

**Jack Howe High School Invitational at  
Cal State Long Beach**

**September 22 – September 23, 2018**

**Student Congress  
Information Packet**

**For Contestants, Judges, and Coaches**

# **Tentative Schedule**

## **Saturday, September 22, 2018**

9:00 am	Judge Meeting	PH1 129
9:45 am - 11:45 am	Session One	
1:15 pm - 3:15 pm	Session Two	
4:45 pm -6:45 pm	Session Three	
8:30 pm	Breaks Posted Online	

## **Sunday, September 23, 2018**

9:30 am	Finals Meeting	T.B.A.
9:45 am – 11:30 am	Final, Part A	
1:45 pm – 3:15 pm	Final, Part B	
4:45 pm	Awards Assembly	

# Official Rules

## Important Note:

*The information in this packet is tentative with regard to the preliminary round format. If numbers drop significantly between the release of this packet and the beginning of the competition, the tournament reserves the right to adjust the numbers and procedures accordingly.*

**The rules contained herein are designed to promote procedural unity among the chambers. They are subject to change by the staff at any time, but they may NOT be altered or ignored through a suspension of the rules by the chamber.**

## **CHAMBER DECORUM:**

- Each novice preliminary chamber is designated a HOUSE. A member of the House of Representatives is always referred to as “Representative.”
- Each varsity preliminary chamber is designated a SENATE. A member of the SENATE is always referred to as “Senator.”

**LEGISLATIVE DAY:** A legislative day is one session. Speaker order (recency) resets after each session.

**AGENDA ORDER:** Each chamber may determine its own agenda based on the order of the legislation assigned per round compiled in the tournament docket.

## **PRESIDING OFFICER NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS:**

- There is **one (1) elected Presiding Officer** in each session.
- No legislator may serve in that office for more than one session if there are other willing candidates within the chamber.
- The *Parliamentarian* using a secret ballot conducts elections. A majority vote is required to elect a candidate.

## **RECOGNITION OF SPEAKERS:**

- Presiding officers must use precedence when recognizing speakers. This means that presiding officers must choose speakers who have spoken least (or not at all).
- Presiding officers should employ recency once precedence has been set. This means that the presiding officers should select the speaker who has spoken *least recently* (or earliest).
- Before precedence is set, the presiding officer must choose and explain to the chamber the way speakers will be recognized. Only two methods are strictly prohibited: activity and longest standing.
  - Activity – The presiding officer may not select speakers based on who has already been recognized for questions and/or motions.
  - Longest Standing (Standing Time) – The presiding officer may not track how many times speakers stand to be recognized.

**LEGISLATION WITHOUT AN AUTHOR:**

- Sponsorship is determined by recency.
- The sponsorship becomes accountable for the mechanics of the legislation and must yield to two minutes of questioning by the chamber.
- The Presiding Officer may not step down to take the floor as an author and/or sponsor.

**QUESTIONING DURING PRELIMINARY COMPETITION:**

- A mandatory two-minute questioning period follows all authorship, and sponsorship on amendment speeches.
- A two-minute questioning period also follows the first negative speech on any item of legislation.
- The Presiding Officer shall recognize legislators who wish to ask a question of the speaker; the speaker **MAY NOT** perform this function him/herself.
- All other speeches will have a mandatory one-minute questioning period that may not be suspended.
- Questioners may only ask one question at a time. Thus, the Presiding Officer has an obligation to rule “two-part,” misleading, or irrelevant questions out of order.
- The rules may not be suspended with regards to questioning.

**AMENDMENTS:**

- Legislators must submit amendments in writing.
- A motion to amend is necessary to consider the written amendment.
- Once the motion is made, the Presiding Officer decides if the amendment is germane.
- The Presiding Officer may consult with the Parliamentarian to make this decision.
- If the amendment is found not germane, the chair rules it out of order and the amendment process stops.
- If the chair rules the amendment germane, the chamber considers the amendment. In this case, the presiding officer reads the amendment to the chamber.
- A 1/3<sup>rd</sup> second of the members present in the chamber is required to debate the amendment.
- If the chamber votes a second, debate on the amendment commences immediately.
- There is no minimum cycle requirement for amendments, so legislators may make a motion to table or call the previous question on the amendment at any time.
- The first speech on the amendment is a sponsorship speech. The chair determines speaker recognition for the sponsorship speech based on recency; the author of the amendment is not guaranteed the sponsorship speech. The sponsor accepts responsibility for the mechanics of the amendment and yields to two minutes of questioning.
- All amendment speeches receive a score and count towards recency. A majority vote is necessary for the chamber to adopt the amendment.

### **VOTING:**

- The Presiding Officer determines the method of voting on each question that comes before the chamber, except for final votes on legislation, amendments, and motions to appeal to the chair, a recorded vote must be taken. On all other votes, “voice voting” is acceptable.
- A recorded vote must follow if:
  - any member asks for a division; or
  - a member of the chamber moves for a roll call vote and the motion is agreed to by 1/5<sup>th</sup> of the chamber.
- All simple majority votes are based on the number of legislators present and voting in the chamber. Therefore, the Presiding Office may not call for or count abstentions.
- For all votes requiring a fraction of the chamber to agree to a motion or question (2/3, 1/3, 1/5, etc.), the chair determines whether the chamber agrees with the motion/question using the number of legislators present in the chamber.
- Thus, the Presiding Officer must always track the number of legislators in the chamber.

### **INTERNET CONNECTIVITY:**

- During debate on a piece of legislation under consideration, use of the Internet shall be strictly prohibited.
- Internet may be used during recesses called by the chamber or during the time between sessions but may not be accessed during motions of personal privilege.
- Both judges and peers present in the chamber shall monitor inappropriate use of the Internet.
- Concerns should be brought to the Parliamentarian in a discreet manner that has limited impact on the flow of the chamber.
- The Parliamentarian will then bring these concerns to the attention of the tabulation staff
- Evidence of Internet Connectivity may result in disqualification.
- All challenges must be made within 15 minutes of the conclusion of the session in which the violation occurred.

### **EVIDENCE RULES:**

- Students shall be responsible for the validity of all evidence they introduce to the floor. This includes, but is not limited to: facts, statistics, or examples attributed to a specific, identifiable, authoritative source used to support a claim. Unattributed ideas are the opinion of the student competitor and are not considered evidence.
- At minimum, students are expected to orally deliver the following when introducing evidence: primary author(s)’ name (last) and year of publication. If the source is a periodical or government publication, the title of the publication may be substituted for the author.
- **Evidence violations shall include:**
  - “Distortion” – the textual evidence itself contains added and/or deleted word(s), which significantly alters the conclusion of the author (e.g. deleting “not”; adding the word “not”.)
  - “Non-existence”
    - Student citing evidence is unable to provide the original source or copy of the relevant pages when requested by a tournament official.

- Original source provided does not contain the evidence cited.
  - “Clipping” – when the student claims to have read aloud the complete text of highlighted and/or underlined evidence when, in fact, the contestant skips or omits portions of the evidence.
  - “Straw argument” – claim introduced by an author for the purpose of refuting, discrediting or characterizing it. Reliance on a straw argument occurs when a student asserts incorrectly that the author supports or endorses the straw argument as his or her own position.
- To protest a piece of evidence, a student must secure from the Parliamentarian a formal protest form only during the recess immediately following the legislative debate during which the accused violation has occurred. If Orders of the Day have been called, the same rules apply, but the student filing the complaint will have five minutes to complete this form and turn it into the Parliamentarian.
- This form shall require the student filing the protest to provide:
  - Full citation of the evidence in question
  - Identification of which evidence violation has been committed
  - A detailed explanation of what exactly was said by the competitor being questioned (verbatim if possible)
  - Provision of the piece of evidence demonstrating that student filing the protest had prior knowledge of evidence in question and that it was not accessed via Internet during the debate
  - Student must sign form and acknowledge that a false accusation could result in the loss of ranks earned for that session. Student must file the complaint with the Parliamentarian prior to the end of the chamber’s recess or within five minutes of Orders of the Day being called. The Parliamentarian will contact the tabulation staff immediately and an appointed protest committee will decide as to how to proceed.
- If requested by a tabulation staff member, students must be able to provide a printed or electronic .pdf copy of the evidence with the referenced materials(s) highlighted.

## **Open Division Preliminary Competition Format**

This year's Open Congressional Debate division features **five (5) chambers**.

There are **three (3) sessions** of debate in the Preliminary Competition. Each session consists of **two (2) hours** of floor debate. Each chamber shall be allowed only a total of **ten (10) minutes** of break. This include in-house and out-of-house recesses.

There is **one (1) elected Presiding Officer** in each session. For purposes of this competition, one complete session is a legislative day. Priority for speaking resets at the end of each legislative day. ***Thus, all legislators will have zero speeches at the start of each session.*** The presiding officer may not yield the chair.

**A Parliamentarian and two (2) Scorers will evaluate each chamber.** The *Parliamentarian* remains in the chamber throughout the preliminary competition, while the *Scorers* rotate to different chambers throughout the tournament. The *Scorers* evaluate every speech that is given in a session, rating them on a scale of 1 to 6 (1 is low; 6 is high). The points awarded by a *Scorer* for a given speech can thus be used to determine NFL points for that speech. The *Parliamentarian* keeps notes on the overall performance of each legislator and will write formal ballots, including an evaluation for each Presiding Officer, awarding him/her up to 12 NFL points based on his/her performance during a given session.

At the end of the session, Scorers will each independently nominate **six (6)** students for Best Legislator during the session. At the end of all sessions, the *Parliamentarian* will each independently nominate **ten (10)** students for Best Legislator based on overall performance. Each nomination form will be converted into credits by the Tabulation Staff with the 1st place legislator receiving 6 credits, the 2nd place legislator receiving 5, and so on. Those students who were not ranked will receive zero (0) credits. The **four (4)** students from each chamber who have earned the highest number of judge credits during the Preliminary Sessions will advance to the Final Round.

## **Novice Division Preliminary Competition Format**

This year's Open Congressional Debate division features **four (4) chambers**.

There are **three (3) sessions** of debate in the Preliminary Competition. Each session consists of **two (2) hours** of floor debate. Each chamber shall be allowed only a total of **ten (10) minutes** of break. This include in-house and out-of-house recesses.

There is **one (1) elected Presiding Officer** in each session. For purposes of this competition, one complete session is a legislative day. Priority for speaking resets at the end of each legislative day. ***Thus, all legislators will have zero speeches at the start of each session.*** The presiding officer may not yield the chair.

**A Parliamentarian and two (2) Scorers will evaluate each chamber.** The *Parliamentarian* remains in the chamber throughout the preliminary competition, while the *Scorers* rotate to different chambers throughout the tournament. The *Scorers* evaluate every speech that is given in a session, rating them on a scale of 1 to 6 (1 is low; 6 is high). The points awarded by a *Scorer* for a given speech can thus be used to determine NFL points for that speech. The *Parliamentarian* keeps notes on the overall performance of each legislator and will write formal ballots, including an evaluation for each Presiding Officer, awarding him/her up to 12 NFL points based on his/her performance during a given session.

At the end of the session, Scorers will each independently nominate **six (6)** students for Best Legislator during the session. At the end of all sessions, the *Parliamentarian* will each independently nominate **ten (10)** students for Best Legislator based on overall performance. Each nomination form will be converted into credits by the Tabulation Staff with the 1st place legislator receiving 6 credits, the 2nd place legislator receiving 5, and so on. Those students who were not ranked will receive zero (0) credits. The **five (5)** students from each chamber who have earned the highest number of judge credits during the Preliminary Sessions will advance to the Final Round.

# Judge Instructions for Opening Congress Meeting

## JOB OF A STUDENT CONGRESS SCORER

- Evaluate the “Best Legislator”
- Students should be evaluated based on the demonstration of various skills – not just speaking. This means students should be recognized for participating in setting the **agenda, making motions, asking questions**, etc.

## ROLE OF THE PRESIDING OFFICER

- To ensure that students can do this in a fast, fair, and efficient manner, a **presiding officer is absolutely necessary**.
- Rounds cannot happen without presiding officers. Students are **sacrificing their opportunity to speak to serve the community**. This is a **leadership position**.
- **Good presiding officers are hard to find, and amazing presiding officers are a rarity**. This is because students feel disadvantaged when they preside as judges often forget that we are looking for the Best Legislator and not the Best Speaker.
- **Bad presiding officers will result in chaos in the chamber and thus, the lack of opportunity for students to participate in debate**. Thus, to encourage individuals to preside, not only do we offer a gavel to the best presiding officer, but also, we highly encourage you to place the presiding officer in your final ranks.
- **Failure to rank the presiding officer must be accompanied with a detailed explanation as to why the presiding officer failed to keep order in the chamber or demonstrated a lack of leadership**.

## SPEECH SCORES

- 6 – You should be in Congress now!
- 5 - You are amazing and will be in Congress some day!
- 4 – You are a good competitor, keep working.
- 3 – You had a lot of problems today. Requires a very detailed explanation.
- 2 – You spoke for a very short time, like a minute and half. Requires a very detailed explanation.
- 1 - You were offensive. Requires a very detailed explanation.

## TYPES OF CONGRESS SPEECHES

### **All Equal Value in the Round Students Demonstrate Skill by Performing Different Types of Speeches**

- ***Constructive:***
  - There is **no such thing as a first affirmative**. The first affirmative speech is a constructive speech introducing the legislation to the floor for debate.
  - It can be either an **authorship or a sponsorship speech**.
  - They **should establish for the judge the purpose of introducing the bill to the floor for debate**. You should be able to listen to the constructive and **understand what the proposed piece of legislation advocates without reading it**.
  - In prelims, legislation is tied to the diocese. **Only a student who has authored a bill is guaranteed a constructive speech**. Any other student may give a sponsorship if a member of the diocese is present.
- ***Rebuttal Speeches:***
  - Rebuttal speeches **directly refute** an opponent's argumentation.
  - **Rebuttals do not simply list the names of opposing legislators**.
- ***Extension Speeches:***
  - Extension speeches take a previous argument and **extend the line of argumentation**.
  - Extension speeches are not rehash, if and only if, some new nuance of the debate is brought forth.
  - Speeches may be a combination of rebuttal and extension.
- ***Crystallization Speeches:***
  - Happen at the end of the debate.
  - Weigh both sides and try to convince you why one side is better than the other.

### **ONE-SIDED DEBATE**

- The purpose of debate is advance arguments.
- Students should be prepared on both sides of the legislation. Thus, one-sided debate is highly frowned upon. If everyone is in agreement, then there is no debate.
- Students, in this event, are not required to advocate on every bill.

### **CALLING THE QUESTION**

- Students should feel comfortable calling the previous question when debate has become one-sided or debate has become stale.
- It is not rude to call the previous question if these conditions exist and people still want to speak.
- One of the skills of a limited prep event like Student Congress is being able to flip one's points if one really wants to give a speech on a piece of legislation.
- No minimum cycle, no maximum cycle