

WBFL DEBATE RULES AND PROCEDURES FOR 2026 QUALIFIERS

The most up-to-date version of the 2025-2026 CHSSA Rules and Regulations (currently, the 10/1/2025 update) will be applied at WBFL Quals, and are hereby incorporated by this reference as if set forth in full, except as WBFL modifies them for its State Qualifier as follows.

The determination of the winner of each round, and in each and every round, is not appealable, and is ultimately at the sole discretion of the Tournament Director and the co-Presidents. This discretion includes, but is not limited to, rounds where there is either a forfeit, bye, “no show” (by either or both teams), or walkover.

WBFL Debate Quals shall be a Double elimination tournament (“two down”), with the first round randomized, and all rounds thereafter divided into a “winners” and “losers” bracket, adjusted as needed for imbalances.

Ballot review will be afforded after round 3.

There will be one (1) judge in rounds 1, 2, and 3; and, thereafter, three (3) judge panels will decide, by majority vote, wins and losses. In any debate round between entries from the same school, the following options are available: (a) the students debate as usual and a winner is determined by the judges; (b) the Coach of Record selects a winner via walkover (no debate will occur); (c) If the students will not debate and the coach declines to choose a winner, Tab will break the tie based upon the seeding going into that round (no debate will occur).

The “coin flip” procedures provided for in the 2025-2026 CHSSA Rules and Regulations (the 10/1/2025 update) will be followed in all Public Forum Rounds that are not a forfeit, bye, “no show” (by either or both teams) or walkover. (Note: The “flip” in PF is for sides and speaking order in all rounds, following CHSSA rules)

The “coin flip” procedures provided for in the 2025-2026 CHSSA Rules and Regulations (the 10/1/2025 update) will be followed in all Parliamentary Debate, Policy Debate, and Lincoln Douglas Debate Rounds (that are not a forfeit, bye, “no show” (by either or both teams) or walkover) AFTER Round 2 is concluded (i.e., starting with Round 3). All rounds including and after Round 3 are designated as “elimination”, or “out” rounds. (Note: The “flip” for Policy, LD, and Parli is for sides only, following CHSSA rules)

All protests will be decided under the WBFL protest procedure.