

CALIFORNIA HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH ASSOCIATION RULES AND REGULATIONS 2020-2021

ARTICLE XIII: State Tournament – Congress - Rules and Tabulation

Section 1. Description

A State Congress shall be a regular contest of the CHSSA State Tournament. Said Congress shall have six preliminary houses of 15 members each. The members shall include 21 Congresspersons from each of the four Areas plus bonus entries as allocated according to Article VII, Section 3, plus Presiding Officer contestants from each Area (cf. #3 below, Presiding Officers). All Congress contestants must follow the rules specified in the CHSSA Constitution, By-Laws, and Congress Handbook. Failure to do so may result in disqualification. No visual aids or props may be used during any round of Student Congress for purposes of information or speaker identification. Computers or tablets are allowed in congress sessions provided that the internet is disabled. See Section 18 for complete rules regarding the use of electronic devices in Congress.

Section 2. Qualifiers

All delegates to the Congress must have qualified for such a position at an earlier League qualifying Congress within each Area. Those qualifying Congresses shall be run according to the rules of the State Congress as far as possible.

Section 3. Presiding Officers

Each League shall assign one presiding officer to the State Congress. There shall be a total of 12 presiding officers.

A. One presiding officer shall be selected from each of the state qualifying Congresses of the eleven Leagues. The twelfth presiding officer shall be chosen as follows: Based on the previous three years' State Tournaments and total league entries, the number of sweepstakes points earned shall be divided by the total number of allocated league entries. The league with the most points will be entitled to send a second presiding officer to the State Tournament. Presiding officers shall compete only as presiding officers. Delegates to the State Congress shall be selected by a panel of adult judges without Congress contestant input. Those state qualifying League contests in which no presiding officer candidate is selected for the State Congress shall treat all participants as potential state qualifying delegates to the State Congress.

B. Each presiding officer elected to the State Congress shall, as much as is possible within an Area, come from different Leagues within an Area.

C. Presiding officer contestants shall be eligible for awards for presiding officer but cannot be eligible for "best speaker-delegate" awards.

Section 4. Submission of Bills/Resolutions

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A. Bills and resolutions shall come from six topic areas chosen by the fall CSSC meeting of the Congress Committee.

B. Each school with one or more Congress entries in the State Tournament shall be required to submit one piece of legislation from the topic area designated to their league. The legislation must be typed using one of the three templates on the CHSSA website.

C. The Congress Committee shall select seven (7) bills/resolutions to be distributed to the coaches of qualified delegates. The Congress Director shall prepare the Student Congress Handbook inclusive of the seven (7) selected bills/resolutions and have it made available to students thirty (30) days prior to the first day of the state tournament

D. The Congress Committee shall designate the bill/resolution(s) for each session, and they shall be announced prior to the start of the first preliminary session.

Section 5. Paneling of Congressional Contestants

A. There shall be three preliminary legislative sessions of ninety minutes each. Each chamber shall be randomly pre-matched and then balanced to avoid to the extent possible contestants same school, the same League and the same Area.

B. Students will stay in the same chamber for all three preliminary rounds.

C. Placement of students on the seating chart shall be adjusted each session to avoid contestants placed in the same seat and row.

D. Contestants shall be changed from one panel to another to avoid paneling together in the precedence listed:

1. Contestants from the same school
2. Contestants with the best ranks from the preceding round(s).
3. Contestants from the same League.
4. Contestants who have competed against each other in preceding rounds.
5. Contestants from the same Area (balanced as much as possible)
6. Contestants placed in the same seat and row.

Section 6. Semi-Final Unicameral Session

A. Thirty members shall be selected for semi-final competition based on low cumulative ranks in the three preliminary sessions. Ties shall be resolved with the following criteria:

1. Greatest number of firsts, seconds, etc., of round ranks in the preliminary rounds.
2. Greatest number of firsts, seconds, etc. of round ranks on all judge ballots in the preliminary rounds.
3. Judge preference if met in previous round.
4. If ties cannot be resolved by the above method, those tied shall advance to the semi-final round.

B. Two houses, designated A and B shall have fifteen members each.

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C. Each chamber shall discuss and act on the bill/resolution assigned to the semi- final session.

D. The semi-final sessions shall consist of ninety (90) minutes each.

Section 7. Final Bicameral Session

A. There shall be two final sessions of Congress. Fifteen congresspersons shall be chosen on a low cumulative score basis using all semi-finalist judge ballots added to the preliminary cumulative rank totals, with ties resolved using the following criteria.

1. Lowest total cum in the semi-final round only, speakers tied need not be in the same panel.
2. Judge's preference in the semi-final round, if both speakers were in the same panel
3. Greatest number of firsts, seconds, etc., in round rank in the semi-final round
4. Greatest number of firsts, seconds, etc., in round ranks of all rounds including the semi-final round.
5. All individual judges' decisions from all rounds on a low cumulative basis.
6. Greatest number firsts, seconds, etc. awarded by individual judges in all rounds.
7. Judge's preference, if contestants have met previously.

B. Each final session shall have 90 minutes of debate time [see Section 7]. The first session shall close, followed by a ten-minute recess. The recess will be followed by the opening of a second session of the final round.

C. Each session shall discuss and act on one bill/resolution assigned to the final sessions by the Congress Committee.

D. Each semi-final session shall select one presiding officer by popular vote to preside over one-half each of the final sessions.

E. Contestants in the final sessions shall be assigned seats by the Congress Committee.

Section 8: Official Scoring

A. For each preliminary session, there shall be three official scorers in each chamber. The three judges' scores shall be added together for each contestant. Any contestant not ranked 1-9 shall receive a score of 10. The "cum" (sum of the three judges' scores) will then be used to determine a contestant's rank within the session relative to other contestants within that session. For tabbing purposes, round ranks shall not exceed a rank of 10. Ties shall be broken in the following manner:

1. Two-way ties shall be broken by judge preference, using all judge actual scores through the rank of 15.
2. Three and four- way ties shall not be broken in any panel. Each

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contestant involved in a three or four - way tie shall be awarded the better middle position for which the speakers are tied. For other contestants in the panel, the next position after the tie ranking shall be eliminated.

B. There shall be five official scorers in each semi-final session and five different official scorers serving in each of the final sessions.

C. For tabulation purposes, any contestant not ranked 1st through 9th shall receive a score of 10.

D. Each scorer shall choose 1st through 14th best speaker for each semi- final session and for the final session. For tabulation purposes, any contestant not ranked 1st through 9th shall receive a score of 10.

E. Each scorer shall be provided a copy of the assigned legislation, a seating chart of contestants, and an official ballot.

Section 9. Final Score

A. First through fourteenth best speakers shall be computed on a low cumulative score basis using the total ranks from the four preliminary rounds added to the total of all scorers' ballots in the semifinal and final sessions.

B. Ties shall be resolved by the following criteria:

1. Lowest total cum in the final round only.
2. Judge's preference in the final round.
3. Greatest number of firsts, seconds, etc., in round ranks in the final round.
4. Greatest number of firsts, seconds, etc., in round ranks of all rounds including the semi-final round.
5. All individual judge's decisions from all rounds on a low cumulative basis.
6. Greatest number firsts, seconds, etc. awarded by individual judges in all rounds.
7. Judge's preference, if contestants have met previously.

Section 10. Presiding Officer Competition

A. The presiding officer competition shall consist of a total of 12 presiding officers with one presiding officer representing each league. In every round, each presiding officer will serve half of the session. The presiding officer with the greatest combined total of judge and student votes shall be awarded a Win in the round and the opposing presiding officer a Loss. Ties shall be broken by the greatest number of judge ballots. In the case of a no-show presiding officer, the remaining presiding officer in the round shall be awarded a bye similar to debate and this bye would count as a win. PO votes for the bye round shall be averaged from the other two preliminary rounds to determine the total number of PO votes. Byes shall be drawn randomly from presiding officers who have not received a bye yet in the tournament unless the PO pairings were made before the discovery of the no-show presiding officer.

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B. Presiding officers will alternate from first position to second position in preliminary and final rounds to the extent possible. In the semi-final round, positions shall be determined by a coin toss.

C. The assignment of the presiding officers for the first preliminary round shall be random.

D. Presiding officers from the same school shall not meet in preliminary rounds. Otherwise, presiding officers shall be power matched against each other on a high/low pairing based on ballot count. In the case of an odd number of presiding officers in a bracket, a pairing shall be made by randomly pulling up through a blind draw a presiding officer from one bracket lower to randomly face one of the presiding officers blindly drawn in the higher bracket.

E. The four presiding officers shall be selected for the semi-final round based on the following criteria:

1. The four presiding officers with the most "wins" will advance to the semifinal round.
2. Ties shall be broken in the following precedence:
 - a. Head-to-head competition.
 - b. Total number of student ballots.
 - c. Greatest number of judge ballots.
 - d. Special election by all semi-finalists

F. The presiding officers for the semi-final round shall be paired on a high-low basis using the following criteria:

1. Greatest number of wins.
2. Head-to-head competition.
3. Total number of student ballots.

G. The winner of each semi-final chamber, determined by the greatest number of student and judge ballots will serve in the final round. Ties shall be broken by judges' preference.

H. The presiding officer champion is determined by the greatest number of both student and judge ballots in the final round.

I. Ties in the final round shall be broken in the following precedence:

1. Greatest number of judge votes in the final round
2. Greatest number of students votes in the final round
3. Greatest number of wins
4. Greatest number of judge votes in all rounds
5. Greatest number of student votes in all rounds
6. Head-to-head competition if contestants met in previous round
7. Strength of opposition based on total number of student and judge ballots throughout the tournament
8. In the case of an unbreakable tie, co-champions will be awarded

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Section 11. Recognition of Delegates

Delegates shall be recognized on a priority system. Each delegate shall receive the following number of priority cards to be used in numerical order:

1. Five cards in preliminary sessions.
2. Two cards in the semi-final session.
3. Three cards in final session.

A delegate who has exhausted his/her supply of numbered cards may be recognized to speak if those holding cards choose not to be recognized. The procedure shall begin anew at the beginning of the semifinal session and at the beginning of the final sessions.

Only official CHSSA priority cards are to be used. Any delegate who attempts to speak by use of a counterfeit, imitation, simulated, or otherwise unofficial priority card will be disqualified from the State Tournament. Furthermore, the Presiding Officer who recognizes the speaker using a counterfeit, imitation, simulated or otherwise unofficial priority card will also be disqualified from the State Tournament. Delegates who lose or misplace their official priority cards must immediately appeal, in person, to the Congress Committee. Upon investigation and at the Congress Committee's discretion, the Congress Committee may replace some or all of the missing priority cards.

Section 12. Cross-Examination

Speakers for and against a bill/resolution are limited to three minutes plus one minute of cross-examination. Questioners shall be recognized at the discretion of the presiding officer. Questioners are limited to one question per recognition. Speakers shall not be interrupted during the three-minute speaking period.

Section 13. Punctuality

Any delegate who is ten minutes or more late for a session shall not be seated except by permission of the Congress Director or designee.

Section 14. Resolutions and Amendments

No bills or resolutions are in order other than those provided by the Congress Committee. Amendments which do not alter the intent of the bill/resolution are in order, if germane and submitted in writing in double-spaced, typed form to the Congress Committee for approval of form and specific applicable content. This Committee approval may be sought at any time prior to the session in which the amendment will be used. Upon approval, the written amendment must be submitted to the Presiding Officer before gaining the floor. Those speaking on an amendment must surrender a priority card. No amendments to the amendment shall be in order.

Section 15. Adjournments and Recesses

All sessions are scheduled for 90 minutes. Time begins when the first competitor speaks. A speech and cross-examination may extend beyond 90 minutes provided that the speaker was recognized within the 90-minute time limit. Sessions cannot end early if someone still wishes to speak. A session may end before the 90-minute time limit provided that no speakers wish to speak. A session can end with an affirmative speech. Motions to adjourn before 80 minutes of speaking time have

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elapsed are not permitted. Motions to adjourn or recess are not in order unless called for by the agenda.

Section 16. Rules of Procedure

Participants in the State Congress shall not be permitted to suspend the above stated rules. A motion to impeach the presiding officer is out of order.

Section 17. Evidence

All evidence used is subject to verification. Honesty and integrity are of utmost importance in legislative debate. Falsification or deliberate misuse of evidence may result in the legislator being suspended by tournament officials.

Section 18. The Use of Electronic Devices.

Electronic retrieval devices to store and to retrieve subject files are allowed to be used during congress sessions subject to the rules below and those in ARTICLE XI, Section 1. Paragraph K of the State Tournament Debate Rules. 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 smartphones are prohibited except as timing devices during the round by the presiding officer. Power plugs or outlets may not be used in the round at any time. All computers used in the session 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 speaker and/or disqualification from the tournament.