

## Order of the Day

1. A session is a minimum of THREE hours.
2. Election of presiding officer is with a majority **vote in presence of parliamentarian** by **secret vote**. If top vote is tied, eliminate lower vote candidates and recall vote for those remaining. **A Presiding officer presides for the entirety of a session.**
3. Seating Chart and precedence DOES NOT reset during a session. It **DOES** reset at beginning of new session. This does not apply online/virtual tournament.
4. When more than one speaker seeks the floor, presidency shall follow the following method:
  - a. Recognize students who have not spoken during the session.
  - b. Recognize students who have spoken fewer times
  - c. Recognize students who spoke earlier (least recently)
  - d. Presiding officers should establish clear, fair explanations in recognition process and be consistent.
5. Speakers may yield time to the floor during the debate for questions or clarifications, but the speaker will remain in control of their three minutes.
6. Speeches are **up to** 3 minutes in length, but do not have to be the full time.
7. Author of legislation (or school of legislation) has authorship privilege in presentation of bill regardless of precedence. If no individual rises to give an authorship speech for a bill, then it is reverted to current precedence.
8. **Direct questioning:** The presiding officer will open the floor for questions following each speech. The presiding officer will recognize questioners for a cross-examination period of no more than 30 seconds. Questioners will be chosen according to a separate questioning recency. Direct questioning will be used in every round of Congressional Debate at the National Tournament beginning in 2022.
9. PO's should not call for motions. They should pause for those from the floor to call for motions.
10. **Amendments:** must be presented to parliamentarian and presiding officer in writing with specific references to lines and clauses that change. This must be done in advance of moving to amend.
  - a. The parliamentarian will recommend whether the amendment is "germane"--that is, upholds the original intent of the legislation---otherwise it is discounted.
  - b. A legislator may move to amend between floor speeches. The PO will read the proposed amendment and call for a second by one third vote.
  - c. Should students wish to speak on the proposed amendment, the po will recognize them per standing precedence and recency and count towards total.
  - d. Simply proposing an amendment DOES NOT guarantee authorship speech and follow the 1 minute questioning rule.
  - e. IF there are no speakers on the amendment, previous question is moved and chamber may vote without debating it.
11. Following the first two speeches on legislation, the presiding officer will alternately recognize affirmative and negative speakers, who will address the chamber for up to

three minutes, followed by one minute of questioning by other delegates. If no one wishes to oppose the preceding speaker, the presiding officer may recognize a speaker upholding the same side. When no one seeks the floor for debate, the presiding officer may ask the chamber if they are “ready for the question,” at which point, if there is no objection, voting may commence on the legislation itself. There is no “minimum cycle” rule; however, if debate gets “one-sided,” the chamber may decide to move the previous question.

12. All major voting shall be done with counted vote. Secret balloting is used when voting for presiding officer..
13. Students should ask permission to leave and enter the chamber when it is in session (move a personal privilege). However, do not interrupt a speaker who is addressing the chamber.
14. Visual aids are permitted in Congressional Debate, provided they do not require electronic retrieval devices in the chamber.
15. 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.
16. **Any concern or complaint of rule violation must be brought to the judges/Parliamentarian within the round it occurs.** If privately needs to be discussed, put into the chat that you need to speak with the Parli and at the next break the Parli and Contestant can come to the Equity/Ombuds room to address the issue. If it is serious, and needs to be addressed immediately, then the individual can let the parli know and the Parli can pause the time of the session to deal with it. THIS WILL NOT COUNT IN SESSION TIME AND WILL BE ADDED ON TO THE SESSION to ensure that the three hours is met.
17. Congressional Debate entries must rise to a point of information after a speech to formally request a copy of the evidence cited, the citation, or the original source of evidence.
  - a. When requested during the point of information, the presiding officer will instruct the debater being challenged to produce the copy of the evidence, citation, or original source. The debater being challenged must produce the requested materials in a timely fashion. Should a debater feel they are not receiving the information they requested in a timely fashion, they may rise to another point of information for the presiding officer and parliamentarian to address the situation.
  - b. Debaters who request the information may receive the evidence from the presiding officer within a period of two speeches. The round would not be put on hold for the request to be completed.
    - i. For example, if a debater rises to a point of order after speech #4, then by the conclusion of speech #6, the requested evidence should be presented to the presiding officer.
- C. If after reviewing the evidence in question, a debater feels that an evidence violation has occurred, they may submit a formal allegation by completing an evidence

challenge form and, after making a motion to approach the chair, the debater will present the form to the presiding officer and parliamentarian.

[Challenge Form](#)

18. The use of internet enabled electronic devices is permitted. Students may not use the internet to gain help from coaches, other students, or any person, **such that it would prevent the speech from being the original work of the competitor.** IE: Editing of document from a competitor in another session chamber, using chat feature to talk with someone outside of the chamber—etc. Many students share research files, etc with team mates, that is ok...it is not ok for them to be coaching each other on what to say and do and writing speeches for each other in round.  
Electronic device use must comply with the “New Guidelines for Use of Internet-Enabled Devices in Debate Events.”
19. These rules may NOT be suspended, and the PO should rule such motions out of order, except to extend questioning or allow for open chambers.