

## Article B5 – Parliamentary Debate

### Section B5.1

In the District Tournament and the State Tournament three speakers will form a team and only two teams will participate in each debate.

Two of the rounds of both the district and state competitions will be Prepared Debate rounds for which the motions will be announced in the invitations to the tournaments. The prepared topic for both District and State competition will be taken from the most recent World Schools Debating Championship final round, if practical. Schools are asked to refrain from using this as the prepared topic in any other tournaments besides PHSSL districts and states.

The exact motions for the remaining Extemporaneous Debate rounds will be developed prior to the tournament from a list of six topic areas approved by the PHSSL Executive Board at their summer meeting. Schools are encouraged to use these six topic areas as extemporaneous topics throughout the year at invitational tournaments. The specific wording of the motion will be published with the schematic of the round. Teams will have 15 minutes in their competition rooms for preparation. The judge of the round will supervise this preparation time period.

**Prepared Rounds** - Teams will be guaranteed one round of debate in favor of the motion and one round of debate against the motion, if possible.

**Extemporaneous Rounds** - Teams will draw for sides on the motion.

Round 1: Prepared (random)

Round 2: Prepared (random with side constraints)

Round 3: Extemporaneous (power)

Round 4: Extemporaneous (power protect with brackets)

### Section B5.2 Motions

Motions in parliamentary debate are stated as general principles not bound to a specific place or time period. Teams should be rewarded for defending or opposing the entire idea contained in the motion.

Examples:

Resolved: That this house believes that democratic governments are superior in delivering citizens better quality of life.

Resolved: That this house believes that economic growth is the solution to environmental problems.

Resolved: That this house believes that people sentenced to life imprisonment should be allowed to choose the death penalty instead.

### Section B5.3 Format

After all speakers have spoken once, the first or second speaker for each side gives a reply speech, with the opposition reply going first and the proposition second.

Speaking time for speeches is 6 minutes, and for reply speeches 3 minutes. There is no extra preparation time provided.

First Speaker for The Government – 6 minutes  
First Speaker for The Opposition – 6 minutes  
Second Speaker for The Government – 6 minutes  
Second Speaker for The Opposition – 6 minutes  
Third Speaker for The Government – 6 minutes  
Third Speaker for The Opposition – 6 minutes  
Reply Speech for The Opposition – 3 minutes  
Reply Speech for The Government – 3 minutes

#### Section B5.4 – Prepared Rounds

A motion for the prepared rounds at district and state tournaments will be announced after the Executive Board's summer meeting. Member schools are asked to refrain from using this topic at other tournaments. Teams may bring any materials with them into the debate including prepared speeches. Computers and electronic retrieval devices are permitted in these rounds subject to restrictions on live communication with others outside the debate. Two rounds at district and state tournaments will be held on the prepared round motion with a guarantee of a debate on each side of the motion by each team entered if at all possible.

#### Section B5.5 – Extemporaneous Rounds

Topic areas for the extemporaneous rounds at districts and state tournaments will be announced after the Executive Board's summer meeting. Member school are encouraged to use these topic areas at other tournaments throughout the year. The specific wording of the motion for debate will be released with the pairing schematic for the round. Teams will report to their competition rooms where the judge will supervise a 15-minute preparation period. Computers and electronic retrieval devices are permitted in these rounds subject to restrictions on live communication with others outside the debate.

#### Section B5.6 – Points of Information

During any speech except the reply speeches, members of the opposing team may offer Points of Information to briefly interject a point that the speaker may immediately respond to.

The speaker holding the Floor is not obliged to accept all the Points of Information offered to them, but is likely to be marked down by judges if they do not accept any. Speakers delivering Points of Information are expected to keep them to 15 seconds or less. The speaker has the absolute right to refuse to accept a Point of Information, or to accept it only at the end of the next sentence. As a general rule a speaker should accept at least 2 Points of Information in his or her speech. As a general rule

each team member should offer between 1 and 2 Points of Information per speech, and should not offer them within a short time of a previous point of information having been offered.

The first and last minute of each main speech, as well as the entire duration of reply speeches, are "protected time," meaning that no Points of Information may be offered.

Points of Information are an important part of the clash between the teams, and enable speakers to remain involved in the debate even when they are not making a speech.

Points of Information are to be the only interruptions of students' speeches in parliamentary debate rounds.

#### Section B5.7

Each district automatically qualifies two three-person teams to the state tournament. If there are 12-20 teams entered in the district competition, a third team qualifies to states. If there are 21 or more teams, a fourth team qualifies to the state tournament.

#### Section B5.8

A school may enter two three-person teams in the district tournament. No substitution of debaters may be made at either the district or state tournament after Round I begins. Students qualify to the state tournament as a team; no substitutions are allowed.

#### Section B5.9

No interaction between a coach or any other person not involved in the debate and the debaters is permitted during a debate.

#### Section B5.10

If a debate team is 15 minutes late for a scheduled round of debate or for the preparation of an extemporaneous debate round, it shall forfeit the round of debate unless the delay is a result of a function of the tournament.

#### Section B5.11

No judges may be hired for the State Tournament in this event.