

## Speaks

- 23: Poor speech
- 24: Below average speech
- 25: Average speech
- 26: Above average speech
- 27: An excellent speech, one of the best given during the tournament
- 30: This speech is what Joseph R. Biden Jr. might call a “big f\*ckin deal”

Judges must assign the winning team at least as many points and at most as many ranks as the losing team. I.e. there are no low point wins.

Scores of 26.75 and above or 23.25 and below must be justified to the tab director or observer. Judges may assign scores in increments of 0.25 points.

## Seeding

Teams of two qualified debaters are full seeds.

Teams of one qualified debater and one unqualified debater are half seeds.

Each school may designate one team of two unqualified debaters as a free seed.

## Scratches

Each team will have two discretionary scratches.

Each team may request additional “tab scratches” upon justification to the judging director, the tab director, or the tab observer.

The tab staff reserves the right to assign additional unrequested tab scratches.

All scratches will be guaranteed through inrounds and maximally respected through outrounds.

## Ballots

Each judge will fill out an electronic ballot on Tabroom.com BEFORE delivering a decision, RFD, and comments.

Each judge will fill out a short physical ballot and personally turn it into the tabroom as soon as possible (can be after giving decision/RFD/comments)

## Round 1

Pairings will be randomly assigned under the following constraints, in decreasing order of priority, while minimizing the number of teams for which constraints must be broken:

No team shall hit another team from the same school

No full seed shall hit another full seed

No half seed shall hit another full seed

No half seed shall hit another half seed

No free seed shall hit another full seed

No free seed shall hit another half seed

No free seed shall hit another free seed

Judges shall be assigned in descending order of rank to the following types of rounds:

- Rounds containing two full seeds
- Rounds containing one full seed and one half seed
- Rounds containing one full seed and one free seed
- Rounds containing one full seed and one unseeded team
- Rounds containing two half seeds
- Rounds containing one half seed and one free seed
- Rounds containing one half seed and one unseeded team
- Rounds containing two free seeds
- Rounds containing one free seed and one unseeded team
- Rounds containing two unseeded teams

If there are an odd number of teams, one randomly chosen unseeded team will receive a bye. This team will be paired into the middle of the 1-0 bracket for round 2 and will receive average speaks and ranks for that round.

#### Rounds 2-5

Pairings will be power-matched among brackets (e.g., 1-0 teams hit 1-0 teams, 0-1 teams hit 0-1 teams), and power-protected within brackets (e.g., the highest 1-0 hits the lowest 1-0, second highest hits second lowest, etc.)

The following constraints will be respected, in descending order of priority:

- No two teams shall hit each other more than once during inrounds
- No team shall be pulled up more than once
- No team shall hit a pulled up team more than once
- Teams shall hit teams with the same record
- Teams shall be power-paired on the basis of team ranking
- No team shall hit another team from the same school. This will be ignored if that school makes up more than half of the bracket.
- No team shall have more than 4 Gov or 4 Opp rounds
- No team shall have more than 3 Gov or 3 Opp rounds
- Judges will be assigned in descending order of rank to rounds in descending order of team ranking
- No judge shall be assigned to judge a team more than once during in rounds

#### Pull-Ups

If there are an odd number of teams in a bracket, the bottom team from the next lower bracket will be pulled up to complete the bracket.

The pulled up team will be paired in as though they were originally in the bracket they were pulled up to.

This process will begin from the highest (undefeated) bracket and iterate downwards.

#### Byes

If a team receives a bye, they will receive average speaks and ranks for that round.

### Panels

At the discretion of tab, extra judges will be used to panel rounds.

Judges will then be paired via the standard descending ordering of rank, while some rounds will be paneled.

Paneled rounds will have three judges, with one judge designated as chair.

Judges will vote and fill out ballots separately without conferring.

In paneled rounds where the chair and at least one other judge are in agreement about the winner, speaks and ranks will be determined by the chair's ballot.

In paneled rounds where the chair is in the minority, speaks and ranks will be the average of those assigned by judges in the majority.

### Rankings

Team rankings during inrounds will be determined by the following, in descending priority:

- Team wins
- Team speaker points
- Team ranks
- Adjusted team speaks
- Adjusted team ranks
- Double-adjusted team speaks
- Double-adjusted team ranks
- Head-to-head performance
- Coin flip

Team rankings during outrounds and awards will be determined by the following, in descending priority:

- Team wins
- Team speaker points
- Team ranks
- Adjusted team speaks
- Adjusted team ranks
- Double-adjusted team speaks
- Double-adjusted team ranks
- Head-to-head performance
- Opposition strength
- Coin flip

Speaker rankings will be determined by the following, in descending priority:

Points  
Ranks  
Adjusted points  
Adjusted ranks  
Double-adjusted points  
Double-adjusted ranks  
Team ranking  
Coin flip

### Outrounds

After five rounds, the top sixteen ranked teams will break to outrounds and the top four ranked novice teams will break to novice outrounds. The tournament directors and tab director reserve the right to adjust the size of outrounds at their discretion.

Teams will be paired according to inround seeding (performance, or comparative ranking).

The bracket created by inround seeding will be maintained for the duration of out-rounds.

All outrounds will be judged by an odd number of judges. All outrounds decisions will be made by judges' vote without conferral.

If two teams debated each other during in-rounds, their sides will be reversed (side-locked).

If the two teams have not debated before, tab will randomly decide which team has choice

### Tight Calls

In rounds involving a tight call, the tightness of the case becomes the sole voting issue.

Judges will assign speaks and ranks normally in tight call rounds.

### Spec Calls

Individual arguments made by the Government team may be called spec.

If the judge is convinced an argument is spec, it is ignored for the purposes of adjudicating the round.

### Points of Clarification

Judges and debaters should remember that the time for points of clarification lasts at the discretion of the government team. If points of clarification are asked for an unreasonably long period of time, then the government team should feel free to cut them off, and begin delivering the PMC.

### Ironpeople

All teams must register as two people.

Ironpeople may debate in any round where their partner is unavailable.

Judges will assign points to each position separately, as though the ironperson was two people.

No one who misses a round will be eligible for speaker awards.

Ironpeople will be awarded the higher of the two scores and the lower of the two ranks for the purpose of speaker awards.

Teams who have debated any rounds as an ironperson will be ineligible to break or receive awards, unless extenuating circumstances, which must be justified to tab, exist.

### Hybrid Teams

Hybrid teams will automatically receive school protection regarding judges for the schools of both debaters.

Hybrid teams will receive school protection regarding opposing teams for just one of the debater's schools, to be determined by the team when the team registers.

### Lateness

After pairings have been released, teams will have fifteen minutes to begin their rounds.

Any team that has not arrived within fifteen minutes will forfeit the round.

### Miscellaneous

All disputes or ambiguities regarding these policies shall be resolved by the sole discretion of the tab director.

If significant extenuating circumstances arise, the tab staff reserves the right to make exceptions to these policies.