-approved adult guardian, teacher, or coach who can handle emergencies. The adult guardian must be a high school graduate. Every participant must provide an adult contact's name and phone number for emergencies.

### **Entry Caps per School:**

8 entries in English Impromptu division

7 entries in Spanish Impromptu division

4 Teams in Duo Interpretation

10 teams in Public Forum debaters (NOV, JV and VAR)

4 teams in English World Schools Novice

4 teams in Spanish World Schools Novice

3 teams in World Schools Champions

Please note that the Tournament Chair reserves the right to alter these caps and you are not officially entered into the tournament until you have been lifted off the wait-list.

### **Tournament of Champions:**

Punta Cana International Cup is proud to announce that we have status for the JW Patterson Tournament of Champions with bids being as follows:

World Schools Champions Final.

**Smoke and Alcohol -free Event:** This means that the use of all tobacco products and alcohol is prohibited during the event.

**Governing Rules:** For all events, the NSDA rules serve as the final authority for all events. Decisions by tournament staff are final. The tournament will designate an ombuds committee to receive complaints and concerns regarding equity issues. No protests will be accepted after the next round has started. Any protest must be handled by a coach of record for the school in a timely manner. For all protests, the Tournament Chair reserves the right to appoint a regulator to handle all issues.

### **Judging:**

We highly prioritize having capable judges for all our events. Please assist us in maintaining the judging quality by exclusively bringing judges to the tournament who have received proper training and are qualified. Kindly refrain from including judges who are unsure about event assessment or lack the necessary qualifications. All judges, coaches and competitors must have a valid Tabroom account. The Tabroom reserves the right to fine your school if a judge has been removed because they are unable or unwilling to judge.

**Every adult accompanying the team and registered as a judge must make 6 rounds. The judge's payment is USD 370, which will be deducted from your adult travel package.**

**Paradigms:** For debate events, please have your judges post their judge philosophy on Tabroom under the paradigms section. Your school will not be allowed to enter prefs or strikes until all your judges have provided a paradigm.

Judges that are not scheduled at the moment of pairings release should wait in the Judges' lounge. Not being initially paired does not mean that the judge has the round off. Missing a stand-by carries the same punishments as a published assignment.

## **EVENT INSTRUCTIONS**

### **Public Forum**

5 preliminary rounds; break to Octofinals

30-point speaker scale with tenths permitted; low-point wins and ties allowed

3 minutes preparation time; November/December topic

Tabroom coin-flip system determines side or speaking position

Mavericks may not clear; teams must debate together for 4 prelim rounds to advance

Internet-enabled devices permitted; external communication during rounds prohibited

Power matching after Round 2 (high/low within brackets)

### **World Schools Debate**

NSDA rules apply; 8-minute substantive speeches, 4-minute reply speeches

Points of information allowed except first and last minute of substantive speeches

Rounds 1–2 use prepared motions released in advance (no roll call)

5 prelims; break to Quarterfinals

### **Impromptu Speech**

Maximum 7 minutes; 5 preliminary rounds

Break to Semifinals (14 competitors) then Finals (5 competitors)

All rounds open to authorized guests

### **Duo Interpretation**

Time limits for Duo will be 10 minutes (with 30 seconds grace).

All rounds are open to authorized guests of the tournament

After 5 prelims, We will break to semi-finals (14 competitors) and then finals (5 competitors). Should there be two competitors with the exact same ranking going into finals, we will allow a round of 7 competitors.

Students should clarify with the judge their name and how time signals will be given in round

Must be memorized; no props or costumes.

Must be from a published source.

## **Tournament Payment**

### **Tournament Fee (Required)**

A single fee of USD 130 per student competitor, regardless of the event. This fee includes the hiring of judges.

Public Forum entry (2 students): USD 260

Duo Interpretation entry (2 students): USD 260

Impromptu Speech entry (1 student): USD 130

World Schools entry (3-5 students): USD 390

All registration and payment confirmation is conducted electronically through Tabroom.com. Schools that do not complete registration will not be allowed to compete. The **deadline for registration fee is November 09, 2026.**

From November 16, you will be responsible for paying the full tournament entry fee for any entries dropped after that date for any reason.

You may obtain an invoice from the Tournament Tabroom website.

**Payments from outside the Dominican Republic are made via wire bank transfer** and should be handled as follows:

Send an email to our address with the subject line "Punta Cana Tournament Payment"

[puntacana@debateyoratoriadiar.com](mailto:puntacana@debateyoratoriadiar.com)

The body of the email must include the school's name as it appears on Tabroom, the invoice number generated by Tabroom, and the total amount. Please attach the PDF of the Tabroom-generated invoice to the email.

You will receive a reply from us containing instructions for the wire bank transfer.

Finally, please reply to that same email thread with an image or PDF showing the transaction for the full invoice amount generated by your Tabroom account.

**Payments from local Dominican schools are to be made via bank transfer as follows:**

Send an email to our address with the subject line "Pago del Torneo Punta Cana." The body of the email must include the school's name as it appears on Tabroom, the invoice number generated by Tabroom, and the total amount. If you require a tax receipt, please request it in the email and provide the necessary details for its issuance. Please attach the PDF invoice generated by Tabroom and the proof of wire bank transfer to the email.

You will receive a reply from us confirming receipt of the payment into the DIAR account.

Tournament email: [puntacana@debateyoratoriadiar.com](mailto:puntacana@debateyoratoriadiar.com)

**DIAR, USD Bank account**

**BHD**

**Cuenta de Ahorros Empresarial # 22520110022**

**RNC 1-3125943-1**

Ensure that your competitors are off the waitlist and have submitted the legal form.

For credit cards a convenience fee of 4% applies to credit card payments.

Schools experiencing financial difficulties are encouraged to reach out.

**FOR OPTIONAL PACKAGE payment (amenities + hotels)**, please access the following link, which will take you to the payment button. Fill out the form found there completely and correctly. The prices shown are per person, per room.

<https://www.debateyoratoriadiar.com/diar-events/i-punta-cana-debate-speech-international-cup>

If you have any issues with the payment process, please let us know through the tournament email.

### **Tentative Schedule**

Here is the link for the tentative PDF Schedule

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tkXjR0q-ufEJbv9auyGp03\\_z0YsDDFQU/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tkXjR0q-ufEJbv9auyGp03_z0YsDDFQU/view?usp=sharing)

Each event will take place at one of the host schools—from the start through to the finals—ensuring that students always remain on secure premises.

Link to excel format:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1iqhoTqmNThW-17megZeAFNz8mt7Eh-yo/edit?usp=sharing&oid=116914530900464322187&rtpof=true&sd=true>

### **Legal Required Form**

There is one required form for competitors, **RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK, CONSENT AND AUTHORIZATION AGREEMENT.**

1. **The document** is required per student. Coaches should distribute the form to the parent/guardian of every student entered in the tournament and ensure each form is fully completed and submitted by the appropriate legal guardian. Please enter the student's and school's name exactly as listed on Tabroom.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UnknlUXpi97y8kGw-4a2HEDS-A6iYNvP/view?usp=sharing>

## **Amenities & Hotel Package (Optional)**

### **1. Amenities Package (Optional) — USD 250**

Includes private ground transfers between the hotels blocked by DIAR and the competition venues., Saturday and Sunday lunch, and a ticket to the Saturday Dominican Gathering Night. This package may be added independently of the hotel choice.

### **2. Hotel Package (Optional)**

Hotel stay is calculated for 3 nights (Friday, Saturday and Sunday). Breakfast is included every day. Rooms available for single, double and triple occupancy.

*None of the proposed hotels have direct access to the beaches.*

### **QUICK REFERENCE — STUDENT COST OPTIONS**

| Option                            | Tournament Fee | Amenities | Total (before hotel) |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|-----------|----------------------|
| Tournament Fee only<br>(required) | USD 130        | —         | USD 130              |

|                         |         |         |                |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|----------------|
| Fee + Amenities Package | USD 130 | USD 250 | <b>USD 380</b> |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|----------------|

### **OPTIONAL HOTEL RATES (add to the option above)**

#### **AC Hotel Punta Cana**

| <b>Room Type (3 nights)</b> | <b>Hotel Only</b> | <b>Fee + Amenities + Hotel</b> |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Single guest (1 bed)        | USD 650           | <b>USD 1,030</b>               |
| Double guest (1 bed)        | USD 360           | <b>USD 740</b>                 |
| Double guest (2 beds)       | USD 305           | <b>USD 685</b>                 |
| Triple guest (2 beds)       | USD 280           | <b>USD 660</b>                 |

#### **Reserva Real by Harper Hotel**

| <b>Room Type (3 nights)</b> | <b>Hotel Only</b> | <b>Fee + Amenities + Hotel</b> |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Single guest (1 bed)        | USD 500           | <b>USD 880</b>                 |
| Double guest (1 bed)        | USD 360           | <b>USD 740</b>                 |
| Double guest (2 beds)       | USD 350           | <b>USD 730</b>                 |
| Triple guest (2 beds)       | USD 300           | <b>USD 680</b>                 |

#### **Four Points by Sheraton Puntacana**

| <b>Room Type (3 nights)</b> | <b>Hotel Only</b> | <b>Fee + Amenities + Hotel</b> |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Single guest (1 bed)        | USD 686           | <b>USD 1,066</b>               |
| Double guest (1 bed)        | USD 390           | <b>USD 770</b>                 |

|                       |         |                |
|-----------------------|---------|----------------|
| Double guest (2 beds) | USD 375 | <b>USD 755</b> |
| Triple guest (2 beds) | USD 300 | <b>USD 680</b> |

*Breakfast included every day (Saturday, Sunday & Monday).*

### **ADULT PACKAGES (No tournament fee required)**

Adults pay only the optional Amenities Package (USD 250) + Hotel (single room). A nominated and qualified judge covering 6 rounds receives a USD 370 discount.

| <b>Hotel</b>       | <b>Hotel Cost</b> | <b>Amenities + Hotel</b> | <b>As Judge (discounted)</b> |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Hotel AC           | USD 650           | USD 900                  | <b>USD 530</b>               |
| Hotel Reserva Real | USD 500           | USD 750                  | <b>USD 380</b>               |
| Hotel Four Points  | USD 686           | USD 936                  | <b>USD 566</b>               |

*Full Blocked Hotels payment must be completed by October 20, 2026. (Different date from Tournament registration fee)*

**FOR OPTIONAL PACKAGE payment (amenities + hotels)**, please access the following link, which will take you to the payment button. Fill out the form found there completely and correctly. The prices shown are per person, per room.

<https://www.debateyoratoriadiar.com/diar-events/i-punta-cana-debate-speech-international-cup>

If you have any issues with the payment process, please let us know through the tournament email.

After payment for your hotel stay and amenities, we will email a **rooming list form** to fill out.