

REGULATIONS AND JUDGING STANDARDS

POLICY DEBATE

- A. A debate team shall consist of two members, who shall debate both the affirmative and negative sides. A school may enter only two two-person teams.
- B. Each debater shall present one constructive speech, one cross-examination, and one rebuttal speech. The time and order of speakers shall be as follows:
1. Each debate team will be allowed 8 minutes of preparation time during the course of the debate to be divided as it sees fit.
 2. Teams using flash drives will officially end their prep time when the flash drive is physically removed from the computer.
 3. CONSTRUCTIVE:
First Affirmative Constructive Speech 8 minutes
A Negative Speaker Cross-examines..... 3 minutes
First Negative Constructive Speech..... 8 minutes
An Affirmative Speaker Cross-examines the First Negative Speaker 3 minutes
Second Affirmative Constructive Speech..... 8 minutes
The Other Negative Speaker Cross-examines the Second Affirmative Speaker 3 minutes
Second Negative Constructive Speech 8 minutes
The Other Affirmative Speaker Cross-examines the Second Negative Speaker 3 minutes
 4. REBUTTAL:
First Negative Rebuttal 5 minutes
First Affirmative Rebuttal 5 minutes
Second Negative Rebuttal 5 minutes
Second Affirmative Rebuttal 5 minutes
- No grace time will be given for debate speeches.
- C. The distribution of evidence, visual aids and published material to debate judges is prohibited, unless requested by the judge.
- D. Judging shall be governed by the following provisions:
1. The ballot shall be that provided by MSHSAA.
 2. The judge shall write the debater's rank after the debater's name on the ballot.
 3. Each debate in the preliminary rounds shall be judged by two persons whenever possible (one judge will be a paid judge and the other a coach or other qualified representative, from a participating school, accepted by the Tournament manager.) All directors who have students entered in debate events are required to be available to judge one round beyond the elimination of their school's debaters at the District and State Tournaments. If sufficient numbers of judges are not available only one judge may be used if such is the desire of the majority of schools. Teams shall be advanced on the basis of ballots won.
 4. The elimination rounds should be judged by three persons provided judges are available and, at the State Tournament, at least one of the three judges shall be a school coach.
 5. The final elimination round shall be judged by three persons. At the State Tournament, the three judges shall be high school directors.
 6. A judge shall not be informed as to the names of the school represented in a debate. The school shall be identified by number on the ballot.
 7. No judge shall hear the same team debate the same side more than once and it is recommended that a judge hear the same team only once regardless of sides debated.
- E. Judging Criteria
1. Analysis and Case: Do the debaters deal with the basic issues? Are the major terms defined? Is the history and background of the questions given? Are the cases clearly organized and easy to follow?
 2. Attack and Defense: Refutation is not confined to rebuttal speeches; it is interspersed throughout the debate. Do the debaters attack and defend the basic issues? Do the debaters answer satisfactorily those attacks made on their cases by their opponents? Is the rebuttal organized?
 3. Evidence: Evidence consists of facts, authoritative opinions, and substantial material which supports or denies the proposition. Is the evidence pertinent? Dependable? Is the evidence sufficient to support the case? Does the debater use his/her evidence to establish proof? Does he/she show the relationship between the Statement to be proved and the evidence he/she used to prove it? Is the argument sound?
 4. Delivery: The debater should speak extemporaneously. Is his/her language adequate? Are his/her speech techniques adequate for his/her needs? The contestant should adapt what he/she says to arguments advanced earlier in the debate. Consider: Courtesy to opponents, directness, fluency, poise, audibility and the use of good English.
 5. Cross-examination: Cross-examination shall be used to clarify an obscure point, to explore factual error, or to obtain

damaging admissions. It should not be used to attack a witness' integrity. The value decreases if the questions do not evolve from the debate.

NOTE: Oral critiques are not permitted.

- F. Unethical Conduct: Students participating in interscholastic debate are expected to follow all rules of the event and be ethical in their conduct and practices while preparing for or during debate. All conduct and actions should meet the rules of the event. These same actions should be honest, fair, reputable and good for the activity. It is the responsibility of the speaker to orally deliver the following when introducing evidence in a debate round: primary author(s)' name (last) and year of publication. Any other information such as source, author's qualifications, etc., may be given, but is not required. Should two or more quotations be used from the same source, the author and year must be given orally only for the first piece of evidence from that source. Subsequently, only the author's name is required. Oral citations do not substitute for the written source citation. The full written citation must be provided if requested by an opponent or judge.
1. Challenging Evidence: It shall be the responsibility of the opponent(s) only to challenge the opposition for the falsification or fabrication of evidence.
 - a) Indictments or protests of the validity of evidence shall be made on substantive grounds.
 - b) The challenger must have either the original source or a copy of the source being sited, or
 - c) The challenger must demonstrate that reasonable search has not been able to locate the source. (Such as copies of relevant pages in "Books in Print," "Readers Guide," "P.A.I.S.," etc.)
 2. Procedure of Challenge:
 - a) The challenge must occur during the round.
 - b) The judge(s) shall make note of the challenge with the round continuing. If evidence is taken from a "handbook" and better evidence is provided the judge(s) shall weigh in the regular decision.
 - c) Entrants shall report to the Tournament manager along with school directors. The manager shall hear the evidence then if needed convene the grievance committee.
 - d) If challenge is upheld the entrant(s) challenged shall be disqualified from the Tournament and lose that round with no other ballots from previous rounds being altered.
 - i. Should a disqualification occur at a District Tournament in Rounds 1, 2 or 3 a fill team, if available, shall be required to provide an entry to complete the preliminary rounds. If a disqualification should occur at the State Tournament the disqualified team shall forfeit all remaining rounds.
 - ii. Should the disqualification occur in an elimination round, the challenger(s) shall advance to the next round.
- G. Non-Internet connected computers, electronic storage, retrieval devices, etc., shall be allowed in rounds of Policy, Lincoln-Douglas and Public Forum Debate. Connectivity to any person, machine, device, server outside the competition room, wired and/or wireless networks is strictly prohibited during all rounds. Other prohibited devices include cell phones and personal digital assistants.
- H. A violation of any rule/regulation for this event will result in disqualification from the event. Any official protest of a disqualification shall be directed to and ruled upon by the Tournament grievance committee who has the authority to overturn a disqualification.