

# The Ohio Speech & Debate Association

## High School Tournament Operations Manual

### Revised September 2021

Yellow Highlighting Indicates Changes for 2021-2022

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# **OSDA RULES AND GUIDELINES**

This overview is intended to highlight where individuals should look regarding various rules and guidelines that are of particular relevance to OSDA competition.

The OSDA strongly recommends coaches familiarize themselves with each of these items.

## **I. OSDA “POLICIES AND PROCEDURES”**

- A. General Eligibility
  - 1. Schools - Article II Section 1
  - 2. Contestants - Article II Section 2
- B. Districts and District Committees (Article V)
- C. Appeals to the Board of Directors (Article IX)
- D. Royalty Disclaimer (Article X)

## **II. OSDA HS “TOURNAMENT OPERATIONS MANUAL”**

This document has rules and guidelines for administering and conducting:

- A. Bid-Qualifying System Tournaments (BQS)
- B. Pre-District Qualifying Tournaments (PDQ)
- C. Qualification to the OSDA State Tournament from the NSDA District Tournaments
- D. OSDA District Tournaments
- E. OSDA State Tournament

## **III. OSDA HS “COMPETITIVE EVENTS MANUAL”**

This document has rules and guidelines for the OSDA sanctioned events, including:

- A. Event Descriptions, Guidelines, and Ballots
- B. Rules Governing the use of Electronic Devices
- C. Rules Governing Published Material for Interpretation
- D. Rules Governing Scripts and Sources

# **TOURNAMENT OPERATIONS MANUAL**

This manual sets forth the rules and procedures for administering and conducting Bid-Qualifying System (BQS) Tournaments, Pre-District Qualifying (PDQ) Tournaments, Qualification to the OSDA State Tournament from the NSDA District Tournaments, the OSDA District Tournaments, and the OSDA State Tournament. The OSDA encourages all coaches to familiarize themselves with these rules and procedures in advance of participation at these tournaments.

# **BQS TOURNAMENTS**

## **I. OVERVIEW**

- A. The rules of the Bid Qualifying System are entirely outlined here. Anything not addressed in this section is not governed by the BQS. This includes:
  - 1. What types of rounds can be scheduled.
  - 2. How rounds are to be scheduled.
- B. Students may prequalify for the OSDA State Tournament by receiving FOUR or more bids in the same category at any OSDA sanctioned tournament in speech events, Lincoln Douglas, Public Forum, and Policy Debate. In Duo, Public Forum, and Policy, at least four bids must be earned with the same partner. A sanctioned tournament must also meet the following criteria:
  - 1. A minimum of seven schools are competing;
  - 2. There are at least three rounds of preliminary competition per event.
- C. Bids can be earned in HS Congressional Debate at OSDA sanctioned tournaments.
  - 1.) For bids to be awarded, there must be at least 2 hours of Congressional Debate at the tournament.
  - 2.) Tournaments can structure competition as follows:
    - a.) Separate preliminary chambers throughout, and bids will be earned for the top placers in each chamber, based on the bid ratio when considering the participating entries in each chamber individually. Preliminary chambers can be divided into multiple sessions, which can be scored in any of the following ways:
      - i.) A single judge panel ranking the competitors at the conclusion of competition.
      - ii.) A single judge panel throughout the competition ranking the competitors at the conclusion of each timed session.
      - iii.) Rotating judge panels ranking the competitors at the conclusion of each timed session. If this approach is used, the tournament can allow the parliamentarian to score each session, to score once at the end of competition, or to only have their ballot to be used as a tiebreaker.
    - b.) Separate preliminary chambers advancing to a Final Round, with possible other elimination rounds in between. In this case, the top placers in the final session will earn the bids, based on the bid ratio when considering all participating entries in Congressional Debate at that tournament.
  - 3.) Teams can register up to 4 students to attend the State Finals, including Bid Qualifiers. If a team has more than 4 Bid Qualifiers in Congress, all of them can advance to State.
- D. Participation guidelines:
  - 1. During the 2021-2022 season, bids can be earned in dedicated virtual synchronous competition.
  - 2. Bids cannot be earned in asynchronous competition.
  - 3. Bids cannot be earned in events where students participating virtually compete

against students participating in-person.

4. Judges participating virtually cannot evaluate any competition that occurs in person or has an in-person component.

## II. ENTRIES

- A. Bids will not be awarded at novice tournaments.
- B. Bids must be earned prior to the OSDA District Tournament.
- C. Mavericks (*single competitors in partnership events*) are not allowed to compete under any situation.
- D. No contestant may use a speech which s/he used in a previous season's OSDA BQS, District or State Tournament. Failure to comply will result in disqualification at the point of discovery.
- E. Multiple Entries / Multiple Tournaments
  1. Students can participate in multiple bid tournaments in a single week.
  2. Multiple entries at a single tournament are at the discretion of the tournament Host.
  3. Students can only have one opportunity to earn a bid each week.
    - A. Weeks are viewed beginning on Monday and concluding on Sunday.
    - B. Tournament hosts do NOT have to be flexible with scheduling to accommodate students participating in multiple bid tournaments on the same day.
  4. When a student is participating in multiple tournaments or multiple events on a particular week, BEFORE participating in any tournaments that week, a coach of the student must submit a response with the OSDA indicating that student's bid tournament (and bid category, if participating in multiple events), as well as all tournaments that student will be attending.
    - A. Prior to tournaments beginning, tournament hosts/officials have the responsibility to confirm with coaches that a response has been submitted prior to competition beginning.
    - B. If this does not happen, the student will not be eligible for any bids that week.
    - C. If this does not happen, and this causes a tournament to erroneously award a bid, the erroneously awarded bid will be rescinded upon discovery.
  5. Students can only earn a bid in their declared "bid tournament" and "bid category".
  6. Students competing in their non-declared tournaments and/or non-declared categories will not be included when determining the order of finish for the purpose of awarding bids. They will be included when determining the number of participating entries in a category.
- F. Out of state competitors can compete in OSDA bid qualification tournaments:
  1. They will count in the ratio.
  2. If an out of state competitor is double entered, the tournament host, in conjunction with the tab staff, will determine which category the competitor will count towards in the ratio BEFORE the tournament begins.

3. If they finish in a bid earning position, the bid simply disappears.

### III. BID RATIO

Bids will be awarded based on the following ratio. Students must compete in ALL preliminary rounds in order to count toward the ratio.

<b>Entries</b>	<b>Bids awarded</b>	<b>Entries</b>	<b>Bids Awarded</b>
5-9	1 / (1st place)	51-60	7 / (1st-7th place)
10-16	2 / (1st-2nd place)	61-70	8 / (1st-8th place)
17-23	3 / (1st-3rd place)	71-80	9 / (1st-9th place)
24-30	4 / (1st-4th place)	81-90	10 / (1st-10th place)
31-40	5 / (1st-5th place)	91-100	11 / (1st-11th place)
41-50	6 / (1st-6th place)	101-110	12 / (1st-12th place)

An additional bid will be awarded for every additional 10 competitors. Bids must be awarded to the top competitors, as noted, regardless of their bid qualification status to the State Tournament.

### IV. TIEBREAKERS

All tournaments offering bids will use the same system for breaking ties:

#### A. Speech Events

1. Total Ranks

Note: DROP score(s) are permitted provided at least 3 ranks count.

If DROP score(s) are used, it must be determined before the tournament.

2. Head to Head (prelims) / Judge Preference (elimination rounds)
3. Reciprocals
4. Opponent Average Rank

#### B. Lincoln-Douglas, Public Forum, and Policy Debate

1. Win / Loss Record
2. Head-to-Head where applicable
3. Judge Variance
4. Drop Hi / Lo + Opponent Wins

#### C. Congressional Debate

There must be at least two scorers in each chamber / session. In order to determine placings for awarding bids, judge ranks on a scale of 1 to 8 must be used, with 1 being the best rank, and any competitor not in the top 8 will receive a 9. If the Parliamentarian's score is considered for total ranks, all ranks greater than 8 must be converted to a 9 for the purpose of their scoring ballot. Additionally, the Parliamentarian must rank all students participating in that chamber, as those ranks will be the final tiebreaker, regardless of whether they are a scoring judge. The tiebreakers are as follows, in both preliminary sessions and elimination rounds:

- 1.) Total ranks
- 2.) Judge preference
- 3.) Reciprocals
- 4.) Parli rank

## D. Determining Bids at Elimination Round Tournaments

### 1. In Speech Events

- a. When the total number of bids to be awarded exceeds the number of entries in the final round, the remaining bids must be awarded as follows:
  - i. Determine the order of finish of the non-advancing entries from each section of the relevant elimination round. This is the order in which additional bids should be prioritized within each section. If there is a tie that cannot be determined, break it based on rank totals from the previous elimination round (if applicable) followed by preliminary round placings.
  - ii. Bids must be distributed equally among the sections whenever Possible.
  - iii. If bids cannot be distributed equally, then to determine which section(s) get the additional bid(s), take the top remaining eligible entry from each section and break the tie among those entries based on all ranks from all rounds. If a tie still exists, break it based on rank totals from the previous elimination round (if applicable) followed by preliminary round placings.
- b. When the total number of bids to be awarded does not exceed the number of entries in the final round, the results of the final round determine the bids. If there is a tie that cannot be determined, break it based on rank totals from the previous elimination round (if applicable) followed by preliminary round placings.
- c. Breaking ties for entries advancing from elimination round sections: If there is an unbreakable tie for the final place(s) advancing from a particular section in an elimination round, the tournament can either advance all tied entries into the next elimination round or the tie can be broken by rank total from the previous elimination round (if applicable) followed by preliminary round placings.

### 2. In Lincoln-Douglas, Public Forum, and Policy Debate

- a. If there are more bids available than entries advancing to elimination rounds, all elimination round entries earn a bid, and the remaining bids are determined by preliminary round placings.
- b. If there are as many bids available as entries advancing to elimination rounds, all elimination rounds entries earn a bid.
- c. Otherwise, determine the elimination round where the entries who should receive bids becomes questionable.
  - i. All entries who advanced further than that particular round receive bids.
  - ii. To break the tie among the entries that did not advance out of the elimination round in question, look at their number of ballots won in that particular round; those with more ballots won are first in line for remaining bids. If a tie still exists, break it based on the total number of ballots won, including both preliminary and elimination rounds. If a tie still exists, break it based on ballots won in the

previous elimination rounds, one-by-one (if applicable), followed by preliminary round placings.

**3. In Congressional Debate**

If there is a Final Round and the number of bids to be awarded exceeds the number of entries in the Final Round, all Final Round participants earn a bid.

The additional bids are to be determined by:

- 1.) Total ranks from all rounds/sessions.
- 2.) Total parli ranks from all rounds/sessions.
- 3.) Total ranks from all prelim sessions.

- D. In the event of an unbreakable tie between competitors or teams for a final bid in any event, one additional bid may be awarded. In no case should the bids be increased by more than one. *(If an unbreakable three- or greater -way tie exists for the final bid slot, that bid is not given.)*

**V. DISTRICT REGISTRATION**

To advance to State, fully qualified students must be listed as one of the entries on the school's District Tournament registration.

- A. If a school has more than four entries bid qualified in a particular category, the school may enter all of them in their District Tournament registration.
- B. All fully qualified, registered students count toward the school's quota at the District Tournament.
- C. Entries must be fully qualified before their District Tournament begins.
- D. A student who accepts his or her bid qualification to the State Tournament may not compete at the District Tournament unless he or she chooses to decline his or her bid qualification. Reasons for doing so include, but are not limited to, qualifying in another category.

**VI. BID VERIFICATION**

The tournament host and district chair(s) present at the tournament should ensure that auditing is taking place in both speech and debate tab rooms **round-by-round**. Any errors *are expected* to be caught through the audit process. After the audit of the final round of the tournament, if any errors are found, no bids shall be changed, and no additional bids shall be awarded. It is the responsibility of the tab rooms, under the direction of the tournament host and district chair(s) to ensure that rounds are tabulated correctly.

**A. PUBLIC FORUM DEBATE**

The tabulation process and the auditing process for each ballot must include a verification of each of the following items: the correct alignment of the entries' codes, names, and sides (PRO/CON or AFF/NEG), the points awarded to each entry, and the entry winning the ballot. Any errors or discrepancies discovered after a particular round's auditing process has been completed will not be changed. Additionally, tournament staff should encourage each PF team to display a placard with their code and side during each round.

**VII. RECOGNIZING BIDS**

Bids are to be recorded with the OSDA by the District Chair of the host tournament. For bids to

be formally recognized by the OSDA, access to the tournament manager system must be provided to the Executive Director when requested and full tournament results must be publicly viewable by the OSDA community.

#### **VIII. ONE PRESENTATION**

Each entry is only permitted one opportunity to present a particular speech in a round. Once an entry begins presenting a speech, the time begins, and it continues running until the entry voluntarily/consciously finishes the presentation and/or clearly indicates a conclusion as per the judge's discretion. Any entry that performs a second, separately timed presentation of the particular speech in a round, for whatever reason, after voluntarily/consciously finishing the first presentation, must receive the worst rank or loss in the round.

#### **IX. EXTEMP TOPICS**

All rounds of Extemp must have a unique draw and preparation period. Tournament hosts cannot offer rounds with repeated topics.

#### **X. DISQUALIFICATION**

In the case of a rules infraction leading to possible disqualification, the issue will be brought to the attention of the host tournament's District Chair, and if that individual is not in attendance, the OSDA Executive Director.

#### **XI. FORFEITING BIDS**

If a tournament does not follow the established protocol in a particular category, all of that category's bids will be forfeited.

#### **XII. ADMINISTERING AND ADJUDICATING BQS TOURNAMENTS**

##### **A. Designated Tournament Officials**

For each BQS tournament hosted within a particular district, the District Chair designates the tournament officials in attendance tasked with administering and adjudicating the tournament, which could include the corresponding District Committee and additional coaches. The District Chair is in charge of tournament operations, unless those responsibilities are specifically delegated to another individual in attendance.

##### **B. BQS Tournament Responsibilities**

BQS tournaments are to be administered and adjudicated following the guidelines in this manual. On the day of a BQS Tournament, the final authority belongs to the applicable District Chair (or their designee) in consultation with the designated tournament officials. When issues arise that lack clarity and need a resolution, the District Chair (or designee) along with the tournament officials in attendance have autonomy and are expected to make their best determination given the full context of the situation. The OSDA Executive Director will not make any rulings, determinations, or recommendations of how to handle a particular situation the day of a BQS Tournament.

##### **C. Appeals to OSDA regarding BQS Tournaments**

The OSDA provides District Chairs, District Committees, and designated tournament officials with autonomy to run BQS tournaments following the guidelines in this manual. The OSDA does not view BQS Tournaments as qualification events; earning a bid is merely one-fourth of a

possible qualification to the State Tournament. As a result, the OSDA will not consider reallocating bids or awarding additional bids related to a particular BQS tournament based on any appeals. Once the OSDA posts tournament results, any bids entered incorrectly in the OSDA database based on those results will be revised. Additionally, the OSDA reserves the right to invalidate bids if the guidelines in the BQS manual are not followed at BQS Tournament.

**D. Possible resolutions to issues or protests at BQS Tournaments:**

Any protests during a BQS tournament must be referred to the applicable District Chair (or designee), to be handled internally by the tournament officials in attendance. The following are the possible resolutions for protests and/or rules infractions at a BQS Tournament, available for the tournament officials to consider under the leadership of the District Chair (or designee):

1. A warning for an entry regarding subsequent rounds.
2. A "loss" or the "low rank" in a particular round for a particular entry.
3. Disqualification of a particular entry from the remainder of the tournament.

If an entry is disqualified at a BQS, District, or State Tournament, that entry will receive the lowest rank or loss in the round where the issue leading to disqualification happened or was initially discovered as well as any subsequent rounds in which the entry participated, if applicable. Entries that were initially ranked below or earned a loss to a disqualified entry at or after the round where the issue was initially discovered will have their ranks adjusted accordingly or their decision revised to a win. Ranks from previous rounds will remain unchanged, and the entry will be removed from future scheduling.

4. Removal of a particular observer from the remainder of the tournament.
5. A warning for a judge regarding subsequent rounds.
6. Removal of a particular judge from the remainder of the tournament.

**E. Re-running rounds prohibited:**

Completed rounds and specific sections are not to be rerun at a BQS Tournament.

**XIII. MASK REQUIREMENT**

- A. Until the CDC and state health commissioner no longer recommend that students be masked in schools OR the OSDA Board revisits, all OSDA sanctioned (BQS/PDQ) tournaments with an in person component will require masking for all competitors, judges, and tournament staff while indoors, except during active presentation or while eating in the lunch room. Hosts that fail to enforce a mask mandate risk being ineligible to host BQS/PDQ tournaments in future seasons.
- B. "Possible resolutions to issues or protests at BQS Tournaments" apply to the OSDA's mask protocol. Competitors and judges who demonstrate a blatant refusal to follow the mask protocol are to be removed from competition.
- C. Until the OSDA Board revisits, OSDA sanctioned (BQS/PDQ) tournaments with an in person component will require all additional observers/attendees to wear a mask while indoors, except while eating in the lunch room. Attendees refusing to wear a mask are to leave the facilities. Hosts that fail to enforce a mask mandate risk being ineligible to host BQS/PDQ tournaments in future seasons.

# PDQ TOURNAMENTS

The Ohio Speech & Debate Association conducts State Tournament qualification tournaments in Policy Debate in advance of the District Tournaments. These tournaments are called Pre-District Qualifying Tournaments.

## **I. GENERAL RULES**

The host of a Pre-District Qualifying Tournament must notify its intent to conduct a PDQ tournament with the League Office at least seven days before the tournament begins.

- A. The PDQ tournament host must ensure one of the following to be in attendance: District Chair; Member of the Board of Directors; or an active coach previously approved by the Board of Directors upon the recommendation of the PDQ Chair to verify compliance with the rules of the OSDA. This individual has the responsibility to act upon concerns that competitors and coaches are violating the OSDA mission statement.
- B. At least sixteen (16) OSDA policy teams yield four (4) PDQ slots (semi-finalists) and at least twenty-four (24) OSDA policy teams yields eight (8) PDQ slots (quarter-finalists) with no minimum number of schools required.
- C. Any team earning a PDQ slot is viewed as qualified to state.
- D. PDQ teams advancing to State must be on the school's District Tournament registration. Such entries must consist of students who qualified as a team at a PDQ Tournament.
- E. A school qualifying four teams through PDQ Tournaments may not enter any additional Policy Debaters in the District Tournament. If a school qualifies more than four teams through PDQ, all of them can advance to state and be listed on the District Tournament registration.
- F. PDQ entries who compete at their District Tournament - in any category - relinquish their PDQ qualification in Policy Debate.

## **G. MASK REQUIREMENT**

1. Until the CDC and state health commissioner no longer recommend that students be masked in schools OR the OSDA Board revisits, all OSDA sanctioned (BQS/PDQ) tournaments with an in person component will require masking for all competitors, judges, and tournament staff while indoors, except during active presentation or while eating in the lunch room. Hosts that fail to enforce a mask mandate risk being ineligible to host BQS/PDQ tournaments in future seasons.
2. Until the OSDA Board revisits, OSDA sanctioned (BQS/PDQ) tournaments with an in person component will require all additional observers/attendees to wear a mask while indoors, except while eating in the lunch room. Attendees refusing to wear a mask are to leave the facilities. Hosts that fail to enforce a mask mandate risk being ineligible to host BQS/PDQ tournaments in future seasons.

## **II. CONDUCTING PDQs**

The following are the specific rules for conducting the PDQ Tournament.

- A. One-person teams (maverick) may not be registered for a PDQ tournament. No team may be composed of competitors from different schools.

**B. Participation guidelines:**

1. During the 2021-2022 season, bids can be earned in dedicated virtual synchronous competition.
2. Bids cannot be earned in asynchronous competition.
3. Bids cannot be earned in events where students participating virtually compete against students participating in-person.
4. Judges participating virtually cannot evaluate any competition that occurs in person or has an in-person component.

**B.** The tournament must feature at least five preliminary rounds. Rounds I and II should be preset with geographical restraints. Rounds III, IV, and V shall be paired high-low within the brackets or in a manner acceptable to the OSDA official providing:

1. Teams from the same school shall not meet in preliminary rounds.
2. Teams should debate an equal number of rounds on each side. Rounds V, VII, etc. shall be randomly determined if they are the last rounds of the tournament.
3. Preliminary rounds I through V will not feature procedures known as lag-pairing or any other pairing procedure that is not based on actual competition.
4. Byes are permitted in all preliminary rounds. In Rounds I and II, byes are to be randomly assigned (without a repeat bye) and do not need to be run off. Any byes after Rounds I or II will be given to teams not in contention for advancing.
5. Ties shall be broken by the following order of precedence.
  - a. Win/Loss record
  - b. Head-to-Head where applicable
  - c. Judge Variance
  - d. Drop Hi/Lo + opponent wins

**C.** Judge Usage

1. In preliminary rounds a single judge is used. Judges are assigned randomly being mindful of district constraints.
2. No judge shall evaluate a team more than once during preliminary rounds.

**III. CHAIR RESPONSIBILITIES**

The OSDA PDQ Chair is responsible for the overseeing the PDQ process.

**A.** After securing the list of PDQ Tournaments scheduled for the current tournament year, the PDQ Debate Chair will contact each PDQ host school in regard to procedures that must be followed in the planning and operation of its scheduled PDQ:

1. Securing an approved supervising official well ahead of time.
2. Reviewing specific rules with regard to tournament registration and scheduling.

**B.** At least three days before each PDQ tournament, the PDQ Debate Chair will make a final contact with the tournament host to verify that all criteria are in order for the scheduled tournament:

1. Name of tournament official (PDQ Debate Chair contacts official to review tournament responsibilities);
2. Numbers of registered contestants and names of member schools;
3. Copies of rules on hand;

- C. Once the PDQ Chair receives the verification form, s/he will determine whether the PDQ meets all criteria according to OSDA rules.
  - 1. If the PDQ is not valid, the PDQ Chair will contact the schools involved.
  - 2. If the PDQ is valid, the PDQ Chair in conjunction with the supervising official will record all Pre-District Qualifiers and inform the League office.
- D. Two weeks prior to the District Tournament, the PDQ Debate Chair will verify the complete list of Pre-District Qualifiers to every District Chair and the League Office.

## **NSDA - STATE QUALIFICATION**

The Ohio Speech & Debate Association permits State Tournament qualification from Ohio's four National Speech and Debate Association District Tournaments in limited circumstances. This manual outlines the procedures, rules and protocols for qualification to the State Tournament from the NSDA District Tournaments.

- I. Additional State Qualifiers will be accepted from each event at the NSDA District Tournament:
  - A. In Speech Events, any entries advancing to the final round of their NSDA tournament who are not already OSDA state qualifiers become OSDA state qualifiers.
  - B. In Debate Events, any entries placing in the final eight of their NSDA tournament who are not already OSDA state qualifiers become OSDA state qualifiers.
  
- II. Upon completion of the NSDA District tournament, it shall be the responsibility of the NSDA District Chairperson to submit to the League Office the names of any additional qualifiers to the OSDA State Tournament by the following Monday.
  
- III. Any protests arising from NSDA District Qualifications to the OSDA State Tournament must be submitted in writing to the Executive Director with three (3) days of the completion of the NSDA District Tournament.
  
- IV. State qualification from the OSDA District Tournament will take precedence over NSDA District qualification.
  - A. For example, if a competitor qualifies in Program Oral Interpretation, at the OSDA District tournament and then switches events at the NSDA District tournament, his/her qualification to the State Tournament remains with his/her OSDA District Tournament event.
  - B. The only exception to this stipulation that will be granted is if a member of a Duo team, a Public Forum team, or a Policy team is unable to attend the OSDA State Tournament and has notified, in writing, his/her OSDA District Chair and the Executive Director of such intent, the remaining member may enter the NSDA District tournament and may qualify to the OSDA State Tournament.
  - C. In this case, the alternate team from the OSDA District Tournament will move "up" and become a state qualifying team as well.

# DISTRICT TOURNAMENTS

The OSDA District Tournament Manual is comprised of the General Rules, Event Specific Procedures, and the Competition/Qualification Plans for Debate and Speech that may be used in conducting the District Tournament.

## I. **GENERAL RULES**

- A. **Site and Date** - The District Committee shall determine the date, site, and other conditions for the District Tournament and shall conduct the tournament according to the regulations provided. The District Tournament must be completed by the second Saturday in February unless the Board of Directors deems otherwise.
- B. **Observers** - The District Committee may determine if the District Tournament will be open or closed to observers and guests.
- C. **Entries** -
  - 1. Each member school may enter at the OSDA District Tournament a maximum of no more than four entries in any one event, unless that school has more than four entries in any one event already qualified through BQS or PDQ tournaments. In that case, the team may enter all of its BQS or PDQ qualifiers but no additional entries in those specific events.
  - 2. PDQ and BQS qualifiers must appear on the school's District Tournament registration, count toward the school's slots in their respective events, and count toward the school's overall entries at the District Tournament, but they cannot compete at the District Tournament unless they opt to relinquish their PDQ or BQS qualification.
  - 3. Multiple entries are not permitted at the District Tournament.
- D. **Fees** - A suitable registration fee shall be determined by the District Committee. No fee shall be refunded for cancellation of a tournament entry.
- E. **Judges** - The District Committee shall determine the number of judges to be used, and shall determine the number of judges to be supplied by each competing school.
  - 1. All judges should have experience in their respective judging pools prior to the current year's District Tournament (IE, LD, PF, Policy).
  - 2. The District Committee, in advance of the District Tournament, may determine reasonable sanctions should a judge to be supplied by a school fail to meet a judging assignment.
  - 3. If a judge in Speech Events is a first-year high school graduate, s/he may not judge the event(s) in which s/he competed. No judge may judge the event(s) in which a close family member is competing.
  - 4. The "first-year rule" and the "family member rule" do not apply to Debate. However, the District Committee may apply these rules to the Debate Events, if the participating Debate schools in the district agree.
- F. **Protests** - Any protests arising concerning qualifications to the State Tournament must be submitted in writing to the Executive Director within three (3) days of the completion of the District Tournament.
- G. **Disqualification** - If an entry is disqualified at a BQS, District, or State Tournament, that

entry will receive the lowest rank or loss in the round where the issue leading to disqualification happened or was initially discovered as well as any subsequent rounds in which the entry participated, if applicable. Entries that were initially ranked below or earned a loss to a disqualified entry at or after the round where the issue was initially discovered will have their ranks adjusted accordingly or their decision revised to a win. Ranks from previous rounds will remain unchanged, and the entry will be removed from future scheduling.

- H. **Sources** - It is the sole responsibility of the competitor and coach to comply with OSDA guidelines and rules regarding scripts and sources (see Competitive Events Manual).
- I. **State Qualification Ratio** - The number of qualifiers to the State Tournament from the District Tournament shall be according to the following schedule.

Competing Entries	Qualifiers		Competing Entries	Qualifiers
1 - 3	1		36 - 38	11
4 - 6	2		39 - 42	12
7 - 9	3		43 - 45	13
10 - 17	5		46 - 49	14
18 - 21	6		50 - 52	15
22 - 24	7		53 - 56	16
25 - 28	8		57 - 59	17
29 - 31	9		60 - 63	18
32 - 35	10		3 / 4 sequence	per qualifier

- J. **Alternates to State**  
All Districts are eligible for two alternate positions in each category, unless the plan of qualification expressly prohibits alternates. Alternates must be listed on the District Report.
- K. **Missed Round**  
If a competitor or a team, because of illness or other circumstances, cannot complete his/her or their round assignments, s/he or they is/are to be given a loss in that debate round or last place in that speech round.
- L. **Seeding**  
Each district may section the District Tournament in Debate and/or Speech Events using random pairings or by seeding the tournament. A seeding plan must be agreed to by a majority of the coaches of the district and the seeding plan must be filed with the Executive Director prior to the tournament. If a district's seeding plan does not change from year to year, the district committee may reaffirm its use with the Executive Director.

**M. Electronic Devices**

Electronic devices may be used at the District Tournament in a manner consistent with the Competitive Events Manual.

**N. All District Tournaments are required to include the implicit bias language on the ballots, provide a link to a video in the judge briefing and have access to an equity officer, either in-person or virtually.**

**II. DISTRICT COMMITTEES**

The District Committee has full power to adjudicate any disputes relating to the interpretation of the Policies and Procedures, By-Laws, Competitive Events Manual or the Tournament Operations Manual in the conduct of the tournament but may not change the rules herein provided.

- A. The District Committee has the responsibility to act upon concerns that competitors and coaches are violating the OSDA mission statement.
- B. The District Committee is responsible for the proper conduct of the District Tournament and for the prompt correction of any major error(s) that may occur during it.
- C. In the event that a coach or judge engaged in a District Tournament believes that a rule infraction has occurred, s/he should immediately bring the matter to the attention of the District Chair. The District Chair shall immediately call upon the District Committee for a decision regarding the dispute.
- D. The ruling of the District Committee shall be considered final unless either party to the dispute wishes to bring the matter before the Board of Directors. In the event the District decision is appealed, it shall be done within forty-eight hours of the District Tournament and should be sent in writing to the Executive Director. In turn, the Executive Director shall place the matter before the Board of Directors for a final decision.
- E. The District Committee must correct any error affecting qualification to the State Tournament before any qualifier in that event shall be accepted from the District.
- F. It is the sole responsibility of the competitor and coach to comply with OSDA guidelines and rules regarding scripts for Speech Events (see Competitive Events Manual). Failure to comply may result in disqualification at the point of discovery.
- G. The ballots and the results of all rounds shall be made available to the coaches of the district schools at the conclusion of the District Tournament. The District Committee is not obligated to disclose any results until the final round of competition has been completed.

**III. DISTRICT CHAIRS**

The District Chair is responsible for the overall management of the District Tournament and may designate District Committee members to assist with operations of the District tournament.

- A. The District Chair shall notify the Executive Director of the results of the District Tournament including BQS, PDQs, and alternates by or before the established deadline.
- B. Questions for Extemporaneous Speaking -- The District Chair shall direct the preparation of a sufficient number of questions for separate contests in U.S. and International Extemporaneous Speaking.
  - 1. These questions must be based upon significant subject matters discussed in

- standard publications during the current school year.
2. They should be phrased as questions and are not to be made known to the contestants before the tournament.
- C. At the conclusion of the District Tournament, the District Chair shall provide to each school with qualifier(s) the official registration materials for the State Tournament. The Chair shall have each coach sign the verification sheet, certifying that s/he has received the State Tournament registration materials. The District Chair shall send the signed verification sheet to the League Office.
  - D. Upon completion of the District Tournament, it shall be the responsibility of the District Chair to submit all paperwork and reports of qualifiers and alternates to the Executive Director postmarked no later than the second Monday following the District Tournament. Failure to do so will result in a fine of \$100.

#### IV. **DISTRICT DEBATE**

The following rules and regulations should govern the District Debate Tournament. The District Committee is given power to deal with situations not covered or anticipated by these rules. The District Committee should make such decisions in the spirit of the Mission Statement of the OSDA and within the guiding framework of what is the fairest solution for the student competitors.

- A. Mavericks shall not compete in team events.
- B. No substitutions may be made after the tournament starts. If an odd number of teams is entered, byes shall be given in the preliminary rounds. The teams receiving byes shall then debate in an additional round.
- C. Prior to the tournament, the District Committee, in conjunction with the District's debate coaches, shall select a competition plan for each debate category and notify the schools which competition plan(s) will be used.
- D. Unless unavoidable, no teams from the same school shall debate each other in preliminary rounds. There should be no attempt to assign any team to specific rounds.
- E. Timekeeping
  1. Each entry is only permitted one opportunity to present a particular speech in a round. Once an entry begins presenting a speech, the time begins, and it continues running until the entry voluntarily/consciously finishes the presentation and/or clearly indicates a conclusion as per the judge's discretion.
  2. Any entry that performs a second, separately timed presentation of the particular speech in a round, for whatever reason, after voluntarily/consciously finishing the first presentation, must receive the worst rank in the round.
- F. Timekeepers -- In all debate categories, the contestants will time themselves and their competitors. A judge will be designated to monitor the timing of speeches and preparation time. All judges must have a timing device.

#### V. **PLANS FOR DEBATE**

The following are the OSDA sanctioned debate plans to determine qualification to the OSDA State Tournament. Stipulations for debating equal sides on the affirmative and negative apply to Policy Debate and Lincoln-Douglas Debate. In Public Forum Debate, all rounds are determined by a coin toss; unequal sides on the pro and con are permissible.

- A. **Plan #1** - Each team debates two rounds alternating sides (1 affirmative, 1 negative). Qualifiers for the State Tournament shall be the team or teams with the best win-loss record, with ties broken by the highest number of total ballots won within the prescribed ratio.
1. Ties for the last qualifying place must be broken by additional competition with sides chosen by drawing, unless the schools tied have met previously in the tournament; in that case, they must meet on opposite sides. It is possible for a team, after winning one run-off round, to achieve a bye and thus advance to the State Tournament.
  2. Panels of three judges must be used in all rounds of this plan.
- B. **Plan #2** - Each team debates four rounds (2 affirmative, 2 negative). Qualifiers for the State Tournament shall be the team(s) with the highest number of total ballots won within the prescribed ratio.
1. Ties for the last qualifying place(s) must be broken by additional competition with sides chosen by drawing, unless the schools have met previously in the tournament; in this case, they must meet on the opposite side. The total number of ballots is not to be considered in the tie-breaking rounds.
  2. The District Committee may choose an option of a single judge, a panel of two judges, or a panel of three judges for these four rounds. Tie-breaking rounds must use a panel of three judges.
- C. **Plan #3** - Each team debates two rounds alternating sides (1 affirmative, 1 negative), with three judges in each debate. All teams having lost three or more ballots are eliminated unless this results in a fewer number of qualifiers than the ratio the District is entitled to for the State Tournament. The remaining teams continue in single loss elimination rounds with three judges per round.
- D. **Plan #4** - Each team debates four rounds (2 affirmative, 2 negative). All teams having won at least two ballots if a single judge is used, five ballots if two judges are used, or eight ballots if three judges are used per round, proceed to elimination rounds, unless this results in a fewer number of qualifiers than the ratio the District is permitted to qualify for the State Tournament. The remaining teams continue in single loss elimination rounds with three judges per round.
- E. **Plan #5: The "PDQ Format" Plan** – Each team will debate six rounds (3 affirmative, 3 negative). Rounds I and II must be randomly paired. Rounds III, IV, V and VI shall be paired high-low within the brackets or in a manner consistent with the conduct of the OSDA State Tournament.
1. Teams from the same school shall not meet in preliminary rounds.
  2. Teams must debate an equal number of rounds on each side (except in PF)
  3. Rounds I through VI will not feature procedures known as lag-pairing or any other pairing procedure that is not based on actual competition.
  4. If there is a bye in Round I and/or Round II, the bye(s) must be debated before the high-low pairing in Round III takes place. Any byes after Rounds I or II will be given to teams not in contention for the OSDA State Tournament qualification.
  5. In Rounds I through VI, panels of one judge or three judges must be used. Judges will be assigned randomly.
  6. After six rounds of debate, if run-off rounds are needed to determine OSDA

State qualification, panels of three judges must be used.

7. This plan may be adapted to a four round format. Round I or Round I and Round II shall be randomly paired. Subsequent rounds shall be paired high-low within the brackets.
- F. **Alternative State Qualifying Option for Plan #5** – A District that chooses this option for a Debate Event is not entitled to alternate entries in that Debate Event to the OSDA State Tournament.
1. If a Debate Event at the District Tournament runs four rounds, at the conclusion of the four rounds of competition, all entries with a winning record (3-1 or 4-0) will qualify to the OSDA State Tournament.
  2. If a Debate Event at the District Tournament runs six rounds, at the conclusion of the six rounds of competition, all entries will a winning record (4-2, 5-1 or 6-0) will qualify to the OSDA State Tournament.
- G. **Pairing Priorities for Final Preliminary Round** – In the final preliminary round, the 2-loss bracket (if debating six preliminary rounds) or the 1-loss bracket (if debating four preliminary rounds) shall be known as the “bubble bracket” and shall be paired first.
- H. **Swing Team** - To ensure an even number of teams in each category at the state tournament, the top ranked eliminated team in the state tournament host district shall be designated as the “swing team,” and shall debate at the state tournament only if necessary. If the state tournament host district does not contest a Debate Event, the swing team in that event shall be determined by random draw from the top ranked eliminated teams from the districts that did contest that Debate Event.
- I. **District Run-Off in Debate** – The following table is to be used to assist in conducting run-offs in Debate Events.

<b>Two Teams - One Slot</b> Rd 1 - The two teams debate. The winner is the State Qualifier	<b>Three Teams - One Slot</b> Rd 1 - Two teams debate. One team is the bye.  Rd 2 - The winner of Rd 1 debates the bye. The winner of Rd 2 is the State Qualifier.
<b>Three Teams - Two Slots</b> Rd 1 - Two teams debate. One team is the bye. The winner of Rd 1 is a State Qualifier.  Rd 2 - The loser of Rd 1 and the bye debate. The winner of Rd 2 is a State Qualifier.	<b>Four Teams - One Slot</b> Rd 1 - The four teams debate.  Rd 2 - The winners of Rd 1 debate. The winner of Rd 2 is the State Qualifier.
<b>Four Teams - Two Slots</b> Rd 1 - The four teams debate. The two winning teams are State Qualifiers.	<b>Four Teams - Three Slots</b> Rd 1 - The four teams debate. The 2 winners are State Qualifiers.  Rd 2 - The losing teams from Rd 1 debate. The winner is the 3rd State Qualifier.
<b>Five Teams - One Slot</b> Rd 1 - Four teams debate. One team is a bye.	<b>Five Teams - Two Slots</b> Rd 1 - Four teams debate. One team is a bye. One of the winners - BY BLIND DRAW - is a State Qualifier.

<p>Rd 2 - One of the winners of Rd 1 is a bye. The other debates the Rd 1 bye.</p> <p>Rd 3 - The winner of Rd 2 and the Rd 2 bye debate. The winner is the State Qualifier.</p>	<p>Rd 2 - The other winner of Rd 1 debates the bye from Rd 1. The winner is the 2nd State Qualifier.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Five Teams - Three Slots</b></p> <p>Rd 1 - Four teams debate. One team is a bye. The 2 winners are State Qualifiers.</p> <p>Rd 2 - The Rd 1 bye debates a Rd 1 loser. The other Rd 1 loser is a bye.</p> <p>Rd 3 - The winner of Rd 2 and the Rd 2 bye debate. The winner is the 3rd State Qualifier.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Five Teams - Four Slots</b></p> <p>Rd 1 - Four teams debate. One team is a bye. The 2 winners are State Qualifiers.</p> <p>Rd 2 - The Rd 1 bye debates a Rd 1 loser. The other Rd 1 loser is a bye. The winner is the 3rd state Qualifier.</p> <p>Rd 3 - The loser of Rd 2 and the Rd 2 bye debate. The winner is the 4th State Qualifier.</p>

- J. **Judge Strikes** - A judge strike plan must be agreed to by a majority of the coaches of the district and must be filed with the Executive Director prior to the tournament.

VI. **DISTRICT SPEECH**

The following rules and regulations should govern the District Speech Tournament. The District Committee is given power to deal with situations not covered or anticipated by these rules. The District Committee should make such decisions in the spirit of the Mission Statement of the OSDA and within the guiding framework of what is the fairest solution for the student competitors.

- A. In all Speech Events, contestants shall compete in groups of not more than seven in a section in each round. The judge shall rank the contestants as first, second, third, et cetera, (no two ranks alike) in the order of preference.
- B. Contestants are to speak at the time and in the order scheduled, unless the District Chair authorizes otherwise.
- C. Timekeeping -- In all Speech Events, the judges shall keep time. For each section of the contest, one judge will be designated as the official timekeeping judge. This judge announces the time after each contestant's presentation. In all events, the time begins with the first word and/or movement in the presentation. All events have a thirty-second grace period. There are no prescribed minimum times in any event. Any penalty for exceeding the grace period, in any event, is left to the judge's discretion.
  - 1. Each entry is only permitted one opportunity to present a particular speech in a round. Once an entry begins presenting a particular speech, the time begins, and it continues running until the entry voluntarily/consciously finishes the presentation and/or clearly indicates a conclusion as per the judge's discretion.
  - 2. Any entry that performs a second, separately timed presentation of a particular speech in a round, for whatever reason, after voluntarily/consciously finishing the first presentation, must receive the loss in the round.
- D. No contestant may use a speech which s/he used in a previous season's OSDA BQS, District or State Tournament.
- E. Extemporeaneous Preparation Room Procedure and Student Instructions:
  - 1. In the preparation room place the Record Form on the counter. Place the

- corresponding question envelope for Round I with the Record Form.
2. Each contestant draws three questions and chooses one on which to speak. Record the numbers of all questions drawn on the Record Form and, finally, the question selected for the speech. The rejected questions should be returned to the proper envelope.
  3. Contestants draw at intervals of 7 minutes.
  4. After drawing questions, a contestant may not confer with anyone. The contestant is NOT permitted to consult prepared notes or speeches and may NOT leave the room without permission. The contestant may use an annotated bibliography and consult previously stored publications. Competitors in Extemporaneous speaking are allowed to access WiFi during prep time in the extemp prep room.
  5. A supervisor should monitor the students during the preparation time to assure that there is not consultation and that only permissible material is used.
  6. The contestants must have all sources from which they quote available in their prep room files.
  7. The student must present the question slip to the judges in each round.
  8. After each round, remove the envelopes and place the next set of question envelopes on the corresponding Record Forms.

## VII. PLANS FOR SPEECH

The District Committee shall determine, according to the number of entries in each event, which of the following plans shall be used. The District Committee may schedule additional rounds to determine State Tournament qualification. Ties for the last qualifying place(s) must be broken by additional competition with no fewer than three judges. Rank total ties in rounds of additional competition may be broken by judge preference followed by reciprocals.

- A. **Plan #1** - If seven or fewer contestants enter an event, there shall be one round with a panel of three judges or two rounds with a panel of three judges.
- B. **Plan #2** - If eight to fourteen contestants enter an event, there shall be two rounds with a panel of three judges in each section or three rounds with a panel of two or three judges in each section.
- C. **Plan #3** - If fifteen or more contestants enter an event, there may be either two or three rounds. If there are two rounds, panels of three judges must be used; if there are three rounds, one, two, or three judges may be used. However, the number of judges must be consistent for all rounds within a category.
- D. **Plan #4** - Modified NSDA "California" Plan
  1. Districts may select to use two (2) judges or three (3) judges in each preliminary round but must apply this decision consistently throughout the tournament and across all events.
  2. At least three (3) preliminary rounds of competition must be held. Districts may elect to conduct additional preliminary rounds based on registration in an event -- between 25 and 42 entries may conduct four (4) preliminary rounds; entries over 43 in an event may conduct five (5) preliminary rounds.
  3. Round One must be randomly scheduled or scheduled by the district's accepted

- OSDA seeding plan. Entries may be changed from one section to another only to avoid entries from the same school or, in the event of seeding, seed conflicts.
4. Each judge will rank entries from one as best to seven as worst. In events with uneven sections, ranks of five, six and seven will be changed to reflect the ranks of the short section. For example, if an event has three sections of six and one section of five, the tab room will adjust each rank of six to a rank of five.
  5. The judges' ranks may be totaled for each entry. The sum will be re-ranked for the purpose of tabulating the round. Alternatively, each judge's rank may be considered independently. In this situation, the total of each judge's ranks for each entry will be used for the purpose of tabulating the round.
    - a. Breaking ties with two judges - in the event of a two-way tie, both entries are awarded the higher rank. In the event of a three-way tie, entries are awarded a tied, middle rank. In the event of a four-way tie, entries are awarded an upper-middle rank. For other entries after the tie in the section, eliminate the next position after the tied ranking.
    - b. Breaking ties with three judges: In the event of a two-way tie, the tie will be broken by judges' preference. In the event of three or four-way tie, the entries are awarded the better middle position for which the speakers are tied. For other entries after the tie in the section, eliminate the next position after the tied ranking.
  6. Round Two and all subsequent rounds are seeded only by the cumulative results of competition from the previous rounds. Sectioning of Round Two and all subsequent rounds shall be done by the commonly accepted snaking pattern. Entries are to be moved from sections only under the following conditions:
    - a. To avoid an imbalance of schools. The higher seeded entry from a school must remain in the original section. The lower seeded entry from the same school must be placed in the next available section in the snaking pattern until school balance occurs.
    - b. To balance power, entries may be moved from a suboptimal pairing to an optimal pairing if it does not result in the lowest composite ranks (equal to the number of sections in the round) meeting each other or an imbalance of schools. The balance of power is determined by the sum of the composite ranks in each section if sections have the same number of entries. If uneven sections exist, power is determined by the average of the composite ranks in each section.
- E. **Dropped Scores** - Districts are permitted to drop judge scores. A drop score plan must be agreed to by a majority of the coaches of the district and must be filed with the Executive Director prior to the tournament.
- F. **Judge Strikes** - A judge strike plan must be agreed to by a majority of the coaches of the district and must be filed with the Executive Director prior to the tournament.

# STATE TOURNAMENT

The OSDA State Tournament Manual is comprised of the General Rules, Event Specific Procedures, Scheduling and sectioning for Debate and Speech Events that will be used in conducting the State Tournament.

## I. GENERAL RULES

- A. Eligibility - All eligibility rules for OSDA sanctioned tournaments apply to the OSDA State Tournament. Additionally, the following are specific to the State Tournament:
1. A Policy team, a Public Forum team, and a Duo Interpretation team may not change its composition after the District Tournament.
  2. Should a qualifier through the OSDA District Tournament be unable to compete at the State Tournament, the qualifier shall be replaced by the respective District's alternate as noted on the District Report.
  3. Should a PDQ, BQS, or NSDA qualifier be unable to compete at the State Tournament, the qualification simply disappears.
  4. If a student qualifies to the OSDA State Tournament from an OSDA member school, but subsequently transfers and enrolls in a different OSDA member school, the student will enter the OSDA State Tournament as a member of the school of his/her current enrollment. The new school shall accept responsibility for the student who is attending the State Tournament. However, If a student qualifies to the OSDA State Tournament from an OSDA member school, but subsequently transfers and enrolls in a school not holding OSDA membership, that student forfeits her/his OSDA state qualification.
  4. First year teams (2020-2021 doesn't count) are granted two state qualifiers who may be in addition to students who qualify through our usual procedures, provided that the team must have competed in at least 3 BQS Tournaments and the District Tournament.
  5. All state qualifying and alternates in Original Oratory and Informative must submit speeches by the Wednesday before state setup weekend.
    - a. Submissions must include a cover sheet, speech and bibliography.
    - b. All speeches must be shared as a Google document as requested.
    - c. Any entry whose speech is not submitted in the correct format by Wednesday of the State Tournament will not be allowed to compete.
- B. The Board of Directors has the responsibility to act upon concerns that competitors and coaches are violating the OSDA mission statement.
- C. The tournament will include the implicit bias language on the ballots, provide a link to a video in the judge briefing and have access to an equity officer, either in-person or virtually.
- D. Tournament Fee -- A suitable registration fee, determined by the Board of Directors, must be paid by the established deadline.
1. No fee shall be refunded for cancellation of a tournament entry.
  2. All fees including late fees must be paid prior to the beginning of the tournament

or participation shall be denied.

- E. Judges -- All judges who are judging at the State Tournament are expected to have satisfied both of the criteria below:
1. Be knowledgeable of Speech and Debate as demonstrated by having any one of:
    - a. attended a judge training session
    - b. shadowed an experienced judge
    - c. competed in high school
    - d. employed as a current or past coach
  2. Have experience in the pool for which they are judging at the State Tournament (Speech / LD / PF / Congress) as demonstrated by having any one of:
    - a. judged at least one regular season tournament in that same pool (current or previous year)
    - b. judged a prior State Tournament in that same pool
    - c. served as a current or past coach with familiarity of the event(s) in that pool.

Any judges who are determined to be lacking in these qualifications are to be removed from the judging pool immediately upon discovery and their team is to be levied a \$50 fine per individual, per day. Rounds judged by any individual having not satisfied these criteria, prior to discovery, cannot be protested on this ground. The Board of Directors will make judge assignments as it deems necessary for the good conduct of the tournament.

3. Judging ratios will be established, and schools will be notified of their requirements.
4. The OSDA will promote collaboration earlier in order to share judges to cover their quotas. At state setup, entries are dropped if a team does not satisfy its quota for a particular type of judge. At the tournament itself, a \$50 per missed assignment for missing judges. Those fines and fees must be paid before participation in any future OSDA sanctioned event.
5. If a judge in Speech Events is a first-year high school graduate, s/he may not judge the event(s) in which s/he competed. It is the school's responsibility to note this information on the registration website. This rule does not apply to Debate.
6. Immediate family members may not judge the event in which a related student has qualified for the State Tournament. It is the school's responsibility to note this information on the registration website. This rule does not apply to Debate.
7. All judges have an ethical responsibility to disqualify themselves from evaluating student competitors with whom they have personal relationships because of our interconnected society.
8. No school judge will be released until Final Round judge panels are announced, unless the judge is dismissed by the appropriate judge committee. A school may be sanctioned for every round a school's judge fails to complete his or her scheduled rounds.

F. Timekeeping

1. Each entry is only permitted one opportunity to present a particular speech in a round. Once an entry begins presenting a speech, the time begins, and it continues running until the entry voluntarily/consciously finishes the presentation

- and/or clearly indicates a conclusion as per the judge's discretion. Any entry that performs a second, separately timed presentation of the particular speech in a round, for whatever reason, after voluntarily/consciously finishing the first presentation, must receive the worst rank or loss in the round.
2. In all Debate categories, the contestants will time themselves and their competitors. A judge will be designated to monitor the timing of speeches and preparation time. All judges must have a timing device.
  3. In all Speech Events, the judges shall keep time. For each section of the contest, one judge will be designated as the official timekeeping judge. This judge announces the time after each contestant's presentation. In all events, the time begins with the first word and/or movement in the presentation. All events have a thirty-second grace period. There are no prescribed minimum times in any event. Any penalty for exceeding the grace period, in any event, is left to the judge's discretion.
  4. In Extemporaneous Speaking, unless otherwise requested by the contestant, the judge is to inform the contestants of their remaining time by holding up two fingers at the end of five minutes, a one-minute signal at six minutes, a half-minute signal at six minutes, thirty seconds, and a closed fist at the seven-minute period.
  5. In all other Speech Events, upon student request, an appropriate signal will be given by the timekeeping judge when the student reaches eight minutes (two minutes remaining signal), nine minutes (one minute remaining signal), thirty seconds (thirty second signal) and ten minutes (a closed fist indication).
  6. Two judges on each Final Round panel will be designated as the official timekeepers.
- G. Late Contestants: A contestant more than 15 minutes late for a round shall be ranked last for that speech round or be given a loss for that debate round.
- H. Missing A Round: If a contestant in the elimination rounds misses his/her round assignment, for whatever reason, no contestant may "move up" to replace that missing contestant. If a competitor or a team, because of illness or other circumstances, cannot complete his/her or their round assignments, s/he or they is/are to be given a loss in that debate round or last place in that speech round.
- I. Observers – Observers and guests are permitted in all rounds of competition at the OSDA State Tournament. The Board of Directors, in cooperation with the host school, may adopt policies that insure the comfort and safety of all guests, competitors and judges.
- J. Electronic Devices may be used at the State Tournament in a manner consistent with the Competitive Events Manual.
- K. It is the sole responsibility of the competitor and coach to comply with OSDA guidelines and rules regarding scripts and sources (see the Competitive Events Manual).
- L. Rule Infractions: In the event a coach or judge engaged in the State Tournament believes that a rule infraction has occurred, s/he must initiate the following process within 30 minutes of the conclusions of the round where the alleged infraction occurred.
1. Approach the Ombudsperson at the applicable tournament venue in order to discuss the situation.

2. If the Ombudsperson is unable to resolve the problem, the coach or judge must complete the OSDA State Tournament Protest form, including the appropriate and specific reference to the violation of OSDA manuals. The form must be obtained from and submitted to the Ombudsperson.

3. Possible Resolutions to Rules Infractions or Protests

The following are the possible resolutions for protests and/or rules infractions at the State Tournament.

- a. A warning for an entry regarding subsequent rounds.
- b. A "loss" or the "low rank" in a particular round for a particular entry.
- c. Disqualification of a particular entry from the remainder of the Tournament. If an entry is disqualified at a BQS, District, or State Tournament, that entry will receive the lowest rank or loss in the round where the issue leading to disqualification happened or was initially discovered as well as any subsequent rounds in which the entry participated, if applicable. Entries that were initially ranked below or earned a loss to a disqualified entry at or after the round where the issue was initially discovered will have their ranks adjusted accordingly or their decision revised to a win. Ranks from previous rounds will remain unchanged, and the entry will be removed from future scheduling.
- d. Removal of a particular observer from the remainder of the tournament.
- e. A warning for a judge regarding subsequent rounds.
- f. Removal of a particular judge from the remainder of the tournament.
- g. Dropping a particular judge's ballot in a particular round.
  - i. In Speech Events:
    - a. Prelim Rounds: A prelim judge's dropped ranks for each entry will be replaced by the average of the entry's other (7) judge ranks from all prelims, rounded to the nearest whole number (a .5 rounds down; for example, a 1.5 would be recorded as a 1.)
    - b. Quarters / Semis: A judge's dropped ranks for each entry will be replaced by the average of the entry's other (2) judge ranks from that particular elimination round, rounded to the nearest whole number (a .5 rounds down; for example, a 1.5 would be recorded as a 1.) If this yields an unbreakable tie in determining the advancing entry, the following criteria, in order, will be used to determine the advancing entry:
      1. Better total judge ranks from all rounds.
      2. Higher seed based on preliminary round placings.
    - c. Finals: A judge's dropped ranks for each entry will be replaced by the average of the entry's other (6) judge ranks from the final round, rounded to the nearest whole number (a .5 rounds down; for example, a 1.5 would be recorded as a 1.)

- ii. In Congressional Debate:
  - a. Prelim Rounds: A judge's dropped rank for each entry will be replaced by the average of the entry's other (4) judge scores from prelims, rounded to the nearest whole number (a .5 rounds down; for example, a 1.5 would be recorded as a 1.)
  - b. Quarters / Semis: A judge's dropped ranks for each entry will be replaced by the average of the entry's other (5) judge ranks from that particular elimination round, rounded to the nearest whole number (a .5 rounds down; for example, a 1.5 would be recorded as a 1.)
  - c. Finals: A judge's dropped ranks for each entry will be replaced by the average of the entry's other (6) judge ranks from the final round, rounded to the nearest whole number (a .5 rounds down; for example, a 1.5 would be recorded as a 1.)
  - d. Unbreakable Ties: If any of these approaches yields an unbreakable tie in determining the advancing entries or final placings (most likely, that would occur if the pari's ranks are dropped), the following criteria, in order, will be used to determine the advancing entry:
    - 1. Better total judge ranks from all rounds.
    - 2. Better total pari ranks from all rounds.
    - 3. Better total judge ranks from the previous round.
    - 4. Better pari rank from the previous elimination round.
    - 5. If a tie still exists, all entries remaining tied for the last advancing spot will advance to the next round.
- iii. In Lincoln-Douglas, Policy, and Public Forum Debate:
  - a. Prelim Rounds: Both entries will receive a BYE win. In Lincoln-Douglas and Policy Debate, the sides of the debaters should be noted (AFF/NEG) for future scheduling, to ensure side balance in preliminary rounds and applicable side assignments for repeat matchups in elimination rounds.
  - b. Elimination Rounds: The dropped judge's decision will be replaced, indicating a winning entry and a losing entry, with the winning entry on the replacement ballot determined using the criteria below, in order. When applicable, both the winning and losing entries on the replacement ballot will receive the maximum possible speaker points.
    - 1. If the other judges on the panel in that particular elimination round have a majority decision as to the winner, that same entry will be noted as the winning entry on the replacement ballot.

2. The entry that won more total ballots from all rounds, with BYE rounds counting as unanimous wins, will be noted as the winning entry on the replacement ballot.
3. The entry that was the higher seed based on preliminary round placings will be noted as the winning entry on the replacement ballot.
4. **Rerunning Rounds Prohibited**

Rounds and specific sections are not to be rerun at the State Tournament, in part or in their entirety. If an extreme issue occurs that has no other reasonable remedy, the Executive Director can ask the Board of Directors to consider approving a particular section or round to be rerun, in part or in its entirety. A round or specific section can only be rerun, in part or in its entirety, if approved by a unanimous vote of the Board of Directors.
5. The Ombudsperson will take the form to the two Protest Designees in the particular TAB room. The Protest Designees will immediately notify the Executive Director and the Board Chair.
6. At this point, both of the following happen:
  - A. The Protest Designees and Executive Director consult with each other as well as other relevant parties (the individual submitting the protest, the coach of the team being protested, any judges who might have witnessed the protested action(s)) in order to render a decision. The Protest Designees and Executive Director have the authority to rule on the protest and determine penalties for any rule infraction.
  - B. The Board Chair notifies the Board of Directors that a formal protest has been filed, with a brief description of the protest. The Board does not get involved in the protest at this time and should remain focused on its tournament tasks.
7. The Executive Director, accompanied by the Protest Designees, will notify the individual protesting, the head coach of the entry being protested, and the Board Chair of the decision. This decision stands, barring an immediate appeal to the Board.
8. The Board Chair then notifies the Board of Directors of the decision rendered. The Board does not intervene unless an appeal is filed.
9. If an impacted party opts to appeal the decision, an appeal form must be submitted immediately to the Executive Director, with specific grounds for why the Board should consider the appeal. The Executive Director must immediately forward the appeal as well as the original protest form to the Board Chair, who organizes a Board review of the appeal.
10. If a Board Member served as one of the Protest Designees, s/he cannot rule on the appeal.
11. The Board of Directors has the final and absolute authority to rule on the appeal.
12. The Board Chair, accompanied by the Executive Director, will communicate the final determination of the appeal to the individual appealing the earlier protest decision.

13. A description of all protests will be published in OSDA Board Meeting minutes.

## II. **EXTEMP PREPARATION AND GUIDELINES**

- A. Extemporaneous Question Construction: All questions must be based upon significant subject matters discussed in standard publications during the current school year.
  1. All questions must be numbered, typed, and reproduced.
  2. The questions must be written in interrogative sentence form.
  3. The questions should be answerable by conclusions that can be drawn from existing bodies of knowledge.
- B. Extemporaneous Question Distribution: Review vendor questions and sort into the various subject areas for each Extemporaneous Speaking event.
  1. Each envelope for each section for Round I must contain the same twelve questions representing the subject area of that round. Each of the remaining rounds shall be similarly prepared, using questions reflecting a different subject area in each round.
  2. Write the event, round, and section on the outside of each envelope.
- C. Extemporaneous Preparation Room Procedure and Student Instructions:
  1. In the preparation room place the Record Form on the counter. Place the corresponding question envelope for Round I with the Record Form.
  2. Each contestant draws three questions and chooses one on which to speak. Record the numbers of all questions drawn on the Record Form and, finally, the question selected for the speech. The rejected questions should be returned to the proper envelope.
  3. Contestants draw at intervals of 7 minutes, (except for Final round where the interval is twelve minutes) beginning 30 minutes before the contest starting time.
  4. After drawing questions, a contestant may not confer with anyone. The contestant is NOT permitted to consult prepared notes or speeches and may NOT leave the room without permission. The contestant may use an annotated bibliography and consult previously stored publications.
  5. Competitors in Extemporaneous speaking are allowed to access WiFi during prep time in the extemp prep room.
  6. A supervisor should monitor the students during the preparation time to assure that there is not consultation and that only permissible material is used.
  7. Speakers may have file boxes which can be subdivided into categories to simplify preparation time. If speakers wish to use a file of cut out articles or photocopied material, this file should not be pasted, stapled, or in any other manner connected. The only exception to this would be if an article were continued on another page. It would then be permissible to attach these sheets together. Partial articles may not be in these files. Highlighting or underlining of each article is permitted as long as it is done in only one color. The complete source must be identified on the article and in the file.
  8. No previously prepared speeches, notes, outlines, or other material on paper, or in digital or electronic formats may be included in the Extempore files or carried into the preparation room at competition.
  9. The contestants must have all sources from which they quote available in their

- prep room files.
10. The student must present the question slip to the judges in each round.
  11. Extemporaneous speakers may be allowed to use a timing device while giving his/her speech. The sole purpose of the timing device must be to keep time. No extemporaneous speaker may use a timing device that have communicative features with other devices/internet connection or has storage capacity.
  12. After each round, remove the envelopes and place the next set of question envelopes on the corresponding Record Forms
- D. All Break Rounds shall include a cross-examination period according to the NSDA procedure.
1. Cross-examination will be conducted in all break rounds of both United States Extemporaneous Speaking and International Extemporaneous Speaking. Unless unavoidable, entries from the same school shall not cross-examine one another.
  2. While questioners may take notes during a speaker's speech, notes will not be used during the actual cross-examination period.
  3. Cross-examination procedure:
    - a. Each entry shall be assigned a speaker order position taking into account above section D1.
    - b. Drawing of questions shall take place at twelve minute intervals.
    - c. Thirty minutes after speaker one has drawn, speaker one and speaker last shall enter the competition room. Speaker one will give a speech; speaker last will listen and may take notes.
    - d. After speaker one has finished the speech, speaker last may ask questions for two minutes.
    - e. At the conclusion of the cross-examination period, speaker last will report back to the prep room. Speaker one remains in the competition room to listen to and question speaker two. Speaker two will question speaker three, etc.
    - f. If time expires while a question is being answered, the speaker shall be allowed thirty seconds to finish the answer. Time signals in cross-examination will be a "1" at one minute expired; a "half signal" at 1:30 expired; a "fist" at 2 minutes expired and a "raised" fist at 2:30.

### III. **SPEECH EVENTS**

- A. Objectives
1. There should be at least five students in a section. More than this number will usually be scheduled to allow for drops. There may not be more than seven students in a section.
  2. Students from the same school should not meet in preliminary rounds unless the number of the school's entries exceeds the number of sections in that event.
  3. No contestant should meet any other contestant more than necessary. How often is "necessary" depends on how many rounds are in the tournament and the number of sections.
  4. Students from the same District should not meet more than "necessary."
  5. A2, A3, A4, are in order of priority.

6. The student's speaking order should vary from round to round. No students should repeat as first or last speaker in preliminary rounds.
  7. Two judges will evaluate each preliminary round.
  8. No student should be judged by the same person more than once.
- B. Scheduling Preliminary Rounds
1. Computer scheduling shall be used following the priorities as listed in III. A. 5.
  2. Recording Results: In any event, rank no contestant lower than the smallest section in that event.
- C. Scheduling Judges
1. Scheduling Priorities in Preliminary Rounds.
    - a. Judging panels should be constructed with either two judges representing Districts with no contestants in that section, or two judges representing two different Districts with contestants in that section.
    - b. Avoid having two judges from the same District on the same panel.
    - c. No judge should judge the same event twice.
  2. Three-judge panels must be used in Quarter-Final and Semi-Final rounds.
    - a. Judging panels should be constructed with either three judges representing Districts with no contestants in that section, or three judges representing three different Districts with contestants in that section.
    - b. Avoid having two judges from the same District on the same panel.
    - c. No judge should judge the same event twice.
  3. One judge per district must be used in each Final round.
  4. Keep a list of any judge penalties accrued during the tournament (i.e., missing assignments, etc.). Give the list to the Executive Director.
- D. Scheduling the Quarter-Final Round:
1. Rank the 24 best competitors in order by:
    - a. Total Ranks
    - b. Head to Head
    - c. Reciprocals
  2. If there is an unbreakable tie for the last position(s), take the contestants who are tied into the Quarter-Final round, unless this will increase the number of Quarter-Finalists to 29. In that case, do not take any of the tied contestants. (There may not be more than 7 contestants in any Quarter-Final section).
  3. Snake the Quarter-Final round:
 

Arrange the contestants in order based on the ranking from D(2). Top contestant goes into section A. Second contestant goes into Section B. Third contestant goes into Section C. Fourth contestant goes into Section D. Fifth contestant goes into Section D. Sixth contestant goes into Section C. Seventh contestant goes into Section B. Eighth contestant goes into Section A. Continue in like manner. The schedule runs like a "snake."
  4. Team protection is not a consideration when snaking (do NOT break the snake).
  5. Once the sections are determined, speaker order should be set randomly.
- E. Scheduling the Semi-Final Round:
1. The top three contestants from each of the four Quarter-Final sections advance. In any category with an unbalanced sectioning of quarter-finals, once the

advancing entries are determined, ensure that none of the ranks of advancing entries are lower than the smallest section in the event.

Using only Quarter-Final scores following the aforementioned criteria, rank the 12 best competitors in order:

- a. Total Ranks
  - b. Judge Preference
  - c. Reciprocals
  - d. Drop the best and the worst scores
  - e. If the tie still exists, break using preliminary round placings.
2. Snake the Semi-Final round:  
Arrange the contestants in order based on the ranking from E(2). Top contestant goes into section A. Second contestant goes into Section B. Third contestant goes into Section B. Fourth contestant goes into Section A. Fifth contestant goes into Section A. Continue in like manner. The schedule runs like a “snake.”
  3. Team protection is not a consideration when snaking (do NOT break the snake).
  4. Once the sections are determined, speaker order should be set randomly.
- F. Scheduling the Final Round:
1. The top three contestants from each of the Semi-Final sections advance. In some cases, a fourth contestant from a Semi-Final section can advance too. This is outlined in (F 3) below.
  2. Determine finalists in the following manner:
    - a. Total Ranks
    - b. Judge Preference
    - c. Reciprocals
    - d. Drop the best and the worst scores.
    - e. The remaining score determines the placement.
    - f. If there are ties among the remaining scores, refer to breaking two-way ties above.
  3. In case of a tie in total ranks for the last qualifying position in one Semi-Final section, the 7th contestant would be placed into the Final round. If a tie for the last qualifying position occurs in both Semi-Final sections, then the tie must be broken in both sections and only six contestants would be placed into the Final round.
  4. If a tie needs broken and still exists, break using quarter-final round scores.
  5. If a tie needs broken and still exists, break using preliminary round placings.
  6. After determining the finalists, submit the results to the Checker.
  7. Once the sections are determined, speaker order should be set randomly while noting
    - a. No contestant should speak in the same order as Quarter-Finals or Semi-Finals, if avoidable.
    - b. In extemp, teammates should not question each other, if avoidable. Watch for consecutive speakers and first/last speakers.
- G. Final Rounds of Speech
1. Each student gets 2 tickets.

2. Give to whomever they choose (including coaches)
3. Seating
  - a. Judges
  - b. Contestants
  - c. Ticket Holders
  - d. Non-Ticket Holders until the room is full
- H. Final Placings
 

To determine final placement, drop the contestant's best and worst scores from the Final round. Add the remaining five scores and rank by the following:

  1. Total Ranks
  2. Judge Preference (includes all final round judge ranks.)
  3. Reciprocals
- I. For remaining ties:
  1. Include all scores from the final round judges and follow (G) above.
  2. If there are ties among the remaining scores, break remaining ties using Semi-Final round rank totals. If the contestants were in the same Semi-Final section, the full Semi-Final tiebreakers can be used.
  3. If there are ties among the remaining scores, break remaining ties using Quarter-Final round rank totals. If the contestants were in the same Quarter-Final section, the full Quarter-Final tiebreakers can be used.
  4. If there are ties among the remaining scores, break remaining ties using preliminary round placings and tiebreakers.
- J. After determining placement, submit results to the Checker.

#### IV. **DEBATE (LINCOLN-DOUGLAS, POLICY, AND PUBLIC FORUM)**

- A. Objectives:
  1. There will be six rounds of preliminary debates - three rounds on each side of the question, except for Public Forum where all rounds will be flip rounds. Entries should not meet entries from their own school.
  2. Prior to the elimination rounds, no judge may evaluate the same team more than once. In the elimination rounds, a judge may evaluate a team for the second time in the tournament, if the judge gave the team a win in an earlier round or if the judge is mutually preferred.
  3. To break ties, use the following list of priorities:
    - a. Win/Loss record
    - b. Head-to-Head where applicable
    - b. Judge Variance
    - c. Drop Hi/Lo + opponent wins .
    - d. Total speaker ranks (only in Policy Debate).
    - e. Computerized flip of the coin.
- B. Preliminary Rounds:
  1. If an uneven number of teams occur, the host District will provide the "swing team." The "swing team" is the host District's alternate team. If the host District provides no "swing team," a random draw will be conducted from the remaining Districts' first alternates to determine the swing team.

2. In Rounds I and II, unless unavoidable, no team shall compete against a team from its own District.
  3. Although pairings will be drawn at random, no team will compete against the same team twice in Rounds I and II.
  4. Rounds III, IV, V, and VI will be sectioned high - low within the brackets.
  5. After Round II, byes will be assigned to the team at the bottom of the lowest bracket.
- C. Elimination Rounds:
1. Following Round VI, all teams with a winning record (4 - 2 or better) will advance.
  2. For teams meeting in all elimination rounds, sides will be determined by a computerized coin flip. If they have previously met, they shall meet on the opposite (except in Public Forum – all rounds in Public Forum are determined by a flip of a coin).
  3. In Public Forum, Lincoln/Douglas and Policy Debate, if contestants or teams from the same school are scheduled to meet in the elimination round bracket, the debate will be paired by the bracket. The debate shall take place, or the school's coach may advance the higher seeded of the two contestants or teams without a debate. If the entries debate, the judging panel will be asked to indicate if the round was legitimate. If the judging panel unanimously agrees that the round was not legitimate, the higher-seeded entry will advance regardless of the result of the ballots.
  4.
    - a. If the final two teams are from different schools, the final round must be completed. If the final round is not conducted, no Champion will be recognized, no ballots will be entered, and no sweepstakes points will be awarded.
    - b. If the final two teams are from the same school, they can be declared co-champions, if that is the school's preference. In that case, that school would receive the sweepstakes points equating to winning five ballots in the final round (5 ballots should be entered in SpeechWire, even though the entries are not participating).
- D. Scheduling Judges
1. Use a preferential judge system or a strike system as a check on judges.
  2. In preliminary rounds a single judge is used. Judges are assigned randomly being mindful of district constraints, taking strikes / ratings into consideration.
  3. No judge shall evaluate a team more than once during preliminary rounds.
  4. Three-judge panels shall be used in elimination rounds and five-judge panels shall be used in the Final Round.
  5. Guidelines for judges in elimination rounds:
    - a. Blocks remain in effect during elimination rounds.
    - b. The first priority shall be that judges have not evaluated the entries previously in the tournament, unless preferential judging is used.
    - c. If a judge has evaluated the entries previously in the tournament, the judge in question must have given both entries a win in the earlier round, unless a preferential judging system is used.
    - d. If conditions require, individual judges who have favored either of the

entries may be used. In such cases, every effort shall be made to balance the panel.

## V. CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE

A. The OSDA State Congress shall be conducted with the OSDA State Tournament.

B. Entries:

1. Each member school shall be permitted to enter up to four (4) legislators, unless the school's number of bid qualifiers exceeds four, in which case all of that school's bid qualifiers shall be permitted to enter.
2. The name of each legislator must be submitted on the official OSDA State Registration Form by the prescribed deadline. Substitutes may be named until the conclusion of Thursday night registration.
3. Legislators from the same school and the same OSDA District will be evenly apportioned into separate preliminary chambers as best as possible, depending upon the number of entries and the number of chambers.
4. Students who have qualified to State in any non-team event may NOT register for or compete in Student Congress. However, one member of a team event (Policy, Public Forum or Duo) may register ONLY if his/her teammate is unable to compete at the State Tournament.

C. Legislation:

1. Each District Congress Chair should submit four (4) pieces of legislation, bills and/or resolutions. All legislation shall follow the OSDA guidelines and be formatted using the template provided by the OSDA.
2. Legislation may be either national or state oriented in nature.
3. District Legislation must be submitted in an electronic format prescribed by the Executive Director by the prescribed deadline, to be placed on the OSDA website for downloading.
4. State Congress legislation will be reviewed by the District Congress Chairs and the OSDA Congress Chair. Based on that review, the legislation will be placed in the preliminary, quarter-final, semi-final and final sessions.
5. The Board of Directors reserves the right to combine, alter or omit legislation submitted for the State Congress. The Board of Directors may delegate these powers to the Congress Chairs.

D. Sessions:

1. There shall be two preliminary sessions. The first session shall last two and one-half hours. The second session will last two hours. During the first half hour of the first session, an agenda of legislation shall be set and Presiding Officers shall be elected. Eighteen (18) to twenty-four (24) legislators in each preliminary session chamber is the optimum number. Twenty-five (25) legislators in each preliminary session chamber is the maximum number.
2. There shall be one quarter-final session. This session shall last two and one half hours. There shall be no more than ninety-six (96) legislators in the quarterfinals. Quarter-finalist legislators shall be apportioned equally in each quarter-final session chamber. (8 sections total)
3. There shall be one semi-final session. This session shall last three hours. There

shall be no more than forty-eight (48) legislators in the semifinals. Semi-finalist legislators shall be apportioned equally in each semi-final session chamber. (4 sections total)

4. There shall be one final session chamber. The length of this session shall last three hours. There shall be no more than sixteen (16) legislators in the final session.
  5. The length of the preliminary, quarter-final, semi-final and/or final sessions may be adjusted by the Board of Directors if the time constraints of the Tournament require.
  6. An agenda of legislation will be set under the guidance of the Congressional Debate State Tournament staff.
- E. Speeches:
1. Speeches introducing legislation and the first negative/opposition speech are allotted up to three minutes, followed by two minutes of questioning by other delegates. All subsequent speeches receive a one (1) minute cross-examination. Cross-examination shall be a factor in the scoring of a speech. Time limits for session length shall not be altered for any reason.
  2. In order to begin debate on a piece of legislation, there must be an authorship or sponsorship speech. As legislation is district-sponsored, authorship speeches will be awarded by District. If no one chooses to be recognized for authorship, a sponsorship speech may be delivered by any member of the chamber, provided this recognition follows the recency guidelines where more than one person volunteers. Should no student seek recognition for the authorship or sponsorship, the chamber should move to lay the legislation on the table until such time that a student is prepared to introduce it.

Authorship or sponsorship speeches and the first negative/opposition speech are allotted up to three minutes, followed by two minutes of questioning by other delegates. Subsequent speeches shall be called for following an alternating PRO then CON rotation.

Following the first two speeches on legislation, the presiding officer will alternately recognize affirmative and negative speakers, who will address the chamber for up to three minutes followed by one minute of questioning by other delegates. If no one wishes to oppose the preceding speaker, the presiding officer may recognize a speaker upholding the same side. When no one seeks the floor for debate, the presiding officer may ask the chamber if they are “ready for the question,” at which point, if there is no objection, voting may commence on the legislation itself. There is no “minimum cycle” rule; however, if debate gets “one-sided,” the chamber may decide to move the previous question.

- a. In the event a student speaks on the wrong side called for by the presiding officer and the error is not caught, the speaker shall be scored and the speech shall count in recency, but the speaker must be penalized at least three points for not paying close attention to the flow of debate.
- b. In the event a student speaks on an item of legislation not currently being

debated, said speech shall count in recency, but zero points shall be awarded.

3. Speaking order shall be determined by precedence and then recency which remain in place for the entire chamber and are reset for each elimination round.
  4. Visual aids are permitted in Congressional Debate, provided that they do not require electronic retrieval devices in the chamber.
- F. Presiding Officers:
1. For the preliminary sessions, two Presiding Officers shall be elected by each chamber for each session to serve for approximately one hour each. The candidate receiving the most votes shall have priority over which session he/she shall preside. The candidate receiving the next highest votes shall have the next priority, and so on. The Presiding Officer shall be scored for his/her performance in his/her session in the same manner as the other legislators in his/her chamber. [In every preliminary session, the Presiding Officers shall serve for an equal amount of time.]
  2. For the quarter-final session, three (3) Presiding Officers shall be elected by each chamber to serve for approximately fifty minutes each. The candidate receiving the most votes shall have priority over which hour he/she shall preside. The candidate receiving the next highest votes shall have the next priority, and so on. The Presiding Officer shall be scored for his/her performance in his/her hour in the same manner as the other legislators in his/her chamber.
  3. For the semi-final session, three (3) Presiding Officers shall be elected by each chamber to serve for approximately one hour each. The candidate receiving the most votes shall have priority over which hour he/she shall preside. The candidate receiving the next highest votes shall have the next priority, and so on. The Presiding Officer shall be scored for his/her performance in his/her hour in the same manner as the other legislators in his/her chamber.
  4. For the final session, three (3) Presiding Officers shall be elected by the chamber to serve for one hour each. The candidate receiving the most votes shall have priority over which hour he/she shall preside. The candidate receiving the next highest votes shall have the next priority, and so on. The Presiding Officer shall be scored for his/her performance in his/her hour in the same manner as the other legislators in his/her chamber.
  5. A Best Presiding Officer Award shall be voted upon by the legislators of the final session and presented at the Awards Assembly.
- G. Direct Questioning
1. Following each speech, there will be a period of direct questioning. Each questioner shall have a period of 30-seconds to ask one or multiple questions. The total questioning period will be 2 minutes after the authorship/sponsorship and 1st negative speech and 1 minute for every speech thereafter. Additionally:
    - a. The PO must keep a separate questioning precedence/recency (to ensure equal opportunity for legislators to ask questions), and should promptly adjudicate the end of each 30-second period.
    - b. If a questioner does not use her/his full 30 seconds, the presiding officer has the discretion to call on another speaker, or absorb the

time.

- c. No suspensions of the rules to extend questioning are permitted.
- d. Questioners may not prefer questions with information external to the speaker's remarks.
- e. Questioners may interrupt a speaker during his/her response, *but the manner in which they do so is subject to critique by judges – remember, this is Congress – there is a standard of decorum and courtesy that members should be held to!*

2. Questioners should strive to expose flaws in the speaker's arguments by asking a series of questions about the speaker's remarks. These questions should subject the speaker's arguments to intensive and focused scrutiny. There should be no "softball questions." The segment is for asking questions; not for making new arguments or rehash old arguments. Questions and answers should be concise and to the point. To that end, questioners may politely interrupt speakers during their responses when, for instance, they ramble or do not directly answer the question.

#### H. Scoring:

1. Each team with students competing in Congressional Debate must submit one judge for the State Tournament.
2. Each speech and each Presiding Officer performance shall be ranked on the basis of one (1) through six (6) points by the Official Scorers (a rank of six points is the best).

#### I. Scorers:

1. The two preliminary rounds will include 4 scorers and 1 scoring parliamentarian. Each preliminary chamber will have constant scorers and a constant parliamentarian. Precedence will not reset between rounds. At the end of the preliminary rounds, judges will rank contestants from 1-10. All other competitors will be ranked as 11s.
2. The quarterfinal round will include 5 scorers and 1 scoring parliamentarian. At the end of the round, judges will rank contestants from 1-8. All other competitors will be ranked as 9s.
3. The semifinal round will include 5 scorers and 1 scoring parliamentarian. At the end of the round, judges will rank contestants from 1-8. All other competitors will be ranked as 9s.
4. The final round will include 6 scorers and 1 scoring parliamentarian. If all seven districts are represented in the final round, there will be 7 scorers. At the end of the round, judges will rank contestants from 1-8. All other competitors will be ranked as 9s.
5. No scorer may be placed into a chamber that has one of her/her students.
6. The goal of placing scorers into chambers is to vary the scorers to represent the OSDA Districts as best as possible.
7. The State Tournament will be tabbed by Judges' Ranking of Individual Competitors. The tiebreakers will be:
  - a. Judges' Preference (2-way tie, did a majority of judges prefer one

- of the two competitors?)
  - b. Reciprocals
  - c. Parliamentarian Rank
- J. The top six (6) in the final session shall receive OSDA awards at the Awards Assembly. All other finalists shall receive medallions in the final session chamber.
- K. Parliamentarians:
  1. The Parliamentarian shall assist the Presiding Officer in the running of the chamber, to intervene in case a Presiding Officer becomes too deeply involved in parliamentary rules, to correct gross errors in procedure and to record actions taken. His/Her decision on procedural questions shall be final. Thus, he/she should have knowledge of parliamentary procedure and Robert's Rules of Order.
  2. Each District shall identify three (3) scorers from the judging pool who are recommended for use as parliamentarians.
  3. There shall be one (1) Parliamentarian for the preliminary sessions of each Chamber; the Parliamentarian shall remain in that chamber for the preliminary sessions. There shall be one (1) Parliamentarian for the quarter-final session of each chamber. There shall be one (1) Parliamentarian for the semi-final session of each chamber. There shall be one (1) Parliamentarian for the final session chamber. No students from the Parliamentarian's school shall be placed into his/her chamber.
- L. State Tournament chambers are closed. Legislators should ask permission (by moving a personal privilege) to leave and enter the chamber while it is in session, but should not interrupt a speaker who is addressing the chamber.

## VI. AWARDS

- A. Appropriate awards will be given to Finalists and Semi-Finalists in the Speech Events; to the Octo-Finalists through Finalists in Debate Events; and to the members of the Final Session of Congressional Debate.
- B. The Board of Directors has established the following special awards:
  1. Phyllis Barton Award - presented to the top speaker in Policy Debate based on accumulated speaker points from preliminary rounds. Ties will be broken using the following list of priorities:
    - a. total speaker points
    - b. drop high-low speaker points and add the rest
    - c. drop double high-low speaker points and add the rest
    - d. total speaker ranks
    - e. judge controlled variance
    - f. opposition strength
    - g. wins accumulated
    - h. flip a coin
  2. The Joseph Kuldau Award - presented to the top speaker in Humorous Interpretation based on all judges' ranks through the Final round; The Arlene Akerman Award – presented to the top speaker in Dramatic Interpretation based on all judges' ranks through the Final round; The Marjorie Brenizer Award – presented to the top speaker in Declamation based on all judges' ranks through

the Final round; and The Sharen Althoff Award - presented to the top speaker in United States Extemporaneous Speaking based on all judges' ranks through the Final round. For each of these awards, ties will be broken using the following list of priorities:

- a. greatest number of 1's
  - b. greatest number of 1's and 2's
  - c. Final round placing
3. The G. Robert Santo Award - presented to the team that has the most combined "1"s in Dramatic, Humorous, and Duo Interpretation from preliminary through Final Rounds.
  4. The Linda Miller Award - presented to a coach with five years or less of experience who has demonstrated coaching excellence.
  5. The John Revezzo Award - presented to a coach of each state champion.
- C. Sweepstakes: The OSDA recognizes significant team achievement with a team sweepstakes award and school of excellence awards.
1. Each entry counts toward team sweepstakes.

- a. Speech Events: Entries earn points for each judge rank in each round of competition as indicated:

Prelims		Elims	
Judge Rank	Points	Judge Rank	Points
1	3	1	3
2	2	2	2
3	1	3	1

- b. Debate Events Initially Advancing to Triple Octas: Entries earn points for each judge ballot won in each round of competition as indicated (BYE rounds count as unanimous panel wins):

Round(s)	Points Per Judge Ballot Won
Prelims	4
Elims (TO, DO, O, Q, S, F)	1.95

- c. Debate Events Initially Advancing to Double Octas: Entries earn points for each judge ballot won in each round of competition as indicated (BYE rounds count as unanimous panel wins):

Round(s)	Points Per Judge Ballot Won
Prelims	4
Elims (DO, O, Q, S, F)	2.3

- d. Debate Events Initially Advancing to Octas: Entries earn points for each judge ballot won in each round of competition as indicated (BYE rounds count as unanimous panel wins):

Round(s)	Points Per Judge Ballot Won
Prelims	4

Elims (O, Q, S, F)	2.79
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- e. Congressional Debate: Entries earn points for each judge rank in each round of competition as indicated:

Prelims		Elims	
Judge Rank	Points	Judge Rank	Points
1	4.8	1	2.06
2	4.44	2	1.84
3	4.08	3	1.62
4	3.72	4	1.4
5	3.36	5	1.18
6	3	6	0.96
7	2.64	7	0.74
8	2.28	8	0.52
9	1.92		
10	1.56		

2. The top six (6) teams will be recognized with awards for their overall performance in team sweepstakes. Ties will not be broken.
  3. Additional school of excellence awards will be conferred based on team sweepstakes results in three category groupings, with five (5) teams recognized in each grouping. Teams finishing in the top six in overall team sweepstakes are not eligible for school of excellence awards. Teams can receive school of excellence awards in multiple groupings.
    - a. Rhetoric (DEC, INF, IX, OO, USX)
    - b. Interp (DI, DUO, HI, POI)
    - c. Debate (Congress, Lincoln-Douglas, Policy, Public Forum)
- D. The OSDA Friend of Speech Award:
1. On application and approval of two-thirds (2/3) of the voting members of the Ohio High School Speech League's Board of Directors, a "Friend of Speech" award may be presented to organizations or individuals by a League coach, team or District with the sanction of the OSDA. The award may contain the League's logo and/or slogan and will be registered in the League office.
  2. This award is intended for organizations or individuals who are not coaches, schools, or individual members of the OSDA but have exhibited exceptional action to enhance speech and/or speech competition in the state of Ohio.

3. Written application must include an explanation of the contribution by the nominee and his longevity in the capacity.