

Hello Congress Coaches!

You're receiving this email if you have people entered in Congress or Novice Congress tomorrow at Princeton.

1. **Novice Congress Tournament Schedule** - The majority of coaches with entries in this event preferred a "competition focused" as opposed to a "workshop" format for this event. Some wanted two prelims; some one prelim and a final. So, here is what we are doing. Session 1 of Novice Congress will start at 9 am and will discuss items 1-5. Session 2 of Novice Congress (includes all entries) will start at 2:30 pm and will discuss items 6-10. Novice Congress will have a Super Congress round at 6 pm and will discuss items 11-15. Heather and I feel that this approach strikes the right balance between factoring in coach feedback and following what was posted on the tournament invitation.
2. **Novice Congress Judges** - In light of the fact that we are not holding a workshop, judges in this event will be instructed to give brief reminders or explanations to help the chamber conduct its business if necessary. In the Novice Congress ONLY, there is no "minimum floor debate time." If the chamber has exhausted its prepared speeches on the provided items, it can immediately adjourn.
3. **Varsity Congress Schedule** - Prelims will begin at 9 am. Semis will be at 2:30pm. Super Congress will be at 6pm. How will this work with cross entries? Congress Semis will take place between IE Quarters and IE Semis. The Super Congress will take place between IE Semis and IE Finals.
4. **Key tournament stats** - This is being emailed out before competition so there is no appearance of partiality later. We are having 5 rooms of 17-18 competitors in prelims. We are breaking 6 competitors from each room. We will have two rooms of 15 in semis. We will break 6 competitors from each semis room for a 12 person Super Congress round.
5. **Floor Debate Time** - Prelims chambers must conduct three hours of floor debate. Recesses do not count towards floor debate time. Please, for the love of all that is holy, do not end your rounds without hitting this minimum time. Having to rerun a round or hold an adjourned session to reach minimum debate time would be catastrophic with our schedule.
6. **TFA Rule Stuff** - Every varsity chamber must begin its business by electing, by majority vote, a student presiding officer who is one of the competitors in the round. In novice divisions, the adult judge can serve as PO if there is no willing student. Remember that all rounds will use the "direct questioning" format, where students will question each other in 30 second blocks. Students also should not adopt a docket other than the one that has been specified by the tournament - "IQT hosts will be responsible for setting the agenda for congressional debate. The tournament invitation will specify the order in which items will be debated" (TFA Constitution, page 100).
7. **Drops and Name Changes** - It is extremely helpful if you can email these to both me and Heather for Congress so that I can ensure prelims are properly balanced. My email is [neal.white@pisd.edu](mailto:neal.white@pisd.edu).