

## **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 provide placards.
- Priority for the first affirmative speech - “authorship speech” - goes to a student from the school that submitted the legislation 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, or if the bill is not from a CBSR school another student may speak. This would then be a “sponsorship” speech.
- Speakers will be selected based on recency. The person who spoke least recently must be chosen.
- The PO must keep a recency chart. Recency continues when POs switch. Recency resets in the next round.

#### **Speeches**

- Students will move to the front of the room to speak. They should introduce themselves. 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 shall alternate from affirmative to negative, and the presiding officer should encourage speakers to alternate sides. However, in the event that no speakers wish to oppose the preceding speaker, the presiding officer may recognize a speaker upholding the same side. A motion to suspend the rules is not required, nor is it allowed. The new rule allows this.
- Props and visual aids are strictly forbidden.
- CHSSA will be using hand signals from the P.O. at the State Tournament. The chamber mirrors the signal.

#### **Questioning Period**

- Questioners are to be recognized at the discretion of the presiding officer. Priority should go to the person with the fewest questions.
- We are now using direct cross-examination in all rounds. 2 minutes of direct cross examination for the first proposition side speaker and 2 minutes of cross examination for the first opposition speaker. All other speakers get 1 minute of direct questioning.
- After the speaker finishes, the PO will ask “anyone wishing to question the senator, please raise your placard”. The PO selects two people to ask questions. Competitors who have asked the fewest questions should be prioritized. Never select someone who has already asked a question over someone who has not. 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. The questioner may ask as many questions as they are able in the allotted time. A grace-period of 10 seconds ought to be permitted to allow the speaker to finish an answer.

#### **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. A motion to divide the house to determine which side people intend to speak on is out of order.
- Any potential amendments must be submitted to the Tournament Director in writing before the start of the round, and the person making the amendment must bring enough copies for everyone in the chamber and the judges. (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. Time starts when the first PO calls for any motions.
- The Presiding Officers in the round will communicate official start and stop times to competitors.
- Sessions may not end before the stop-time if anyone who has not spoken wishes to speak.
- No round may go longer than stop-time determined by the Tournament Director.
- No recesses may be called. The exception is that time must stop if a judge has to leave the room.