

**Pennsylvania High School  
Speech League**

**STANDING RULES OF  
STATE PROCEDURE**



**Revised: July, 2011**

**PENNSYLVANIA HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH LEAGUE**

**Standing Rules**

STATE TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES

S1. RANKINGS

In tabulating ranks of participants in individual events, adjustments must be made when there are multiple sections with an unequal number of participants in a specific event. For example, if the scoring were:

ROUND I

<u>Participants</u>	<u>Section A</u>	<u>Section B</u>
A	3	
B	2	
C	1	
D	4	
E		1
F		2
G		3
H		4
J		5 4

The rank of contestant "J" would be converted to 4 to equalize the two sections.

S2. ADVANCING TO SEMI FINALS

The goal is to advance 12 speakers from the preliminary rounds of speech events into two equal sections of semi-final competition. Impromptu and Radio Announcing may advance more speakers as conditions permit.

The two semi-final sections ought to be balanced based on the preliminary rankings of the contestants. Unless it is impossible to avoid, no two students from the same district should compete in the same semi-final round. 13 or 14 participants in the semi-final round are acceptable if ties exist in preliminary totals. 15 or more participants are to be avoided.

In advancing students to semis, ties are not to be broken except to avoid having 15 or more students advance. If needed, ties will be broken using reciprocal fractions of the six preliminary ranks to advance 14 or 13 students to the semis. (See section S3 for method.)

S3. ADVANCING TO FINAL ROUND

The top 3 speakers from each section of the semi-finals will advance to the final round based on their total ranks in the semi-final round.

If there is a two-way tie for 3rd place in a semi-final round, the preference is given to the speaker that a majority of judges have given a higher rank:

Speaker A	1√	2	6	Total of 9	
Speaker B	4	1√	4√	Total of 9	Preference

If there is a three-way tie that must be broken to determine the finalists, reciprocal fractions of the three ranks in the semi-final round will be added. Preference is given to the speaker with the highest reciprocal total.

Rank	Reciprocal
1	1.00
2	.500
3	.330
4	.250
5	.200
6	.166

S4. DETERMINING FINAL PLACEMENT

Final placement of speakers at the state tournament is based on the total of the 5 ranks from the final round plus a re-ranking of the students based on their semi-final round rankings. Re-ranks from semis (1, 2, or 3) are determined by the total ranks in the semi final round. Ties in semis are not to be broken for the purposes of re-ranking, rather the tied speakers will each get the higher re-rank.

If a tie exists in the totals for final placement, the re-ranks from semis will be dropped and the preference will go to the student having the lowest total from the final round ranks. If a two-way tie still exists, judges' preference in the final round will determine the final placement of speakers. If a three-way tie still exists, reciprocal fractions will be used.

S5. BREAKING TIES IN INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

Judges Preference (semi-finals):

In case of ties in the cumulative rank, the higher rank is given to that contestant to whom a majority of judges have given a higher rank.

Reciprocal Fractions:

If there is a three-way (or more) tie in an individual event that cannot be broken on Judges Preference, reciprocal fractions shall be used (based on ranks in the final round).

$$1 = 1.00, 2 = .50, 3 = .33, 4 = .25, 5 = .20, 6 = .16$$

The highest total would receive first place.

In case of a tie in the final round, student with the lowest ranks in the final round will be awarded as winner. If tie cannot be broken, judges' preference in the final round will determine winner.

S6. STATE TOURNAMENT CROSS-EXAM DEBATE PAIRINGS PROCEDURES

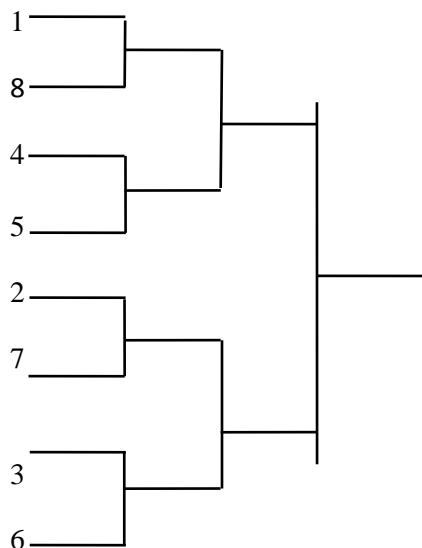
- A. No teams from the same school or district may meet in Rounds I and II. In Rounds III and IV no two teams from the same school may meet. In the elimination rounds there are no such restraints.
- B. Round III Direct Power (1 meets 2, 3 meets 4, etc.)  
Round IV Power Protect (Highest 3-0 meets lowest 3-0, highest 2-1 meets lowest 2-1, etc.) If bracket needs to be broken a debate team from the middle of the next lower bracket moves up.
- C. Side constraints will be observed so that each team will have a total of two affirmative and two negative rounds.
- D. Following the four preliminary rounds in debate, the teams for the elimination rounds are selected. The criteria for determining Rounds III and IV pairings and teams advancing to the elimination round are as follows:

Cross Exam Debate

- 1. win-loss record
- 2. median points
- 3. median ranks
- 4. total points
- 5. total ranks

- E. The teams are ranked based upon the above criteria and placed in brackets as follows:

**Cross Examination Debate Bracket**





S8. STATE TOURNAMENT PUBLIC FORUM PAIRING PROCEDURES

- A. No teams from the same school or district may meet in Rounds I and II at the State Tournament. In Rounds III and IV no two teams from the same school may meet at the State Tournament.
- B. Round III Direct Power (1 meets 2, 3 meets 4, etc.)  
Round IV Power Protect (Highest 3-0 meets lowest 3-0, highest 2-1 meets lowest 2-1, etc.) If bracket needs to be broken a debate team from the middle of the next lower bracket moves up.
- C. Side constraints will be observed so that each team will have a total of two affirmative and two negative rounds.

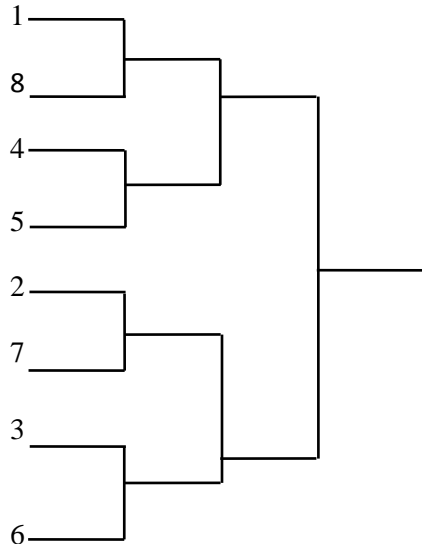
D. Tie Breaking Procedures:

Public Forum Debate

- 1. win-loss record
- 2. median points
- 3. total points

Bracket – Teams are ranked and placed in the following elimination round ballot

**Public Forum Bracket**



S9 STATE TOURNAMENT PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE PAIRING PROCEDURES

- A. No teams from the same school or district may meet in Rounds I and II at the State Tournament. In Rounds III and IV no two teams from the same school may meet at the State Tournament. Two of the rounds will be on the Prepared motion. The remaining rounds will be on the Impromptu motions
- B. Round III Direct Power (1 meets 2, 3 meets 4, etc.)  
Round IV Power Protect (Highest 3-0 meets lowest 3-0, highest 2-1 meets lowest 2-1, etc.) If bracket needs to be broken a debate team from the middle of the next lower bracket moves up.
- C. Side constraints will be observed so that each team will have a one affirmative round on the and one negative round on the prepared motion.

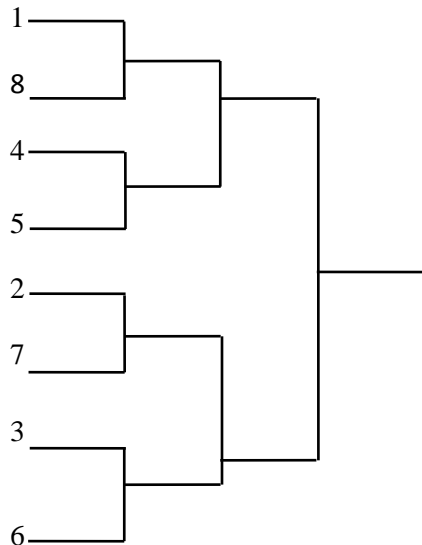
D. Tie Breaking Procedures:

Parliamentary Debate

- 1. win-loss record
- 2. median points
- 3. total points

Bracket – Teams are ranked and placed in the following elimination round ballot

**Parliamentary Debate Bracket**



S9. PREPARATION ROOM PROCEDURES FOR EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING AND COMMENTARY

1. The topics for the State Tournament are supplied by the event coordinator. Extemporaneous Speaking topics generally consist of questions about current events of national and international significance covering the time period six months prior to the contest. Commentary topics shall be of contemporary importance and may include issues, personalities, trends, or concerns.
2. Each round of competition shall have a different set of topics; however, the same set of topics must be used for all the competition sections of the same round. Duplication of topics from round to round is prohibited. The Executive Board will at its Summer meeting select five topic areas for Extemporaneous Speaking for use at the State Tournament.
3. Thirty minutes before the contest is to begin, the first speaker shall draw three topics and after consideration return two. The remaining speakers shall draw in order at seven minute intervals. The event coordinator shall record the number of each student's topic selection.
4. Once the topic has been chosen, the speaker remains in the preparation room until the time to be sent to the competition room by the event directors. During this time the speaker may not consult with anyone. Students may, however, share reference materials. Any collaboration on speech preparation is forbidden. If the speaker consults with *anyone* or collaborates with *anyone* on speech preparation, the speaker will be disqualified from the tournament.
5. Students may consult published books, magazines, newspapers and journals or articles there from, provided:
  - A. They are originals or duplicated copies of the originals.
  - B. That original article or copy is intact and uncut.
  - C. There is no written material on the original or copy.
  - D. Underlining or highlighting will be allowed if done in only one color on each article or copy.

Topical indexes with annotation may be present. Previously prepared speeches, handbooks, briefs and outlines shall be barred from the preparation room. The possession of materials prohibited by these rules will result in the speaker being disqualified from the tournament.

Consult S23 for information on electronic retrieval devices.

S10. INDIVIDUAL EVENTS - MATERIALS

Speeches and readings for PHSSL State Tournament may not have been used in competition by the student prior to the current academic year.

The intent of PHSSL is that all materials presented in interpretation events must be available to all members of the league. All selections must be published or commercially available in print, audio, or video form. At PHSSL tournaments, contestants must bring the published copies of their selection with an ISBN or ISSN in either print, audio or video form, with title page or audio/video credits included. If the original copy does not have an ISBN or ISSN, the coach or supervising adult must be able to show that the original was purchased or obtained commercially, ie. a bill of sale from a literary agent or publisher, or that the original is publicly available by internet URL and retrieval date. Lines which are attributed to one character in the published material may not be attributed to another character in the performance. The author's words as published in the literature may not be altered for the presentation with the exception that cutting is permitted. Material being performed at the PHSSL tournament must match the student's original script. Failure to provide an original copy or a photocopy will result in disqualification from the tournament.

S11. DRAMA - see Handbook

S12. RADIO ANNOUNCING - see Handbook

S13. CONGRESS - see Handbook

S14. MEMBERSHIP DUES/FEES

In order to participate in the State Drama Festival and/or the State Tournament, a school's current membership dues must be paid prior to the deadline as found on the PHSSL Calendar of Events.

S15. REGISTRATION

Published deadline dates for participation in all PHSSL programs and events will be enforced by the Executive Director. Extraordinary circumstances may be handled at the Executive Director's discretion.

S16. FORFEIT RULE

If a student is 15 minutes late for a scheduled round, that student cannot participate in that round, unless the delay is due to a function of the tournament.

S17. ROUNDS

A. Cross Exam Debate

Four rounds. (First two rounds, chance pairing; third round, direct power; fourth round, power protect with side constraints), quarter-finals, semi-finals, and finals.

B. Lincoln-Douglas Debate

Four rounds. (First two rounds, chance pairing; third round, direct power; fourth round, power protect with side constraints), quarter-finals, semi-finals, and finals.

C. Public Forum Debate

Four rounds. (First two rounds, chance pairing; third round, direct power; fourth round, power protect with side constraints), quarter-finals, semi-finals, and finals.

D. Parliamentary Debate

Four rounds – two on the prepared motion and two on the impromptu motions. (First two rounds, chance pairing; third round, direct power; fourth round, power protect), quarter-finals, semi-finals, and finals.

E. Speech and Interpretative Events

Three rounds, semi-finals, and finals.

S18. JUDGES

A. Judges must be supplied on the following basis:

1. One or two Cross-Exam debate teams - 1 judge
2. One or two Lincoln-Douglas students - 1 judge
3. One or two Public Forum Debate teams – 1 speech judge (may be assigned to other events.)
4. One or two Parliamentary Debate teams – 1 judge
5. Individual Events and Student Congress
  - a. 1-3 students - 1 judge
  - b. 4-6 students - 2 judges
  - c. 7-9 students - 3 judges
  - d. 10-12 students - 4 judges
  - e. 13-14 students - 5 judges
  - f. 16-19 students - 6 judges
6. All judges are expected to be available FOR THE ENTIRE TOURNAMENT.
7. Inexperienced judges are unacceptable at the PHSSL State Tournament.
8. The assigner of judges is to assign a separate timekeeper in semifinals and finals in Extemporaneous Speaking and Commentary events.

B. Freshman Judges

In the event that a school is required to supply more than one judge, one of those judges may be a person who has graduated from high school the preceding year.

C. Number of judges in each Round

Individual Events

Preliminary rounds - 2 judges  
Semi-final rounds - 3 judges  
Final rounds - 5 judges

Debate

Preliminary rounds - 1 judge  
Quarter-final rounds - 3 judges  
Semi-final rounds - 3 judges  
Final round - 5 judges

D. Missed Judging

A **\$50.00** fine will be assessed for each judging assignment missed at the State Tournament. A school registering a judge who does not appear for the State Finals will be fined \$150 per individual event and \$200 per debate event. Unpaid fines will preclude a school's participation in PHSSL events until the fine is paid.

E. Hired Judges

Judge sharing is prohibited between schools. Only one judge per school is allowed to be hired for individual events. A school qualifying students to the State Tournament **MUST** provide an individual event(s) judge. The second judge may be hired. No judges are permitted to be hired for Cross-Examination, Parliamentary Debate or L-D debate competition. Fees to be determined by the Executive Board.

S19. NUISANCE FEE

A nuisance fee of **\$50.00** will be assessed per entry dropped after 4:00 PM the Tuesday prior to the State Tournament. No charge for name changes in Impromptu, Radio Announcing and Student Congress.

S20. STATE TOURNAMENT RULES COMMITTEE

- A. PROTESTS: All protests at the State Tournament must be filed in writing, on the appropriate form, with the State League Director, either at the tournament or no later than 72 hours after the conclusion of the tournament in question.
- B. The State Tournament Rules Committee shall consist of the PHSSL Executive Director, the Event Coordinator, and at least three other State Executive Board members.

S21. GRACE PERIODS

In all individual events, a grace period of thirty (30) seconds over the event time limits is permitted without penalty. If a student is more than thirty (30) seconds overtime, that student may not be ranked first in the round. Excessive time violations should be penalized more harshly.

S22. SWING TEAMS/DEBATERS

The swing team/debater for each of the debate events will be supplied by the school of the winner at the previous state championship. If the school of last year's 1st place winner cannot provide a swing entry, the 2nd place school will be asked to provide one and so on. This swing entry will compete in all preliminary rounds and be eligible for the elimination rounds. If not used in the tournament, these students may enter Radio Announcing, Impromptu, or Student Congress. However, a student may NOT be seated in the House of Student Congress in which another student from the same school is seated. Fees are waived for swing entries.

S23. The use of electronic retrieval devices will be permitted in all PHSSL events. This does not imply that any student must use electronic devices, merely that it is permitted. This includes the retrieval -- in preparation rooms and during rounds -- of stored data and, if possible, the online retrieval of current information. This includes using digital resources to flow debates and to prepare speeches. Being able to collect and organize current data in real-time is an important skill in today's digital environment. We believe that having the opportunity to use digital resources to make the best speeches and arguments possible will provide practice in a valuable skill that cannot be matched in any other academic situation.

Please note the following limits and prohibitions:

- There is NO GUARANTEE of power or of Internet connectivity – and there should be no expectation placed on host schools to provide either of these resources. Students wishing to use laptops or other digital devices that connect to the internet will have to be responsible for providing these resources and for having an alternative plan if the digital devices fail.
- Most high schools do not provide unlimited access to guests on their networks. This imposes a special burden of fairness on students who are attending a tournament at their home school. If guests cannot use the network, fairness dictates that students who are attending tournaments at their home school refrain from accessing it as well.
- Digital communication between speakers and persons inside or outside of the round of competition is not permitted.
- The willful failure to abide by these rules will result in disqualification from the tournament.