

**DEBATE &  
INDIVIDUAL EVENTS  
HANDBOOK  
2023-24**

**South Dakota  
High School Activities Association**

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*Review information in the General Speech Handbook for regulations pertaining to all speech events.*

## DEBATE & INDIVIDUAL EVENTS GENERAL INFORMATION

### IMPORTANT DATES

	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
<b>First Practice</b>	Not Restricted	Not Restricted	Not Restricted
<b>First Allowable Competition</b> (Monday Week 18)	October 30	November 4	November 3
<b>Intent to Participate Form (SP-7) due</b>	January 20	January 20	January 20
<b>Class “AA” &amp; “A” State Tournament Forms</b> (Tues. Week 35) <u>Online Form due*</u>	<b>Feb. 27</b>	<b>March 4</b>	<b>March 3</b>
<b>Class “AA” &amp; “A” State Tournament</b> (Friday –Saturday, Week 35)	March 1-2 Watertown	March 7-8 Brookings	March 6-7 Aberdeen

**\*NOTE: LATE ENTRY FEE – ONLINE entries electronically submitted after the deadline will be assessed a \$50.00 late entry fee.**

**ORIGINAL ORATORY MANUSCRIPTS.** A copy of all original orations that are listed as entries and reserved entries for the state tournament do not need to be submitted to the SDHSAA but must be immediately available for review at the tournament if requested.

### MANDATORY DEBATE & INDIVIDUAL EVENTS RULES MEETING DATES:

**Approximate date available online** – August 15, 2023

**Date to be completed** – October 1, 2023

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**A. No participation fees will be charged to schools participating in the State Debate Tournament.**

#### **B. CONTEST LIMITATION FOR STUDENTS.**

- A. SDHSAA “Debate Regulations” establish a 12-contest limitation for students during the Debate & Individual Events season: **“Exclusive of the SDHSAA State Debate & Individual Events Tournament and the National Speech & Debate Association district tournament, a student may compete in no more than 12 state sanctioned debate competitions and no more than 12 state sanctioned IE competitions in a season. Each school will be required to certify compliance with this regulation when entering students for the State Tournament.”**
- B. The “12 Contest Limitation” applies to all students who compete in either debate and/or individual events during the “debate” season.

**C. CONTESTS HELD DURING N.S.D.A. QUALIFIER TOURNAMENTS.** During the two weekends when the South Dakota NSDA Districts hold their district qualifier tournaments, only schools that are members of the district can enter a forensics tournament. Specifically, during the weekend of the Northern Tournament, only Northern NSDA schools can compete in forensics competition and only in their own district tournament. During the weekend of the Rushmore Tournament, only Rushmore NSDA schools can compete in forensics competition and only in their own district tournament. (**NOTE:** This rule also applies to Oral Interpretation competition that occurs during the forensics season following the State Oral Interpretation Festival.) An exception to this policy exists whereby SDHSAA member schools that are members of the Nebraska/Wyoming NSDA District can compete in one out-of-state forensic tournament during the weekends of the South Dakota NSDA district tournaments.

**D. IN-SEASON PARTICIPATION RULE.** Once a student reports for the school’s Debate & Individual Events (Forensics) squad, the student can compete only at tournaments and contests as a representative of his/her own school’s team. Participation on a “club” or non-school sponsored team or unattached, or as an individual is not permissible during the SDHSAA Debate season. However, a student can participate as an individual, not affiliated with a school in scholarship competitions during the SDHSAA Debate season. Students can participate on club debate teams outside of the SDHSAA Debate season at the discretion of their school’s administration.

**E. SDHSAA INTERSTATE SPEECH COMPETITION SANCTION POLICY.** Speech contests and tournaments that are held in other states during the school year must secure interstate sanctioning before SDHSAA member schools participate.

#### **1. SANCTION REQUIREMENT FOR SPEECH COMPETITION.**

- a. No competition will be held on Sunday.

- b. Each school entered in the competition guarantees its membership is in good standing in its own state high school association.
- c. Each participant shall be eligible under the rules of his or her home state association.
- d. Awards shall be limited to those permitted by the state association with the most restrictive award rule.

2. **SANCTIONING OF BORDERING STATE COMPETITION.** In January 2000, the SDHSAA Board of Directors determined that competition that is held in states bordering South Dakota is **sanctioned** and no sanction form is required provided the competition is held within 300 miles of the South Dakota state border. **\*\*\*\*This rule only applies for physical travel and not digital competitions. Other sanctioning and rules apply such as no Sunday competition.**

3. **300 MILE OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL RESTRICTION.** During the school year speech and debate contestants representing SDHSAA member schools must follow a 300-mile limitation (starting at the South Dakota border) when attending speech contests and tournaments held out-of-state.

**300 Mile Exception:** SDHSAA member schools are limited to one (1) interstate meet or tournament per year that exceeds 300 one-way miles from the South Dakota State border. If the competition is in a non-bordering state, the competition must receive interstate sanction from the SDHSAA. All Sanction requirements including the “No Sunday Competition” and the “No Interstate Competition on NSDA Qualifier Tournament Weekends” must be followed.

4. **COMPETITION DURING SUMMER MONTHS.** During the summer vacation period; there is no mileage restriction. Each SDHSAA member school shall decide whether their speech group(s) shall be allowed to travel during the summer vacation period.

**F. INTERSTATE SANCTION DENIAL.** All interstate sanctions for forensics contests scheduled to be held at the same time as the State Debate & Individual Events Tournament shall be denied.

**G. SCHOOLS MAY ENTER ONLY INDIVIDUAL EVENTS.** Students may be entered in speaking events without involvement in debate. Students may be double entered in individual events, but can not be double entered in both extemporaneous speaking events.

**H. STATE TOURNAMENT FORMAT**

1. SDHSAA member schools with A.D.M. enrollments of 625 and above will compete in the Class “AA” State Tournament. Each “AA” school may enter up to two entries in each of the following events: Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Public Forum Debate, Original Oratory, Informative and U.S. or Foreign Extemporaneous.
2. Class “A” schools are all schools with A.D.M. enrollments below 624.999. Class “A” schools may enter up to two entries in each of the following events: Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Public Forum Debate, Original Oratory, Informative, and U.S. or Foreign Extemporaneous.

**I. STATE DEBATE AND INDIVIDUAL EVENTS TOURNAMENT SCHOOL CLASSIFICATIONS.**

**Class “AA” Schools**

Aberdeen Central	Harrisburg	Pierre T.F. Riggs	SF Lincoln	Watertown
Brandon Valley	Huron	RC Central	SF Roosevelt	Yankton
Brookings	Mitchell	RC Stevens	SF Washington	
Douglas	O’Gorman	SF Jefferson	Sturgis Brown	

**Class “A” Schools**

Class “A” includes all schools other than those classified as “AA” that participate in debate or individual events.

**J. STATE TOURNAMENT PUBLIC FORUM DEBATE PROPOSITION.** The Public Forum topic to be debated at the State Tournament will be the February topic announced on or before January 1<sup>st</sup> by the National Speech & Debate Association. The topic will be announced on the NSDA website (www.speechanddebate.org).

**K. STATE TOURNAMENT LINCOLN-DOUGLAS PROPOSITION.** The Lincoln-Douglas resolution to be used for the State Tournament shall be the proposition released by the National Speech & Debate Association for use in January/February.

**L. STATE TOURNAMENT DRESS POLICY FOR AWARDS.** Students receiving awards at the State Tournament are encouraged to wear “Competition Appropriate” clothing.

**M. STATE DEBATE & INDIVIDUAL EVENTS TOURNAMENT ROTATION AND TIME SCHEDULE.** Listed below is information about the rotation and the future dates and sites for the State Debate & Individual Events Tournament.

**This is subject to change and is not final until contracts are approved by the SDHSAA Board of Directors.** The anticipated time schedule for this year’s State Debate & Individual Events Tournament is on the next page.

# STATE DEBATE & INDIVIDUAL EVENTS TOURNAMENT ROTATION FOR FUTURE DATES AND SITES

## HOSTING COMMUNITIES:

Aberdeen	Yankton	Huron	Harrisburg
Mitchell	Watertown	Brookings	Sioux Falls O’Gorman

## FUTURE DATES & SITES (Standard Calendar Week 35):

2023-24	Watertown	March 1-2, 2024
2024-25	Brookings	March 7-8, 2025
2025-26	Aberdeen	March 6-7, 2026

**NOTE:** All students participating at the State Debate and Individual Events Tournament shall be accompanied by qualified staff personnel or will be prohibited from participating.

# STATE DEBATE & INDIVIDUAL EVENTS TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

March 1-2, 2024

Watertown High School, Watertown, South Dakota

## Friday, March 1

7:30	Registration Opens
<b>7:45 a.m.</b>	<b>SDHSAA Judges Breakfast Meeting (SDHSAA hired judges only)</b>
8:30	Lincoln-Douglas Debate: Round 1
9:30	Lincoln-Douglas Debate: Round 2
10:30	Lincoln-Douglas Debate: Round 3
12:00 p.m.	Extemp Draw: Round 1
	Original Oratory & Informative Speaking: Round 1
12:30	Extemp Speak: Round 1
1:30	Extemp Draw: Round 2
2:00	Original Oratory & Informative Speaking: Round 2
	Extemp Speak: Round 2
3:00	Extemp Draw: Round 3 (for any division that had at a minimum 19 entries)
3:30	Original Oratory & Informative Speaking: Round 3 (for any division that had at a minimum 19 entries)
	Extemp Speak: Round 3
4:30	Lincoln-Douglas Debate: Round 4 (for any division that had at a minimum of 16 entries)
<b>5:30</b>	<b>Meeting of Evening Session Public Forum Debate Judges</b>
6:15	Lincoln-Douglas Debate: Round 5 (for any division that had at a minimum of 16 entries)
	Public Forum Debate: Round 1
7:30	Public Forum Debate: Round 2
8:30	Public Forum Debate: Round 3

## Saturday, March 2

*(Judge strikes will take place 15 minutes prior to the start of the semi-final rounds in LD)*

<b>7:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Meeting of Morning Session Public Forum Debate Judges</b>
8:30	Lincoln-Douglas Debate: Octo-Finals (if needed)
	Public Forum Debate: Round 4 (for any division that had at a minimum of 16 entries)
10:00	Public Forum Debate: Round 5 (for any division that had at a minimum of 16 entries)
	Lincoln-Douglas Debate: Quarter-Finals
11:30	Public Forum Debate: Octo-Finals (if needed)
	Lincoln-Douglas Debate: Semi-Finals
1:00	Public Forum Debate: Quarter-Finals
	Lincoln-Douglas Debate: Finals
2:00	Extemp Draw: Finals
2:30	Original Oratory & Informative Speaking: Finals
	Extemp Speak: Finals
3:30	Public Forum Debate: Semi-Finals
4:30	Public Forum Debate: Finals
5:45	State Debate & Individual Events Tournament Awards Presentation

**\*Rounds will not begin before their scheduled times.**

# CONTEST REGULATIONS FOR DEBATE & INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

## CHAPTER 1 – GENERAL STATE DEBATE & INDIVIDUAL EVENTS REGULATIONS

### ARTICLE I-STATE DEBATE & INDIVIDUAL EVENTS TOURNAMENT MANAGEMENT AND CONTEST EVENTS

**Section 1. MANAGEMENT OF STATE TOURNAMENT.** Management of the state tournament is the responsibility of the SDHSAA Assistant Executive Director in charge of speech activities with the assistance of the Speech Advisory Committee members present at the state tournament. The Committee shall have the power to meet all unforeseen emergencies at the State Tournament.

**Section 2. STATE TOURNAMENT ENTRY SUBMISSION.** Schools entering the State Tournament **MUST** be registered online by Tuesday of Standard Calendar Week 35. **Schools whose entry form is not electronically submitted on or before the submission deadline will be penalized by paying a \$50.00 late fee.**

#### **Section 3. STATE TOURNAMENT CONTEST EVENTS.**

##### **A. Debate Events.**

1. Lincoln-Douglas Debate
2. Public Forum Debate

##### **B. Speech Individual Events.**

1. Extemporaneous Speaking. Extemporaneous Speaking at the State Tournament will be divided into two contest types:
  - a. United States Extemp with topics dealing with domestic issues.
  - b. International Extemp with topics of an international nature.
2. Original Oratory
3. Informative Speaking

#### **Section 4. ENTRY LIMITS FOR STATE TOURNAMENT.**

Students are not allowed to enter into two debate events at the State Debate Tournament.

##### **A. LINCOLN-DOUGLAS AND PUBLIC FORUM DEBATE.** Each school entering the Tournament may enter:

1. Lincoln-Douglas - one or two debaters
2. Public Forum - one or two teams. (A team consists of two speakers.)

##### **B. EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING.** A school shall be entitled to enter one or two contestants in each Extemporaneous Speaking event:

1. United States Extemp
2. International Extemp

**NOTE: No student is allowed to enter both Extemporaneous Speaking contest divisions at the State Tournament in the same contest year.**

**C. ORIGINAL ORATORY.** Each school may enter one or two Original Oratory contestants. Students are allowed to double enter in one extemp event or informative speaking and original oratory. No student may enter in more than two individual events.

**D. INFORMATIVE SPEAKING.** Each school may enter one or two Informative contestants. Students are allowed to double enter in one extemp event or original oratory. No student may enter in more than two individual events.

**Section 5. WITHDRAWAL FROM CONTEST NOTIFICATION AND PENALTIES.** If a school finds it necessary to withdraw from the State Tournament after filing an “Intent to Participate” Form, such school shall notify the SDHSAA of its withdrawal **by February 21**. If a school is unable to give notice of withdrawal before the deadline due to weather conditions, the illness of contestants or some other act of God, a report should be filed with the SDHSAA as soon as possible. The report should provide an explanation of the circumstances for not notifying the SDHSAA of withdrawal from the Tournament.

**Section 6. FINANCING THE STATE TOURNAMENT.** The SDHSAA shall provide the financing for the State Tournament administrative expenses (including a limited number of SDHSAA hired judges). Each participating school is to provide its own meals, lodging, transportation, incidental expenses and required judges.

**Section 7. ETHICAL BEHAVIOR, SCOUTING OPPOSING SCHOOLS, AND AUDIENCE CONDUCT DURING ROUNDS.** Scouting of opposing teams or debaters during the tournament is considered highly unethical. It is also considered unethical conduct for any member of the audience or other participants to distract a speaker.

While an audience is always encouraged, members of an audience observing a debate during the State Tournament **shall not** be allowed to take notes. Observers may not use electronic devices during the round. Observers may only observe competition involving teams from their own school until such time as their school is eliminated from competition and then they may observe any round. **NOTE: No debater/team still competing in the tournament can observe another debate in their event until they are eliminated from competition in the event.**

Observers who exhibit distracting behavior during a round may be asked to leave the round by the judge(s).

**Section 8. VIDEO TAPING, AUDIO RECORDING AND FLASH PICTURES.** Except at the direction of the contest management and the use of flash cameras during a State Tournament round are prohibited.

**Section 9. PROCEDURE TO FOLLOW IN THE EVENT OF A PROTEST. (Adopted: June, 2010)**  
*Complete all of the following within 20 minutes*

- Listen to Protest
- Search Debate and Individual Events rules for relevant information including potential penalties
- Consult judges
- Inform other affected coach/coaches that a complaint has been received and get relevant information
- Make decision
- Announce decision to coaches involved
- Inform coaches that a written protest must be made within 24 hours

If there is judge conflict following a debate round at the state tournament the ballot will be thrown out. If this results in a tie, both teams will be awarded a win for the round. The conflict would have to be known to the committee prior to the round finishing.

## **ARTICLE II – CONTESTANTS**

### **Section 1. STUDENT ELIGIBILITY.**

- A. Students entered in invitational forensic contests, the National Speech & Debate District Tournament or the State Debate & Individual Events Tournament must meet all SDHSAA eligibility regulations.
- B. Students in grades 7 through 12 may participate in the SDHSAA State Debate & Individual Events Tournament.

**Section 2. IN-SEASON PARTICIPATION RULE.** Once a student reports for the school's Debate & Individual Events (Forensics) squad, the student can compete only at tournaments and contests as a representative of his/her own school's team. Participation on a "club" or non-school sponsored team or unattached, or as an individual is not permissible during the SDHSAA Debate season. However, a student can participate as an individual, not affiliated with a school in scholarship competitions during the SDHSAA Debate season. Students can participate on club debate teams outside of the SDHSAA Debate season at the discretion of their school's administration.

**Section 3.** Students and teams in the State Tournament will be recognized by school name and team name.

## **ARTICLE III - STATE DEBATE & INDIVIDUAL EVENTS TOURNAMENT AWARDS POLICY**

### **Section 1. SCHOOL AWARDS FOR THE DEBATE EVENTS.**

- A. Championship and Runner-up plaques will be presented to the schools of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place Class "AA" and Class "A" Lincoln-Douglas debaters and Public Forum Debate teams.
- B. Semi-finalist plaques will be presented to the school of each team/debater eliminated in the Semi-Final round.

### **Section 2. INDIVIDUAL STUDENT AWARDS FOR THE DEBATE EVENTS.**

- A. Individual trophies will be presented to the members of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place Class "AA" and Class "A" Lincoln-Douglas debaters and Public Forum teams.
- B. Bronze medals will be presented to the members of the semi-final Lincoln-Douglas debaters, and Public Forum teams.
- C. Antique Bronze medals will be presented to the members of each team/debater losing in the quarter-final round.
- D. Antique Bronze medal shall be presented to the members of each team/debater losing in the octofinal round.

### **Section 3. AWARDS FOR STATE INDIVIDUAL EVENTS CONTESTS.**

- A. Individual trophies shall be presented to the Class "AA" and Class "A" 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place speakers in each of the Extemporaneous Speaking events, Original Oratory and in Informative Speaking.
- B. Antique Bronze medals shall be presented to the individuals placing 4th through 6th in the final round of each Extemporaneous Speaking event, Original Oratory and in Informative Speaking.

### **Section 4. SDHSAA STATE TOURNAMENT SWEEPSTAKES AWARDS**

- A. Championship and Runner-up Team trophies will be presented to the 1st and 2nd place sweepstakes teams in Class "AA" and Class "A". A 3<sup>rd</sup> place sweepstakes plaque will be awarded for class "AA" and class "A" as well.
- B. Sweepstakes points will be awarded for all entries from each school in each of the State Debate & Individual Events Tournament contests (Original Oratory, Informative Speaking, United States Extemp, International Extemp, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, and Public Forum Debate).

C. Sweepstakes points will be calculated based the following points system:

1. State L-D & Public Forum Debate

Each win = 6 points

Each loss = 3 points

2. Individual Events (prelim rounds)

1st place = 6 points

2nd place = 5 points

3rd place = 4 points

4th place = 3 points

5th place = 2 points

6th place or lower = 1 point

3. Individual Events (Final Rounds)

1st place = 12 points

2nd place = 10 points

3rd place = 8 points

4th place = 6 points

5th place = 4 points

6th place or lower = 2 points

D. Calculating Sweepstakes Placings

Due to not knowing how many rounds will occur each year based on entries and in order to ensure a balance between Debate and Individual events, the following sweepstakes calculations will be used:

1. Each teams' total sweepstakes earned in the Individual Events (Domestic Extemp, International Extemp, Original Oratory, Informative Speaking) will be added together. This total will then be divided by the total sweepstakes points that could potentially be earned. For example, in 2020, the most a team could have earned was 138 points. SF Washington earned 79 points, for a percentage earned of 57.25 out of 100.
2. Each teams' total sweepstakes earned in the Debate Events (Public Forum Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate) will be added together. This total will then be divided by the total sweepstakes points that could potentially be earned. Example, in 2020, the most a team could have earned was 207 points. SF Washington earned 114 points, for a percentage earned of 55.07 out of 100.
3. The two percentages earned will be added together for a total score. In the examples above with SF Washington, their total would have been 112.32 out of 200. The top three teams in Class AA and in Class A will be awarded 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place trophies.
4. Sweepstakes tie breakers are:
  - a. The largest number of State Champions
  - b. The largest number of 2nd place recipients
  - c. The largest number of 3rd place recipients

**Section 5. SDHSAA STATE TOURNAMENT AWARDS POLICY.** During the State Tournament, no awards will be given out prior to the official Awards Presentation session. Schools finding it necessary to leave the tournament prior to the awards session will need to make arrangements to pick up their awards at the SDHSAA office in Pierre.

## CHAPTER 2 – STATE TOURNAMENT POLICIES REGARDING JUDGES AND JUDGING

### ARTICLE I-JUDGE NEEDS AND CRITERIA TO JUDGE

**Section 1. PHILOSOPHY FOR ASSIGNING JUDGES.** The philosophy being used in assigning judges is to use three judge panels for all rounds in both the Class “AA” and Class “A” Tournaments. The debate Championship rounds will use five judges.

A. **Lincoln-Douglas Exception:** Rounds I, II and III of Lincoln-Douglas Debate will be preset using three judge panels. To achieve three judge panels, judges may be piggy-backed to judge flights “A” and “B” in some preliminary rounds. However, the Committee has the discretion to use single judge panels in the preliminary rounds (Rounds I – III) if necessary. Three judge panels must be used in quarter-finals and semi-finals. Five judge panels will be used in the Championship rounds.



## **Section 2. CRITERIA FOR JUDGES.**

- A. All State L-D Debate Judges must meet the requirement of having judged Lincoln Douglas Debate at two tournaments at the JV level or higher.
- B. Assistant coaches, hired, or volunteers, who judge at the State Tournament shall have graduated from high school at least two years prior to the current school year.
- C. It is desirable for schools to utilize competent lay judges (non-coach) for Public Forum Debate.
- D. All judges hired by the SDHSAA must complete the NFHS online course, "Adjudicating Speech and Debate", every three years.
- E. All judges and coaches judging Lincoln Douglas debate must have a paradigm completed on Tabroom.com specific to LD one week prior to the state tournament. If a judge fails to fill out a paradigm, doing so counts as a missed round and the school who hired the judge will be fined \$75
- F. At least 24 hours before the tournament, SDHSAA will release the names of all judges listed to judge at the state tournament.

## **Section 3. STATE TOURNAMENT SCHOOL OBLIGATION JUDGE POLICY.**

A. **Debate Judges:** Schools are allowed to enter up to 4 total combined Lincoln Douglas debaters, and Public Forum teams with no more than two entrants in any event. In order to provide 3-judge panels, schools will be expected to meet the judge requirements listed below:

- 1. Each school that enter(s) (a) LD debater(s) must provide one judge for each LD debater entered who is available to judge all LD. \*Note teams that provide more judges than needed results in fewer rounds for those judges.
- 2. 1 to 2 Public Forum teams: a team must provide 1 person who can judge public forum and list them on tournament registration and cannot be the same person as the LD judge.
- 3. Individual Events
  - a. 7-8 entries=3 judges (can be the same as debate judges)
  - b. 4-6 entries = 2 judges (can be the same as debate judges)
  - c. 3 or fewer entries = 1 judge
- 5. Coaches Judging Obligations:
  - a. Head debate coaches are expected to judge in all preliminary debate events, but will be excused from the judging pool if their students are competing past the preliminary rounds, or if their school has provided 2 additional judges over the requirements listed in subsection 1, 2, and 3. Unless their team is competing in the final round, all head coaches are required to be available to judge if needed in the final round.
  - b. The State Tournament Committee may move judges across events as the situation warrants. If a judge was originally listed in Public Forum and was moved over into the LD pool, there is no fine if that judge does not have a paradigm on Tabroom.
  - c. Debate judges should also be competent to judge Individual Events.
  - d. **All head and assistant coaches are expected to judge all events** in which their school has entries.
  - e. Head coaches must register online for all events that they have students entered in.

B. All judges (both school-provided and those employed by the SDHSAA) are expected to remain available for the duration of the tournament

C. **Additional Public Forum Debate Judges:** The securing of additional Public Forum lay judges will be the responsibility of the school hosting the state tournament, and the South Dakota High School Activities Association. Volunteer community judges shall not judge the host school competitors in public forum.

## **ARTICLE II- JUDGING INSTRUCTIONS AND STATE TOURNAMENT BALLOTS**

**Section 1. JUDGE INSTRUCTION SHEET AND BALLOTS USED.** In State Tournament debate and related forensic individual events, each judge shall be provided with an instruction sheet that contains the points he/she should consider to arrive at a decision.

- A. Public Forum Debate judges, in addition to the instruction sheet containing the points that should be considered in arriving at a decision, will be provided with a sample ballot.
- B. The ballot for each of the individual events will include the judging instructions for the contest event. The judges are not expected to prepare written notes or a critique of any of the speeches.
- C. **NO ORAL COMMENTS.** Judges will give no oral comments during or after any debates or round of individual events.

## Section 2. INSTRUCTIONS FOR JUDGES.

**A. Public Forum Debate Judge Instructions:** In arriving at a decision, the Public Forum judge shall consider the following points:

1. **Analysis:** The ability to select, interpret, and explain the most important issues in the topic.
2. **Evidence:** Supporting arguments with facts and expert opinions.
3. **Reasoning:** The ability of the teams to reason logically, conclusively, and persuasively toward definite and valid conclusions.
4. **Crossfire:** Asking civil, relevant, brief questions to clarify the issues, support one's own case, and refute the opponent.
5. **Rebuttal:** Effectively countering the arguments of the opponent.
6. **Delivery:** Speaking persuasively in a pleasant, understandable style.

### **B. Extemporaneous Speaking Judge Instructions**

1. A judge shall render a decision on the basis of the effectiveness with which a speaker handles his/her particular topic. The relative merits of the topics are not to be considered.
2. Each speaker shall be graded on his or her relative effectiveness as compared to other contestants. On the discussion proper, the speakers shall be graded between 75 percent and 100 percent. The poorest speaker should receive no less than 75 percent and the best speaker should receive no more than 100 percent. No two speakers are to be given the same final percentages.
3. In ranking contestants in extemporaneous speaking, the judges shall rank the contestants 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and shall rank all other contestants 6.
4. As a basis for judging the effectiveness of extemporaneous speaking, the judges are required to observe chiefly the following points:
  - a. Ability to answer the question.
  - b. Organizing and outlining the material.
  - c. Originality of treatment.
  - d. Degree of conversational quality.
  - e. Effective use of voice and action in delivery.
  - f. Diction.
  - g. Making audience contact.

### **C. Original Oratory and Informative Speaking Judge Instructions**

1. The decision of the judges shall be based upon these two factors:
  - a. **Composition of the speech.** In judging the composition of the orations, the judge shall consider the originality of the composition, the style, the structure, and any other factors that he/she deems pertinent.
  - b. **Presentation of the speech.** In judging the presentation of the oration, the judge shall consider the speaker's sincerity, poise, and audience contact; his/her control and effective use of the voice; his/her bodily action; and his/her application of all other principles necessary to a proper presentation of the oration.
  - c. Only Informative is allowed to use visual aids. Students may or may not use visual aids within their Informative speech. If used, the student is expected to set up visual aids in an expedient manner. Students cannot use electronic equipment or any banned material (guns, controlled substances, etc.) as a visual aid, nor can they use live animals or another person. Visual aids should contribute to the audience's understanding, emphasize information, and provide a creative outlet that augments the content of the Informative speech. If a student has included a visual aid that is justified and interesting, then they likely have effectively incorporated a visual aid into their speech. Visual aids should be a very small part in considering ranking of students.
2. Each of the foregoing factors, composition and presentation, shall count 50 percent toward the final ranking of the oration. The poorest speaker should receive no less than 75 percent and the best speaker should receive no more than 100 percent. **No two speakers are to be given the same final percentage.**
3. In ranking the contestants in original oratory, the judges shall rank the top contestant 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and shall rank all other contestants 6.

## ARTICLE III- CHARACTER OF JUDGES AND RESPONSIBILITY TO MEET ASSIGNMENTS

### Section 1. EXPECTATIONS, CONDUCT & INTEGRITY OF JUDGES.

A. Judges employed by the SDHSAA for the State Tournament will be expected to maintain the highest standards of ethical conduct, integrity and behavior before, during and immediately following the State Tournament. The

conduct and actions of a judge will not impair or prejudice their effectiveness as a judge. Such standards of conduct would include:

1. Making decisions based upon the rules for the debate or individual events contest being judged.
  2. Avoiding judging situations in which the judge could have a conflict of interest.
  3. Judges shall arrive at their decisions independently from other judges and individuals.
  4. Judges shall not consult with one another until their ballots are submitted to the contest management.
  5. Judges shall direct any questions regarding contest procedure or interpretation of contest regulations to the committee conducting the State Tournament.
  6. Judges shall not fraternize with any of the tournament contestants or give oral critiques or suggestions to speakers or teams.
  7. Judges will be expected to dress in a professional manner befitting the occasion (Non-appropriate attire includes jeans, shorts and t-shirts).
  8. Judges will be expected to report to all assigned rounds mentally alert and capable of listening to the round and making a sound judgment.
- B. Following investigation of an alleged violation of the “Ethical Conduct Standards” (*as listed above*), if a judge has been found to have violated the ethical standards of the tournament, the judge could be denied part of his/her financial reimbursement or if the offense is deemed of a sufficiently serious nature, the judge could be suspended from the tournament.

### **Section 2. JUDGES MISSING ASSIGNED ROUNDS.**

- A. If a school’s head coach, assistant coach or provided judge should miss an assigned round of debate or individual events during the State Tournament, their school will be assessed a \$75.00 fine for each round missed.
- B. Judges hired by the SDHSAA that miss an assigned round will be assessed a \$75.00 fee per round missed.

## **CHAPTER 3 – STATE TOURNAMENT POLICIES REGARDING DEBATE EVENTS**

### **ARTICLE I-GENERAL REGULATIONS GOVERNING DEBATE**

- Section 1. UNPRINTED LETTERS ARE BARRED FROM DEBATE.** In Lincoln-Douglas Debate and Public Forum, no speaker shall introduce into the debate the testimony of authorities, letters or written matter from experts, which has not appeared in print.
- Section 2. COACHING DURING DEBATE FORBIDDEN.** The debaters shall be separated from the audience and shall receive no coaching while the debate is in progress.
- Section 3. TOURNAMENT TIMEKEEPERS.** In the State Tournament, one judge shall be appointed to serve as timekeeper.
- Section 4. DEBATE PREP TIME.** Each team/debater will be allowed prep time between constructive arguments, cross-examination and rebuttal arguments. The total prep time allowed will be that established by the National Speech & Debate Association. **NOTE:** The allowable prep time is the total time for each side to use during the debate. If a team/debater uses more than a total of their allowable prep time, the excess time comes off the allotted time for that team’s/debater’s next speech.)
- Section 5. TIME LOST THROUGH INTERRUPTION.** Time lost through interruption, if unavoidable, shall be made good to the speaker.
- Section 6. NEW ISSUES IN REBUTTAL.** New issues cannot be introduced in rebuttal speeches.
- Section 7. FORFEITURE RULE.** There will be a 15 minute forfeiture rule for all rounds.
- Section 8. ROUNDS THAT ARE FORFEITED.** In a situation where a forfeit occurs, the forfeit will not be considered a bye, the win would be recorded and the team would be eligible for a bye later in the tournament.

### **ARTICLE II- REGULATIONS GOVERNING LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATE SPEECHES AND STATE TOURNAMENT TOPIC**

**Section 1. ORDER AND LENGTH OF LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATES.** All Lincoln-Douglas debates will observe the following format:

Affirmative Constructive Speech	6 min.	Affirmative Rebuttal Speech	4 min.
Negative Cross-Examination of Affirmative	3 min.	Negative Rebuttal Speech	6 min
Negative Constructive Speech	7 min.	Affirmative Rebuttal Speech	3 min.
Affirmative Cross-Examination of Negative	3 min.		

**Section 2. STATE TOURNAMENT DEBATE TOPIC.** The debate resolution to be used during the State Tournament shall be the one used for the January and February invitational tournaments taken from the NSDA.

### ARTICLE III-REGULATIONS GOVERNING PUBLIC FORUM DEBATE SPEECHES

**Section 1. TYPE OF DEBATE.** The rules and customs of Public Forum Debate may be found at the NSDA website: [www.speechanddebate.org](http://www.speechanddebate.org).

**Section 2. PUBLIC FORUM DEBATE TOPIC.** The topic to be debated at the State Tournament will be the February topic that is used for the February invitational tournaments. The topic that will be debated will be announced on the NSDA by January 1.

**Section 3. DETERMINING SIDES & SPEAKER ORDER. (COIN FLIP)** The contest begins with a coin flip. The winner of the coin flip has one of three choices:

- A. Choose a side (Pro or Con) to advocate.
- B. Plan to begin the debate as 1st speaker or go second.
- C. Defer the first choice to the opposing team.

If the winner of the coin toss chooses side or speaker order, the other team gets the remaining choice.

#### Section 4. TYPE, LENGTH (TIME LIMITS) & ORDER OF SPEECHES.

Team A 1 <sup>st</sup> speaker	4 min	A1 summary	3 min
Team B 1 <sup>st</sup> speaker	4 min	B1 summary	3 min
Crossfire between A1 & B1	3 min	Grand Crossfire (All speakers)	3 min
Team A 2nd speaker	4 min		
Team B 2nd speaker	4 min	A2 final focus	2 min
Crossfire between A2 & B2	3 min	B2 final focus	2 min

### ARTICLE IV-STATE TOURNAMENT ELIMINATION and PAIRING SYSTEM DIRECTIONS FOR ELIMINATION and PAIRING ROUNDS

*These directions will be followed in pairing Lincoln-Douglas, and Public Forum Debate*

**Section 1. PRELIMINARY ROUNDS “OPEN EVENT” PAIRING CRITERIA.** If there are fewer than 6 teams/debaters in a debate division, the first three rounds of competition in that division will be an “Open Event” with rounds between the two classes. If “open event” pairing is necessary, the pairing philosophy will be to preserve as many rounds within each school’s own class as possible. Therefore, the first two rounds will be paired within class (i.e., Class “AA” against Class “AA” and Class “A” against Class “A”) the third round will be randomly paired.

**Section 2. PAIRING ROUNDS I, II, AND III for Double Elimination when there are fewer than 15 entries in that division and event.**

- A. Prior to the State Tournament, the SDHSAA shall randomly pre-draw the pairings for the first three rounds of debate. Each team/debater is guaranteed one affirmative and one negative round over the three preliminary rounds, with the exception of Public Forum which will conduct a coin flip to determine the sides.
- B. A team shall not debate its own counterpart, nor may schools debate each other twice in the same round. (See “Conflict Criteria” below.)
- C. **Conflict Criteria:** In Rounds I, II and III, teams will be paired to avoid conflicts.
  1. The meeting of two teams from the same school.
  2. The meeting of two teams which have met previously.
  3. The meeting of two schools which have met previously.
  4. Schools debating each other twice in the same round.
- D. If it is not possible to pair the tournament, the conflicts may be waived in ascending order.
  - A. General Rule on Choosing Sides and Speaker Order: In LD Debate, each debater will be guaranteed one affirmative and one negative round in the preliminary rounds. In Public Forum, a coin flip is standard operating procedure at the beginning of each round, regardless of how many times teams and schools may meet during the tournament.

**Section 3. PAIRING ROUNDS I, II, III, IV, AND V when there are 16 or more entries in that division and event.**

A. Pairing Presets (Rounds 1-3)

Preset rounds are sections with the following priorities in order:

1. Avoid two entries from the same school debating each other
2. Avoid entries debating each other more than once

3. Avoid any entry in LD debating on the same side of the topic more than twice
4. Avoid any entry drawing a bye (due to uneven numbers) more than once
5. Avoid any entry debating more than one opponent from the same school
6. Avoid any school drawing a bye (due to uneven numbers) more than once

B. Pairing Power-matched Rounds IV & V

After round 3, entries will be seeded using the following formula:

1. Total Win Count
2. Total Ballot Count
3. Opponent's Average Wins
4. Opponent's Average Ballot Count
5. Points from all rounds
6. Opponent's average points from all rounds
7. Coinflip

C. Debates will be assigned in brackets. All entries with the same win count are grouped in the same bracket. Pull ups begin with the top bracket (the most wins). In a non-side-locked round, which is all rounds in PF and odd numbered rounds in LD, pull ups are required either if numbers are uneven or there is no way to avoid scheduling a debate between entries from the same school or entries that have previously debated. In side-locked (even rounds in LD), pull ups are also required if the number of teams due to debate affirmative is not equal to the number due to debate negative. Until these conditions are met, pull up an entry or entries from the brackets below according to the following priorities in order:

1. Pull entries up only if they are due to debate the short side in a side-locked round
2. The pull up should not force a debate between entries in the same school.
3. The pull up should not force a debate between entries that have previously debated.
4. The pull up should come from the nearest bracket possible.
5. The pull up should be the highest seed in that bracket it is being pulled from.

Do not avoid pulling an entry up because they have been previously pulled up. Pull ups are re-seeded into their new bracket as they would be based on the tiebreakers other than win/loss. For example, if a pull up has the 10<sup>th</sup> most ballots out of the 12 entries in the bracket, they are given the 10<sup>th</sup> position despite having fewer wins. Repeat the pullup process for each division as needed.

D. Pairing

Once the bracket has an even number of entries, schedule entries using the tie-breakers listed above. Continue to pair within brackets until all entries are assigned an opponent or have received a bye.

**Section 4. PROCEDURES TO DETERMINE BYES:** All rounds that are randomly paired will use a random drawing for byes. Schools not having two entries in a debate event are not eligible for a bye in any pre-set rounds for that event.

A. Byes may occur in rounds 4 and 5 (described in section 3) or in elimination rounds due to the seeding of entries based on preliminary results as described in Section 5. Due to the seeding process, it is possible for a team that receives a bye in the preliminary rounds to receive a bye in the first elimination round. No more than one (1) bye can be given to a school throughout the preliminary rounds of the tournament.

B. A Bye will count as three ballots won for the team receiving the bye. A bye will not count in determining the strength of opposition when used in seeding.

**Section 5. ELIMINATION ROUNDS – Single Elimination**

A. Eliminate all teams with a losing record at the conclusion of the preliminary rounds.

B. Remaining teams will be seeded into an appropriate bracket as determined by the number of remaining teams. Options include an octo-final bracket for 9-16 teams remaining; a quarter-final bracket for 5-8 teams remaining; a semifinal bracket when four or fewer teams remain. The bracket will be viewable to head coaches in the tabulation room.

C. Teams will be seeded using the same seeding rules used for power matching as explained in Section 3. Teams will be placed in the appropriate bracket for the next round of competition. The highest seed will debate the lowest seed. In situations where an incomplete bracket exists, the top seeds will receive a bye to the next round. For example, if 13 teams break to the elimination round, the teams will be seeded into an octo-final bracket with seeds 1, 2, and 3 receiving a bye. Seed 4 would debate seed 13, seed 5 would debate seed 12, etc. First brackets will be released as they become available.

D. Brackets would be maintained throughout the elimination portion of the tournament with the exception of the occurrence where two teams from the same school would meet before the final round.

1. The SDHSAA committee would be required to adjust brackets with the lower of the two seeds moving up one position into a higher seed to avoid the conflict.
2. In the event the two teams from the same school are seeded next to each other, and the above adjustment would not work, the committee may move the lower seed down a position.
3. All elimination rounds would be flip for sides except where two teams had met in a preliminary round. The teams would then meet on the opposite sides (except in Public Forum where a coin flip will always determine a side).
4. It is possible for teams to meet in preliminary and elimination rounds before the final round.
5. The winner of the majority of ballots in each debate advances, while their opponent is eliminated.
6. **Semi-Final and Championship Round Judge Procedures:**
  - a. A judging panel of three judges is to be used in the semi-final round.
  - b. In L-D Debate: The committee will create a list of available judges from the judge pool of which a panel of five (in semifinal rounds) or seven (in the final round) judges with the fewest number of objections from the Criteria List below (sub-points 1-7) will be chosen at random. The coaches will be asked to agree on three. If, after three minutes, the coaches cannot agree, they may each strike one judge and the remaining three judges will be the panel.

**NOTE in Public Forum Debate:** Due to the nature of the judge pool, unlike Policy Debate or Lincoln-Douglas Debate, coaches do not have the option to strike judges during elimination rounds of Public Forum Debate.

## ARTICLE V – METHOD OF ASSIGNING JUDGES TO THE ROUNDS OF DEBATE AT THE STATE TOURNAMENT

**Section 1. JUDGE PAIRING CRITERIA.** When pairing judges with teams/debaters, the following criteria shall be considered:

- A. A judge may not judge a team/debater with whom they are affiliated, either by school, personal relationship, or other factors that would contribute to a major bias either for or against a team/contestant. The tournament committee is given the discretion to make such decisions.
- B. A judge may not judge a team/debater they have previously heard, unless the use of that judge is unavoidable. In **L-D Debate**, if a judge must hear a team/debater a second time, the team/debater should debate on the opposite side of the question.
- C. At the conclusion of the debate round, competitors may ask judges if they want to see any evidence that was discussed or questioned during the debate. Students may not approach the judges unprompted to present evidence after the round has concluded. Additionally, competitors may not discuss the debate round with any judges until all ballots from that round have been submitted to the tabroom. Students found in violation of this rule will be given a loss for that round.

### **Section 2. JUDGE PAIRING MECHANICS.**

- A. The philosophy being used in assigning judges is to use three judge panels in all rounds except for the final round which shall use five judges.
- B. Auto pair will be used with preference of use going to judges hired by the SDHSAA.
- C. Committee members may not move judges once they are assigned unless it is to remove head coaches from the round.
- D. Manual judge assigning for public forum will be used to ensure that volunteer judges are in as many rounds as possible.
- E. The criteria for moving the judge cards shall be as follows. (*NOTE: Whenever it becomes impossible to assign judges to a round without conflict, the criteria for the round will be waived in descending order.*)

#### **Criteria to Move Judges - The judge cards should be moved if:**

1. The judge has heard either school debate.
2. **L-D Debate** The judge has heard either school on the same side.
3. The judge has heard a round between these schools.
4. The judge has heard both teams and given both teams a win.
5. The judge has heard both teams and given both teams a loss.
6. The judge has heard one of the teams.
7. The judge is “coded” for affiliation with one of the schools involved in the round.

## CHAPTER 4 –STATE INDIVIDUAL EVENTS CONTEST REGULATIONS ARTICLE I- STATE EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

**Section 1. EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING CONTEST TOPICS.** Topics will be selected from the NSDA Extemp topics that are released in January or February. A copy of questions will be released to all schools with entries in extemporaneous events the Wednesday before the state tournament.

**Section 2. ILLEGAL RESOURCES.** Speakers are prohibited from using resource materials produced by debate handbook companies for their speeches.

**Section 3. DRAWING FOR TOPICS.**

- A. The envelope containing the topics shall be opened just before the drawing for topics is to begin.
- B. The slips of paper on which the topics are written shall be placed face down on a desk or table.
- C. Thirty minutes before the contest is to begin, each contestant, at seven minute intervals and in the order in which he/she is to appear in the contest, shall draw three topics.
- D. A speaker will not speak on the same topic in more than one round. Should a speaker draw a topic on which he/she has previously spoken, he/she shall draw an additional topic.
- E. After the contestants have drawn and selected their topic, they shall remain in the room until they are released by the chairperson to go to the contest room and give their speeches.
- F. After the contestant has drawn and selected his/her topic, no consultation is allowed.

**Section 4. CONDUCTING EXTEMP DRAW.**

- A. The contestants shall be warned against spending too much time choosing the ideas for their speeches and not enough time planning how they are going to express those ideas.
- B. All contestants shall remain in the same room to prepare their speeches. They shall be under the supervision of the chairperson appointed to hold the drawings. Contestants shall not be permitted to use any previously arranged speeches and/or outlines, nor shall any contestants receive any assistance during the 30 minute prep-period preceding his/her speech.
- C. The judges of the contest shall be properly instructed as to the judging procedure and signing their ballots.

**Section 5. TIMEKEEPERS.** In the state contest, one judge shall be appointed to serve as the official (unless an alternate timekeeper is provided).

- D. The timekeeper will give time signals.
- E. Each judge shall be one of the official timekeepers at every round. The judge will keep a record of each contestant's time and submit this record to the committee managing the contest/festival. Time begins when the performance begins, **either by the contestant's words or actions. The final time will be the average time of the three judges.**

**Section 6. TIME LIMITS.**

- A. The maximum time limit for each extemporaneous speech shall not exceed seven minutes (plus a 30 second grace period).
- B. There is no minimum time limit. An entry will not be penalized if the speech is less than seven minutes.
- C. Time begins when the speech begins, either by the extemper's words or actions.
- D. If a student goes over time as determined by the judge panel, they cannot be ranked 1st by a judge
- E. If a contestant gives a speech in the incorrect room, they shall be ranked last in the original room and receive 75 speaker points.

**ARTICLE II- STATE ORIGINAL ORATORY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

**Section 1. REQUIREMENTS.** All original orations shall be subject to the following requirements:

- A. Purpose: The general purpose of the speech is to persuade. Any other purpose such as to inform or entertain shall be secondary.
- B. All orations should be memorized and be presented from memory.
- C. The presentation time of each oration shall be limited to 10 minutes, with a 30 second grace period.
- D. The work must be original on the part of the student.
- E. The oration may be written on any subject that the student desires, but it must have a title.
- F. An oration may not contain more than 150 words of quoted material.
- G. The student and coach assume all responsibility for meeting policies A-F and attest that the speech meets those guidelines.
- H. The oration must be available for review at the state tournament if requested

**Section 2. COMPLIANCE PENALTIES.**

- A. Failure to abide by the foregoing requirements shall automatically eliminate the contestant and his/her oration from the contest for which he/she might otherwise be eligible. If a selection is not memorized, a student cannot be ranked first in a round.
- B. If it is discovered that the work is not original on the part of the student, all points earned by the student in Original Oratory of the State tournament and any awards that may have been won by the student will be forfeited. This may affect State Tournament Sweepstakes results.
- C. If a contestant gives a speech in the incorrect room, they shall be ranked last in the original room and receive 75 speaker points.

**Section 3. TIMEKEEPERS.** Each judge shall be one of the official timekeepers at every contest, with a stopwatch or stop clock. The judges will keep a record of each contestant's time and submit this record to the committee managing the contest/festival. **Time begins** when the performance begins, either by the contestant's words or actions. The final time will be the average time of the three judges.

**Section 4. ORIGINAL ORATORY TIME LIMITS.**

- A. The **maximum time limit** for each oration shall not exceed ten minutes (plus a 30 second grace period).
- B. There is **no minimum time limit** (i.e., an entry will not be penalized if the oration is less than ten minutes).
- C. **Time begins** when the performance begins, either by the orator's words or actions.
- D. The State Tournament Committee **must lower** the composite ranking by one position of any oration exceeding 10 minutes, 30 seconds.

**ARTICLE III- INFORMATIVE SPEAKING**

**Section 1. REQUIREMENTS.** All informative speeches shall be subject to the following requirements:

- A. Purpose: An informative speech is an original speech designed to explain, define, describe, or illustrate a particular subject. The general purpose of the speech is for the audience to gain understanding and/or knowledge of a topic. Any other purpose such as to entertain or to convince shall be secondary. The use of audio/visual aids is optional.
- B. Contest: This contest comprises only memorized speeches composed by the contestants and not used by them during a previous contest season.
- C. Subject: Effective speeches provide new information or perspectives on a topic, including those that are widely known. The responsibility for choosing a worthwhile topic rests with the contestant. A fabricated topic may not be used.
- D. Aids: Audio/visual aids may or may not be used to supplement and reinforce the message. If used, the audio/visual aids should enhance or support the message rather than distract from the overall effectiveness of the presentation. During the presentation, no electronic equipment is permitted. Electronic equipment is defined as any object requiring an electrical cord, battery, or solar power to operate it (projectors, cell phones, radios, iPads, computers, etc.). The use of live animals or any additional people as visual aids is not allowed during the speech. Items of dress put on and/or removed for illustration during the course of the presentation are considered costumes and may not be part of the contestant's presentation. Visual aids may not violate policies as dictated by local and state law (weapons, drugs, etc.) Contestants may not distribute items to the judges or audience before, during, or after the round. This includes but is not limited to food, objects, handouts, flyers, and promotional merchandise. The host school is not responsible for providing any facilities, equipment, including tables, chairs, or easels, or assistance in a contestant's use of visual aids.

**Section 2. COMPLIANCE PENALTIES.**

- A. Failure to abide by the foregoing requirements shall automatically eliminate the contestant and his/her informative from the contest for which he/she might otherwise be eligible. If a selection is not memorized, a student cannot be ranked first in a round.
- B. If it is discovered that the work is not original on the part of the student, all points earned by the student in informative of the State tournament and any awards that may have been won by the student will be forfeited. This may affect State Tournament Sweepstakes results.
- C. If a contestant gives a speech in the incorrect room, they shall be ranked last in the original room and receive 75 speaker points.

**Section 3. TIMEKEEPERS.** Each judge shall be one of the official timekeepers at every contest, with a stopwatch or stop clock. The judges will keep a record of each contestant's time and submit this record to the committee managing the contest/festival. **Time begins** when the performance begins, either by the contestant's words or actions. The final time will be the average time of the three judges.



**Section 4. INFORMATIVE TIME LIMITS.**

- A. The **maximum time limit** for each informative shall not exceed ten minutes (plus a 30 second grace period).
- B. There is **no minimum time limit** (i.e., an entry will not be penalized if the informative is less than ten minutes).
- C. **Time begins** when the performance begins, either by the informer’s words or actions. It does not include any setting up of visual aids.
- D. The State Tournament Committee **must lower** the composite ranking by one position of any speech exceeding 10 minutes, 30 seconds.

**ARTICLE IV- STATE INDIVIDUAL EVENTS SECTIONING**

**Section 1. SECTIONING PROCESS.**

- A. All contestants entered in the Individual Events competition will compete in two or three randomly paired preliminary rounds depending on the number of entries. Following the second or third preliminary round, the contest will break to a final round with the top six preliminary round contestants being scheduled in the final round.
- B. Sections should consist of six or fewer contestants. Sections larger than six are prohibited.
- C. In preliminary rounds, two students from the same school should not be in the same section unless unavoidable.
- D. The speaking order for contestants is random. Tournament committee should ensure that each student should speak in a different speaking position in each round. Speaking last in a section is considered a speaking position. .
  - 1. **Policy For Double Entries In Individual Events.** If a contestant is double-entered in individual events, this student is to be scheduled to create the least amount of conflict. All other contestants’ positions in the speaking order of either contest will be determined by lot.

**ARTICLE V- TABULATING STATE INDIVIDUAL EVENTS CONTEST RESULTS**

**Section 1. DETERMINING FINAL ROUNDS**

The final round shall consist of six (6) contestants unless there is an unbreakable tie for 7. If there is a three way tie for sixth place going into finals, only 5 shall move forward into the final round. The following procedures will be used to determine which students advance out of the preliminary rounds using all six judge scores.

1 – Lowest Cumulative Speaker Rank using all 6 judges

If ties in cumulative rank bring the number to more than six (6), the following priority system shall be used to break ties:

2 – Judge preference starting with the most 1’s, 2’s, 3’s and so forth.

3 – Reciprocals of all 6 judges

Rank	1	2	3	4	5	6
Reciprocal	1	½	1/3	¼	1/5	1/6
As a Decimal	1	.5	.33	.25	.2	.17

Then add these numbers and the contestant with the highest score is the best of the three, and the next highest score receives the next rank, etc.

**STATE EXAMPLE**

	Ranks	Converts to	Total	Place
Speaker A	1 3 3 = 7	1.00 .33 .33	1.66	2nd
Speaker B	2 1 4 = 7	.50 1.00 .25	1.75	1st
Speaker C	3 2 2 = 7	.33 .50 .50	1.33	3rd

Highest Speaker Points 5. Head to head competition

**Section 2. DETERMINING STATE TOURNAMENT AWARDS** State Tournament Individual Events award will be based upon:

- 1. Lowest cumulative ranking of the judges from the final round only.

2. Judge preference.
3. Reciprocals of the final round judge rank- see table above.
4. Finals rankings plus preliminary rankings (9 judge rankings)
5. Highest Speaker points.
6. Seed entering finals.

## **CHAPTER 5: ELECTRONIC RETRIVAL AND INTERNET USE**

### **ARTICLE 1- COMPUTER/TABLET/SMART PHONE USE**

#### **Section 1. USE IN ROUND**

- A. Contestants may use electronic devices (including laptop computers, tablets, and/or cell phones) to access the internet during debate and extemporaneous speaking rounds with the following conditions
  1. Computers or other electronic devices may not be used to receive information for competitive advantage from non-competitors (coaches, assistant coaches, other students) inside or outside of the room in which the competition occurs. Information that would be restricted would include but not be limited to coach/nonparticipating competitor generated arguments, advice on arguments to run, questions to ask during cross examination, and other information not generated by the participating competitors.
  2. Internet access may be used to retrieve files, exchange evidence and/or arguments, research arguments, and partner to partner communication. These electronic device guidelines do not limit communication between debate partners during the debate round.
- B. Penalty: Contestants found to have violated these provisions will be disqualified from the tournament and will forfeit all rounds and sweepstake points in all events.
- C. Availability of Evidence: Contestants electing to use computers have the responsibility to promptly provide a copy of any evidence read in a speech for inspection by the judge or opponent. Printers may be used. Evidence may be printed in the round or produced electronically but must be provided in a format readable by the opposing team and the judge.
  1. FLASHING/PRODIVING EVIDENCE- Evidence rules require that all students have evidence immediately ready to go when requested. If evidence is paraphrased, it is required that the competitor has the specific text from the original source which is being paraphrased clearly indicated and immediately available. If it takes teams more than one minute to find and send evidence that is requested, the team looking for the evidence must take preparation time to find it. Any reading of evidence produced at a team's request must be done within the requesting team's preparation time. A team may choose to drop the specific argument made with evidence that cannot be produced.
- D. Contestants electing to use computers are responsible for providing their own computers, batteries, extension cords, and all other necessary accessories. Tournament hosts will not be responsible for providing computers, printers, software, paper, or extension cords for contestants. Host schools may provide wireless internet access, but will not guarantee that contestants will be able to gain access when needed.
- E. Contestants choosing to use laptop computers and/or related devices accept the risk of equipment failure. Judges and/or contest directors will give no special consideration or accommodation, including no additional speech time or prep time, should equipment failure occur.
- F. By choosing to use electronic devices in the round, debaters and other relevant parties are consenting to give tournament officials the right to search their devices in the event of a protest. The device may only be searched by tournament officials and must be restricted to files and/or electronic exchanges relevant to the protest. Failure to comply would result in the upholding of the protest. Debaters and coaches should be present as their device is searched. Debaters who do not wish to consent should not use electronic devices in the round.

#### **Section 2. AUDIENCE MEMBERS**

- A. Audience members are not permitted to be on or using an electronic device during any round unless filming with permission from the tournament managers.

## **CHAPTER 6- EVIDENCE**

### **Article 1- EVIDENCE USED IN DEBATE ROUNDS**

#### **Section 1. RESPONSIBILITIES OF CONTESTANTS READNG EVIDENCE**

- A. Evidence defined. Debaters are responsible for the validity of all evidence they introduce in the debate. Evidence includes, but is not limited to: facts, statistics, or examples attributable to a specific, identifiable, authoritative source used to support a claim. Unattributed ideas are the opinion of the student competitor and are not evidence.
- B. Oral source citation. In all debate events, contestants are expected to, at a minimum, 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.

- C. Written source citation. To the extent provided by the original source, a written source citation must include:
  1. Full name of primary author and/or editor
  2. Publication date
  3. Source
  4. Title of article
  5. Date accessed for digital evidence
  6. Full URL, if applicable
  7. Author qualifications
  8. Page number(s)
- D. Paraphrasing, authoritative source versus general understanding. If paraphrasing is used in a debate, the debater will be held to the same standard of citation and accuracy as if the entire text of the evidence were read. Paraphrasing may be used to shorten or clarify one specific portion of an original source. It should not be confused with general summary of an entire book, chapter, study, etc., which may only be used for information that is widely considered to be common knowledge. Paraphrasing focuses on a single idea, while summary focuses on a general concept.

## **Section 2. AVAILABILITY OF EVIDENCE**

- A. In all debate events, for reference, any material (evidence, cases, written citations, etc.) that is presented during the round must be made available to the opponent and/or judge during the round if requested. When requested, the original source or copy of the relevant pages of evidence read in the round must be available to the opponent in a timely fashion during the round and/or judge at the conclusion of the round.
- B. Original source(s) defined. Understanding that teams/individuals obtain their evidence in multiple ways, the original source for evidence may include, but is not limited solely to, one of the following:
  1. Accessing the live or displaying a copy of a web page (teams/individuals may access the internet to provide this information if requested).
  2. A copy of the page(s) the evidence is on, the page preceding, and the page following, or the actual printed (book, periodical, pamphlet, etc.) source.
  3. Copies or electronic versions of published handbooks (i.e., Baylor Briefs; Victory Briefs, etc.).
  4. Electronic or printed versions or the webpage for a debate institute or the NDCA sponsored Open Evidence Project or similar sites.
- C. Debaters, even if they have acquired the evidence other than by original research, are responsible for the content and accuracy of all evidence they present and/or read.
- D. Distinguishing between which parts of each piece of evidence are and are not read in a particular round. In all debate events, debaters must mark their evidence in two ways:
  1. Oral delivery of each piece of evidence must be identified by a clear oral pause or by saying phrases such as "quote/unquote" or "mark the card." The use of a phrase is definitive and may be preferable to debaters. Clear, oral pauses are left solely to the discretion of the judge.
  2. The written text must be marked to clearly indicate the portions read or paraphrased in the debate. In the written text the standard practices of underlining what is read, or highlighting what is read, and/or minimizing what is unread, is definitive and may be preferable to debaters. The clarity of other means of marking evidence is left to the discretion of the judge.
- E. Private, personal correspondence or communication between an author and the debater is inadmissible as evidence.

## **Section 3. DEFINITIONS OF EVIDENCE VIOLATIONS**

- A. "Distortion" exists when the textual evidence itself contains added and/or deleted word(s), which significantly alters the conclusion of the author (e.g., deleting 'not'; adding the word 'not'). Additionally, failure to bracket added words would be considered distortion of evidence.
- B. "Non-existent evidence" means one or more of the following:
  1. The debater citing the evidence is unable to provide the original source or copy of the relevant pages when requested by their opponent, judge, or tournament official.
  2. The original source provided does not contain the evidence cited.
  3. The evidence is paraphrased but lacks an original source to verify the accuracy of the paraphrasing. If a student paraphrases from a book, study, or any other source, the specific lines or section from which the paraphrase is taken must be highlighted or otherwise formatted for identification in the round.
  4. The debater is in possession of the original source, but declines to provide it to their opponent upon request in a timely fashion
- C. "Straw argument" A "straw argument" is a position or argumentative claim introduced by an author for the purpose of refuting, discrediting or characterizing it. Reliance on a straw argument occurs in a debate round when a debater asserts incorrectly that the author supports or endorses the straw argument as their own position.

#### Section 4. PROCEDURES FOR RESOLVING EVIDENCE

- A. Due to the fact that public forum debate uses lay judges the following procedures to challenge the evidence is to be used.
1. If the team cannot produce the evidence within the FLASHING/PROVIDING EVIDENCE Guidelines, that specific argument must be dropped.
  2. If the specific argument from the unproduced evidence is continued, a formal evidence challenge can be made.

*Note: Teams/individuals may question the credibility and/or efficacy of the evidence without a formal allegation that requires the round to end. Teams/debaters may make in-round arguments regarding the credibility of evidence without making a formal allegation or violation of these rules. Such informal arguments about the evidence will not automatically end the round, and will be treated by the judge in the same fashion as any other argument. Student can argue that the evidence should not be considered if the team can not produce it without making a formal challenge.*

3. Formal Evidence Challenge- At the conclusion of the round, if a team believes that nonexistent evidence was used in the round or a strawman argument was made, they have 10 minutes after the last ballot is recorded to submit a formal challenge. If the challenging team wins, the losing team forfeits all rounds. If the challenging team loses the challenge, they automatically lose the round and receive 0 sweepstake points for that round, and if they are still debating, they will lose the next round and their opponents both receive a win.

#### B. Lincoln Douglas Debate

1. If the judge determines that an entry has violated one of the rules (oral citation, written citation, indication of parts of card read or not read, use of private communication), the judge may at their discretion disregard the evidence, diminish the credibility given to the evidence, take the violation into account (solely or partially) in deciding the winner of the debate, or take no action.
2. If a debater(s) commits an evidence violation for the use of a “straw argument” it will result in a loss for the debater(s) committing the evidence violation and indicate the reason for decision on the ballot.
3. If debater(s) commits an evidence violation of “distortion” or have used “non-existent evidence” the offending debater(s) will lose the debate. Once a formal protest is filed, the challenged debater has 5 minutes to produce the evidence.
  - a. If the tournament official determines that the allegation is not legitimate and that there is no violation, the team/individual making the challenge will receive the loss in the round and an automatic loss in the next round if they are still debating. Their opponents will both receive a win.