

2019 Rules and Procedures Document

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General Philosophical Principles for All Events

Observing Rounds

The National Speech and Debate Season Opener and the University of Kentucky considers the tournament to be an educational event open to the public. All persons in attendance are permitted to observe rounds and take notes in both preliminary and elimination rounds of competition subject to any legal prohibition of contact with minors as established by state or federal law.

General Disclaimer Regarding Rules

This document establishes the rules and procedures for operation of the National Speech and Debate Season Opener. It is not possible to predict every possible situation that may occur during the tournament. Any issue, problem or other instance not dealt with explicitly in this tournament procedures document will be considered and decided by the tab room for the event in which the question arises. All tab room officials will strive to make fair and transparent decisions to expeditiously resolve conflicts and avoid tournament delays that might jeopardize a timely tournament conclusion. Tab room officials will strive to consult with the Tournament Director when feasible, but given the size of the event, there may be situations in which the event tab room will make final decisions to resolve issues, problems or other instances not specifically addressed by this document.

Harassment Policy

National Speech & Debate Season Opener Policy

Policy

All participants should recognize the rights of others and communicate and act with respect for opponents, colleagues, critics, tournament hosts, and audience members. Communication or conduct which engenders ill-will and disrespect for forensics ultimately reduces the utility of forensics for all who participate in it and should, therefore, be avoided.

The Season Opener follows the University of Kentucky's policies and procedures concerning harassment and discrimination. A compliance officer with the Office of Institutional Equity and Equal Opportunity will be on call for the duration of the tournament. The Tournament Director must first be contacted if an issue involving allegations of harassment or discrimination arises.

All debaters, coaches, judges, staff and all other individuals present at the Season Opener, or participating in activities associated with the Season Opener, are expected to know and are required to abide by this Policy. Season Opener participants should also adhere to the policies and procedures of their own educational institutions, and abide by all local, state and federal laws, avoiding discrimination or harassment on any basis prohibited or regulated by law or applicable policies.

Coaches, program directors, judges, researchers and assistants must ensure their conduct complies with this Policy during the Season Opener, avoiding, mitigating and preventing situations that may generate discriminatory, offensive or harassment actions, including during a judge's post-round explanation of a reason for decision in a particular round. Coaches and program directors are encouraged to discuss this Policy with all their school's participants prior to the Season Opener and are expected to take any reasonable and necessary actions to ensure compliance by participants who are affiliated with their respective schools. By participating in the Season Opener or in activities associated with the Season Opener, each individual shall be deemed to have agreed to comport themselves in accordance with this Policy.

Resources

For more information regarding University policy and procedures on harassment please see:

- UK Discrimination & Harassment Policy – <http://www.uky.edu/eo/discrimination-harassment>
- UK Title IX Policy - <http://www.uky.edu/eo/title-ix>
- FAQs – <http://www.uky.edu/eo/faqs>

Appeals Procedure

Appeals

Any party seeking an appeal to any rule or regulation set forth in this document should follow these procedures, depending on the subject matter of any challenge or appeal:

- **Evidence and ethics challenges** within the course of a debate are handled by the judge in the round. See the Evidence and Ethics Section below for each specific event.
- **Harassment or Discrimination complaints** are to be brought to the attention of the Tournament Director and then will be handled by Office of Institutional Equity and Equal Opportunity. See the above Harassment and Discrimination Prevention Policy for those procedures.
- **Procedures for resolving all other complaints**, challenges or appeals not explicitly set out in this document will be conducted by tournament administration appointed by the Director of the Tournament.

Tournament administration (in consultation with the Director when deemed necessary and feasible) will strive to make fair and transparent decisions to expeditiously resolve conflicts and avoid tournament delays that might jeopardize a timely tournament conclusion.

Procedures

Appeals must follow the following procedure:

Appeals/protests are filed with a tournament official, appointed by the Director of the Tournament, and should include the following information:

- a. Name of the coach filing protest (a coach of record must file the protest), and school information (name, city, state).
- b. Relevant event and specific round information.
- c. Name of person/team being protested.
- d. Section/room/speaker number of person/team being protested.
- e. Specific infraction being protested, described with supporting detail.

After the infraction has been observed/discovered, the protest must be filed in a timely manner. Decisions of the tournament administration regarding protests are final. If a violation is perceived to occur in a subsequent round, another protest may be filed.

*****Use of Technology**

For Policy, Public Forum, Lincoln-Douglas and Congressional Debate:

Use of laptop computers, tablet computers, smart phones and other electronic devices able to access the internet are permitted during events. The use of computers during debates is permitted for both flowing and research purposes including retrieval of evidence stored on hard drives and accessing resources via the internet. Students should not attempt to use electronic devices to initiate or respond to contact with outside parties during a debate. The penalty for violation of this rule is loss of the debate in question and zero speaker points assigned to the offending debater. This rule recommends, but does not require, that all text messaging devices and cell phones be turned off during debates. It is meant to restrict the debaters from initiating or responding to any outside contact during a debate round. Example: A student's cell phone ringing during a debate would not violate the rule. A student calling, emailing, chatting text messaging or responding to any contact from their coach during a debate would violate this rule.

For all speech events:

Please refer to the event specific rules.

Eligibility Procedures

Eligibility

General

All students who are sanctioned by their principals to compete as a member of their school may compete at the Season Opener.

This DOES NOT mean that students who compete in clubs or as independents are excluded from participating.

However, those students, aiming to compete as a Club, Independent, or home school entry must fill out the following forms, scan them, and return to Linda Barker at linda.barker@uky.edu. The deadline to submit the forms is September 1, 2019.

Maverick Debating Rules

Maverick teams are not permitted to enter prior to the tournament. If a team becomes maverick due to an illness of a partner during the tournament, the ill debater may miss no more than 2 debates to be able to return and continue debating. Mavericks may win the debate. Mavericks will not be permitted to clear to elimination rounds.

Definition of an Independent Entry

An independent entry is an entry, which does not meet either of two important criteria:

1. Official sanctioning by their school.
2. Accompaniment by a chaperone who is an employee of the school.

Independent, Club, Home School Process and Deadline

Students wishing to attend the National Speech and Debate Season Opener as an independent entry, club entry or from a home school must accurately complete the process below no later than September 1, 2019. Incomplete documentation will result in denial of entry.

Submitting Letters

Please scan completed letters to linda.barker@uky.edu. It is the obligation of each Independent "Squad" to clearly label each letter with the "Squad name" and submit all of their documents in a single transmission, whether it be a single PDF email attachment or a single fax transmission. We cannot accept or process piecemeal transmissions of letters, as it is extremely difficult to match up names to entries.

Chaperones

Even though an entry is "independent," the attending students must still be accompanied by a parent or designated ADULT chaperone.

Team Name

The students must use a variant of the school name if the students attend a "school," but may use the addition "Independent" as a portion of the name. If the entry is of a "home school" nature, the entry should reflect the geography of the entry - example: "Scranton Independent" for a home school independent entry from Scranton, PA.

Declaring Independent/Club/Home School Status

Students must clearly indicate that they are an independent or home school entry upon signing-up. Entries discovered to be independent or home school during the tournament who did not correctly declare their status on Tabroom.com at point of entry and fully complete the required paperwork in advance of the tournament as specified in this list may be dropped from the tournament without refund.

Dual Entry

Any given school cannot have both "regular school sanctioned entry" status and also have students enter from that school as "independent" entries - if a school is attending as a regular school sanctioned entry then ALL students who attend that school must enter as a part of that regular school sanctioned entry or they may not attend. Further, all students from a given school must be entered from the same account. We will not accept multiple independent entries from the same school submitted from multiple "independent" accounts.

Letters/Permission

To be accepted as an independent entry, the attending group must include complete and correctly executed authorization letter from the school and each set of parents or guardians.

For an independent entry to be accepted, we must have:

- 1) A letter signed by a school administrator (principal or vice-principal) on school letterhead, with the text as in the template below. This letter must list the names of all students competing and must also list the name of the chaperone. THE TEXT OF THE LETTERS CANNOT BE CHANGED OR ADDED TO IN ANY SUBSTANTIVE WAY; FOR EXAMPLE, WE CANNOT AND DO NOT INDEMNIFY SCHOOLS AGAINST LIABILITY - that is an issue between the family of the attending student, their school, and their respective legal counsels; and the National Speech and Debate Season Opener has no jurisdiction, legal or otherwise, to oversee, rule upon, or pass judgment on such assertions or declarations.

- 2) A letter from a parent of each participant, with the text as in the template below, is needed. All entries, including independents, must have an adult chaperone with them at the tournament.

THE TEXT OF THE LETTERS SHOULD READ AS FOLLOWS:

Parent Letter

(template--copy/paste the text and fill in the blanks as appropriate):

Date

Dave Arnett

Tournament Director

National Speech and Debate Season Opener

This letter is to inform you that we would like our child, _____, to attend the National Speech and Debate Season Opener from September 7-9, 2019 and that she / he does so with our full consent and permission. We have arranged for our child to be fully chaperoned and for transportation to our satisfaction, and accept full responsibility and liability for our child during the entire course of the event. We understand and agree that the National Speech and Debate Season Opener, their employees, and their agents provide no chaperones for the event, and further agree that the National Speech and Debate Season Opener, their employees, and their agents are hereby relieved of any responsibility or liability of any sort for the supervision of our child.

The following person will be chaperoning our child:

Name: _____

Cell phone: _____

Relationship to our child: _____

By signing this we are certifying that we are in fact the legal guardians of the listed child and have full legal authority to act on the listed child's behalf.

Name

Sign

Date

Contact info:

Email:

Phone:

School Letter

(template--copy/paste the text and fill in the blanks as appropriate):

Date:

Dave Arnett

Tournament Director

National Speech and Debate Season Opener

This letter is to inform you that we have no objection to students from our school attending the National Speech and Debate Season Opener from September 7-9, 2019, as independent entries. We understand that the parents/guardians of the students have arranged for their children to be transported and fully chaperoned to their satisfaction, and they have agreed to accept full responsibility and liability for their children during the entire course of the event. We further understand and agree the National Speech and Debate Season Opener, their employees, and their agents provide no chaperones for the event, and we have explained this to the parents of the children listed in this letter. These are the names of the students who attend our school, for whom we are certifying that we do not object to their participation in the above described event:

[list of students, with full names, goes here]

By signing this I am certifying that I am an official of the school and that I have full authority to act on the school's behalf in matters of this kind.

Name,

Sign,

Date

Contact info:

Email:

Phone:

Judging

General/Eligibility

All qualified entries are expected to provide a qualified judge for the event in which they compete. Limited hired judging is available by pre-arrangement with Lincoln Garrett.

The tournament director reserves the right to approve any and all judges in all events.

Expectations

General Expectations

Judges' primary role is to serve as educators. All judges are expected to adjudicate their rounds fairly, limiting their evaluations to the arguments delivered by the students in the round before them. The Season Opener encourages judge feedback and post-round discussion with the debaters, as appropriate and consistent with the schedule.

In Policy, LD, and PF, judges are expected to assign one winner and one loser per round, by the decision time communicated by the tab room. The tab room will flip a coin to determine the winner of any round where the judge is unable to render a decision in the time allotted.

Judge Philosophies

In Policy, Public Forum, and LD, all judges are expected to have a judge philosophy posted on the appropriate website. The penalty for any judge who fails to post a judge philosophy before the tournament starts will be that the school the judge is representing will lose school judge preferences.

Conflicts

All judges are expected to conflict themselves against any competitor with whom they have a coaching relationship, a close/personal relationship, or any other actual or perceived conflict of interest. Judges should preclude themselves from judging their alma mater for two years after graduating. Judges should preclude themselves from judging any school which they previously coached in the three-years prior to the academic year. It is the judge's obligation to communicate any conflicts to the tournament director prior to the start of the tournament.

Double-Flighted Event Details

Judge commitments for LD and PF are considered "doubled-flighted" rounds of commitment (so 3 double-flighted rounds of commitment really means 6 single-flights). For LD, the tab room may not always be able to schedule every judge in both the A and B flights of a round, given judge preference constraints.

Judge Absences

All judges are obligated to adjudicate the round which the tab room assigns them. Any judge who fails to report to judge their debate before the forfeit time (15 minutes after the posted start time for the debate) faces sanction by the tab room, including fines and disqualification of the debate entries from the judge's school. Any judge who knows they will be late should make every attempt to inform the tab room if they have a legitimate time conflict (an emergency arises, illness, etc.).

Fines

Schools will be fined \$50 per round for a preliminary round missed by one of their judges. For an elimination round this penalty is a \$100. This includes when a judge is obligated to the tournament for judging and fails to report a scheduled round, even if a replacement judge is secured.

These penalties must be paid before a team is allowed to advance to the next stage of elimination debates (i.e. if a preliminary fine is incurred, the team will not be able to clear unless the fine is paid).

Judging Requirements

Policy Debate

3 rounds of judging are required per team

Lincoln-Douglas Debate

3 double-flighted rounds of judging are required per team

Public Forum Debate

One judge can cover 3 teams

Congressional Debate

One judge can cover 6 entries

In Speech

One judge can cover 4 entries

Obligations

Policy, Lincoln-Douglas and Public Forum

All judges are obligated through the quarterfinal round, and, if applicable, one round past the elimination of the school the judge represents.

Congressional Debate and all Speech events

All judges are obligated through the Final round.

Event-Specific Rules

Policy

Event Rules

Topic

The Season Opener will use the annual National Federation of State High School Associations policy debate topic.

Event Format

The tournament will host 6 preliminary rounds that follow the traditional “8-5-3” high school policy debate format for constructive, rebuttal, and cross-examination time. There will be a total of **8 minutes of preparation time** for each team.

Speaker Point Scale

The Season Opener will use a 30-point speaker point scale with tenths of a point allowed, and no ties between the debaters.

Start Times

Teams will be allowed at least 30 minutes of prep time from release of pairings until the official debate start time. Coaches should conclude their coaching 10 minutes prior to the debate. Judges should report to their rooms no later than 5 minutes before official debate start time.

Decision Times

For preliminary rounds, decision time for judges to submit their decision will be 2 hours from the posted start time of the round. For elimination rounds, the decision time is 2:15 from the posted start time of the round. If a judge is unable to render a decision in the allotted time, the tab room will flip a coin to determine the winner of that debate/ballot.

Forfeit Times

Any team arriving later than 15 minutes after the posted start time will be at the risk of forfeit imposed at the exclusive discretion of the event tab room staff. Any team experiencing what they believe to be a legitimate delay should make every attempt to communicate with the tab room if they are going to be late.

Number of Clearing Teams

We will clear up to 32 teams with a 4-2 win-loss record or better.

Tiebreakers

1. Wins
2. High low points
3. Double high low points

4. Total points
5. Judge Variance

Maverick Debating Rules

Maverick teams are not permitted to enter prior to the tournament. If a team becomes maverick due to an illness of a partner during the tournament, the ill debater may miss no more than 2 debates to be able to return and continue debating. Mavericks may win the debate. Mavericks will not be permitted to clear to elimination rounds.

Pairing Process

General

The first two rounds will be randomly preset. All power-matched rounds will be paired high-low within brackets as possible.

In elimination rounds, all rounds will be flip for sides, unless teams have previously met, in which case the teams will switch sides from the previous debate.

Judge Placement

In prelims, starting with round 3, judges will be placed: [A] first for teams in “break rounds” (considered as those teams with 2 losses), then [B] second for teams with 1 loss, then [C] third for teams with no losses, then [D] finally for those teams already considered ineligible to clear to elimination rounds based on their record.

Elimination Rounds

Teams should be present in their competition room no later than 25 minutes prior to the scheduled start time for the debate to flip for sides. If one team is not present at the scheduled time for conducting the flip for sides, then the team which is present will be allowed to choose their preferred side. If both teams are not present at the scheduled time for conducting the flip, then the tab room will assign sides for the debate.

Judging

General

Judges must vote for one and only one team within the allotted decision time.

Judges are obligated through at least the quarterfinal round, plus one round after the team(s) from the school they represent is/are eliminated from the tournament.

Judges are required to post a judge philosophy on Tabroom.

Mutual Preference Judging Procedures

We utilize mutual preference judging based on an ordinal ranking of all the judges in the pool.

Preference sheets will be due prior to start of the tournament at a time announced by the tabulation staff.

Conflict Policy

All judges are expected to conflict themselves against any competitor with whom they have a coaching relationship, a close/personal relationship, or any other actual or perceived conflict of interest. Judges should preclude themselves from judging their alma mater for two years after graduating. Judges should preclude themselves from judging any school which they previously coached in the three-years prior to the academic year. It is the judge's obligation to communicate any conflicts to the tournament director prior to the start of the tournament. Coaches should put all conflicts into the Notes box on Tabroom for each of their judges. It is the coach's affirmative obligation to discover and report all conflicts.

When filling out the mutual preference system, teams have an affirmative obligation to select as "conflicts/constrained" those judges they know will be required to conflict themselves as identified in the "Conflict Policy" portion of this document.

Evidence and Ethics Challenges

If a team believes an opponent committed an evidence or other ethics violation, the accusing team should stop the debate and ask the judge to adjudicate the challenge. This type of challenge includes the following situations:

- a team reads evidence is that fabricated
- a team reads evidence that is meaningfully altered to change the author's original meaning
- a team misrepresents how much evidence they have read in a debate, such as improperly highlighting their evidence, "clipping cards" (the team says they read more than they actually did by clipping a card short of the indicated end), or "cross reading" (the team skips words or sentences in the middle of the text, but indicates that they read all the highlighted words)
- a team receives argument assistance or reads or responds to communications from a coach or other person after the debate has commenced, whether verbal or electronic, including the transfer of evidence after the round starts

The accusing team will explain to the judge what alleged violation is being asserted. The judge will evaluate the violation based on the evidence available to the judge. Prior to evaluating the challenge, the judge should inform both teams whether or not the round will continue after the challenge, if the accusation is found to be false or if the judge cannot determine the challenge based upon the evidence available to the judge. After the judge informs both teams of the consequences of a failure to sustain the objection or challenge, the accusing team will be given an opportunity to withdraw the challenge. If the accusing team decides to pursue the objection or challenge, then the consequences announced by the judge for a failed or indeterminable objection or challenge will be binding on the teams.

If the judge finds that an ethics or evidence violation was committed, the offending team will be assigned a loss. If a single team member committed the violation, that debater will receive zero speaker points. The judge may assign speaker points to the non-offending debater. If the violation occurs prior to the non-offending team member delivering a speech, the judge may award points based upon the cross-examination, if applicable. If the non-offending team member has not delivered a speech or participated in a cross-ex, then the tab room will assign the average of the non-offending debater's speaker points from prior debates.

Any decision to challenge evidence violations or unethical behavior must be made during the round in which the infraction occurred before the judge submits a decision to the tab room. No challenge can be made to conduct committed in any round after the ballot has been submitted to tab room. The judge assigned to the round will decide the challenge made in the round based solely on the evidence submitted by the teams in the round. No appeal, modification or reversal of the judge's decision regarding the challenge or the consequences resulting from the challenge is permitted.

Lincoln-Douglas

Event Rules

Topic

The Season Opener topic for LD will be the September-October topic selected by the National Speech and Debate Association.

Event Format

Speech constraints: 6-3-7-3-4-6-3 with 5 minutes of preparation time.

Speaker Point Scale

The Season Opener will use a 30-point speaker point scale with tenths of a point allowed, and no ties between the debaters.

Start Times

Debaters will be allowed at least 30 minutes of prep time from the release of the pairings until the official start time of the A flight debate. Coaches should conclude their coaching 10 minutes prior to the debate. Judges should report to their rooms no later than 5 minutes before start time.

Number of Clearing Teams

We will clear all teams with a 4-2 win-loss record or better.

Tiebreakers

1. Wins
2. High low points
3. Double high low points
4. Total points
5. Judge Variance

Forfeit Policy

Forfeit times – Any team arriving later than 5 minutes after the posted start time will be at the risk of forfeit by the tab room. Any team experiencing what they believe to be a legitimate a delay should make every attempt to communicate with the tab room if they are going to be late.

If a debater becomes unable to debate due to an illness during the tournament, they may miss no more than 2 debates to be able to return and continue debating. Speaker points will be averaged in this situation.

Any entry that forfeits for a reason other than illness or serious emergency approved by the tab room will be withdrawn from the tournament.

Decision Times and Forfeit Times

1. Flight A debaters are eligible to forfeit a debate if they are not present in the room they are debating in 5 minutes after the posted start time.
2. Flight B debaters need to be present in the room they are debating in 65 minutes after the posted start time of a debate. This is true regardless of whether the flight A debate decision is in. Failure to comply will result in a forfeit.
3. The decision time deadline is 1 hour after the posted start time for a debate (in its respective flight).
4. Participants in elimination rounds should flip 20 minutes before the announced start of the round in the assigned room. If one debater is not present for the coin flip, the other debater will choose their side, and missing debater will be assigned the opposite side. If both teams are not present at the scheduled time for conducting the flip, then the tab room will assign sides for the debate.

Pairing Process

General

The first two rounds will be randomly preset. All power-matched rounds will be paired high-low within brackets as possible.

In elimination rounds, all rounds will be flip for sides, unless teams have previously met, in which case the teams will switch sides from the previous debate.

Judge Placement

In prelims, starting with round 3, judges will be placed: [A] first for debaters in “break rounds” (considered as those teams with 2 losses), then [B] second for debaters with 1 loss, then [C] third for debaters with no losses, then [D] finally for those debaters already considered ineligible to clear to elimination rounds based on their record.

Elimination Rounds

Debaters should be present in their competition room no later than 20 minutes prior to the start time for the debate to flip for sides. If they are not, the present debater will be allowed to choose their preferred side. If both debaters are not present at the scheduled time for conducting the flip, then the tab room will assign sides for the debate.

Judging

General

Judges must vote for one and only one debater within the allotted decision time.

Judges are obligated through at least the quarterfinal round, plus one round after the team(s) from the school they represent is/are eliminated from the tournament.

Judges are required to post a judge philosophy on Tabroom.

Mutual Preference Judging Procedure

We utilize mutual preference judging based on an ordinal ranking of all the judges in the pool.

Preference sheets will be due prior to start of the tournament at a time announced by the tabulation staff.

Conflict Policy

All judges are expected to conflict themselves against any competitor with whom they have a coaching relationship, a close/personal relationship, or any other actual or perceived conflict of interest. Judges should preclude themselves from judging their alma mater for two years after graduating. Judges should preclude themselves from judging any school which they previously coached in the three-years prior to the academic year. It is the judge's obligation to communicate any conflicts to the tournament director prior to the start of the tournament. Coaches should put all conflicts into the Notes box on Tabroom for each of their judges. It is the coach's affirmative obligation to discover and report all conflicts.

When filling out the mutual preference system, teams have an affirmative obligation to select as "conflicts/constrained" those judges they know will be required to conflict themselves as identified in the "Conflict Policy" portion of this document.

Evidence and Ethics Challenges

If a debater believes an opponent committed an evidence or other ethics violation, the accusing debater should stop the debate and ask the judge to adjudicate the challenge. This type of challenge includes the following situations:

- a debater reads evidence is that fabricated
- a debater reads evidence that is meaningfully altered to change the author's original meaning
- a debater misrepresents how much evidence they have read in a debate, such as improperly highlighting their evidence, "clipping cards" (the debater says they read more than they actually did by clipping a card short of the indicated end), or "cross reading" (the team skips words or sentences in the middle of the text, but indicates that they read all the highlighted words)
- a debater receives argument assistance or reads or responds to communications from a coach or other person after the debate has commenced, whether verbal or electronic, including the transfer of evidence after the round starts

The accusing debater will explain to the judge what alleged violation is being asserted. The judge will evaluate the violation based on the evidence available to the judge. Prior to evaluating the challenge, the judge should inform both teams whether or not the round will continue after the challenge if the accusation is found to be false or if the judge cannot determine the challenge based upon the evidence available to the judge. After the judge informs both debater of the consequences of a failure to sustain the objection or challenge, the accusing debater will be given an opportunity to withdraw the challenge. If the accusing debater decides to pursue the objection or challenge, then the consequences announced by the judge for a failed or indeterminable objection or challenge will be binding on the debater.

If the judge finds that an ethics or evidence violation was committed, the offending debater will be assigned a loss and zero speaker points.

Any decision to challenge evidence violations or unethical behavior must be made during the round in which the infraction occurred before the judge submits a decision to the tab room. No challenge can be made to conduct committed in any round after the ballot has been submitted to tab room. The judge assigned to the round will decide the challenge made in the round based solely on the evidence submitted by the teams in the round. No appeal, modification or reversal of the judge's decision regarding the challenge or the consequences resulting from the challenge is permitted.

*****Public Forum**

*****2019 CHANGES – Event Rules**

Topic

The Season Opener will use the September/October Public Forum topic chosen by the National Speech and Debate Association.

*****NEW 2019 – Event Format**

NEW for 2019 – Public Forum will use the following new time format –

First Speaker - Team A – 4 minutes

First Speaker - Team B – 4 minutes

Crossfire – 3 minutes

Second Speaker - Team A – 4 minutes

Second Speaker - Team B – 4 minutes

Crossfire – 3 minutes

Summary - First Speaker - Team A – 3 minutes

Summary - First Speaker - Team B – 3 minutes

Grand Crossfire – 3 minutes

Final Focus - Second Speaker - Team A – 2 minutes

Final Focus - Second Speaker - Team B – 2 minutes

Prep Time – 3 minutes per team

- Public Forum will use the National Speech & Debate Association format for speech and preparation times.
- Public Forum will use the National Speech & Debate Association rules for the coin toss.
- These rules can be found here: NSDA High School Unified Manual – <https://www.speechanddebate.org/wp-content/uploads/High-School-Unified-Manual-2018-2019.pdf>. Note these are the 2018-2019 rules, when the 2019-2020 rules are available, they will reflect the new policies implemented here.

*****NEW 2019 – Crossfire Format**

As per the new 2019-2020 NSDA rules:

“At the conclusion of the summary speeches, all four debaters will remain seated and participate in a three-minute ‘Grand Crossfire’ in which all four debaters are allowed to cross-examine one another. The speaker who gave the first summary speech must ask the first question. The speakers from each team will continue to ask and answer questions. Teams should alternate asking and answering questions rather than allowing one team to dominate so that a balance between teams is achieved. All speakers are encouraged to participate in the Grand Crossfire. Speakers should listen respectfully to opponents’ questions and answers.”

Start times:

Teams will be allowed at least 15 minutes of prep time from the release of the pairings until the official start time of the A flight debate. Coaches should conclude their coaching 5 minutes prior to the debate. Judges should report to their rooms no later than 5 minutes until start time.

Forfeit times:

Any team arriving later than 15 minutes after the posted start time will be at the risk of forfeit by the tab room. Any team experiencing what they believe to be a legitimate a delay should make every attempt to communicate with the tab room if they are going to be late.

Number of clearing teams:

We will clear up to 64 teams with a 4-2 win-loss record or better.

Tiebreakers:

1. Wins
2. High low points
3. Double high low points
4. Total points
5. Judge Variance

Maverick debating rules:

Maverick teams are not permitted to enter prior to the tournament. If a team becomes maverick due to an illness of a partner during the course of the tournament, the ill debater may miss no more than 2 debates to be able to return and continue debating. Mavericks will not be permitted to clear to elimination rounds.

Hybrid teams:

No hybrid teams are allowed to compete at the tournament. Each entry must be comprised of two students from the same school.

Strike Policy:

Each team may strike up to five judges in the pool.

Pairing Process

All power matched rounds will be paired high-low within brackets as possible.

The presets will be random.

In elimination rounds, all rounds will be flip for sides, unless teams have previously met, in which the teams will switch sides from the previous debate.

Elimination rounds

Teams should be present in their competition room no later than 10 minutes prior to the start time for the coin toss. If they are not, the present team will be allowed to proceed as if they won the coin toss.

Judging

Judges must vote for one and only one team within the allotted decision time.

Judges are obligated through at least the quarterfinals, and further, one round after their team is eliminated in the elimination debates.

Judges are required to post a judge philosophy on Tabroom.

Evidence and Ethics Challenges

Challenges to evidence or ethics will be determined by a committee of three to be appointed by the Tournament of Champions administrators. That committee should not include the tab staff. Two additional alternate committee members should be announced in the case that one or both members of the three-person committee are involved in the challenge. Serving on the committee counts for judge obligations.

In the case where a team believes their opponent to have committed an evidence or other ethics violation, the accusing team should stop the debate, and ask the judge to refer the challenge to the tournament committee. This needs to occur immediately during the debate or immediately after the debate BEFORE a judge offers a decision. This is an ethics challenge and so the challenging team will win or lose based upon the challenge.

This includes the following situations:

- a team reads evidence is that fabricated
- a team reads evidence that has added or deleted words from a quote.
- a team receives argument assistance from a coach or other person after the debate has commenced, whether verbal or electronic, including the transfer of evidence after the round starts

The accusing team will write up the challenge and present it to the committee.

If the committee does in fact find an ethics or violation, the offending team will be assigned a loss and zero speaker points for the round.

Any decision to challenge evidence or ethical behavior must be made during the round where the infraction occurred, or before the judge submits their decision to the tab room. No challenge can be made to a previous round after the next has commenced.

Evidence Norms

Debaters may request evidence from the opposing team. Debaters reading evidence must present full carded evidence with full citations immediately to the requesting team. In instances where evidence is stored on an electronic device, students must hand over the electronic device to the requesting team and cannot try to withhold the electronic device for purposes of personal preparation. Prep time for the requesting team will not start until evidence has been handed over to the debater requesting said cards. Teams may prep during this evidence request time, this should encourage teams to have their evidence ready and available to present immediately. Judges should discourage teams from attempting to “game the system” if evidence requests become overly burdensome or create excessive delays in the debate.

For evidence used in Public Forum debates, we recommend as a best practice that all evidence be cited using one of the prominent citation styles (MLA, Chicago, APA, or the standard Policy debate citation style). Failure to do so is not itself a violation of the rules set forth in this document, but following these norms constitutes an educational and ethical citation practice.

*****2019 CHANGES – Evidence Paraphrasing**

As per the new 2019-2020 NSDA rules:

“Paraphrasing, authoritative source versus general understanding.

If paraphrasing is used in a debate, the debater will be held to the same standard of citation and accuracy as if the entire text of the evidence were read. Paraphrasing may be used to shorten or clarify one specific portion of an original source. It should not be confused with general summary of an entire book, chapter, study, etc., which may only be used for information that is widely considered to be common knowledge. Paraphrasing focuses on a single idea, while summary focuses on a general concept. For example, if a debater references a specific theory by a specific author, the debater must also be able to provide an original source as well as the specific text from the original source which is being paraphrased. If a debater were to reference social contract theory in general, that would not be an authoritative source that would require citation. However, if the debater references ‘John Locke’s Social Contract,’ evidence would need to be available.”

Congressional Debate

Legislation

We will accept submitted legislation until Friday August 16, 2019 with the goal of producing a docket no later than the 24th of August. For more information, please see the relevant section on Tabroom (<http://ukseasonopener19.tabroom.com>).

Event Rules

Congressional Debate will follow NSDA rules and procedures.

The NSDA rules can be found here:

NSDA High School Unified Manual – <https://www.speechanddebate.org/wp-content/uploads/High-School-Unified-Manual-2018-2019.pdf>

Speech

Event Rules

All speech events, except Oral Interpretation, will follow NSDA rules and procedures. Oral Interpretation will use CFL rules and procedures.

NSDA rules can be found here:

NSDA High School Unified Manual – <https://www.speechanddebate.org/wp-content/uploads/High-School-Unified-Manual-2018-2019.pdf>

CFL rules can be found here:

CFL Bylaws (Fall 2018) - [http://www.ncfl.org/NCFLnew/PDFs/NCFLByLaws\(Fall2018\).pdf](http://www.ncfl.org/NCFLnew/PDFs/NCFLByLaws(Fall2018).pdf)