

Beyond Resolved Invitational

2023 Rules & Procedures



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Rule Violation Petitions Procedure

Types of Petitions

Evidence and ethics challenges within the course of a debate are handled by tournament staff. See the Evidence and Ethics Section for more specific information.

Equity, harassment, bullying, or discrimination complaints are to be brought to the attention of tournament staff via the equity violation form. See the Harassment and Discrimination Prevention Policy for those procedures.

Procedures for resolving all other complaints, including outside assistance, and challenges or appeals not explicitly set out in this document will be conducted by tournament directors.

Procedure

Petitions must follow the following procedure:

Petitions are initiated by a participant contacting the tournament staff.

Equity complaints are filed via form. All other petitions should be emailed to brtourn.helpdesk@gmail.com.

The petitioner should be prepared to provide, at minimum, the following information:

1. Name of the individual filing the petition and debate program, state, and contact information.
2. Name of person(s) alleged to have violated rules.
3. Details about the round (what round, room, competitors and judges involved).
4. Specific relevant procedure and the infraction alleged, described with supporting detail
5. A requested remedy.

The petition must be filed in a timely matter. The decision of tournament staff is final. If a potential violation occurs in a subsequent round, another protest may be filed.

Conduct Rules

Observer Policy

Observers will not be allowed in prelims. Elimination rounds will be livestreamed – there will be a spreadsheet with each elimination round and corresponding livestream link.

Recording/Video Policy

Competitors may record rounds for future reference, however, they must ask for consent from opponents before they do so.

We aim to live stream as many rounds as possible and hope to post recordings to YouTube in order to provide access to high-quality debate rounds for educational purposes. If a round is to be livestreamed/recorded, tournament staff will first ask for consent from judges and competitors.

Honor Code

The Beyond Resolved Invitational operates with an expectation that participating teams will not undermine the integrity of the activity. Participants should neither seek, nor encourage others to seek, unfair assistance or advantages in competition rounds.

We expect all participants – competitors, judges, and coaches – to participate and act in good faith to preserve the competitive integrity of the tournament.

Harassment and Discrimination Prevention Policy

The Beyond Resolved Invitational follows Beyond Resolved's policies and procedures concerning harassment, bullying, and discrimination. All tournament participants (debaters, coaches, judges) and staff are expected to know and are required to abide by this policy.

We require that all participants refrain from the following behaviors:

1. Using abusive language or behavior towards a staff member, volunteer or another participant.
2. Directing rude behavior at a fellow participant, staff member or volunteer.
3. Participating in verbal or visual harassment of another participant, staff member or volunteer.
4. Threatening or enacting violence toward any individual or group.
5. Undertaking conduct endangering the life, safety, health or well-being of others.
6. Bullying or taking unfair advantage of any participant.

Beyond Resolved is committed to an environment in which all individuals are treated with respect and dignity. Each individual has the right to participate in a professional atmosphere that promotes equal opportunities and prohibits discriminatory practices, including harassment.

Therefore, the organization expects that all relationships among persons in the organization will be free of bias, prejudice, discrimination, and harassment. In order to keep this commitment, the organization maintains a strict policy of prohibiting unlawful harassment of any kind, including sexual harassment and harassment based on race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, sex, age, physical or mental disability or any other characteristic protected by state, federal or local employment discrimination laws.

Sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, making unwanted sexual advances and requests for sexual favors where:

1. Submission to such conduct is made an explicit or implicit term or condition of employment.
2. Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis of opportunities affecting such individual.
3. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment.

Examples of unlawful harassment include, but are not limited to:

1. Verbal conduct such as epithets, derogatory jokes or comments, slurs, intentional misgendering, or unwanted sexual advances, invitations or comments.
2. Visual conduct such as derogatory and/or sexually oriented posters, photography, cartoons, drawings, e-mail and text messages or gestures.
3. Physical conduct such as assault, unwanted touching, blocking normal movement or interfering with work directed at an employee because of the employee's sex or other protected characteristic.

4. Threats and demands to submit to sexual requests in order to keep one's position or avoid some other loss and offers of any benefits in return for sexual favors.
5. Retaliation for having reported or threatened to report unlawful harassment.

Any person who believes they have been harassed by a judge, debater or staff member should promptly report the facts of the incident or incidents and the names of the individual(s) involved to their contact, or in the alternative, to tournament staff. Upon receipt of a complaint, tournament staff will undertake a prompt, thorough, objective and good faith investigation of the harassment allegations. No person will be retaliated against for filing a complaint and/or assisting in a complaint or investigation process.

Prohibitions on Outside Assistance

Outside assistance is prohibited.

Students are prohibited from seeking outside assistance during competition rounds, whether in-person or electronically. Coaches, including a school's judges as well as private coaches, and teammates are prohibited from providing outside assistance during competition rounds. Once a round starts, students should only be communicating with their partners, opponents, and/or judges, as appropriate to their event. A limited exception will be allowed for communications with TOC tournament officials or tech assistance in situations that require such (for example, an in-round emergency, missing judge, and the like).

Infractions will be evaluated through the Petitions Procedures in this document.

Students found to have violated the above prohibitions will be removed from the tournament.

Coaches (including a school's judges and private coaches) violating these prohibitions will have their entire school removed from the tournament.

Technology

Students should not attempt to use electronic devices to initiate or respond to contact with outside parties during a debate. This rule is meant to restrict the debaters from initiating or responding to any outside contact during a debate round: while a cell phone ringing during a debate would not violate the rule, a student calling, emailing, chatting, text messaging or responding to any contact from their coach during a debate would violate this rule.

Competitors may conduct internet searches in round, but they may not use Chat GPT or other AI chat bots to prepare arguments during the round.

Judging

Obligations

All judges are obligated through *at least the first elimination round*, then one round beyond the elimination of their program's last team.

Eligibility

Rising High School Seniors may serve as judges on a case-by-case basis

- Any HS senior that would like to judge (on behalf of their debate program/independently), must be approved by the tournament. Information must be sent by 8/18/2023. Note, this is a week earlier than the regular judge registration deadline to give us additional time to evaluate applications.
- Coaches: Please send an email to brtourn.helpdesk@gmail.com with information about any student(s) that would like to judge on behalf of your program
- Individual volunteers: See Information under next bullet point
- Student judges may count any hours spent judging as volunteer hours.

We greatly appreciate individuals with speech/debate experience who wish to volunteer to judge, and welcome you to apply using [this form](#).

- Information must be sent by 8/18/2023. Note, this is a week earlier than the regular judge registration deadline to give us additional time to evaluate applications.
- Because we are not collecting entry fees, we are unable to offer hourly/by-round compensation to volunteer judges.

We understand judges may have other commitments and aim to be as flexible as possible to meet peoples' scheduling needs.

- Please contact brtourn.helpdesk@gmail.com with scheduling issues, and we will do our best to adjust round obligations to accommodate them.
- We would appreciate coaches contacting us on behalf of judges for their institution about any scheduling concerns.
- Individual volunteers should email us directly about scheduling concerns.

All judges must submit a judging paradigm to Tabroom.

Expectations

General

Judges are expected to assign one winner and one loser per round, by the decision time communicated by the tab room. The tab room will flip a coin to determine the winner of any round where the judge is unable to render a decision in the time allotted.

Judges are expected to provide the students with their full attention when judging. This means judges should not conduct other activities when judging that would divert attention – e.g., driving, cooking, watching videos, texting, judging another round, etc. When judging online, judges must keep their camera/video on.

Disclosure of Decisions and Oral Critique Policy

The Beyond Resolved invitational expects judge-debater interaction by making decision disclosures and giving oral critiques. To clarify, judges should announce the result of the round and give a verbal reason for decision in addition to providing feedback on the electronic ballot. Judges must submit their ballot before giving any post-round feedback – this prevents debaters from biasing judges' decisions.

Decision Times

- The decision time deadline for preliminary rounds is 1 hour and 15 minutes after a debate begins
- The decision time deadline for elimination rounds is 1 hour and 20 minutes after a debate begins in its respective flight.
- In online competition, if Tech Time is invoked (and the judge notifies tab immediately), tab will have the discretion to extend decision time.

Judge Ethics

All conflicts for judges should be indicated in Tabroom.com. Judges should not judge competitors whom they have coached (online or in person, paid or unpaid), entries from their alma mater, or anyone they have a personal relationship with.

- Non-disclosure of judge conflicts, or preclusions, is an ethical concern that creates an unfair playing field for participating entries
- Tournament staff take non-disclosure of conflicts or preclusions very seriously. Teams may report potential violations via the equity violation procedure
- If, after conducting a thorough investigation, tournament staff find that a non-disclosure of conflict occurred that was likely to bias the judge, they will contact the judge's institution.

Judges must be identifiable to tournament staff and competitors.

- All judges are required to turn their cameras on during the round. As such, all judges must have working cameras.
- No one should judge a round that was not assigned to them and no one should use someone

else's Tabroom account to judge.

- Given issues that other online tournaments have faced of individuals masquerading as judges, Beyond Resolved Invitational tournament staff view the issue of judge identity falsification very seriously.
- If a competitor/coach/other judge wishes to report a violation of the Beyond Resolved Invitational's judge identification policy, they should contact brtourn.helpdesk@gmail.com in addition to following the equity violation procedure ([see Contact Information/Helpline](#))
- If, after conducting a thorough investigation, tournament staff find compelling evidence of a violation of the tournament's judge identification policy, they will contact the judge's institution.

The tab room will only remove a judge for an operational failure to follow tournament instructions and procedures.

Except in the case of an official complaint of discrimination/harassment (above), round results will not be re-litigated by tournament staff.

Public Forum Rules

Topic

Beyond Resolved Invitational will use the September/October 2023 Public Forum topic chosen by the National Speech and Debate Association.

Format

Public Forum will use the National Speech & Debate Association format and rules for speech times, Crossfire format, and preparation time. For more details see pages 25-26 and 29-33 in the HS Unified Manual 2022-2023 (<https://www.speechanddebate.org/wp-content/uploads/High-School-Unified-Manual-2022-2023.pdf>).

Automated Coin Flip

Coinflips will be conducted automatically on tabroom. Teams will be notified within 5 minutes after release of pairing as to which team won the flip.

The team that wins the flip may choose EITHER the SIDE of the topic they wish to defend (pro or con) OR the SPEAKING POSITION they wish to have (begin the debate or end the debate). The remaining option (SIDE OR SPEAKING POSITION) is the choice of the team that loses the flip.

The team winning the flip will have 5 minutes to choose and report their choice to Tabroom, and the team that loses the flip will then be able to report their choice.

If both teams haven't reported within 10 minutes of the result of the flip, then Tabroom will assign outstanding sides and/or speaking positions for the debate.

Tech Time

Each team shall be allotted up to ten total minutes of "Tech Time" for resolving uniquely online tech-related problems (e.g., internet connection, audio/video issues). Tech time should not be used as additional standard prep time for either team. If the time elapses before the team can resolve the issue within the official tournament platform, they will forfeit the debate. Judges should notify tab staff immediately if Tech Time is invoked.

Forfeit Policy

Debaters are eligible to forfeit a debate if they are not present in the room they are debating in 15 minutes after the posted start time.

Any team experiencing what they believe to be a legitimate a delay should make every attempt to communicate with the tab room if they are going to be late

If a debater becomes unable to debate due to an illness during the tournament, they may miss no more

than 2 debates to be able to return and continue debating.

Any entry that forfeits for a reason other than illness or serious emergency approved by the tab room will be withdrawn from the tournament.

Number of Clearing Teams

All 4-2 (or better) teams will break.

Maverick Debating Rules

Maverick teams are not permitted to enter prior to the tournament. If a team becomes maverick due to an illness of a partner during the tournament, the ill debater may miss no more than 2 debates to be able to return and continue debating. Mavericks will not be permitted to clear to elimination rounds.

Hybrid Teams

The Beyond Resolved invitational allows hybrid teams to compete at the tournament. However, keep in mind the requirements for supplying contact information for a supervising adult at registration.

Strike Policy

Because of a more limited judging pool, no strikes will be available outside of judge conflicts.

If a team feels strongly that an exception is necessary, please contact the tournament helpline (brtourn.helpdesk@gmail.com) with the subject line "Strike Policy Exception Request."

Pairing Process

The first two preliminary rounds will be random. After that, prelims will be power-matched.

Evidence

Evidence Challenges

If a team believes an opponent committed an evidence or other ethics violation as outlined in the NSDA rules, the accusing team should stop the debate and contact tab.

This type of challenge includes the following situations:

- A team reads evidence that is fabricated.
- A team reads evidence that is meaningfully altered to change the author's original meaning.
- A team "clips cards" by claiming they read all of an indicated portion of the card when they actually read less than what was indicated. Clipping violations should not be adjudicated by the judge. Tournament staff require a recording of the speech where clipping is said to have occurred in order to evaluate potential violations.
- A team "cross reads" by skipping words or sentences in the middle of the text but claiming that they read all the highlighted words.

If the evidence challenge is won, the team raising the evidence challenge will win and be given 30 speaker points and the team found to have violated the evidence policy will lose and be given 25s. If the evidence challenge is lost, the opposite is true.

Any decision to challenge evidence violations or unethical behavior must be made during the round in which the infraction occurred before the judge submits a decision to the tab room. No challenge can be made to conduct committed in any round after the ballot has been submitted to tab room.

Evidence Norms

Debaters may request evidence from the opposing team.

Debaters reading evidence must present full carded evidence with full citations immediately to the requesting team.

The Beyond Resolved Invitational will use the Tournament of Champions' evidence prep time rule. According to TOC procedures: "Prep time for the requesting team will not start until evidence has been handed over to the debater requesting said cards. Teams may prep during this evidence request time, this should encourage teams to have their evidence ready and available to present immediately."

Evidence Exchange

Evidence exchange will ONLY occur in the email chain established at the beginning of the round. The judge should be included on the email chain.

Evidence is sent in the email chain when requested.

Be specific about the evidence you are requesting and what you want (i.e. cut card, paraphrased rhetoric, etc)

DO NOT send website links as evidence. Paywalls stop students from accessing evidence. Links are not copied correctly or wrong. Instead, you should attach the PDF of the article/evidence to the email or if the PDF is too big for an email then you should save it in a Google Drive and send a link to the article in a Google Drive.