

Judge Instructions

Thank you for judging at the New Philadelphia Debate tournament. You are an important part of our tournament; we could not do it without you. We will need your help if we are to complete our rounds efficiently and timely, so that you and the students can have time for a lunch break and get home at a reasonable time.

First, logistical information:

1. You must be checked in before 8:00 AM in the judge's room.
2. You must be in the room for your first-round assignment and ready to go by 8:15 AM! Failure to be in your room and ready to go can result in penalties for your school and will significantly disrupt this tournament.
3. You will need a laptop or tablet to access Speechwire and access your ballot.
4. Please verify that you can access your judging account on live.speechwire.com before the tournament. If you do not see yourself registered for the tournament or you cannot log in, you must contact your coach prior to the tournament.

Second, pragmatic information:

1. When the rounds have been scheduled, you will receive notification about your judging assignment via email, text, or on live.speechwire.com. You are encouraged to go to your speechwire account and subscribe to this tournament. This will add a bit of needed redundancy to your notifications. It is possible that you will not have an assignment in every round. If you do not receive a ballot for two rounds, please let the tab room know.
2. As soon as you are notified, go immediately to the room indicated. There may be a time indicated as when the round should start. **Ignore that.** Go immediately to the room. However unlikely, we may be ahead of schedule, and that's a good thing.
3. As soon as you and the appropriate competitors are in the room, hit the "start round" button. That is worth repeating, so I will. As soon as you and the appropriate competitors are in the room, hit the "start round" button. That button lets the tab room know you have everyone present and are ready to roll. If we do not get that indication, we start running around the building to find out why so we can remedy the situation.
4. On the ballot, you will see places to indicate who won, speaker points, comments for both sides and the reason for the decision.
 - a. "Who won" is self-explanatory but absolutely necessary information on the ballot.
 - b. Speaker points should remain between 24-30. Whoever won the round should have at least one more point than whoever lost.
 - c. Comments are helpful and should be constructive. Brevity is fine. It is important to know that you can return to the ballot at any point during the tournament and add to the comments. **DO NOT LET COMMENTS DELAY YOUR BALLOT.**

- d. **The reason for decision is vital, and we are very insistent that it begins with a clear and unequivocal statement of the winner's code and what side they are on. For example, "B11 on the affirmative/pro wins because . . ." This redundancy helps the tab room ensure that there are no accidental discrepancies or questions as to who won the round. Any uncertainty here can seriously delay the tournament.**
 - e. As soon as you have double-checked to make sure the ballot has the necessary information, please hit the "submit" or "save" ballot button. Again, delays here can really make this a long day.
 - f. Under no circumstances should you provide any oral critiques or disclose who won the round, and please do not discuss the rounds you have seen with any other judges either.
- 5. As soon as you have submitted your ballot, return to this judge's room. Please be sure to stay here at all times throughout the tournament unless you are judging a round. Under no circumstances are you allowed to fraternize with the competitors, either in person or via phone or text. Don't do it. This can result in protests and potentially disqualification of competitors.
 - 6. **Judges are not to provide any oral critiques in or out of rounds.**
 - 7. **Judges are encouraged to provide helpful and appropriate comments on the ballots.**

Now for the more esoteric stuff:

- 1. Remember that you are not a participant in the debate. Leave your opinions about the resolution out of your decision. There's an old joke about two hikers and a bear. As the bear approaches the two hikers, one asks the other, "Do you think you can outrun him?" The other responds, "I do not have to outrun him; I just need to outrun you." In this scenario, you are the bear. Your only job is to tell us which hiker outran the other.
- 2. Be mindful that we all have preconceptions about people based on what we were taught were societal norms. Do not let those preconceptions impact your adjudication of the round.
- 3. Thanks again, and please do not hesitate to ask for clarification of anything I have said or may have forgotten to say that comes up during the day.