

Protest Procedure for UHSAA Speech and Debate Tournaments

Defined: UHSAA Representative is the Tournament Director. The Tournament Director has been selected to represent the UHSAA and make decisions on their behalf. (This is per the UHSAA and Jon Oglesby)

1. Protests should be regarding a violation of rules that are outlined in the Handbook. IE: Internet Usage, Evidence Distortion, etc. Questions of violation of rules of evidence or internet usage should be made in round to judge. The judge should make a determination if a violation has occurred or not. If the judge cannot determine on their own, they may bring it to the Tournament Director to make a determination.
2. Protests of a judge's decision should be taken to the **OMBUDS**, who will determine if it is necessary to take to the Tournament Director. If determined that it is, then the Ombuds will work with the coach to fill out in writing the protest and bring that document to the Tournament director.
3. Protests of a judge's decision should be taken to the Tournament Director/UHSAA Representative, or region rep who then will report to the Tournament Director. The violation must be reported in a timely manner---immediately following the round, if it was not taken to the judge in round, or discovered following the conclusion of the round.
4. The Tournament Director will then find the Coach whose team the violation is in question about and inform them of the protest.
5. All efforts to to determine if a violation occurred will be made, while the tournament continues to move forward.
6. If a violation is found to have occurred, the Tournament Director will work with the Ombuds to ask a representative of each region (who is not informed and is neutral to the issue) to then discuss the violation without mentioning names or specific schools. **IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE SCHOOL WITH THE TEAM IN QUESTION NOT DISCUSS THE ISSUE WITH OTHER COACHES UNTIL THIS PROCESS HAS BEEN COMPLETED.**
This executive committee will discuss the violation, the consequences outlined in the handbook, and how it should be handled. **(THE TOURNAMENT WILL CONTINUE THROUGHOUT THIS PROCESS).**
7. The Tournament Director, in consultation with the Region Executive committee members have the authority to make decisions regarding anything that is not covered specifically in the rules.
8. An appeal of the decision made by the Tournament Director and Committee may be taken to the UHSAA Speech and Debate Director ONLY after all other efforts to resolve the situation have been made.
9. Failure to follow these outlined procedures will result in a dismissal of the violation.

Article VII – Rules of Evidence

Section 1: Responsibilities of Contestants Reading Evidence:

- A. The contestant is responsible for the validity of all evidence they read in the debate.
- B. In all rounds of LD and Public Forum Debate, debaters should, at a minimum, orally deliver title of the source and the author's name.
In Policy Debate, all debaters shall orally deliver the name of the author or title of source (E.G. title of book, not chapter; title of journal, not article), and complete date.
- C. In all rounds of debate, complete citations for each piece of evidence introduced in the round must be available in the round. Written citations must include name of the author, qualifications, complete title of source (E.G. title of book, not chapter; title of journal, not article), and complete date.

Section 2: Responsibilities of Those Challenging Evidence:

- A. Indictments or protests of the validity of evidence must be made on substantive grounds and in a timely manner.
- B. A challenger must have either the original source or a mechanical copy of the source being cited, or
- C. A challenger must demonstrate that a reasonable search has not been able to locate the source -- mechanical copies of relevant pages in Books in Print, etc.

Section 3: Definitions of Non-existent Evidence or Evidence Which Seriously Distorts the Intention of the Original Source:

- A. Serious distortion exists when the evidence itself contains added or deleted word(s) which do not clarify but in fact change the position of the author with respect to the issues in question.
- B. Non-existent evidence means that a reasonable search is unable to produce the original source and/or the debater reading the evidence is unable to provide the original source or a mechanical copy of the relevant pages. The evidence cited is not located in the original source cited.

Section 4: Penalties for Non-existent Evidence or Evidence Which Seriously Distorts the Intention of the Original Source:

- A. If an evidence violation is presented where a debater is found to have committed a “serious distortion” or to have used “non-existent evidence”, at the conclusion of due process, the offending debater(s) may be disqualified from the tournament. Depending on the severity, an offense will result in notification of said offense to their high school administration

INTERNET USAGE RULES AND CONSEQUENCES:

A. Contestants may use electronic devices (including laptop computers, tablets, and/or cell phones) to access the internet during debate rounds with the following conditions:

1. Computers or other electronic devices may not be used to receive information for competitive advantage from non-competitors (coaches, assistant coaches, other students) inside or outside of the room in which the competition occurs. Information that would be restricted would include but not be limited to coach/nonparticipating competitor generated arguments, advice on arguments to run, questions to ask during cross examination, and other information not generated by the participating competitors.

2. Internet access may be used to retrieve files, exchange evidence and/or arguments, research arguments, and partner to partner communication. These electronic device guidelines do not limit communication between debate partners during the debate round.

B. Penalty: Contestants found to have violated these provisions will be disqualified from the tournament and will forfeit all rounds and merit points in that event.

C. Availability of Evidence: Contestants electing to use computers have the responsibility to promptly provide a copy of any evidence read in a speech for inspection by the judge or opponent. Printers may be used. Evidence may be printed in the round or produced electronically but must be provided in a format readable by the opposing team and the judge.

D. Contestants electing to use computers are responsible for providing their own computers, batteries, extension cords, and all other necessary accessories. Tournament hosts will not be responsible for providing computers, printers, software, paper, or extension cords for contestants. Host schools may provide wireless internet access, but will not guarantee that contestants will be able to gain access when needed.

E. Contestants choosing to use laptop computers and/or related devices accept the risk of equipment failure. Judges and/or contest directors will give no special consideration or accommodation, including no additional speech time or prep time, should equipment failure occur.

F. By choosing to use electronic devices in the round, debaters and other relevant parties are consenting to give tournament officials the right to search their devices in the event of a protest. The device may only be searched by tournament officials and must be restricted to files and/or electronic exchanges relevant to the protest. Failure to comply would result in the upholding of the protest. Debaters and coaches should be present as their device is searched. Debaters who do not wish to consent should not use electronic devices in the round.

Observers and Flowing

Section 11: Observers Observers will be permitted in all rounds of all events, the only exception is that a Lincoln-Douglas contestant and Public Forum teams in the B Panel cannot observe the A panel and the A Panel cannot observe the B panel. Contestants and judges have the right to limit observers. Violators will forfeit that round.

Observers in Final Rounds may flow on Paper only.

Observers may not have laptops or any other electronic devices in the round.

Section 12: Recording Not Allowed No audio or video recording of any rounds is permissible in the State Speech and Debate Tournament.