

Article XI: The State Tournament - Debate Rules

Section 1. Rules for All Forms of Debate

A. Enforcement

1. In ruling on protests for violation of debate rules set forth in this Article, the Protest Committee shall consider the total facts and circumstances associated with the violation including whether it
 - a. was intentional or unintentional,
 - b. was unethical and/or dishonest,
 - c. would be considered abusive
 - d. was intended to obtain an unfair advantage in the debate-
 - e. violates the purpose behind a rule in addition to its express language,
 - f. and the degree of prejudice resulting to the opponent from the violation.
2. Unless another penalty is included in any specific rule, the Protest Committee is empowered to impose any of the following penalties:
 - a. warning and/or reprimand, including a statement of clear consequences for a repeated violation.
 - b. require the round be repeated under terms considered fair and just by the Committee
 - c. impose a loss on the debater(s) in violation
 - d. Disqualification
3. Debaters may not make an agreement among themselves or with the judges to modify the rules in this article.
4. Judges should not direct students to deviate from these rules or encourage students to violate them.

B. Definition of 'Round'

1. A round shall begin in Policy Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, and Public Forum Debate when the first speaker in the debate begins their speech, and shall end when the last speaker in the debate ends their speech.
2. In Parliamentary Debate a round shall begin when the resolution for the round is released and the round ends when the last speaker in the debate ends their speech.

C. Debate Both Sides of Resolution as Assigned.

1. Over the course of the tournament, each team or individual in Policy Debate, Parliamentary Debate, Public Forum, and Lincoln-Douglas Debate may be assigned to uphold either side of the resolution in any given round.

D. Definition of 'Speech Time'

1. Except for roadmaps, speech time begins as soon as the debater begins speaking.
2. Thank-you's count toward speech time.
3. Roadmaps do not count toward speech time, so long as:
 - a. The roadmap is not to be argumentative in nature;
 - b. The roadmap does not exceed 15 seconds.

E. Restriction of Communications

1. During a round, a debater shall not communicate through any method with anyone other than that debater's partner (if applicable), the opposing debater(s), and the judge(s).
2. Oral prompting, except time signals, by the debater's partner while the debater has the floor, is discouraged though not prohibited and may be penalized by some judges.
3. A debater may refer to their notes and materials and may consult with their partner while both they and their partner do not have the floor.

F. Electronic Retrieval Devices

1. A computer is defined as a laptop, netbook, iPad, or other portable electronic retrieval equipment.

2. Devices such as flash drives or external hard drives are not considered computers.
3. Once the first speaker in the debate begins their speech, Cellular phones may be used during the round for the exclusive purpose of functioning as a timer
 - a. Device must be put into airplane mode, and be incapable of receiving or sending correspondence.
 - b. Penalty for violation of this rule shall be automatic forfeiture of the round by the offending side.
 - c. Students must make all cell phones used as timers available for inspection by judges and/or tournament officials upon request.
 - d. A cell phone used as a timer shall not be counted as one of the computers/electronic retrieval devices allowed in a specific debate event.
4. Debaters shall not have access to or activate any electronic retrieval devices during the round, except those explicitly allowed by this article.
5. CHSSA cannot guarantee access to wireless internet or electrical outlets in a tournament space and it is the duty of the debaters to ensure appropriate access.

G. Validity of Evidence

1. Definition of Terms:
 - a. Evidence is quoted information read in the round and must be identified by source.
 - b. Distortion of evidence exists when the evidence itself contains added or deleted words that do not clarify, but, in fact, change the position of the author with respect to the issues in question.
2. Responsibility for Evidence.
 - a. Debaters are responsible for the validity of all evidence read in the debate.
 - b. In all rounds of debate, all debaters shall have available, if challenged by the opponent during any round, complete citations for each piece of evidence introduced including the name of the author, qualifications, complete source title, complete date and page number.
 - c. Lack of a full citation shall void any effect of that piece of evidence in the round.
 - d. No internal ellipsis – ellipses that occur after the first word of the quotation and before the final word – may be used in evidence cited on a card
 1. In Parliamentary Debate because no outside materials other than notes on provided colored paper may be brought into the round, internal ellipses must be shown on the original document.
 - e. In Policy Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, and Public Forum Debate the evidence may be read in ellipsed form, but the entirety of the evidence must be available in one of the two ways cited.
 - f. Personal letters, electronic messages, telegrams, and the like are not admissible as evidence.
3. Evidence challenges – all forms of Debate.
 - a. The burden of proof rests with the individual that challenges the validity of any evidence.
 - b. The individual/team challenging evidence must indicate prior to the conclusion of the round that a challenge will be made and indicate the specific evidence to be challenged.
 - c. The round will be completed and the judge(s) will withhold decisions, returning ballots to the tournament tabulation room.
 1. Decisions will be rendered on the ballots only after the protest has been resolved by tournament officials.
 2. The judges may be asked if the evidence in question was or would have been significant in their decision.
 - d. The evidence challenge must be made within thirty minutes of the conclusion of the round by the adult sponsor or designated representative of the individual/team who initiated the challenge.
 - e. The challenging individual/team must be able to provide proof of the charge, within a reasonable time as set by tournament officials, through the use of

- either original copies of photocopies of the source in question or be able to demonstrate that there is reasonable cause to believe the evidence is nonexistent through the use of photocopies of books in print, periodical guides or other types of bibliographical resources.
- f. The protestcommittee will adjourn to a private area with the two individuals and examine the charges and evidence along with materials presented by the challenging individual.
 1. Adult coaches or sponsors may be present during the examination.
 - g. . Handbook evidence proven inaccurate will be disallowed in the round, and judges instructed to not consider the evidence in rendering a decision.
 - h. Evidence proven to be falsified or distorted from the original source will be grounds for awarding the challenging individual/team a win and disqualifying from the tournament the individual/team found guilty of using falsified or distorted evidence.
 - i. If the evidence challenge is not upheld, the judges will be asked to render a decision and turn in their ballots after they have been informed that the evidence in question was not found to be falsified or inaccurately presented.
 - j. The protestcommittee has one-half hour to hear arguments and examine evidence and must render a decision within fifteen minutes of the conclusion of the presentations.
 - k. The round following the contested round may not begin until the dispute is resolved.
4. Evidence Exchange/Note-Taking.
- a. Judges may not request nor be given any evidence or written material from teams/individuals except when the evidence is challenged as illegal by the opposing team/individual during the round.
 1. The evidence in question should be collected by the judge and delivered to the Tournament Committee.
 - b. In Policy Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, and Public Forum Debate, teams or individuals may request evidence from opponents during cross examination/cross-fire or preparation only.
 1. The specific evidence cited must be provided.
 2. The requesting team must have access to the evidence during their subsequent speech, but must return it at the conclusion of that speech if requested.
 - c. In Parliamentary Debate, the opposing debaters may ask to see the debaters' notes containing any cited material as part of a Point of Information
 1. the team reading the cited materials must show the handwritten notes, with citation, upon such request.

Section 2. Policy Debate Rules

- A. Round Definition
 1. A Policy debate round consists of two Affirmative debaters debating against two Negative debaters.
 2. The Affirmative team proposes a case to uphold the resolution. The Negative team opposes the Affirmative case.
- B. Resolutions: The policy debate resolution shall be the national high school debate resolution.
- C. Round Format
 1. 1st Affirmative Constructive (1AC): 8 minutes
 2. Cross-Examination of 1st Affirmative: 3 minutes
 3. 1st Negative Constructive (1NC): 8 minutes
 4. Cross-Examination of 1st Negative: 3 minutes
 5. 2nd Affirmative Constructive (2AC): 8 minutes
 6. Cross-Examination of 2nd Affirmative: 3 minutes
 7. 2nd Negative Constructive (2NC): 8 minutes

8. Cross-Examination of 2nd Negative: 3 minutes
 9. 1st Negative Rebuttal (1NR): 5 minutes
 10. 1st Affirmative Rebuttal (1AR): 5 minutes
 11. 2nd Negative Rebuttal (2NR): 5 minutes
 12. 2nd Affirmative Rebuttal (2AR): 5 minutes
 13. Preparation time: 8 minutes per debate team
- D. Preparation Time
1. Each team/individual may allocate their 8 minutes of preparation time as they see fit during the round, utilizing time prior to speeches for their side.
 2. Debaters may not use preparation time to make prefacing remarks to their speeches.
 3. Debaters may not forfeit cross-examination time to gain additional preparation time.
 4. Preparation time begins for a debater as soon as the other debater has finished with a speech or cross-examination.
- E. Round Rules
1. Judges should disregard new arguments introduced during rebuttal speeches.
 - a. Judges should only allow new responses during rebuttal speeches if those responses address an argument first made in the immediately preceding speech.
 - b. New analysis of prior arguments is allowed in rebuttal speeches.
 2. A speaker's time begins as to any given speech when they begin to speak.
 - a. All speaking, including "thank yous," is timed in line with the appropriate speech, with the exception of off-time roadmaps, given prior to the start time for a speech, under the condition of the following circumstances:
 1. The roadmap is not to be argumentative in nature;
 2. The roadmap does not exceed 15 seconds in length;
 3. Three computers per team, one printer per team, and one electronic timing device per debater are allowed.
 - a. The debaters shall not have access to or activate any other electronic device during the round.
 4. Contestants may use electronic devices (including laptop computers, tablets, and/or cell phones) to access the internet during debate rounds with the following conditions:
 - a. Computers or other electronic devices may not be used to receive information for competitive advantage from non-competitors (coaches, assistant coaches, other non-competing students) inside or outside of the room in which the competition occurs.
 - b. Information that would be restricted would include but not be limited to coach/non-participating competitor generated arguments, advice on arguments to run, questions to ask during cross examination, and other information not generated by the participating competitors in your round.
 - c. The internet may be used to retrieve files, exchange evidence and/or arguments, research arguments, and partner to partner communication, and communication between other participants in the round.
 - d. These electronic device guidelines do not limit communication between debate partners during the debate round.
 - e. Contestants electing to use computers have the responsibility to promptly provide a copy of any evidence read in a speech for inspection by the opponent.
 1. Printers or an extra computer or tablet may be used if no paper copies are available.
 2. Evidence may be printed in the round or produced electronically but must be provided in a format readable by the opposing team.
- F. Cross-Examination
1. The questions must be directed to the speaker who has just completed their constructive speech and should be answered by that speaker.
 2. Questions must pertain only to materials and arguments presented by the respondent.

3. The respondent may decline to answer only if a valid reason is given for doing so.
4. The questioner controls the time and may interrupt a lengthy reply. Time-wasting is considered unethical.
5. Both members of a debate team must participate as the questioner and the respondent during cross-examination once during the debate.
6. Judges may consider participation in cross-examination, including use of tag team cross-examination, as part of their decision.

Section 3. Lincoln-Douglas Debate Rules

A. Round Definition

1. A Lincoln-Douglas debate round consists of one Affirmative debater debating against one Negative debater.
2. The Affirmative proposes a case to uphold the resolution. The Negative opposes the Affirmative case.

B. Resolutions

1. Tournaments that start on or before February 1 shall use the National Speech & Debate Association (NSDA) September-October resolution.
2. Tournaments that start after February 1, including the CHSSA State Tournament, shall use the NSDA March-April resolution.

C. Round Format

1. Affirmative Constructive (1AC): 6 minutes
2. Cross-Examination of the Affirmative by the Negative: 3 minutes
3. Negative Constructive (1NC): 7 minutes
4. Cross-Examination of the Negative by the Affirmative: 3 minutes
5. First Affirmative Rebuttal (1AR): 4 minutes
6. Negative Rebuttal (1NR): 6 minutes
7. Second Affirmative Rebuttal (2AR): 3 minutes
8. Preparation time: 4 minutes per debater

D. Preparation Time

1. Each individual may allocate this time as they see fit during the round, utilizing time prior to speeches for their side.
2. Debaters may not use preparation time to make prefacing remarks to their speeches.
3. Debaters may not forfeit cross-examination time to gain additional preparation time.
4. Preparation time begins for a debater as soon as the other debater has finished with a speech or cross-examination.

A. Round Rules

1. Value debate: The use of plans and counter plans is strongly discouraged.
2. Judges should disregard new arguments introduced during rebuttal speeches.
 - a. Judges should only allow new responses during rebuttal speeches if those responses address an argument first made in the immediately preceding speech.
 - b. New analysis of prior arguments is allowed in rebuttal speeches.
3. Each debater is allowed two computers, one printer, and one electronic timing device
4. Contestants may use electronic devices (including laptop computers, tablets, and/or cell phones) to access the internet during debate rounds with the following conditions:
 - a. Computers or other electronic devices may not be used to receive information for competitive advantage from non-competitors (coaches, assistant coaches, other non-competing students) inside or outside of the room in which the competition occurs.
 - b. Information that would be restricted would include but not be limited to coach/non-participating competitor generated arguments, advice on arguments to run, questions to ask during cross examination, and other information not generated by the participating competitors in your round.

- c. The internet may be used to retrieve files, exchange evidence and/or arguments, research arguments, and partner to partner communication, and communication between other participants in the round.
 - d. These electronic device guidelines do not limit communication between debate partners during the debate round.
 - e. Contestants electing to use computers have the responsibility to promptly provide a copy of any evidence read in a speech for inspection by the opponent.
 - 1. Printers or an extra computer or tablet may be used if no paper copies are available.
 - 2. Evidence may be printed in the round or produced electronically but must be provided in a format readable by the opposing team.
- B. Cross-Examination
- 1. After a debater (the respondent) concludes their constructive speech, the other debater (the questioner) shall cross-examine them.
 - 2. Questions must pertain only to materials and arguments presented by the respondent.
 - 3. The respondent may decline to answer only if a valid reason is given for doing so.
 - 4. The questioner controls the time and may interrupt a lengthy reply. Time-wasting is considered unethical.

Section 4. Parliamentary Debate Rules

- A. Round Definition
- 1. A parliamentary debate team consists of two debaters.
 - 2. A parliamentary debate round consists of one Government team debating against one Opposition team.
 - 3. The Government team proposes a case to uphold the resolution. The Opposition team opposes the Government team's case.
- B. Resolutions
- 1. Resolutions will be announced by the tournament at the start of preparation time.
 - 2. A different resolution will be used each round.
- C. Round Format
- 1. Prime Minister Constructive (PMC): 7 minutes, given by the first Government speaker
 - 2. Leader of Opposition Constructive (LOC): 8 minutes, given by the first Opposition speaker
 - 3. Member of Government Constructive (MGC): 8 minutes, given by the second Government speaker
 - 4. Member of Opposition Constructive (MOC): 8 minutes, given by the second Opposition speaker
 - 5. Leader of Opposition Rebuttal (LOR): Rebuttal 4 minutes, given by the first Opposition speaker
 - 6. Prime Minister Rebuttal (PMR): 5 minutes, given by the first Government speaker
- D. Preparation Time
- 1. Debaters shall have 20 minutes of preparation time between the time the resolution is announced and the time debaters report to their judge(s).
 - 2. The two partners may communicate with each other.
 - 3. Debaters are also allowed to communicate with tournament officials to clarify tournament logistics.
 - 4. Debaters are not allowed to communicate with anyone other than those described above by any means during preparation time.
 - 5. During preparation time, debaters may consult both physical and electronic copies of any material, including both prepared notes and published sources.
 - a. Debaters may use computers and the internet to store and to retrieve this material.

E. Round Rules

1. There is no preparation time between speeches. The next speaker must begin their speech (or their roadmap) within 20 seconds following the preceding speech.
2. Debaters are not allowed to access computers during the round after preparation time has ended.
3. After preparation time has ended, a debater is not allowed to access any written material except notes that were handwritten on paper by the debater or their partner after the resolution was announced.
4. Judges should disregard new arguments (including new responses) during rebuttal speeches, regardless of whether a Point of Order was raised.
 - a. The exception is that the PMR may respond to new arguments made in the MOC.
 - b. New analysis of prior arguments is allowed in rebuttal speeches.

F. Points of Information

1. A Point of Information (POI) is a single short question or statement addressed by a member of the opposing team to the debater who has the floor.
2. The debater who has the floor may accept or decline each POI at their discretion.
3. Follow-up POIs are only allowed if separately recognized by the debater who has the floor.
4. POIs come out of the speech time of the debater who has the floor, so time should not be stopped for a POI.
5. Each POI may not exceed 15 seconds.
6. POIs are only allowed in constructive speeches.
7. POIs are not allowed in the first or last minute of any speech.

G. Points of Order

1. A debater may raise a Point of Order if they believe that the opposing team is bringing up a new argument in a rebuttal speech.
 - a. Points of Order may not be used for any other purpose.
2. Points of Order are not allowed during constructive speeches but are allowed at any time during rebuttal speeches.
3. To raise a Point of Order, the debater shall state "Point of Order."
 - a. Time should then be immediately stopped.
 - b. The debater then has 15 seconds to explain why an argument made by the opposing team is new.
 - c. The opposing team then has 15 seconds to respond to the Point of Order.
 - d. Once the response is finished, time should immediately resume.
4. Debaters should not use Points of Order as a tactic to disrupt their opponent's speech.
5. Judges should not announce their rulings on Points of Order during the round.

H. Evidence

1. The intent of Parliamentary Debate is to encourage extemporaneous argumentation. Debaters should primarily rely on logic and general knowledge.
 - a. Reference to published sources is allowed but should be limited.
2. A debater may refer to information from a published source during their speech.
 - a. The debater must transcribe the full quotation this information is based on.
 - b. The transcription must be done during preparation time, by hand, and without ellipses.
 - c. The debater must then write down the citation and must say the citation during their speech.
 - d. To the extent that these are provided by the original source, the citation should include the name(s) of the author(s), the source title, and the publication date.
3. The team which refers to information from a published source must show the opposing team the sheet of paper containing the quotation and citation if requested.
 - a. The request can be made during a POI.

I. CHSSA State Tournament Logistics

1. Resolutions for each shall rotate through the following types:

- a. Value: Both sides push for their value in the topic as superior to the other team's value.
 - b. Policy: Proposition shows there is a problem and offers a solution (plan) to the problem. Both sides debate the appropriateness and/or merits of the problem and solution asserted by the Proposition.
 - c. Fact: Both teams debate the circumstances under which the topic would be called a true statement
2. The topics for each round will be in a distinct topic area not to be used in any other round for the duration of the tournament.
 - a. The topic areas and resolution type by round will be determined by the Debate Committee and communicated to the tournament director at the January meeting.
 - b. Only topic areas will be announced at the January meeting.
 - c. At least five resolutions based on each topic area will be written by the tournament director or designee and vetted by at least three members of the debate committee prior to the start of the state tournament.
 1. These individuals shall be selected by the Debate Committee Chair from members of the Debate Committee that do not have any Parliamentary Debate teams entered at the State Tournament, using any criteria the Debate Committee Chair deems appropriate.
 2. If there are not at least three eligible members of the Debate Committee based on the foregoing, then the Debate Committee Chair may make up the shortfall by selecting a non-Debate Committee Member familiar with debate that has no Parliamentary Debate entries at the State Tournament.
 - d. Three final resolutions will be selected for each topic area and placed into a sealed envelope by round to be used in a blind draw for topic selection each round.
 3. The tournament director may determine the location(s) where debaters should be present during preparation time.

Section 5. Public Forum Debate Rules

A. Round Definition

1. A Public Forum debate round consists of two Pro debaters debating against two Con debaters.
- ~~2. The Pro side will always begin the debate. The Con side will always conclude the debate. Public Forum will use coin flips for preliminary and elimination rounds, flipping for both position and speaker order. In Public Forum, the team that wins the flip may choose one of two options: 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.~~
3. The two members of a team who qualify to the State Tournament from a league state qualification tournament must debate as a team in the State Tournament.

B. Resolutions:

1. Public Forum Debate resolutions will correspond to those published by the National Speech and Debate Association.

C. Round Format

1. 1st Pro Speaker 4 minutes
2. 1st Con Speaker 4 minutes
3. Crossfire between First Speakers 3 minutes
4. 2nd Pro Speaker 4 minutes
5. 2nd Con Speaker 4 minutes
6. Crossfire between Second Speakers 3 minutes

7. Summary (First Pro Speaker) 3 minutes
 8. Summary (First Con Speaker) 3 minutes
 9. Grand Crossfire (All speakers) 3 minutes
 10. Final Focus (Second Pro Speaker) 2 minutes
 11. Final Focus (Second Con Speaker) 2 minutes
 12. Preparation Time 3 minutes
- D. Preparation Time
1. Each team/individual may allocate this time as they see fit during the round, utilizing time prior to speeches for their side.
 2. Each debate team may allocate their 3 minutes of preparation time as they see fit.
 3. Debaters may not use preparation time to make prefacing remarks to their speeches.
 4. Debaters may not forfeit cross-examination time to gain additional preparation time.
 5. Preparation time begins for a debater as soon as the other debater has finished with a speech or cross-examination.
- E. Round Rules
1. Over the course of the tournament, each Public Forum team may be assigned to uphold either side of the resolution in any given round.
 2. The Pro defends a case to support the resolution. The Con opposes the Pro case.
 3. In Public Forum debate a plan is defined as a formalized, comprehensive proposal for implementation.
 - a. Neither the Pro or Con side is permitted to offer a plan or counterplan; rather they should offer reasoning to support a position of advocacy.
 - b. Debaters may offer generalized, practical solutions.
 4. Judges should disregard new arguments introduced during Summary and Final Focus speeches.
 - a. Judges should only allow new responses during Summary and Final Focus speeches if those responses address an argument first made in the immediately preceding speech.
 - b. New analysis of prior arguments is allowed in rebuttal speeches.
 5. A speaker's time begins as to any given speech when they begin to speak.
 - a. All speaking, including "thank yous," is timed in line with the appropriate speech, with the exception of off-time roadmaps, given prior to the start time for a speech, under the condition of the following circumstances:
 1. The roadmap is not to be argumentative in nature;
 2. The roadmap does not exceed 15 seconds in length
 6. Three computers per team, one printer per team, and one electronic timing device per debater are allowed.
 - a. The debaters shall not have access to or activate any other electronic device during the round.
 7. Contestants may use electronic devices (including laptop computers, tablets, and/or cell phones) to access the internet during debate rounds with the following conditions:
 - a. Computers or other electronic devices may not be used to receive information for competitive advantage from non-competitors (coaches, assistant coaches, other non-competing students) inside or outside of the room in which the competition occurs.
 - b. Information that would be restricted would include but not be limited to coach/non-participating competitor generated arguments, advice on arguments to run, questions to ask during cross examination, and other information not generated by the participating competitors in your round.
 - c. The internet may be used to retrieve files, exchange evidence and/or arguments, research arguments, and partner to partner communication, and communication between other participants in the round.
 - d. These electronic device guidelines do not limit communication between debate partners during the debate round.

- e. Contestants electing to use computers have the responsibility to promptly provide a copy of any evidence read in a speech for inspection by the opponent.
 - 1. Printers or an extra computer or tablet may be used if no paper copies are available.
 - 2. Evidence may be printed in the round or produced electronically but must be provided in a format readable by the opposing team.
- F. Cross-Fire Rules
 - 1. The format is intended to be question and answer and comments by debaters are restricted to advancing questions or answering an opponent's question.
 - 2. Students should conduct themselves in a civil and professional manner during the cross-fire – cross-fire is intended to help clarify the debate for the judge and is not intended to be a verbal brawl.
 - 3. In the first two cross-fires, both participating debaters may ask and answer questions of the other.
 - 4. In Grand Cross-fire: All four debaters should participate.
 - a. All should ask and answer questions.
 - 5. Judges may consider equal participation in cross-fire as part of their decision.

Section 6. Generative Artificial Intelligence

- A. Generative artificial intelligence should not be cited as a source; while something like ChatGPT may be used to guide students to articles, ideas, and sources, the original source of any quoted or paraphrased evidence must be available if requested.
- B. Students are prohibited from quoting or paraphrasing text directly from generative AI sources like ChatGPT in events in which speeches must be the original created work of a competitor.