

PUBLIC DEBATE PROGRAM

COMPETITION RULES & CLARIFICATIONS



(Effective June 2019)

The **PUBLIC DEBATE PROGRAM** is an international schools network supporting intensive oral communication training, including class and contest public speaking, argumentation, discussion, and debate. The listed official rules are for PDP debate tournament competition for the **Middle School Public Debate Program** (MSPDP – USA Grades 5th-8th), **High School Public Debate Program** (HSPDP – USA Grades 9th-12th), and **University Public Debate Program** (UPDP – undergraduate and graduate/professional schools). The rules and allied

curricular materials were developed to maximize learning outcomes and ensure competitive fairness for all participating students.

Rules, event operations recommendations, and curricular materials were created and are maintained with independent and comprehensive reviews of age-appropriate educational literatures regarding best practices for public speaking, argumentation, critical listening and thinking, and debate; program assessment by graduate education faculty and primary, secondary, and university school administrators and faculty; and performance evaluation by debate experts.

The PDP conducts periodic evaluations of student learning and program operations. Rules are changed, if necessary, based on those evaluations. The evaluations include updated educational literature reviews; faculty, educational administrator, and debate expert assessments; and tournament operations, tabulation software, and student performance outcomes from scores of test events and debates. The PDP does not authorize any other rules, procedures, and/or rubrics for its events.

These rules apply to in-person debating. Many of the rules are in place for online debating, although there are exceptions and modifications for online competitions. Please review the appendix for online rules.

In general, there are standard operating rules for middle school, high school, and university debating. There are 2 primary differences among the formats.

Topic Preparation Time

All middle school debate topics are announced prior to competitions (typically announced 3-6 weeks in advance of an event). High school and university-level events include a mix of pre-announced topics (2-4 weeks in advance of a competition), as well as impromptu topics on current events and enduring controversies, announced just 30 minutes prior to a debate on a particular topic. There are no impromptu topics for middle school debates. There was an evaluation of impromptu middle school debating – impromptu debating at this level does not offer sufficient rigor for its participants. Middle school students are able to engage in sophisticated, substantive debates on pre-announced, research-based topics.

During a competition, once a topic is announced, students have 20 minutes (pre-announced topics) or 30 minutes (impromptu topics) to prepare for debates.

Speech time

There is additional speaking time for select speeches as one moves from middle school to high school and high school to university debating. The speaking order and integration of Points of Information and Argumentative Heckling remain the same.

TIME BEFORE A DEBATE



At a debate tournament, coaches, debaters, judges, and guests will confirm registration for the competition and gather for announcements in a large central space – for example, an auditorium, cafeteria/dining hall, media center, gymnasium, outdoor patio. A tournament director/administrator will use this space for important announcements regarding tournament operations, schedule changes, judge training, and more. Debates are scheduled in rounds. All debaters participate in each round of debate. A tournament will typically have 4-5 rounds of debates in a single day.

Debate Pairings

Before each debate, teams are assigned a side (proposition or opposition), an opponent, a judge, and a location for a debate. This information is included in a “pairing sheet” and posted in several locations in a large gathering area, usually a media center, cafeteria, auditorium, or gym. Some debate tournaments display the pairing information on a projector screen.

A pairing lists debate rooms, teams, and judges in rows. Students find their team code (school name and the first initial of the last names of the 3 debaters or, if a team is missing a debater due to illness or other emergency, will be listed by the first initial of the last names of 2 debaters and an “X” for the missing student). Pairings are read horizontally to discover the information needed to organize every team and judge for a round of debate. Here is a sample pairing sheet, representing the second debate of an event:

ROUND 2

ROOM	PROP	OPP	JUDGE
101	Baxter HPO	Jackson HTS	Milton
102	Clark NHU	Fern TLS	Owen
103	Jackson PPL	Kudishe DES	Ward
105	Murray NMN	Baxter KBB	Liggans
106	Winn WQL	Murray YZG	Eepsie
210	Mt. Etam VKR	Murray AOX	Chartrand
212	Kudishe CCT	Clark IOR	Michaela

For example, in this second debate of a tournament competition, a debater on team WQL from Winn School (“Winn WQL”), should recognize that the team would be debating on the proposition against team Murray School YZG (opposition team). The debate will take place in Room 106 and the judge will be Dr. Elizabeth Eepsie (a guest judge representing Clark Technical College).

Preparation Time

Students have about 5 minutes to read pairing sheets. A debate topic for the upcoming debate is then announced to the audience. Students have 20 minutes of preparation time from the announcement of the topic to the start of the debate for a pre-announced topic; high school and university students have 30-minutes of preparation time from the announcement of the topic to the start of the debate for an impromptu topic. Students must be in their debate room and ready to debate at the 20/30-minute mark. They do not have 20/30 minutes and additional time to get to a room for their debate. If students are more than 2 minutes late to a debate (22/32 minutes after the topic announcement), they should lose the debate by forfeit. A tournament administrator, rather than a judge, may make an exceptional decision to permit a late-arriving team to participate in a debate.

Note Paper, Transcribing Notes, and Access to Electronic Information/Coaching

Note Paper

The tournament tabulation director will make debate note paper available at the time that pairings are revealed. Two kinds of note paper are available – preparation paper and flowsheets. Prep paper, usually letter-sized paper, is colored paper, with a different color selected for each round of debate. For example, the tournament or tabulation director might select blue paper for preparation for the opening round of debate, green for the second debate, yellow for the third, and so on. Flowsheets, to record the student arguments in debates, are also available. Flowsheet paper is usually legal-sized white paper.

Transcribing Notes

Debaters must transcribe any previously prepared notes to colored paper selected for a debate. For example, at the time that pairings are revealed, a tournament official will announce the paper color for a debate. Team coaches move to the front of the tournament assembly room to collect paper. Only coaches may collect paper. The announcement will be simple – “Blue paper! Coaches, please come forward for blue paper and flowsheets!” Coaches will then collect paper for debater use in prep time.

Students must transcribe or re-transcribe all notes and other prepared materials to colored paper (provided by the tournament host) during preparation time. No material written or typed in advance of the preparation time period may be used or reviewed during a competitive debate. All notes must be made by the participating debaters – debate observers/coaches may not prepare debate notes for student use in a debate.

Use of Electronic Equipment

If a student has an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the student may use a computer or other device during preparation time. Other students may use electronic equipment during preparation time in the same manner in which they would use paper. In other words, a student may not use an electronic device to access the Internet or conduct advanced research or searches. A student may scroll through material on a smartphone, tablet, or laptop and transcribe the electronic notes to colored paper for debates. No other person may access the Internet and give information to a debater.

Coaching During Preparation Time

Students may speak with their teammates, other students, coaches, and volunteers designated by their coaches during the preparation time period. No one – a debater or anyone assisting a debater – may access the Internet during preparation time. Students may use an electronic device (e.g., an iPad) but only as a substitute for paper. An electronic device may not be used to more rapidly search for files, access an argument database, or find material on the Internet.

Violations of preparation time rules is a serious rules violation and may result in forfeiture of a debate.

Number of Teams and Speakers, Speech Order



Teams and Speakers

Each PDP debate has 2 teams – proposition and opposition.

Each PDP team has 3 speakers.

Each debater on a team delivers one speech. The first 2 speeches (longer speeches in the debate) are *constructive speeches* – new material may be presented in these speeches. The third speaker delivers a *rebuttal speech* (a summary speech). No new argumentation may be presented in the rebuttal speech. *See rules for “New Arguments in Rebuttal.”

2-person team

If for some exceptional reason (illness just prior to or during a tournament, for example) a team is unable to attend or continue with 3 speakers, the team may proceed with 2 debaters, subject to approval by the

tournament organizer(s). In that case, the team member who speaks twice in the debate must speak first and last (first and third speeches for the team). A speaker on a 2-person team is not permitted to deliver both constructive speeches (the first two speeches for a side in a debate) or consecutive speeches (e.g., second opposition constructive and opposition rebuttal).

Schools may not regularly register 2-person teams for competitions. The official number of debaters on a team is 3.

At league and invitational tournaments, a 2-person team may not be eligible for awards. The league president, in consultation with coaches and the tab director, will determine if 2-person teams may compete for awards. At the overwhelming majority of events, 2-person teams are declared eligible for awards. At a PDP regional/national championship tournament, 2-person teams may not register for the event and are not eligible for awards, except in an extraordinary situation.

Speaker Order

Speakers make their presentations in the following order. The speaking time is the *maximum time* for each speech. No one is required to speak for the maximum time.



Middle School Debating

- First Speaker, Proposition Team – 5 minutes
- First Speaker, Opposition Team – 5 minutes
- Second Speaker, Proposition Team – 5 minutes
- Second Speaker, Opposition Team 5 – minutes
- Third/Rebuttal Speaker, Opposition Team – 5 minutes
- Third/Rebuttal Speaker, Proposition Team – 5 minutes

High School Debating

- First Speaker, Proposition Team – 6 minutes
- First Speaker, Opposition Team – 6 minutes
- Second Speaker, Proposition Team – 6 minutes
- Second Speaker, Opposition Team – 6 minutes
- Third/Rebuttal Speaker, Opposition Team – 5 minutes
- Third/Rebuttal Speaker, Proposition Team – 5 minutes

College/University Debating

- First Speaker, Proposition Team – 7 minutes
- First Speaker, Opposition Team – 7 minutes
- Second Speaker, Proposition Team – 7 minutes
- Second Speaker, Opposition Team – 7 minutes
- Third/Rebuttal Speaker, Opposition Team – 6 minutes
- Third/Rebuttal Speaker, Proposition Team – 6 minutes

Preparation Time **During** a Debate

There is no preparation time period during a debate. A judge will thank a student for a speech and immediately recognize the next speaker (e.g., after the first proposition speech of the debate, “Thank you. I now recognize the first speaker for the opposition team.”) At that verbal signal, the opening speaker for the opposition would rise and move to the center of the room or a desk/podium to deliver the first speech for the opposition team.

Information Regarding a Preamble to a Speech and/or Grace Period

ALL speaking is included in the debater’s speaking time. If a student starts talking, the judge or designated timekeeper **MUST** start the speaker’s time. It does not matter if the speaker is delivering a ‘roadmap’ (“I will begin with new material and then move to the case’s three contentions in reverse order...”) or another preamble (“Are my teammates ready? Opponents ready? Judge ready? My time starts now!”) This verbal material must be timed by the judge.

In addition, there is no ‘grace period’ at the conclusion of a speech. A judge **MUST** stop taking notes when time ends at the 5-minute or 6-minute or 7-minute mark. Students do not receive credit for any material

entered into the debate after their speaking time has concluded. Of course, a student may elegantly end a speech (and this might take a few extra seconds beyond the official speech time). But judges may not record or include this additional material in a debate deliberation and outcome.

Speech Content

Debaters determine the content of speeches. The proposition team interprets the topic for debate and offers a case to demonstrate that its interpretation should be approved by a judge (e.g., the interpretation and supporting case are more likely to be true than false in whole or in part). The opposition team is responsible for selecting a strategy that eliminates or overwhelms the proposition's position.

Points of Information and Argumentative Heckling

A **Point of Information**, also known as a POI, is an interjection by a speaker's opponent to make a comment or ask a question. It does not need to be in the form of a question. The person presenting a POI may speak directly to the judge. A POI is an opportunity for an opponent to add value to the debate. It is a request of a member of one team to a speaker holding the floor to yield time. If approved by the speaker, an opponent has up to 15 seconds to deliver the POI. Because the speaker yields time for a POI, the speaker's time continues to run during a POI.

A Point of Information is the ONLY approved parliamentary point in the PDP format. There is no Point of Clarification, Point of Order, Point of Inquiry, Point of Personal Privilege, etc.

Guidelines for Attempting/Making a POI

POIs are exclusively directed to members of the opposing team. They may not be directed to teammates.

POIs are permitted during constructive speeches – the first 4 speeches of the debate (the speeches with longer speaking times; the speeches delivered by the first and second speakers of each team). They are not permitted in rebuttal speeches.

POIs are permitted after the first minute and before the last minute of constructive speeches. The opening and closing minute of each constructive speech are 'protected time' for the speaker – no POIs.

Students may make a non-verbal or verbal request for a Point of information. A standing student or a student with an arm extended is considered to be making a request of the speaker holding the floor for a Point of information. Nothing needs to be said by the student requesting the point. A student may make a verbal application for a Point of information by standing and saying "Information" or "POI." The verbal request may only be made once; the speaker may not use any other than approved words to request a Point of information (e.g., the person requesting a Point of information may not say "Point of Information on the first issue" "Clarification, second opposition speaker," "On that point, Honorable Speaker" or any other language).

A POI may be a statement, e.g., an argument directed to the judge. A POI may also be a question. POIs do not need to be in the form of a question.

An argument made as a Point of Information ought to receive the same consideration as any argument entered in the debate.

More than one person on a team can request a POI at the same time. A speaker will only recognize one of them when accepting a POI.

The maximum amount of time to make a POI that is approved by a speaker is 15 seconds.

Guidelines for Accepting a POI

A speaker may accept or reject a POI.

Debaters must accept at least one POI during a speech (for success in the performance rubric) but there is no required number of POIs that a speaker must take.

If rejecting a POI, a speaker may use a gesture to wave down speakers attempting a POI – no verbal reply is required. This is not considered impolite – it is an acceptable part of the format.

If more than one debater attempts a POI, the speaker may choose to accept a POI from a particular debater (pointing at, for example, the first speaker on the opposing team and saying, “I will take your point.”)

If more than one debater attempts a POI and the speaker makes a gesture to wave down the opposing side or says, “No, thank you,” all opposing speakers must sit.

For a rejected POI, opposing team speakers must sit for a reasonable time (approximately 15 seconds or more) before rising again for a POI.

Argumentative Heckling is an interruption of a speaker by one or more members of the opposing team. Heckles may be presented at any time in the debate. They are 1-2 words (or, perhaps, 3 brief ones) in length and never 4 or more.

Argumentative heckles are for the benefit of the judge and add value to the debate in a substantive way (they support or make arguments). Only argumentative heckling of this sort is permitted; disruptive heckling is not permitted in the format.

Some heckling is positive. Applause for speakers at the beginning and conclusion of each speech is an example. Teammates may also applaud a member of their team during the member’s speech by rapping on a tabletop or desk; this is conventional applause. Teammates may also call out “Hear, Hear!” in support of an effective argument.

Some heckling is negative. Opponents may call “Shame!” This should not be used for simple disagreement; it is a debate and disagreement is expected. It should be reserved for those times when a speaker makes a

claim that is at odds with the facts of the debate (e.g., a speaker states “And my opponents never discussed the issue of unemployment” when the other side did so, and with some detail).

Debaters must allow speakers to make a full argument before heckling to insist on more information or critique a speaker. For example, some students heckle by requesting that a speaker add evidence or source material to complete an argument. These heckles include “Source!”, “Evidence!”, and “For Example?”...Responsible hecklers wait for the speaker to complete an argument and consider if properly sourced evidence is included in a speech BEFORE making these heckles. A debater unfamiliar with appropriate heckling might heckle a request for evidence without allowing a speaker the time to complete an argument and present evidence. That is non-argumentative and not permitted.

No New Arguments in the Rebuttal Speeches

Speakers are not permitted to present new arguments in the rebuttal speeches (the third and final speeches for each side) of the debate.

A new argument in a rebuttal speech, by definition, is one without a foundation in the constructive speeches. It is possible to present new material in a rebuttal speech if the issue has been established in the debate. Students may continue lines of argument from the constructive speeches to the rebuttal speeches and add more analysis, evidence, and evaluation (these additions must not make an entirely new argument). They simply may not introduce entirely new positions at the latter stages of the debate.

A judge does not penalize students for presenting new arguments. A judge simply disregards new arguments when evaluating the outcome of a debate.

Rules for Judging

All judges must complete Public Debate Program judge certification to be eligible to judge at a tournament. Schools may be penalized for registering judges without PDP certification (for example, the school may not be eligible for school or other awards).

Judges may not change any of the Public Debate Program rules for competition (e.g., a judge may not decide that argumentative heckling is unacceptable and tell students not to heckle in a debate).

A judge must take careful notes for a debate.

The judge makes 2 decisions about outcome. A judge decides the side that wins the debate, based on the material from student speeches. If the proposition teams proves its case is more likely to be true than false, in whole or in part, it should win the debate. If the opposition proves the case is more likely to be false than true, the opposition wins the debate. This is determined by the balance of arguments – it may be that one argument alone is sufficient to prove or disprove the entirety of a case or an opponent’s position in a debate. It may be that a combination of arguments is required to prove that a team’s stance in a debate is more likely to be true/false.

In addition, a judge ranks individual student performances based on an educational standards- and communication skills-based rubric. Rubrics are available online, in judge training documents, and at competitions. The judge considers public speaking, argumentation, refutation, and other factors in the assigning individual scores.

There is a single judge for each debate. There is no collaboration or deliberation with other judges. After careful and private deliberation (judges may not request any help from any other party to make a decision), the judge will complete a ballot, a record of the win/loss issue and individual speaker scores. There is additional space on the judge's scoring ballot for a judge to write comments to explain the outcome and help students improve. This is also required.

Judges are required to announce the win/loss decision to the students, individual speaker scores, as well as give constructive feedback to students.

Rules for Observers

Observers may not verbally heckle students or disrupt a debate. They may politely applaud for debaters at the beginning and end of each speech but they must do so for all speakers in the debate.

Observers may not speak to judges or have any other contact with judges about their debate decisions. If an observer has any comment about a judge, that person may speak to the coach of their institution.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT RULES/CLARIFICATIONS

Could you provide some sample topics?

US Supreme Court Justices should have term limits. (pre-announced and impromptu)
The United Nations should restrict the right of veto in the Security Council. (pre-announced and impromptu)
It is unethical to eat meat. (impromptu)
The US government should use political assassination to protect national security. (impromptu)
The United States should boycott the Beijing Olympics. (impromptu)
'Reality television' does more good than harm. (impromptu)
Countries should substantially increase gas taxes. (pre-announced)
The gray wolf should be a federally protected species. (pre-announced)
Governments should negotiate with terrorists. (pre-announced and impromptu)
The US should have a national identification card. (pre-announced)
Twitter does more good than harm. (pre-announced)
Statehood for Puerto Rico! (pre-announced)
Drones are morally superior to other weapons and tactics. (impromptu)
Smart Nation Singapore will do more harm than good. (pre-announced)
Remove public monuments of slave-holding Founding Fathers! (pre-announced)
Technology will destroy more jobs than it will produce. (impromptu)
The US should leave NATO. (pre-announced)
The US should establish a living wage for workers. (impromptu)

Eliminate supermajority voting in the US Congress! (pre-announced)

To protect national security, it is better to spend on domestic infrastructure priorities than defense. (impromptu)

It is unethical to use animals for display or entertainment. (impromptu)

Employees should be required to participate in worksite wellness programs. (impromptu)

Countries should significantly increase sanctions on Russia. (pre-announced)

The US should not maintain a missile defense for South Korea and Japan. (pre-announced)

On balance, social networking media are an effective tool of social and political advocacy. (impromptu)

The US should establish a legal right to sleep in public. (pre-announced)

The US should adopt a national retail sales tax. (pre-announced)

Reverse mortgages do more harm than good. (pre-announced)

The US should adopt sortition for the US Congress. (pre-announced)

Citizenship should be a privilege, not a right. (impromptu)

In this case, it is acceptable to punish the innocent to prosecute the guilty. (impromptu)

Are students required to speak for their full speaking time?

The length of a speech is its maximum time. A student may use any amount of time in a speech. If a student does not use the full amount of available speaking time and does not address important issues in the debate, that is an ineffective speech. If, however, a student manages to present brilliant argumentation and overwhelms the opposing side in 3 minutes of speaking time instead of a full 5, 6, or 7 minutes, that is an outstanding speech. The latter speaker can sit and expect individual speaker points matching an exceptional performance.

If students are debating as a 2-person team (an infrequent exception), may a student deliver both constructive speeches?

No. On a 2-person team, both debaters deliver a constructive speech and the first constructive speaker presents the rebuttal speech.

Are teams required to present burdens of proof for the respective sides in a debate?

Some debaters will identify “burdens” for their team (“We have to prove x to win the debate”). Some will identify burdens for the other team (“In order to win the debate, our opponent will have to prove Y”). This is not required. Identifying a burden of proof is an argument – either team may introduce the issue but, like any argument, will need to appropriately apply it and defend it.

In addition, the fact that it might be stated by one team in the debate does not make it relevant or meaningful for the other team in the debate. If a proposition team’s opening speaker on a topic regarding abolition of the death penalty states: “The opposition team must show that the use of the death penalty is moral in all circumstances,” that does not oblige the opposition to meet that burden. The opposition might argue that the burden is irrelevant to the ultimate evaluation of the death penalty and that the opposition will offer acceptable justifications for keeping the death penalty on entirely other grounds.

Can the proposition team 'limit' the topic or narrow the debate?

Yes. In fact, it is inevitable that the proposition team must limit the topic. After all, topics may be too broad for a sensible and focused discussion with a 5-, 6- or 7-minute opening speech.

When limiting the topic, the proposition team should be mindful that the limitation ought to be a reasonable one. The proposition cannot place a limit on the topic that is so severe that it is not possible to have a coherent debate. For example, on the topic, *Television is a bad influence*, the opening speaker cannot make a case that television is a bad influence on the proposition team's 3 members and on no one else. There is no way for the opposition team to disprove that proposition case – the case is self-verifying – there is no basis for reasonable debate. But it is not reasonable to presume that the proposition side of that debate must argue that all television in all locations for all time is a bad influence. It would be acceptable for proposition teams to argue any of several limits on the topic, e.g., Television, meaning contemporary entertainment and news programming in the US and/or another location, is a bad influence, meaning that it has more negative social, economic, and/or educational outcomes than positive ones. That would be a reasonable limitation on the topic and a valid basis for debate.

Questions about the Rules?

Please contact John Meany, john.meany@cmc.edu for official clarification. The official rules are the only rules accepted for PDP regional and national championship tournaments.

APPENDIX – ONLINE DEBATING

RULES AND TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES – PDP ONLINE DEBATING

All PDP official changes are effective as of August 15, 2020.

PRIOR TO THE TOURNAMENT – ZOOM

Update Zoom to the most recent version for your device. You can check that you have the correct version by going to this [page](#). The current versions for macOS and Windows are 5.5.4 (13130.0228) and 5.5.4 (13142.0301), respectively. Both macOS and Windows updated versions came out on **March 1, 2021**.

Learn how to operate Zoom on your device. Important functions include muting/unmuting, turning on/off camera, and using breakout rooms.

You will receive a Zoom Invitation to the event.

SCHEDULE

The daily schedule for online HSPDP tournaments is as follows (MSPDP tournaments may follow the same schedule, depending on the league; University tournament schedules are included in invitations). Leagues and specific tournament invitations will announce any particular schedules for those events. This is the schedule for Southern California HSPDP league tournaments:

8-8:45 AM Registration (Staggered; each school will receive a window for registration during the registration period)

Schools must have debaters and judges present at the beginning of their registration time slot (e.g., if Claremont School's registration time is from 7:30am to 7:45am, Claremont participants must be present and in their breakout room by 7:30am). Tab directors will not register schools that arrive after their registration time.

8:45-9 AM Announcements (Announcements made in the Arrival Room)

- **Preparation Time Note**

Online prep for pre-announced topics is 30 minutes

Online prep for high school impromptu topics is 35 minutes

Zoom Notes

While in the main room, please mute yourself.

Do not leave the Zoom call during the tournament.

If you need to be moved into a room (i.e., you have a device that does not allow for the “self- select breakout rooms” function), then wait in the main room until the Zoom Director calls on you. You must know the room name you need to move to such as “Room 1” or “Claremont School”.

If you are an observer in a debate room, please mute yourself and turn off your camera. Do not enter any breakout room besides your school room or your current debate room.

9-10:45 AM Round 1

10:45-12 PM Round 2

12:15-12:45 PM Lunch

12:45-2:30 PM Round 3

2:30-4:15 PM Round 4

4:30 PM Awards and Departure

ADDITIONAL ZOOM AND RELATED NOTES ON GETTING READY, CONNECTIVITY, DEPARTMENT

All participants should test their video/audio prior to joining tournament meetings. Students may not use any unconnected time to circumvent event rules.

All debate participants – coaches, debaters, judges, observers – should close all applications, email accounts, notifications, etc. to reduce bandwidth limits during the competition.

Students must have cameras on and microphones muted. Student cameras must remain on during the entire debate; students should remain muted except for speeches and POI's and quite limited heckling. Students may turn cameras off for connectivity and privacy issues.

Observers must have audio muted and cameras off. Observers may not communicate with any participant (judge, debater) during a debate.

Student may not leave a debate breakout room during a debate and must immediately notify their coach if there is an emergency and they must leave.

A judge may limit access to observers to preserve bandwidth for a debate.

All participants should treat the debate space as an extension of a classroom. Professional and respectful conduct is expected. Although there may be limits to what a participant may be able to do, each attendee should minimize background noise, distractions (for example, young siblings, pets), eating/drinking, lying on a bed or floor, etc. that one would not encounter in a classroom.

No unaffiliated participants may attend the tournament. All attendees, including observers, must identify registered school affiliation.

For student connectivity issues prior to debates (e.g., prep time)

Students must be able to confirm a connection to participate in a debate. Students work with the tournament staff to restore access or provide a reasonable alternative (phone) during prep time. No additional preparation time is given to a team for connection difficulties.

For student connectivity issues during a debate

At the beginning of each speech, the judge will recognize each speaker in turn (Judge: I recognize the first speaker for the proposition...I recognize the first speaker for the opposition...etc.). The debater should then check audio with the judge (Debater: Are you able to hear me?). When the judge replies "Yes," the student's speaking time begins. There is no other untimed part of the debater's speech.

If a student loses a connection during a debate, the student works with the tournament staff to restore access or provide a reasonable alternative (phone). This activity is limited to 2 minutes. After that, the debate resumes.

If a student is unable to return to the debate in a timely manner, the team must convert to a 2-person team for the remainder of the debate. A judge should score the team as a 2-person team; the disconnected student will receive their speaker point average from other debates for calculating missed points for any individual speaker award.

If two students on a team are disconnected from a debate and a connection cannot be restored for at least one of them within 2 minutes, the team is excluded from that round. No 1-person teams may debate in the competition. The disconnected team receives a "0" score, rather than a win or a loss. The disconnected team would receive average points for the incomplete debate for speaker awards. The remaining connected team receives a Bye and Win, with averaged speaker points for individual scores.

After preliminary debates, any team with a "0" result in a debate is ranked ahead of all other teams with a lower number of wins. For example, with a 4-round online tournament, a tab director would rank the 4-0 teams at the top of the team list, followed by 3-1 teams, followed by 3-"0" teams (those missing a round), followed by 2-2 teams, etc. for the purposes of awards.

For judge connectivity issues or missing debaters during a debate

A judge losing connectivity should notify the tab staff immediately by text or phone.

A judge should work with the tournament staff to restore access or provide a reasonable alternative. If no accommodation can be made within 2 minutes, the debate is ended. The teams

receive a Double Bye (each team receives a 'Win') and all speakers receive averaged points for individual speaker awards. **A judge should immediately notify the tournament tab staff if any debaters are missing from a debate breakout room at the scheduled start of a debate.**

QUIET MOMENTS – PREPARATION TIME

Extended prep time for online debating.

Pre-announced topics – **20 minutes** to begin the debate

Impromptu topics – **30 minutes** to begin the debate.

Breakout rooms will close with 3 minutes remaining in prep time to organize for debate breakout rooms. Teams need to be ready to begin speeches in the debate at the end of the official prep time.

Schools will prepare in a breakout room assigned to each school. Team members and coaches may communicate internally via call, text, and email during preparation time. This will give team members time to communicate effectively prior to the debate and permit coaches to speak to any and all teams. Breakout rooms will be closed with 3 minutes remaining in prep time and teams will receive new assignments for breakout rooms for their debates.

Internet access permitted. Students are expected to transcribe notes during prep time. They are not permitted to read prepared speeches or read from online notes. During prep time, students may use the Internet but the camera on their device should show their hands and blank paper on which they are transcribing argument notes and speech information. In other words, although students may use the Internet during prep time, they are on the honor system to transcribe any and all information to previously unused paper for use in debates. Only debaters may transcribe notes for debates. No other person may research, prepare, transcribe, or deliver arguments and other notes for use in any debate. Coaches should monitor and enforce these rules.

NOISY MOMENTS – POI'S AND HECKLING

Live debates can be noisy affairs, with supportive crowd heckling, POIs, and argumentative heckling. Depending on the online platform, it is difficult for a judge/audience to clearly hear the distinct expressions of overlapping speakers. These are recommendations for the less forgiving formats.

If the platform cannot address noise problems, the audience should be limited and quieted – no audience noise is permitted. The audience must have mics muted and cameras off for debates.

For POIs, a team should signal for POIs by use of a digital signal (e.g., 'Raised Hand' in Zoom) and a brief oral remark – "POI" or "Info."

Selective heckling. **Limited heckling** is allowed. If heckling is too disruptive, which may be the case in an online environment, the judge may limit the use. Some heckles should be possible in an online setting. The heckle, “New,” to identify a new argument in a rebuttal speech, is insufficiently disruptive that it should be possible to use it.

Debaters should give a thumb’s up or hand clapping reaction in Zoom for teammate and opponent speeches, rather than audible applause.

GENERAL TOURNAMENT AND TAB PROCEDURES

Leagues/Tournaments may use their preferred tab program. The HSPDP events and other tournaments directly managed by the Claremont Colleges Debate Union (e.g., championship tournaments), will use the new *PDPTab* software. League presidents should discuss any deviations with John Meany, john.mearly@cmc.edu. There will certainly be events for which tournament design and rule flexibility will be required for a fair, educational, and efficient competition.

Registration

- Pre-tournament Registration

Deadlines. Recommended for Wednesday, 6PM prior to the tournament date, with school confirmation at Friday, 4PM. Each tournament should have the final entry confirmation at morning registration prior to data entry in the tournament tabulation software and the tournament start.

Registration submission prior to the tournament must include the phone number and email address of all coaches and judges.

Schools should **register one judge for each team**, with exceptions permitted by the tab staff for each tournament.

- At Tournament Registration

Just as for in-person events, there is one registration for a school – it happens when all registering participants from a school – coaches, debaters, judges – are present. For entry confirmation on the tournament day, all arriving coaches, judges, and debaters from a school will be placed in a school breakout room. When the breakout room is filled with the school’s tournament participants, the primary coach will notify the tab administrator and confirm the entry. The coach will send a message to the tournament’s group text, which will be established before the start of the event. The tab administrator will then approve that entry in the tournament database. School participants will remain in the breakout room until they receive a message to gather for group announcements.

Coaches should assist students as they rename their team based on their code and full name. For example, a team from John Doe Academy with the last names Smith, Sampson, and Zawiri will be JDA SSZ. A debater on that team would rename, with team code and full name, as JDA SSZ – Joella Smith.

Announcements

Announcements will be made in the arrival room or via Zoom chat/group text. Any message in Zoom chat will be duplicated in group texts to coaches. Zoom chat will be used exclusively for official tournament staff announcements. Questions may be directed to select tournament staff by coaches via text. Coaches will receive text contacts prior to the start of registration.

All tournament attendees should mute mics in the arrival room. They should, however, turn on cameras to indicate that they are present. Tournament staff will presume that attendees are absent if they are unmuted or do not have video.

The coach is responsible for ensuring debaters and judges participate in an efficient and responsible manner.

Mechanics of School Breakout Rooms

Pairings will be emailed to the primary coaches and they will have a few minutes to announce and confirm pairings with their debaters. The topic will then be announced to coaches via Zoom chat /group text.

Schools will prepare in a breakout room assigned to each school. Team members and coaches may communicate internally via call, text, and email during preparation time. This will give team members time to communicate effectively prior to the debate and permit coaches to speak to any and all teams. Breakout rooms will be closed with 3 minutes remaining in prep time and teams will receive new assignments for breakout rooms for their debates.

Students are expected to transcribe notes during prep time. They are not permitted to read prepared speeches or read from online notes. During prep time, students may use the Internet but the camera on their device should show their hands and blank paper on which they are transcribing argument notes and speech information. In other words, although students may use the Internet during prep time, they are on the honor system to transcribe any and all information to previously unused paper for use in debates. Only debaters may transcribe notes for debates. No other person may research, prepare, transcribe, or deliver arguments and other notes for use in any debate. Coaches should monitor and enforce these rules.

Ballots

Judges will have 15 minutes for deliberation and oral feedback. Information regarding the result of the debate (Win/Loss and individual speaker score) must then be submitted and recorded. The method of submission and recording will vary depending on the tabulation software platform. As always, it is expected that judges will provide full oral and written feedback to assist student learning and skill development.

DETAILED TOURNAMENT AND TAB PROCEDURES

Step-By-Step Guide of the Tournament Day

Registration

1. **Log into Zoom.**
2. **Rename yourself.**

a. Debaters (before school registration): School First Name Last Name i. Debaters will get team code once their coach registers

2. Debaters (after school registration) "School Team Code First Name Last Name" (e.g., Claremont CJD John Doe)
3. Coaches: School COACH First Name Last Name
4. Judges: School JUDGE First Name Last Name
5. Observers: School OBSERVER First Name Last Name
6. Unaffiliated: Replace school with Unaffiliated

3. **Assign yourself to your school's breakout room.** Find the breakout room function and assign yourself to your school's breakout room.

1. If you did not update Zoom, this function will not work. You must update Zoom to the most recent version for your device prior to registration. If you miss your registration time, you will not be able to participate in the tournament.
2. If you have a Chromebook or a device that does not allow you to move yourself to a breakout room, then you will wait until the Zoom Director asks you what room to move you to. Do not unmute unless the Zoom Director calls on you. The Zoom director will call in order of priority. Observers will be called on last when moving to debate rooms.

4. **Coach registers the school.** Schools must have all debaters, judges, and coaches present at the START TIME of the school's registration slot to register and participate (e.g., if your time slot is 7:00-7:15am, everyone must be in the breakout room by 7:00am).

1. When all debaters and judges from your school have arrived in your school breakout room, the school's coach should assign, or move, themselves to the "TAB" breakout room to register with the tab directors.
2. Once registered with the tab directors, coaches will receive the team codes for their school.
3. Coaches should then return to their school breakout rooms and give the team codes to their debaters.

5. **Debaters add their team code to their naming convention.** Coaches will have received the team codes from registration to give to debaters.

6. **All participants remain in their school breakout rooms until announcements begin.**

Announcements

1. **All breakout rooms close for announcements.** When all school registrations are completed, all participants will be returned to the main room. While in the main room, please remember that you must mute yourself for participants to hear important announcements.

Round 1

1. **After the tournament announcements are made, a tab director shares the pairings (Zoom screen sharing) for 1-2 minutes.** Everyone should find out where they will be in the next round and write it down/take a picture of the room number they will be in.
2. **All participants return to school breakout rooms.** Once the pairings have been shared for 1-2 minutes, the breakout rooms will reopen (meaning you can now move yourself to a breakout room). Participants immediately proceed to their school room for the prep time period.
3. **The topic is announced, and prep time begins.** The topic will be announced via Zoom broadcast announcements and the coach group chat. Along with the topic is the debate start time of the debate (start time, or the time the first speaker begins their speech, will be the prep time + 2 minutes to allow everyone to move to rooms).
4. **E-Ballots are sent out.** Judges should receive a ballot in their emails. Upon receiving the ballot, please confirm the ballot per the instructions in the email which allows the tab directors know you received it. If you are listed as a judge on the pairings and have not received your ballot within 10 minutes of the prep period, please let a tab director know.
5. **Prep time ends. Everyone has 2 minutes to move to debate rooms.**
 1. Prep time for pre-announced motions is 20 minutes. Prep time for impromptu motions is 30 minutes.
 2. Once prep time ends, debaters will have 2 minutes to get to the debate rooms before their debate begins.
 3. If you don't have the "assign yourself function," return to the main room where you will wait for the Zoom Director to call on and move you to your debate room. You must know the room name you are moving to.
6. **Debate begins.** After the 2-minute period, everyone should be in their correct rooms and the debate should start. The first speaker should be speaking by the "start time" given out with the topic announcement.
7. **Debate ends. Deliberation and Feedback Begins.**
 1. After the debate ends, all participants in the breakout room must mute and turn their cameras off.
 2. The judge will deliberate for a maximum of 15 minutes.
 3. After deliberation, the judge will enter the results of the debate in the e-ballot

and submit.

4. After submitting the ballot, the judge begins the feedback period and debaters turn on their cameras again.

8. **After the feedback period, all participants return to their school breakout rooms.**

Round 2-4+

1. **Breakout rooms close for the next round's pairings and any additional announcements.**
2. **Steps 1-6 from Round 1 will repeat.**

Awards

1. **Breakout rooms close for awards. Awards are announced in the main room.**

Judging

Judging Materials: PDP Rubric, PDP Universal Rules, Master PDP Flowsheet, Sample Flowsheet, Sample Debate

E-Ballots

Prior to the tournament day, you will receive a judge verification email asking you to verify your email address by clicking a link. Please do so as soon as possible so we can be sure that the e- ballots are able to reach your email address. If you do not see an email, please check spam or other inboxes. If it is not there, please contact the tab director.

When you are judging in a round, you will receive an e-ballot within 10 minutes of the start time of prep time. Please confirm that you've received the ballot by following the instructions in the email.

During the deliberation period (15-minute period after the debate itself ends), fill out the results from the debate and submit the ballot.

Written Feedback

Please submit written feedback. Your feedback is extremely important and greatly appreciated by coaches.

Because we encourage judges to submit ballots as soon as possible, judges will likely want to add written feedback that they weren't able to add before submitting their ballot. **If you wish to send feedback after submitting your ballot or in addition to feedback on the ballot, please submit your feedback to this [form](#).** You may submit multiple forms for a single round if you have something you would like to add to a previous form.

Judging a two-person team

In a two-person team, one person must speak first and last. Each speech should be judged independently for speaker scores.

The judge MUST indicate the speaker order in the feedback section Team DSX

1. Jane Doe
2. John Stuart
3. Jane Doe