

ARTICLE XI: The State Tournament ---- Debate Rules

Section 1. Rules for All Forms of Debate

A. Resolutions

1. Policy Debate

The policy debate resolution shall be the national high school debate resolution.

2. Lincoln-Douglas Debate

The National Forensic League (NFL) Lincoln-Douglas topic for September-October shall be used for the Fall California topic; the Lincoln-Douglas resolution for March/April shall be used as the second California Lincoln-Douglas resolution from February 1. The topic used at the CHSSA State Tournament will be the NFL March/April resolution.

3. Parliamentary Debate

Resolutions are issued at the beginning of the twenty-minute preparation period of the round.

a. Resolutions for each shall rotate through the following types:

- Value: Both sides push for their value in the topic as superior to the other team's value.
- Policy: Proposition shows there is a problem and offers a solution (plan) to the problem. Both sides debate the appropriateness and/or merits of the problem and solution asserted by the Proposition.
- Fact: Both teams debate the circumstances under which the topic would be called a true statement.

b. The topics for each round will be in a distinct topic area not to be used in any other round for the duration of the tournament. The topic areas and resolution type by round will be determined by the Debate Committee and communicated to the tournament director at the January meeting. Only topic areas will be announced at the January meeting. At least five resolutions based on each topic area will be written by the tournament director or designee and vetted by at least three members of the debate committee prior to the start of the state tournament. These individuals shall be selected by the Debate Committee Chair from members of the Debate Committee that do not have any Parliamentary Debate teams entered at the State Tournament, using any criteria the Debate Committee Chair deems appropriate. If there are not at least three eligible members of the Debate Committee based on the foregoing, then the Debate Committee Chair may make up the shortfall by selecting a non-Debate Committee Member familiar with debate that has no Parliamentary Debate entries at the State Tournament.

Three final resolutions will be selected for each topic area and placed into a sealed envelope by round to be used in a blind draw for topic selection each round.

4. Public Forum Debate

Resolutions will correspond to those published by the NFL.

B. Debate Both Sides of Resolution as Assigned

Over the course of the tournament, each team or individual in Policy Debate, Parliamentary Debate, Public Forum, and Lincoln-Douglas Debate may be assigned to uphold either side of the resolution in any given round.

C. Number of Participants.

In Policy, Parliamentary, and Public Forum Debate teams consist of two members only. The two members of a team who qualify to the State Tournament from a league state qualification tournament must debate as a team in the State Tournament. In Lincoln-Douglas Debate only one person debates each side of the resolution. In all forms of debate, including Public Forum, the affirmative/proposition side will always begin the debate. In Public Forum the negative side will always conclude the debate. In all other forms of debate the affirmative or proposition side will always conclude the debate.

D. Length and Order of Speeches in Each form of Debate.

A speaker's time begins as to any given speech when she/he begins to speak. All speaking time must be timed, including "thank you's" and "roadmaps".

1. Policy Debate

1 st Affirmative Constructive	8 minutes
Cross-Examination of 1 st Affirmative	3 minutes
1 st Negative Constructive	8 minutes
Cross-Examination of 1 st Negative	3 minutes
2 nd Affirmative Constructive	8 minutes
Cross-Examination of 2 nd Affirmative	3 minutes
2 nd Negative Constructive	8 minutes
Cross-Examination of 2 nd Negative	3 minutes
1 st Negative Rebuttal	5 minutes
1 st Affirmative Rebuttal	5 minutes
2 nd Negative Rebuttal	5 minutes
2 nd Affirmative Rebuttal	5 minutes

2. Lincoln-Douglas Debate

Affirmative Constructive	6 minutes
Cross-Examination	3 minutes
Negative Constructive	7 minutes
Cross-Examination	3 minutes
Affirmative Rebuttal	4 minutes
Negative Rebuttal	6 minutes
Affirmative Rebuttal	3 minutes

3. Parliamentary Debate

1 st Proposition	7 minutes
1 st Opposition	7 minutes
2 nd Proposition	7 minutes
2 nd Opposition	7 minutes
Opposition Rebuttal	5 minutes
Proposition Rebuttal	5 minutes

4. Public Forum

1st Affirmative Speaker	4 minutes
1st Negative Speaker	4 minutes
Crossfire between First Speakers	3 minutes
2nd Affirmative Speaker	4 minutes
2nd Negative Speaker	4 minutes
Crossfire between Second Speakers	3 minutes
Summary (First Affirmative Speaker)	2 minutes
Summary (First Negative Speaker)	2 minutes
Grand Crossfire (All speakers)	3 minutes
Final Focus (Second Affirmative Speaker)	2 minute
Final Focus (Second Negative Speaker)	2 minute

E. Constructive vs. Rebuttal Speeches. *[existing language in Public Forum rules only]*

1. Constructive Speeches: All arguments a team intends to present during the debate may be presented in the following speeches:

a. Policy Debate, Parliamentary Debate and Public Forum Debate: First Four

Speeches.

b. Lincoln---Douglas Debate: First two speeches

2. Rebuttal Speeches:

- a. A team's formal response to opponent arguments from constructive speeches or an extension of their own arguments; the synthesis of a side's argument.
- b. No new arguments may be introduced in rebuttals. However, new analyses of prior arguments are allowed in rebuttals.
- c. In Public Forum the first rebuttal speeches are known as "Summary" speeches and the last rebuttal speeches are known as "Final Focus" speeches.

F. Preparation Time Allotted

1. Policy Debate

No more than eight minutes of total preparation time shall be allowed each team during the debate.

2. Lincoln Douglas

No more than four (4) minutes of total preparation time shall be allowed each debater during the debate.

3. Parliamentary Debate

- a. No preparation time is permitted during the debate presentation period before the judge(s).
- b. Twenty minutes of preparation time is allotted to be used before the debaters report to the judge(s). During the presentation period the next speaker must get up to speak within 20 seconds following the preceding speech.

4. Public Forum Debate.

No more than two minutes of total preparation time shall be allowed to each side during the debate.

G. Use of Preparation Time.

1. Policy Debate, Lincoln---Douglas Debate, and Public Forum Debate.

- a. Each team/individual may allocate this time as they/she/he see(s) fit during the round, utilizing time prior to speeches for their side.
- b. Speakers may not use preparation time to make prefacing remarks to their speeches. A speaker's time begins, and prep time ends, when he/she begins to speak.
- c. No team may forfeit cross-examination time to gain additional preparation time. Preparation time begins for a team as soon as the previous speaker has finished with a speech or cross-examination.

2. Parliamentary Debate.

- a. During preparation time, Parli teams will report to designated Prep areas and remain there until dismissed to go to their rounds. In the preparation room, a topic shall be presented to the teams simultaneously. The teams have 20 minutes of preparation time from the announcement of the topic to prepare for each debate.

- b. Students may consult their partner, and no one else, dictionaries, reference materials, and prepared notes during the preparation period. Each Parliamentary debate contestant may make use of an electronic retrieval device to store and to retrieve subject files. Electronic retrieval devices are defined as laptop computers, netbooks, iPads, or other portable electronic retrieval equipment. Secondary devices such as flash drives or external hard drives are allowed as well. Cell phones or smart phones are prohibited except as timing devices during the round. Power plugs or outlets may not be used in the prep room at any time. All computers used in the prep room must be battery operated at all times. Contestants shall not access the Internet or use it to communicate. All wireless capability must be turned off. Penalty for violation of this rule shall be automatic forfeiture of the round by the offending team.
- c. At the end of 20 minutes of preparation time, debaters shall be released to go directly to their assigned rooms. In transit to the assigned rooms, no communication by any means should occur with anyone other than a student's partner or tournament officials. The First Proposition speech should promptly begin after the debaters and judges are all present in the competition room.

H. Examination of Opponents.

1. Policy Debate and Lincoln----Douglas Debate.

- a. In Policy Debate, both members of a debate team must participate as a questioner and respondent during cross-examination, but only one member of each team may do so within a given cross-examination period.
- b. In both Policy and Lincoln-Douglas Debate
 - 1) The questions must be directed to the speaker who has just completed his/her constructive speech and must be answered by that speaker alone.
 - 2) Questions must pertain only to materials and arguments offered by the opposition.
 - 3) The respondent may decline to answer only if a valid reason is given for doing so.
 - 4) The questioner controls the time and may interrupt a lengthy reply. Any form of time-wasting is considered unethical.
 - 5) Cross-examination time may not be yielded for the purpose of gaining additional preparation time.

2. Parliamentary Debate: Points of Information

To make a point of information, a member of the opposing team rises for recognition by the speaker. The speaker then has the discretion to accept or refuse the point. If the point is accepted, the opposing team member directs a statement or question to the speaker. The speaker is technically yielding time from his/her own speech for the point of information and the time for the point is deducted from the speaker holding the floor.

- a. Points of Information are only allowed in the first four (4) speeches of the debate.

b. Points of Information must be concise statements or questions lasting no more

than fifteen seconds.

- c. Debaters may or may not take points of information at their discretion. The speaker accepts a single point; the opposing speaker is not allowed to make following questions or arguments unless again recognized by the speaker holding the floor.
- d. The opening and closing minute of each speech are “protected;” i.e., no Points of Information are allowed. Points may be made after the first minute and before the last minute of each speech. The judge should tap the desktop to indicate that one minute has elapsed and points of information may commence. The judge should then tap the desktop when one minute remains in each speech to indicate that no more points may be attempted.
- e. Both members of a debate team must participate as a questioner and respondent during cross-examination, but only one member of each team may do so within a given cross-examination period. Oral prompting by a participant of either the questioner or the respondent is discouraged, and may be considered by the judge as a factor in deciding the debate.

3. Public Forum: Cross-Fire.

- a. In cross-fire, the team who finished speaking receives the first question.
- b. In the first two cross-fires, both participating debaters may ask and answer questions of the other. Only the speakers indicated above may participate.
- c. Grand Cross-fire: All four debaters may participate. All may ask and answer questions.

I. Validity of Evidence in All Forms of Debate

1. Definition of Terms:

- a. Evidence is quoted information read in the round and must be identified by source.
- b. Distortion of evidence exists when the evidence itself contains added or deleted words that do not clarify, but, in fact, change the position of the author with respect to the issues in question.

2. Evidence Rules Specific to Parliamentary Debate

The intent of Parliamentary Debate is to encourage extemporaneous or impromptu argumentation. Reference to “outside materials” should be limited; instead, students should rely on general knowledge, common sense, and application of logic and analysis. Nevertheless, the use of “outside materials” is allowed within the following parameters:

- a. No published materials or materials prepared prior to preparation time may be brought into the debate round for the debater’s use or reference. The debaters shall be allowed to bring to the round only the notes they have made on

colored paper provided during the preparation period as referenced in subparagraph 3 below, and nothing else.

- b. Debaters are not permitted to read published materials in the speeches of the debate to support their argument claims from anything other than their handwritten notes prepared during preparation time. Those notes may contain specific factual information (such as statistics) and/or hand transcribed quotations from published materials so long as full quotations are included in the notes as opposed to ellipsed versions of quotes (ellipses occur after the first word of the quotation and before the final word). Full citation to the referenced information or quotation must be included. The citation must include the name of the author, the source title, and the date. The opposing debaters may ask to see the debaters' notes containing any cited material as part of a Point of Information and the team reading the cited materials must show the handwritten notes, with citation, upon such request.
- c. During the debate, students may consult only notes prepared during the preparation period on the colored paper provided in the prep room for each round.
- d. Debaters may take and use notes during the debate only on the colored paper provided in the prep room for each round.

3. Responsibility for Evidence.

Debaters are responsible for the validity of all evidence read in the debate. In all rounds of debate, all debaters shall have available, if challenged by the opponent during any round, complete citations for each piece of evidence introduced including the name of the author, qualifications, complete source title, complete date and page number. Lack of a full citation shall void any effect of that piece of evidence in the round. Either no internal ellipsis (ellipses occur after the first word of the quotation and before the final word) may be used in evidence cited on a card (this must be the case in Parliamentary Debate because no outside materials other than notes on provided colored paper may be brought into the round), or ellipses must be shown on document, if the original source or a photocopy is present. In Policy Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, and Public Forum Debate the evidence may be read in ellipsed form, but the entirety of the evidence must be available in one of the two ways cited. Personal letters, electronic messages, telegrams, and the like are not admissible as evidence.

4. Evidence challenges – all forms of Debate.

- a. The burden of proof rests with the individual that challenges the validity of any evidence.
- b. The individual/team challenging evidence must indicate prior to the conclusion of the round that a challenge will be made and indicate the specific evidence to be challenged.
- c. The round will be completed and the judge(s) will withhold decisions, returning

ballots to the tournament tabulation room. Decisions will be rendered on the ballots only after the protest has been resolved by tournament officials. The judges may be asked if the evidence in question was or would have been significant in their decision.

- d. The evidence challenge must be made within thirty minutes of the conclusion of the round by the adult sponsor or designated representative of the individual/team who initiated the challenge.
- e. The challenging individual/team must be able to provide proof of the charge, within a reasonable time as set by tournament officials, through the use of either original copies of photocopies of the source in question or be able to demonstrate that there is reasonable cause to believe the evidence is nonexistent through the use of photocopies of books in print, periodical guides or other types of bibliographical resources.
- f. The tournament committee will adjourn to a private area with the two individuals and examine the charges and evidence along with materials presented by the challenging individual. Adult coaches or sponsors may be present during the examination.
- g. Individuals utilizing "handbook" evidence rarely have available the facilities to check all sources found in those handbooks. Handbook evidence proven inaccurate will be disallowed in the round, and judges instructed to not consider the evidence in rendering a decision.
- h. Evidence proven to be falsified or distorted from the original source will be grounds for awarding the challenging individual/team a win and disqualifying from the tournament the individual/team found guilty of using falsified or distorted evidence.
- i. If the evidence challenge is not upheld, the judges will be asked to render a decision and turn in their ballots after they have been informed that the evidence in question was not found to be falsified or inaccurately presented.
- j. The tournament committee has one-half hour to hear arguments and examine evidence and must render a decision within fifteen minutes of the conclusion of the presentations. The round following the contested round may not begin until the dispute is resolved.

J. Evidence Exchange/Note-Taking.

1. Judges may not request nor be given any evidence or written material from teams/individuals except when the evidence is challenged as illegal by the opposing team/individual during the round. The evidence in question should be collected by the judge and delivered to the Tournament Committee.
2. In Policy Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, and Public Forum Debate, teams or

individuals may request evidence from opponents during cross-examination/cross-fire or preparation only. The specific evidence cited must be provided. The requesting team must have access to the evidence during their subsequent speech, but must return it at the conclusion of that speech if requested. In Parliamentary Debate, the opposing debaters may ask to see the debaters' notes containing any cited material as part of a Point of Information and the team reading the cited materials must show the handwritten notes, with citation, upon such request.

K. Computers and Electronic Devices.

1. Computers are allowed in Policy Debate, Public Forum Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate and Congress subject to the rules set forth herein. Computers are allowed in Parliamentary Debate only during preparation time.
2. For all debate events, a computer is defined as a laptop, netbook, iPad, or other portable electronic retrieval equipment. Devices such as flash drives or external hard drives are not considered computers for the purposes of these debate rules.
3. In all debate events, cellular phones/smart phones may be used during the round for the exclusive purpose of functioning as a timer (device must be put into airplane mode, and be incapable of receiving or sending correspondence). Penalty for violation of this rule shall be automatic forfeiture of the round by the offending side. Students must make all cell phones used as timers available for inspection by judges and/or tournament officials upon request. A cell phone/smartphone used as a timer shall not be counted as one of the computers/electronic retrieval devices allowed in a specific debate event.
4. In all forms of debate, debaters shall not have access to or activate any other electronic devices during the round, other than those specified in paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Section K. Debaters shall not be allowed to utilize the Internet during rounds. In a round where the use of computers or cellphones as timers is permissible, Internet access must be disabled. Evidence acquired from the use of the Internet during the round is invalid. Therefore, the debater(s) shall not explicitly encourage or invite judges to acquire evidence from the Internet.
5. The allowances and restrictions on the use of computers and electronic devices are as follows:
 - a. In Policy Debate, three computers per team, one printer per team, and one electronic timing device per debater are allowed. The debaters shall not have access to or activate any other electronic device during the round.
 - b. In Lincoln-Douglas Debate, two computers per debater, one printer per team, and one electronic timing device per debater are allowed. The debaters shall not have access to or activate any other electronic device

during the round.

- c. In Public Forum, three computers per team, one printer per team, and one electronic timing device per debater are allowed. The debaters shall not have access to or activate any other electronic device during the round.
- d. In Congress, one computer or electronic retrieval device per debater. Congressional debaters shall not have access to or activate any other electronic device during the round. See Article XII, Section 18 for more specific information on the use of computers in congress.
- e. In Parliamentary Debate, no computer use is allowed during the round. Computer use is permitted only during the preparation period. During both the preparation period and the competition period, debaters shall not have access to or activate any other electronic device during the round, with the sole exception that each debater may have one electronic timing device.

- 6. In Policy Debate and Lincoln-Douglas Debate the debaters are permitted to provide to a judge in digital format (e.g., CD, USB drive, flash drive) prior to the beginning of the round, for the sole purpose of, and as the most efficient way to demonstrate that questioned evidence was not acquired during the round via the Internet. Competitors are strongly encouraged to follow this practice.

L. Definition of Round.

For the purposes of the rules listed in this Article, a round shall begin in Policy Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, and Public Forum Debate when the first speaker in the debate begins his/her speech, and shall end when the last speaker in the debate ends his/her speech. In Parliamentary Debate a round shall begin when the resolution for the round is released and the round ends when the last speaker in the debate ends his/her speech.

M. Restriction of Communications.

During a round, a debater shall not communicate through any method with anyone other than that debater's partner (if applicable), the opposing debater(s) and the judge(s).

Section 2. Unique Rules as to Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Parliamentary Debate, and Public Forum Debate.

A. Lincoln-Douglas Debate : Value Debate – No Plan Permitted.

No plan may be presented by either debater in the round. A plan is defined as a formalized, comprehensive proposal for implementation.

B. Parliamentary Debate

1. General rules:

- a. Rebuttals must be given by the first speaker for each side

b. Heckling is not allowed.

2. Rules specific to Points of Order:

- a. A point of order is a serious charge and should not be raised for minor violations, nor may it be used as a tactic to disrupt the opponent's speech, and these expectations should be noted in the judging instructions.
- b. Points of order are allowed on a limited basis. Points of Order may be raised in only the two final speeches of the debate: the Opposition Rebuttal and the Proposition Rebuttal. A point of order is allowed only to claim that the opposing team has introduced a new argument in rebuttal.
- c. Points of Order may be made at any moment of a rebuttal; in other words, there is no protected time.
- d. To make a point of order, a member of the opposing team rises and states "point of order." The debater must then provide any rationale in no more than 15 seconds.
- e. The opposing team may respond to the points of order as they choose but their response comes out of their allotted speech time.
- f. Timing for Points of Order
 - 1) Once a Point of Order is raised, time should be immediately stopped.
 - 2) The debater that raised the Point of Order must make a concise statement, lasting no more than fifteen seconds that clearly identifies the new argument or offense alleged to have been committed by the speaker.
 - 3) The speaker will then be granted the opportunity to respond to the Point of Order with a statement, lasting no more than fifteen seconds, that either directly responds to the offense brought up in the Point of Order, or accepts the Point of Order. No other arguments may be brought up while time is stopped due to a Point of Order.
 - 4) Once the speaker has responded to the Point of Order, time officially restarts.
- g. The judge simply observes the point/s of order. The judge/s may take the point of order into account in their deliberations as they choose and no new arguments in rebuttals are allowed; both of these points shall be noted in the judging instructions.

C. Public Forum Debate.

1. No Plans/Counterplans.
 - a. In Public Forum debate a plan is defined as a formalized, comprehensive proposal for implementation. Neither the affirmative or negative side is permitted to offer a plan or counterplan; rather they should offer reasoning to support a position of advocacy. Debaters may offer generalized, practical solutions.
2. On both sides, the Summary (First Rebuttal) is given by the first constructive speaker and the Final Focus (Second Rebuttal) is given by the second

constructive speaker.

3. Cross-Examination Rules

- a. The format is intended to be question and answer and comments by debaters are restricted to advancing questions or answering an opponent's question. Students should conduct themselves in a civil and professional manner during the cross-fire - - cross-fire is intended to help clarify the debate for the judge and is not intended to be a verbal brawl.

Section 3. Penalties for Violating Debate By-Laws in All Debate Events.

Debaters may not make an agreement among themselves or with the judges to modify the above rules in any round. Judges should not direct students to deviate from these rules or encourage students to violate them. In ruling on protests for violation of debate rules set forth in this Article, the Protest Committee shall consider the total facts and circumstances associated with the violation including whether it

- was intentional or unintentional,
- was unethical and/or dishonest,
- would be considered abusive
- was intended to obtain an unfair advantage in the debate
- violates the purpose behind a rule in addition to its express language, and the degree of prejudice resulting to the opponent from the violation.

Unless another penalty is included in any specific rule, the Protest Committee is empowered to impose any of the following penalties or take any of the following actions:

- 1) warning and/or reprimand, including a statement of clear consequences for a repeated violation.
- 2) require the round be repeated under terms considered fair and just by the Committee
- 3) impose a loss on the debater(s) in violation
- 4) disqualification

ARTICLE XII: The State Tournament -- Debate Tabulation**Section 1. Drawing of Byes**

- A. If the tournament is paired according to the procedures outlined in this Article, no byes should be necessary before quarterfinals in events with 64 entries, or before Round 5 in events with 48 entries. If some unforeseen circumstance occurs (i.e. fewer than 64 or 48 teams/individuals competing in Round 1, a team dropping from the tournament due to illness, the awarding of double wins as a result of a protest, etc.), it may be necessary to draw byes in preliminary rounds.
- B. Byes in Rounds 1 through 6 should be taken from the following brackets:
- Round 1. The bye should be assigned at random. All teams/individuals are eligible for the bye.
- Round 2. The bye should come from the one-loss bracket, and should be assigned so as to minimize the number.
- Round 3. The bye should come from the two-loss bracket.
- Round 4. The bye should come from the one-loss bracket, and should be assigned so as to minimize the number of teams/individuals that have to be assigned to even up sides, as outlined in Section 3, Paragraph E.
- Round 5. The bye should come from the one-loss bracket.
- Elimination rounds. Rules for byes are outlined in Section 3, Paragraph G4.
- Round 6. The bye should come from the one-loss bracket, and should be assigned so as to minimize the number of teams/individuals that have to be assigned to even up sides, as outlined in Section 3, Paragraph E.

Section 2. Preliminary and elimination rounds

- A. Rounds 1-3 - Preliminary rounds: All teams or individuals shall debate in rounds one, two, and three. At the conclusion of round three, all teams or individuals with two or more losses shall be eliminated.
- B. Rounds 4-6 - Double elimination: At the conclusion of rounds four, five, and six (and any subsequent round in which there are more than eight teams or individuals remaining), all teams or individuals with two losses shall be eliminated. Only teams with zero or one loss may debate in these rounds.
- C. Quarterfinals, semifinals, finals - Single elimination: The quarterfinal round will be declared when eight (or fewer) teams or individual remain in the tournament. Beginning in the quarterfinal round, elimination is automatic for losing teams or individuals, regardless of won-loss record.

Section 3. Pairing debates.

- A. Teams or individuals in round one shall be matched by chance with teams or individuals from an Area other than their own.
- B. After round one and prior to quarterfinal rounds, undefeated teams or individuals shall be matched against undefeated teams or individuals. Undefeated teams or individuals shall be matched first, then the once defeated teams or individuals shall be matched.
- C. If pools of undefeated or once-defeated teams or individuals each contain an odd number, one team or individual must be moved from the once-

defeated to the undefeated pool. Before selecting the once-defeated teams or individuals, the side allocation of the undefeated and once- defeated teams or individuals shall be established following the procedure outlined in paragraph E. Then draw into the undefeated pool the once- defeated team or individual who is randomly selected from the pool of once-defeateds which (1) are due to uphold the side opposite the side to be upheld by the majority of undefeateds, and (2) have not lost on that side. If no once-defeated teams or individuals fulfilling the second condition are available, the drawing shall be made from the pool of once- defeated which fulfill the first condition.

- D. Sides: On a table place at the left after round one the tabulation cards of the teams or individuals which have had more negative debates and therefore should debate affirmative the next round. Place these cards face down. On the right place the cards of those who have had more affirmative debates and therefore should debate negative the next round. Hold back the cards of any teams or individuals that have had an equal number of affirmative and negative sides, using a normal rotation. If the piles of affirmative and negative cards are not equal and it is necessary to draw cards to uphold a given side of the question twice, draw first from the cards which have won on that side in the preceding round to even the piles. To draw, turn the cards of the eligible competitors face down and let someone pull the necessary number of cards.
- E. Precedence in Pairing. In odd-numbered rounds, competitors should be distributed Affirmative or Negative randomly. Competitors pulled across in any even-numbered round according to the process below should be balanced Aff or Neg in the following round. The following procedure applies for even-numbered rounds: Leaving the affirmative cards on the left, shuffle them and place them face up in vertical rows. Shuffle the negative cards and turn face up one at a time in sequence opposite the affirmative cards, being sure to match undefeated against undefeated prior to quarter-final rounds. Do this matching one at a time noting the following priorities and shift the pairings to avoid:
1. The meeting of teams or individuals from:
 - a. The same schools prior to the final round.
 - b. The meeting of teams or individuals that met previously in the tournament.
 - c. The meeting of two schools from the same league.
 - d. The meeting of teams or individuals with a school that met previously in the tournament;
 - e. The meeting of two teams or individuals from the same Area.
 2. Each priority stands until all possibilities for it have been exhausted and the next priority is applied.
 3. A master pairing-sheet should be kept that includes school code/team numbers in order to cross check for pairing conflicts.
- F. The sides for quarterfinals on shall be determined by a coin toss immediately preceding the round when both teams or individuals and judges are present unless the teams or individuals have previously met. Rounds must begin no more than five minutes after the coin-toss-decision on sides.

- G. In quarter/semi-final rounds:
1. All teams/individuals who will compete in the quarterfinals will be ranked based on:
 - a. overall record
 - b. total number of ballots won
 - c. number of wins earned by the contestant that defeated the quarterfinals (higher total = higher ranking)
 - d. total number of wins earned by all opponents of the quarterfinalist (higher total = higher ranking)
 2. Once a team/individual has been ranked, it will keep its ranking throughout elimination rounds. Quarterfinal results will not affect rankings.
 3. The top-ranked team will receive a #1 seed for the quarterfinals. The other quarterfinalists will receive the seed respective to their ranking (#2 for second-highest rank, #3 for third, etc.).
 4. Drawing of byes and quarterfinal pairings:
 - a. if eight teams/individuals remain no byes will be drawn; #1 seed meets #8, #2 meets #7, #3 meets #6, #4 meets #5.
 - b. if seven teams/individuals remain, the #1 seed receives the bye; #2 meets #7, #3 meets #6, and #4 meets #5.
 - c. If six teams/individuals remain, the #1 and #2 seeds receive byes, #3 meets #6, #4 meets #5
 - d. If five teams/individuals remain, the #1, #2 and #3 seeds receive byes, #4 meets #5.
 5. If the seeding creates a pairing wherein a contestant is scheduled to debate a contestant from the same school (cf. paragraph F-1a), the following adjustments will be attempted to move the conflict:
 - a. The lower seed in the “conflict debate” is swapped with the next lowest seed. For instance, if #3 vs. #6 creates a conflict, try pairing #3 vs. #7 and #2 vs. #6. If this creates a new conflict (go to b.)
 - b. The lower seed in the “conflict debate is swapped with the next highest seed. For instance, if #3 vs. #6 creates a conflict, try pairing #3 vs. #5 and #4 vs. #. If this creates a new conflict (go to c.)
 - c. The lower seed in the “conflict debate” is swapped with the contestant seeded two slots lower. For instance, if #4 vs. #5 creates a conflict, try pairing #4 vs. #7 and #2 vs. #5. If this creates a new conflict (go to d.)
 - d. The lower seed in the “conflict debate” is swapped with the contestant seeded two slots higher. For instance, if #2 vs. #7 creates a conflict, try pairing #2 vs. #5 and #4 vs. #7.
 - e. If all of these adjustments create a new conflict, then the original pairings will be used for the quarterfinal round.
 6. The sides from quarterfinals on shall be determined by a coin toss immediately preceding the round when both teams or individuals and judges are present (unless the teams or individuals have met previously in the Tournament).
 7. In the semifinal round, the highest remaining seed will debate the lowest remaining seed. The other two seeds debate in the other semifinal round. If this results in a pairing wherein a contestant is scheduled to debate an opponent from the same school, the lower seeds should swap opponents. If this adjustment yields a new, similar conflict, then the original pairings will be used for the semifinals.
 8. If the two teams/individuals in the finals are from the same school, the

coach may decide if the teams/individuals will debate each other. If they do not debate, the coach shall decide the winner.

Section 4. Judges in Final Rounds: In the semifinal and final round, there shall be five judges.

Section 5. Posting of eliminated teams/individuals: Lists of eliminated teams/individuals (with two or more losses) shall be posted beginning after round three and before round four. Thereafter, list of eliminated teams/individuals shall be posted before the next round begins.

Section 6. Ballot Review

Ballots for all debate events shall be made available for coach review during round three and at the conclusion of each round thereafter. Only coaches may review the ballots. No ballots or ballot comments may be copied or removed from the review room. The purpose of review is to determine errors in recording results. If ballots are made available in electronic form, a review area with computers should be made available for coaches, since some coaches may not have accessible technology.

Section 7. Reporting of Errors: Any error should be immediately reported by the coach of the team or individual concerned to the appropriate Area Chairperson or persons officially designated to receive such reports. Such notification shall be done prior to the start of the subsequent round of debate in order to rectify errors.

Section 8. Tabulation Errors

- A. Inadvertent clerical errors in tabulation shall not void the contest. If errors occur and can be corrected, this correction shall be made.
 - 1. If a decision is found to be misrecorded, each team/individual remaining in the tournament shall have its won-loss record restored to the correct record. From that point on, each team/individual remaining in the tournament shall be paired according to its corrected record.
 - 2. If correcting a team's/individual's record would cause it to receive a second loss, that team/individual shall immediately be considered to be eliminated from the tournament. From the moment of the discovery of the error, this team/individual cannot eliminate another team/individual from the tournament. However, any teams/individuals wrongfully eliminated prior to the discovery of the tabulation error shall remain eliminated from the tournament.
 - a. If a round is taking place involving a team/individual with a corrected record of two losses, the tab room shall record the result of that round as a win for the opposing team/individual. This correction shall be made even if the round is completed, up until the time of the posting of the drops subsequent to that round.
 - b. If the drops have already been posted for the round involving the team/individual with a corrected record of two losses, and that team/individual won their round, eliminating another team/individual,

but the pairings for the next round have not been posted, every effort shall be made to find the wrongfully eliminated team/ individual and restore them to the tournament. If they cannot be found, the team/individual with a corrected record of two losses shall still be eliminated from the tournament.

- c. Under no circumstances shall a wrongfully eliminated team/individual be restored to the tournament after the round subsequent to their wrongful elimination has begun (e.g., a team may not “skip” a round and be returned to the tournament field.
 3. Other than in the specific situation outlined in (2) above, wins and losses accumulated by teams/individuals with misreported records, as well as wins and losses accumulated by the opponents of teams/individuals with misreported records, shall stand as corrected recorded. While a mismatch of teams/individuals based on corrected records is an unfortunate circumstance, the decisions made by the judges in these rounds shall not be altered.
- B. If the correction or inadvertent clerical error would force a re-running of any round or rounds, the correction shall not be made. In cases of unforeseen, uncorrectable errors, the President, Vice President Activities and/or appropriate Area Chair shall be authorized to make an appropriate apology.

Section 9. Cumulative Sheet: The cumulative sheet for debate must include a column that specifies the League of the debater(s).