

EMHS Congressional Scrimmage Tournament Guide

Tournament Help Line: Text 505-819-3592

1. General Info:
 - a. Check-in 8:30
 - b. Round: 9:00-12:00 (Chambers should recess for a break around 10:30-ish).
2. Procedures:
 - a. Coaches will receive an email with postings (chamber assignments) AND associated zoom link at 8:15 Saturday morning.
 - b. Coaches need to forward this information ASAP directly to their students AND judges, so that they can enter their rooms.
 - c. Students should enter rooms by 8:30. This will allow them time to troubleshoot tech problems, and time to caucus with each other.
 - d. Judges should also enter the room by 8:30.
 - e. NAMING CONVENTIONS: Students should rename themselves as "School Code - Last Name", so example, "G - Flake".
 - f. Judges should name themselves as Judge - Last Name, eg "Judge - Flake"
 - g. Judges should log on to tabroom by 8:45 and view their ballot. They will enter ranks at the end of the round (12:00).
 - h. Any tech questions should be texted to 505-819-3592. Include the 505 area code.
3. Judges:
 - a. There will be a single judge in most rooms, who will act as a parli as well as a judge.
 - b. Judges in the novice chambers will be prepared to assist with parliamentary procedure and to PO if necessary.
 - c. While EMHS affiliated judges will judge our own students, our students will not be eligible to win awards.
 - d. Judges will enter their own ranks on tabroom at the end of the session.
 - e. If a student chooses not to have their camera on during the full session, or at all, the judge should not penalize the student.
 - f. Some students will be new to using the zoom platform; judges should not penalize students for minor issues using zoom.
 - g. As ever, judges should not penalize students based on their attire, nor leave students comments about their attire.
4. General congress rules:
 - a. We will use direct questioning at this tournament, as was used at Nationals this year.
 - i. After the first and second speeches on a given piece of legislation, there will be FOUR direct-questioning periods, where four students have thirty second each to ask as many questions as they can. The PO should gently call time after 35 seconds (five-second grace period).

- ii. After the later speeches, only two direct questioning periods will be given after a speech.
 - iii. POs should track direct questioners on a SEPARATE precedence/recency chart that the speaking precedence/recency. (It's just a scrimmage--if you mess up, it's ok!)
- b. Remember, it does NOT take a motion to suspend the rules in order to call on multiple aff or neg speakers in a row. POs will be encouraged to hear from all students wishing to speak before they entertain a motion to call the previous question.
- c. See this link for a useful congressional round guide (written for pre-pandemic times...) :
https://docs.google.com/document/d/11tte7sm2mPSMgt0C5cn_JWiedKG1wW0ceUAJVjRGDXQ/edit?usp=sharing
- d. Internet use during rounds is A-OK, for example, to research. Internet use to communicate about strategy with coaches or fellow competitors is not.
- 5. Some special adjustments to rules as this is a scrimmage:
 - a. The elected PO may step down at the recess, and another election will be held. Precedence and recency should NOT be reset, however.
 - b. Judges will act as parliamentarians as needed, and will be encouraged to help students learn correct procedures as needed in the novice chambers.
- 6. PO-ing on the Zoom platform:
 - a. Voting for PO will take place by sending in a name through the chat feature directly to the judge/parli.
 - b. PO's should count votes by the hand raise feature in zoom.
 - c. POs are strongly encouraged to hear from ALL speakers who wish to speak before entertaining a motion to call the previous question.
 - d. POs will give time signals instead of a gavel-bang to indicate time.
 - e. Students and judges who are not actively speaking should remain on mute. The PO can give reminders on this if needed. The PO should probably not mute themselves during the round.
 - f. If students do not have a placard, or have their camera off, please don't penalize in any way; look at both the participants list and at the video feed of students in the chamber to call on speakers. Please wait a few moments before calling on a speaker to account for lag time.
- 7. Various reminders:
 - a. If students will be reading from their screen, unable to see the PO, they should remember to time themselves.
 - b. Ideally, all students are on camera and are using a placard to signify they want to speak; but students not on-camera should not be penalized, and should use the hand-raise feature to indicate they want to speak.
 - c. A student can come off of mute to make a motion; they don't need to wait to be called on.

- d. Students should call for a recess at around 10:30 at the latest. Another option would be to recess twice, once at around 10, and once at around 11.
 - e. During recess, please leave your device connected to zoom, instead of leaving the platform.
 - f. Students should make a placard to use during the tournament.
 - g. If you are having technical difficulties, try leaving zoom and re-entering; restarting your computer; trying zoom on a different computer; trying zoom on your tablet/phone (you will need to download the app).
 - h. Remember to text the helpline if you're stuck in a waiting room, or have other difficulties. 505-819-3592
8. No harassment or bullying of any kind will be allowed. Judges may ask students to leave if they see this behavior. Text the tournament helpline if you see this behavior.