

CBSR Congress

GENERAL RULES AND PROCEDURES

Selection of Speakers

- Students will raise a paper placard with their name when they wish to speak, we will no longer ask students to rise to be recognized.
- Priority for the first affirmative speech - “authorship speech” - goes to a student from the school whose legislation is being debated, if more than one speaker from the school wishes to speak selection is at the discretion of the Presiding Officer. If no student from the school wishes to speak, another student may speak. This would be a “sponsorship” speech.
- Speakers will be selected based on recency. The person who spoke least recently must be chosen. When all speakers are tied for recency the Presiding Officer should use previous attempts to speak as a tie-breaker. However, the PO can essentially pick anyone they want if all those wishing to speak have not yet spoken.
- PO must keep a recency chart.

Speeches

- Students will move to the front of the room to speak. Introduce themselves, and begin speaking when the PO and judges indicate they are ready.
- Speeches are 3 minutes long. A small grace-period (10 seconds) ought to be permitted before the PO should interrupt and stop the speaker.
- Speeches will alternate from affirmative to negative. Competitors should be prepared for either side.
- Props and visual aids are strictly forbidden.
- **The PO will tap once when after 1 minute has elapsed, tap twice after 2 minutes, and tap three times at 2:50 seconds. When time expires the PO should tap once every second. The PO should give a verbal “Stop” at 10 seconds past time expiring.**

Questioning Period

- Questioners are to be recognized at the discretion of the presiding officer.
- Cross-examination is 2 minutes of *direct*¹ cross examination for the first pro side speech only. The time should be divided into four 30 second intervals with different questioners.
- All subsequent speeches will be 1 minute of direct cross examination; 2 questioners – 30 seconds for each questioner.
- Direct cx questioners may ask as many questions as the 30 second time period allows with follow up questions if time permits.

Motions

- We will use only the “CHSSA Approved Motions for Student Congress”
- Motions to suspend CHSSA rules or motions to impeach the presiding officer are not permitted.
- Motions to divide the house are not in order unless there is a contested vote.
- Any potential amendments must be submitted to the Tournament Director in writing before the start of the round. (We don’t like amendments! They use up time and may cause competitors to be unable to speak)

Time of Round/Chance to Speak

- The Tournament Director will communicate the maximum time allowed for the round to the Presiding Officers. The Presiding Officers keep the official time.
- The Presiding Officers in the round will communicate official start and stop times to competitors.
- Sessions may not end before the stop-time time if anyone who has not spoken wishes to speak.
- No round may go longer than stop-time determined by the Tournament Director.

¹ *Direct* = The PO selects two people to ask questions. Each questioner has 30 seconds to ask questions of the speaker. The questioner may ask follow-up questions. The questioner controls the time and may interrupt to move to another question if the speaker is spending too much time on a question. Competitors who have asked the fewest questions should be prioritized. Never select someone who has already asked a question over someone who has not.