

## **Villiger 40 Congressional Debate Rules**

### **Important Procedures**

**Presiding Officer Election** – Using a single ballot election, presiding officers are elected for each session . All individuals interested in running for the position of presiding officer must be nominated by another student, and have the motion seconded. The nominee for presiding officer must accept the nomination to move forward. In the event that more than one individual is nominated for the role a single ballot election will occur. Students write the name of the student they are voting for on a slip of paper and the ballots are counted by the parliamentarian. The nominee with the most votes wins the election for the session. During the session, the presiding officer may not step down to give a speech from the floor. Students may not run for re-election. In the event that there are no nominees for presiding officer, students may run for re-election. In the event that there are no nominees for presiding officer in the first session, the parliamentarian will have all names of students on slips of paper and choose a presiding officer at random.

## Questioning

NSDA is silent on a few issues prominently found in congressional debate rounds. In order to solve such issues and limit confusion, the Villiger tournament will clarify on these issues.

Following the conclusion of an Authorship/Sponsorship speech and the first speech in Negation, there will be a mandatory 2 minutes of questioning. If no questions remain before the allotted time expires, the chair may absorb the remaining time.

For all subsequent speeches the mandatory questioning time will be 1 minute, if no questions remain before the expiration of the time allotted, the chair may absorb the remaining time.

Extending questioning time is allowed and may only be extended once per speech and for no more than 1 minute of questioning.

Prefaced questions or “prefacing” will be defined by the tournament as questions with information external to the speaker’s remarks. (That means no “Senator, are you aware....” type questions)

**Preliminary sessions will be using “Standard” questioning.** Standard questioning will be defined as the process of asking one question per competitor while they are recognized. If The competitor wants to ask an additional question, they must wait to be recognized by the chair. Motions for direct questioning in preliminary rounds are prohibited.

**The Supersession round will be using “Direct” questioning.** Direct questioning will follow the NSDA Guidelines outlined in 2017 as described below.

The same speaking and questioning times used in earlier rounds are in place for designated semifinal and final rounds, except that all periods are broken into 30-second segments, with one questioner per segment, who may ask multiple questions of the speaker.

Additionally:

- The PO must keep separate questioning precedence/recency (to ensure equal opportunity for legislators to ask questions), and should promptly adjudicate the end of each 30-second period.
- If a questioner does not use her/his full 30 seconds, the presiding officer has the discretion to call on another speaker, or absorb the time. "

Questioners may interrupt a speaker during his/her response, but the manner in which they do so is subject to critique by judges—remember, this is Congress—**there is a standard of decorum and courtesy that members should be held to.** Questioners should strive to expose flaws in the speaker's arguments by asking a series of questions about the speaker's remarks. These questions should subject the speaker's arguments to intensive and focused scrutiny. There should be no "softball questions." The segment is for asking questions; not for making new arguments or rehash old arguments. Questions and answers should be concise and to the point. To that end, questioners may politely interrupt speakers during their responses when, for instance, they ramble or do not directly answer the question.

## Further Clarifications

**Suspension of rules-** Suspension of rules may be implemented if a situation arises in which it is “reasonable” to do so. Reasonability will be determined by the parliamentarian in the chamber. If the Parliamentarian is unsure, they may contact tab if necessary. Issues such as questioning, cycle lengths and open and closed chambers may not be suspended.

**Permanent Open Chambers-** The Villiger tournament will have open chambers at all times. This will allow students to leave the room without penalty or permission from the chair or parliamentarian. (Students, please refrain from leaving during someone’s speech or questioning)

If a kid is missing for more than 10 minutes, it is the responsibility of the parliamentarian to contact tabroom to handle the situation

**Cycle Limits and “Staggering”-** The tournament will have a cycle of limit of two speeches of the same side, (ie two affirmatives or two negatives) back to back will trigger an automatic vote after the second speech. Staggering speeches of the same side to extend debate will not be allowed. This rule may not be suspended without the explicit permission of Tab. Alternatively, if the cycle limit is reached and the chamber is not ready to bring the legislation to a vote, the chamber may vote to “Table” the legislation and move it further down the docket for future debate.

**Recess Lengths:** in order for the tournament to be run smoothly and efficiently, the tournament advises a limit of 10-15 minutes. If there is an uneven AFF/NEG split on a particular topic, **Do NOT call a recess to write speeches. Vote or table the legislation.**

**Internet/communication-** Internet may not be used in round. Devices that use the internet such as laptops and tablets may be used but must be put into airplane mode. Communication through these devices with others is prohibited. Cellphones may only be used in the capacity by the acting presiding officer and only to keep time of speeches. Please keep cellphones in your bag on silent during rounds.

**Setting the agenda-** Students will set the agenda after a presiding officer is elected. This year the Prelim legislation is split between Domestic Policy and Domestic Econ. Students will alternate the two kinds of legislation to keep debate interesting. Supersession legislation will be Foreign Resolutions and may be chosen in any order.

**Supersession PO Elections-** Students will elect two PO’s simultaneously in the supersession, There will be a surprise mechanic for the selection of PO after the chamber elects two PO’s.