Invitational Presiding Officer Instructions

Timing
- There will be about 12 competitors in each room and one PO. Each round should last 90 minutes, or complete at the scheduled time. If in doubt, ask Tab.
- We use direct examination, where competitors can ask questions for a 30 second time block. Most speeches are followed by a one minute time period of questioning, with the exception of the starting authorship/sponsorship speech that can have two minutes of questioning after the introductory speech.
- You are responsible for moving the round along quickly. Try to start as soon as possible.
- 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 wants to speak in opposition.

How to select people to speak or ask questions
- It would be appropriate to consider attempts to speak when selecting a speaker. Mark attempts to speak, but be fast!
- You should alternate sides for speeches. Keep track of the order of speakers and which side they spoke on. Students 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.
- Asking trivia questions to choose among people wishing to speak is unnecessary and wastes time. Just pick someone – you have that power.
- 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.
- Select people who have fewer questions over those with many.

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