

CBSR Presiding Officer Instructions

There will be two presiding officers in the round, they will switch half way through. Both POs should keep records of speaking order, questions, and attempts to speak. P.O.s can introduce themselves and make a brief statement, but don't waste time with long speeches or discussions of your "rules" or preferences.

Timing

- There will be 14 to 18 competitors in the room. CBSR uses a formula to determine how long the round should be; # of competitors x 5min + 30min. A round with 18 people will be 120 minutes long.
- A tournament official will tell you how long the round will be. Write the end time and the time to switch presiding officers on the board if possible. The stop-time is real. A person already speaking may finish and take questions, but do not extend the round beyond the stop-time. You are responsible for moving the round along quickly. There is enough time for everyone to speak, plus a little extra, unless time is wasted or more than a few people are speaking twice. Do not end the round early if there is anyone who has not spoken and still wishes to speak. You may end on a pro side speech if time is running out or no one remains who want to speak in opposition.

How to select people to speak or ask questions

- Ask those wishing to speak in favor of the bill to stand. Pick someone.
- Mark attempts to speak, but be fast!
- You should alternate sides for speeches. Student should be prepared to speak on either side.
- If there are too many people speaking a 2nd time on one side there may be people who don't get to speak. If this happens, that's unfortunate, but there is plenty of time allotted for everyone. It is a competition and there is strategy involved.
- It would be appropriate to consider attempts to speak when selecting a speaker.
- Asking trivia questions to choose among people wishing to speak is unnecessary and wastes time. Just pick someone – you have that power.
- Keep track of the order of speakers and which side they spoke on.
- Someone who has not spoken must be given preference over someone who has spoken.
- Recency matters when people wish to give a 2nd speech. Priority goes to the person who spoke least recently. Recency will not carry over to the next session.
- The only criteria for choosing questioners is "fairness". Select people from all areas of the room. It's a good idea to establish a pattern. Select people who have fewer questions over those with many. Don't miss people in the back or behind someone tall.

Motions

- You will have a list of approved motions. Those are the only motions allowed under CHSSA rules.
- You may not suspend the rules. A motion to suspend the rules is out of order.
- There is no such thing as a "motion to address the chamber". That motion would be out of order.
- A "motion to divide the chamber" is only allowed to verify a voice vote. It would be out of order to ask to divide the chamber early in the round to try and figure out who plans to speak on each side.

Finally...

- Take your job seriously.
- Maintain the appropriate decorum in the chamber.
- Follow instructions from tournament officials.
- You are being scored by the judges, not the competitors.