

UHSAA Speech and Debate Handbook

Region and State Rules

(simplified UHSAA approved version)

The Basics for Both Region and State:

- a. **Each region** should do what is best to create a quality competitive tournament. IE: combine with other regions, allow double entry, online vs in person, etc.
- b. **Students/schools must participate in Region to qualify to state.**
- c. Participants must meet **UHSAA eligibility** standards.
- d. **Competitors qualify outright to state if they are in the top 10 (or 50% of field –whichever is larger) of their event at region.**
- e. **Teams who are in the top 50% of the sweepstakes at region may bring a full slate to state.** If an odd number of schools, go with the higher number of schools. IE: 3 schools, top 2 would **get a full slate**.
- f. **Students must attend state in the event they compete at in region**, and with the partners they competed with, if a partner event. Mavericks are not allowed.
- g. **March Topics used for LD/PF**
- h. Congress Legislation from UDCA/NSDA posted legislation.
 - i. Follow standard procedures for Congress.
- i. **Extemp topics** from December, January, February—**note**, these questions do not have to be copied and pasted...in fact, many students may have speeches and such already on them from previous tournaments. They should be updated to be current, reworded, etc as needed to ensure the integrity of the event.
- j. **Electronic devices**, and the internet, is allowed for everything except impromptu, oratory, and informative. Extemp may use computer/internet during prep, and Debates may use during rounds. **THEY MAY NOT COMMUNICATE WITH OTHER INDIVIDUALS OUTSIDE THE ROUND** using electronic devices. Those observing rounds also, should not have phones, computers or electronic communication with those in or outside of the room.
- k. **Appeals or issues** should be brought to the UDCA Executive Committee's attention and they will render any decisions. Tournaments should continue as that is being looked into.
- l. **Results** of each round will be made available to coaches for ballot review, however, coaches and judges should in no way disclose results or publish results publicly until after the tournament is completed.
- m. **Clerical errors** may be submitted up to 72 hours following tournament.

Classification Events (up to 4 in each event unless otherwise noted)

- i. 1A: SPAR, Congress, LD, PF (limit 3 teams), Impromptu, Extemp, oratory; Full slate is 25 participants; **Double entry allowed**: one debate and one speech event.
- ii. 2A: SPAR, Congress, LD, PF, Impromptu, Extemp, Oratory, Combined Interp (HI, DI, and POI); Full Slate is 25 Participants; **Double Entry Allowed**: one debate and one speech event. *DUO Interp is not allowed in the combined interp category.
- iii. 3-4A: Congress, LD, PF, Policy, Impromptu, FX, NX, Oratory, Informative, Combined Interp, *DUO Interp is not allowed in the combined interp category. Full Slate is 30 participants; **Double Entry allowed**: one debate and one speech—*Policy is not allowed to double enter.
- iv. 5-6A: Congress, LD, PF, Policy, Impromptu, FX, NX, Oratory, Informative, Combined interp *DUO Interp is not allowed in the combined interp category. Full Slate is 30 Participants; **No Double Entry at state** (NOTE: Regions may allow double entry for competition quality and viability, but students may only do one event at state).
- v. **REGIONS MAY ALLOW** More than 4 Entries in each event at Region, but may not bring more than allowed 4 to state. IE: 6 for congress at region to increase numbers and competition value, *but only 4 may compete at state* if they all qualify.
This would allow schools to qualify possible alternates in case of illness, etc for state as well.

State Specific Regulations and Guidelines:

1. Any participant who **misses/forfeits a round is not eligible** for finals or sweepstakes points. Students not to their round within 15 min from the time round is published is counted as a no show/forfeit.
2. Students should **notify tabroom if their judge** may know them, have a relationship with them, or have a known bias towards them, immediately. Otherwise they shall be **disqualified** and not count towards sweepstakes. Tabroom will do their best to rectify if possible, or have discussion with judge if no other option.
3. **JUDGES:**
 - a. Should notify tabroom if they know, are related to, or feel they have a bias towards someone they are judging immediately.
 - b. 1A—Judges must have been graduated for at least 2 years
Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the tournament director.
 - c. When unavoidable, and with permission of coaches, judges may be assigned to judge their own schools.
 - d. THERE IS NOTHING PROHIBITING COACHES FROM JUDGING.
 - e. 3 Judges in each elimination round (unless there is something that cannot be helped otherwise—best efforts!)
 - f. DO NOT DISCLOSE OR GIVE ORAL FEEDBACK.

- g. Must write all comments and feedback in ballots and provide an RFD for Debates. Settings in Tabroom should be set to 10 words min on ballots for every event.
- 4. **All Drops, alternates, and changes** should be made before noon of day one of the tournament.
- 5. Drops days of tournament will **incur a \$25 fine**.
- 6. **Missing, no show judges, may incur \$25 fines.** ALL schools must provide judging for one round past when their team is eliminated. IE: out after 5th round of debate, must have judges available for the 6th round.
- 7. ALL Judges and Participants will be **assigned codes**, and should not wear or have school identifying logos, stickers, etc during the rounds on their equipment.
- 8. **Observers are allowed**—they must be respectful, may flow on paper, **no electronic devices—violations or disruptions may result in disqualification.** Contestants and judges may limit observers, and may request them not to flow their rounds as well. **2nd Flights may not observe First Flights or visa versa in LD/PF.**

Pairings/Tie Breaks:--

NOTE: Tabroom has these things set, but does not always get it right...also, sometimes the auto doesn't take into account other options. Tabroom should review and try their best, and competitors/coaches should be understanding and be kind and understanding when things happen.

- 9. Debate Pairings Round 1-2:
 - a. Debaters must debate side given regardless of equal number of side positions, except in PF where it is always a FLIP.
 - b. In Region pairings will try to be avoided in the first 2 rounds when/if possible.
 - c. Same School Pairings will try to be avoided when/if possible.
 - d. Schools will not debate their own teams...walk overs will be held, unless they request to debate instead.
 - e. Whenever possible, each team will debate a team from another region.
- 10. Debate Pairings Round 3-5:
 - a. Every attempt to ensure equal number of sides positions.
 - b. Round 3 Hi/Low powermatched off of Rounds 1-2
 - c. Round 4 Hi/Low powermatched off of round 3
 - d. Round 5 Hi/Low powermatched off of round 4 (note double entry tournaments do not have to do a 5th round of Debate)
- 11. Quarter finals:
 - a. Unless there are 30 or more entries with a clean break to partial Octo of no more than 4 teams for the 7-8 positions.
 - b. Unless it would break more than 50% of the field.
 - c. You may break on speaks in middle of win/loss as needed.
- 12. Debate Prelim Tie Breaks
 - a. Win/Loss
 - b. Points
- 13. Debate elim Tie Breaks
 - a. Win/Loss

14. Congress Sessions—Min of two 2 ½ hour sessions. (finals are optional if only one house)
 - a. House limit of 25 Participants, ideal is 15-20.
 - b. Minimum 2.5 hours in length.
 - c. Tabulated Cumulatively (even through finals)
15. Speech Panels:
 - a. No more than 7 per round paneled
 - b. Ideal is no less than 5
 - c. No more than 6 break into finals rounds.
16. Speech Prelim Tie Breaks for Speech Events
 - a. Rank in round—Cumulative
 - b. Reciprocals
 - c. Drop Hi/Low
17. Speech Elim Tie Breaks for Extemporaneous/Impromptu:
 - a. Rank from all Rounds Cumulative
 - b. Rank from Final Round
 - c. Judge Pref
 - d. Reciprocals
 - e. Prelim Drop Hi/Low
18. Speech Elim Tie Breaks For OO, INF, Interps:
 - a. Rank from Finals
 - b. Rank from all Rounds cumulative
 - c. Judge Pref
 - d. Reciprocals
 - e. Prelim Drop Hi/Low

Tournament Schedules:

- f. Double Entry tournaments may run 3 instead of 4 speech prelim rounds and 4 instead of 5 debate prelim rounds.
- g. It is recommended to save money, and to help with judging that you run speech/policy (first rounds) on Fridays, and finish Debate on Saturdays. This allows you to use judges both days if needed and not have to find as many. It also saves on costs for judging, food, etc.

Event Rules/Guidelines and judging criteria—SEE NSDA Descriptions.

- h. SPAR: 1 Min Prep
 - i. 2 Min AFF, 2 Min NEG
 - ii. 3 Min CX
 - iii. 1 Min AFF, 1 Min NEG

Evidence Rules Per NSDA Criteria, violation penalties per as well.

Penalties for Rule Violations:

1. All penalties for situations, rule violations, etc will be made promptly in consultation with Tournament Director, Region Reps, and per Protest procedures, in the best interest and spirit of good sportsmanship, and to educate when possible.
2. Protest procedures will be provided in a separate document.