

Pennsylvania High School Speech League



STANDING RULES OF DISTRICT PROCEDURE

Revised: July, 2011

PENNSYLVANIA HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH LEAGUE

Standing Rules

DISTRICT PROCEDURES

D1. PURPOSE

The purpose of the District Tournament is to advance students to the State Tournament. For purposes of fairness and equity, only students who intend to attend the PHSSL State Tournament if they qualify, should attend the PHSSL District Tournament.

D2. ENTRY FEES

Each District may assess entry fees to cover the cost of the District Tournament expenses and the hiring of judges if necessary. All efforts should be made to keep such fees to a minimum so that schools will not be discouraged from participating in the tournament for financial reasons.

D3. JUDGES

It is left to the option of the District Committee to select the best method of choosing qualified judges. The slate of judges must be approved by the District Committee. Teachers or coaches are not permitted to judge students from their schools. Judges who are graduated less than 12 months from high school should be used with discretion. To every extent possible a judge should not evaluate the same student more than once in a District Tournament. Individual exceptions to these stipulations will be approved by the District Committee.

D4. DISTRICT PARTICIPATION

Each member school may enter two entries in each of the speech and debate events.

D5. QUALIFIERS TO STATE TOURNAMENT FROM DISTRICT TOURNAMENT

Students qualify to the State Tournament through the District Tournament. The number of qualifiers to the State Tournament for each event is based on the number of students actually participating in that event, not on the number pre-registered at the District Tournament. District Chairpersons should exercise caution in announcing qualifiers to State. If a District committee makes an error, the Committee shall correct the error, notify all affected schools and individuals, and contact the State office. No additional qualifiers will be permitted at the State Tournament because of District Committee errors! There are no District Tournaments for Radio Announcing, Impromptu Speaking, and Student Congress.

D6. TIES

In determining the qualifiers for the State Tournaments, the ratios mentioned in the Bylaws shall be strictly followed. Ties in the District shall not be allowed to change these ratios. For example, if there are 11 participants in an individual event, and there is a tie for second place, this tie must be broken since only two may qualify for the State Tournament.

D7. DISTRICT AWARDS

PHSSL certificates are presented to all State qualifiers. PHSSL pins are awarded to the first place winners in each event. Other awards may be presented at the District Tournament as local conditions and customs permit. The State Office will provide each District with a Sweepstakes Award to be presented to the best overall performing school at the District Tournament.

D8. DISTRICT REGISTRATION

Deadlines for registration for the District Tournament will be established and strictly enforced by the District Committee. In all instances, deadlines for registration must be at least one week prior to the tournament.

D9. 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

Participants	Section A	Section B
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.

D10. SPEECH EVENTS

Three plans are outlined for use in the individual events for the District Tournament. These plans are designed to meet the needs of the various districts in the League and are based on the number of participants in each event. Before the first round of each event, the District Chairperson must announce which plan is to be followed for that event in the tournament.

PLAN A

To be used if there are eight or more participants in an individual event. All entrants will compete in three rounds of the event. They will be judged by one to three judges per round as local circumstances allow. At the end of the preliminary rounds, the five (minimum) to seven entrants who have the lowest cumulative ranks shall participate in a final round. The final round will be judged by three judges.

District winners are determined on total (preliminary plus final) ranks. The speaker with the lowest total cumulative rank shall be the winner.

PLAN A

CONTESTANT	ROUND I	ROUND II	ROUND III		FINAL ROUND	CUM. RANK	PLACE	QUALIFIED TO STATE
A	1	1	1	3	212	8	1 st	X
B	3	3	2	8	644	22	4 th	
C	2	5	3	10	466	26	6 th	
D	6 5	5	5	15				
E	5	4	5	14				
F	4	3	4	11				
G	4	2	3	9	555	24	5 th	
H	3	4	4	11				
I	5	6 5	6 5	15				
J	1	2	2	5	123	11	2 nd	X
K	2	1	1	4	331	11	3 rd	

* Tie broken on Final Round Judges' Preference

PLAN B

May be used if there are seven or fewer participants in an individual event. All entrants will compete in two rounds of the event. They will be judged by two or three judges per round as local circumstances allow. District winners are determined on total cumulative rank. The speaker with the lowest total cumulative rank shall be the winner.

PLAN B

CONTESTANT	ROUND I	ROUND II	CUMULATIVE RANK	PLACE	QUALIFIED TO STATE
A	3-5	5-2	15	4	
B	1-1	1-3	6	1	X
C	4-3	3-4	14	3	
D	2-2	2-1	7	2	X
E	5-4	4-5	18	5	

PLAN C

May be used if there are seven or fewer participants in an individual event. All entrants will compete in three rounds of competition. No final round will be held. There will be one judge per round. District winners are determined on total cumulative rank in the three rounds of competition. The speaker with the lowest total cumulative rank shall be the winner.

PLAN C

CONTESTANT	ROUND I	ROUND II	ROUND III	CUMULATIVE RANK	PLACE	QUALIFIED TO STATE
A	3	5	5	13	4	
B	1	1	2	4	1	X
C	4	3	3	10	3	
D	2	2	1	5	2	X
E	5	4	4	13	4	

D11. BREAKING TIES IN INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

In case of ties in the cumulative rank in Plan A, the higher rank is given to that contestant to whom a majority of judges have given a higher rank. This refers to the judges in the final round only.

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

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

The highest total would receive first place.

In Plans B and C, reciprocal fractions will be used to break ties. If the tie cannot be broken using reciprocals, a run-off round must be held. Contestants tied on reciprocals shall be judged by a panel of three judges.

D12. CROSS-EXAM DEBATE

Introduction:

Each school entering cross-exam debate may enter one or two two-person teams. Each team must be prepared to debate both sides of the resolution. The number of rounds of cross-exam debate in the District Tournament will depend on the number of teams entered. Two teams from each district will qualify to the State Tournament. If 12 - 20 cross-exam debate teams participate in the District Tournament, a third team qualifies to the State Tournament. If 21 or more teams participate, a fourth team qualifies to the State Tournament. All rounds in cross-exam debate competition must be randomly paired. However, if power-pairing is desired, see the next paragraph.

Power-Pairing for District Tournament in Debate

In any instance in which a District determines that due to the number of schools and/or teams competing in cross-exam debate, the District Tournament may deviate from the PHSSL rules for random pairing. That District must file a plan for that pairing with the State Office and designated District Executive Board Member by January 15. That plan will be reviewed for approval at least two weeks before the District Tournament. That plan must be submitted with the signature of a majority of cross-exam debate coaches in that District. If the plan is not approved, existing PHSSL Bylaws (random pairing) will prevail.

Swing Contestant

With the agreement of a majority of a district's cross-exam debate coaches, a district may exercise the option to have a swing contestant available on the day of the district cross-exam debate tournament. Should a district exercise the option to use swing contestants, the preceding year's first place school will provide that contestant. If that school cannot provide said contestant, other schools are to be asked in the order in which they placed in the preceding year (second, third, etc.) After two rounds of competition, the swing contestant and the contestant with the lowest rank are to be dropped. This allows the remainder of the tournament (Round 3, or Rounds 3 and 4 depending on numbers entered) to continue with an even number of contestants.

Five or fewer teams entered:

A. If there are five or fewer cross-exam debate teams entered in the District Tournament, two rounds of cross-exam debate will be held. Each team must debate one affirmative and one negative round. Teams from the same school may not meet in these two rounds.

B. If three teams enter the District Tournament:

1. If the teams are from three different schools, each team debates the other two teams. At the end of these rounds, use the tie-breaking procedures below to determine district place winners.

2. If there are two teams from one school and one team from another school, debate:

1A vs. 2A and 1B vs. 2A

If 2A wins both debates, use the tie-breaking procedures below to determine the remaining place winners.

- C. If four teams enter the District Tournament, two random rounds will be held observing school restraints. Each team must be assigned to one affirmative and one negative round. If the debaters represent only two schools, follow the example below:

Round 1	Round 2
1A vs. 2A	2A vs. 1B
1B vs. 2B	2B vs. 1A

Place winners will be determined by using the tie-breaker criteria below.

- D. If five teams enter the District Tournament, two random rounds will be held observing school restraints. Each team must be assigned to one affirmative and one negative round. Follow the example below using three time periods to debate:

<u>Time Period 1</u>	<u>Time Period 2</u>	<u>Time Period 3</u>
2A vs. 1A	1A vs. 2B	2B vs. 3A
	3A vs. 1B	1B vs. 2A

Even numbers of teams (six or higher):

If there is an even number (six or higher) of debate teams entered in the District Tournament, three rounds of cross-exam debate will be held. Each team must debate one affirmative and one negative round. In the third round the teams will toss a coin to determine sides. Teams from the same school may not meet in these three rounds. At the end of three rounds, determine the state qualifiers using the tie-breaking criteria below. In all instances, all undefeated teams are qualified to the State Tournament.

MODEL: "Six Teams from Three Schools"

Round I	AFF		NEG
	1A	vs.	2B
	1B	vs.	3A
	2A	vs.	3B
Round II	3B	vs.	1A
	2B	vs.	1B
	3A	vs.	2A
Round III	FLIP		
	1A	vs.	3A
	1B	vs.	2A
	3B	vs.	2B

Odd numbers of teams (seven or higher):

If there is an odd number (seven or higher) of cross-exam debate teams entered in the District Tournament, three rounds of debate using four time periods will be held. Each team must debate one affirmative and one negative round. In the third round the teams will toss a coin to determine sides. Teams from the same school may not meet in these three rounds. Follow the example below for odd numbers of teams participating:

<u>Time Period 1</u>	<u>Time Period 2</u>	<u>Time Period 3</u>	<u>Time Period 4</u>
1A vs. 2A	2A vs. 3A		4A vs. 1A
3A vs. 1B	1B vs. 2B		
2B vs. 3B	3B vs. 4A		

Drop the team which is 0-2 with lowest median points. Pair remaining teams randomly. Teams may not meet if they have already met in time periods 1-3.

At the end of three rounds, determine the state qualifiers using the tie-breaking criteria. In all instances, all undefeated teams are qualified to the State Tournament.

Tie-breaking procedures:

Ties need not be broken unless (1) the tie determines which team(s) qualify to the State Tournament or (2) to award district sweepstakes points. The following are the criteria for determining state qualifiers and breaking ties. The criteria are to be used in the order listed:

1st criterion	win-loss record
2nd criterion	median points
3rd criterion	median ranks
4th criterion	total points
5th criterion	total ranks

If a tie still exists after applying these five criteria in the order listed, a run-off debate with a three judge panel **MUST** be held. Please note: this is the only time that a team would debate more than three rounds at a District Tournament. School restraints are no longer considered. The sides will be determined by the toss of a coin. If the teams have met previously in the District Tournament, they must reverse sides.

Novice debate:

In the District Tournament, the cross-exam debate method will be used. The format is as stated in PHSSL Bylaws, Article B1 - Cross-exam Debate Rules, Section B1.1.

Each school may enter 1 or 2 switch side debate teams. Varsity procedural rules are to be followed.

D13. LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATE

Introduction:

Each school entering L-D debate may enter one or two debaters. Each L-D debater must be prepared to debate both sides of the resolution. The number of rounds of L-D debate in the District Qualifying Tournament will depend on the number of debaters entered. The number of L-D debaters who will qualify to the State Tournament is determined by the individual events ratio contained in Section B3.3. The topic of debate for the District Tournament will be announced in January. The State Tournament topic will be announced in March. The League will use NFL topics as published in the Rostrum. All L-D rounds must be randomly paired. If power-pairing is desired, see paragraph below.

Power-Pairing for District Tournament in L-D Debate

In any instance in which a District determines that due to the number of schools and/or teams competing in Lincoln-Douglas debate, the District Tournament may deviate from the PHSSL rules for random pairing. That District must file a plan for that pairing with the State Office and designated District Executive Board Member by January 15. That plan will be reviewed for approval at least two weeks before the District Tournament. That plan must be submitted with the signature of a majority of L-D debate coaches in that District. If the plan is not approved, existing PHSSL Bylaws (random pairing) will prevail.

Swing Debaters

With the agreement of a majority of a district's debate coaches, a district may exercise the option to have a swing contestant available on the day of the district debate tournament. Should a district exercise the option to use swing contestants, the preceding year's first place school will provide that contestant. If that school cannot provide said contestant, other schools are to be asked in the order in which they placed in the preceding year (second, third, etc.) After two rounds of competition, the swing contestant and the contestant with the lowest rank are to be dropped. This allows the remainder of the tournament (Round 3 or 3 and 4 depending on numbers entered) to continue with an even number of contestants.

Five or fewer L-D debaters entered:

A. If there are five or fewer L-D debaters entered in the District Tournament, two rounds of debate will be held. Each debater must debate one affirmative and one negative round. Debaters from the same school may not meet in these two rounds.

B. If three L-D debaters enter the District Tournament:

1. If the debaters are from three different schools, each debates the other two debaters. At the end of these rounds, use the tie-breaking procedures below to determine the state qualifiers.
2. If there are two debaters from one school, and one debater from another school, debate:
1A vs. 2A and 1B vs. 2A

The winners of these two debates are the State qualifiers. If 2A wins both debates, use the tiebreaking procedures below to determine the second qualifier.

C. If four L-D debaters enter the District Tournament, two random rounds will be held observing school restraints. Each debater must be assigned to one affirmative and one negative round. If the debaters represent only two schools, follow the example below:

<u>Round 1</u>	<u>Round 2</u>
1A vs. 2A	2A vs. 1B
1B vs. 2B	2B vs. 1A

State qualifiers will be determined by using the tie-breaking criteria below.

D. If five L-D debaters enter the District Tournament, two random rounds will be held observing school restraints. Each debater must be assigned to one affirmative and one negative round. Follow the example below using three time periods to debate:

<u>Time Period 1</u>	<u>Time Period 2</u>	<u>Time Period 3</u>
1A vs. 2B	2A vs. 1A	2B vs. 3A
3A vs. 1B		1B vs. 2A

Six or Seven L-D debaters entered:

A. If six L-D debaters enter the District Tournament, three rounds of debate will be held. Each debater must debate one affirmative and one negative round. In the third round, the debaters will toss a coin to determine sides. Debaters from the same school may not meet in these three rounds. At the end of the three rounds, determine the state qualifiers using the tie-breaking criteria below. In all instances, all undefeated debaters are qualified to the State Tournament.

B. If seven L-D debaters enter the District Tournament, three rounds of debate using four time periods will be held. Each debater must debate one affirmative and one negative round. In the third round, the debater will toss a coin to determine sides. All rounds must be randomly paired. Debaters from the same school may not meet in these three rounds. Follow the example below for odd number of debaters participating:

Time Period 1

1A vs. 2A
3A vs. 1B
2B vs. 3B

Time Period 2

2A vs. 3A
1B vs. 2B
3B vs. 4A

Time Period 3

4A vs. 1A

Time Period 4

Drop the debater who is 0-2 with lowest median points. Pair remaining debaters randomly. Debaters may not meet if they have already met in time periods 1-3.

At the end of three rounds, determine the state qualifiers using the tie-breaking criteria below. In all instances, all undefeated debaters are qualified to the State Tournament.

Even number of L-D debaters (eight or higher):

If there is an even number (eight or higher) of L-D debaters entered in the District Tournament, four rounds of debate will be held. Each debater must debate two affirmative and two negative rounds. Debaters from the same school may not meet in these four rounds. At the end of four rounds, determine the state qualifiers using the tie-breaking criteria below. In all instances, all undefeated debaters are qualified to the State Tournament.

Odd numbers of L-D debaters (nine or higher):

If there is an odd number (nine or higher) of L-D debaters entered in the District Tournament, four rounds of debate using six time periods will be held. Each debater must debate two affirmative and two negative rounds. Debaters from the same school may not meet in these four rounds. Follow the example below for odd number of debaters participating:

Time Period 1

1A vs. 2A
3A vs. 1B
2B vs. 4A
3B vs. 4B

Time Period 2

4B vs. 2A
2B vs. 3A
1B vs. 4A
3B vs. 5A

Time Period 3

5A vs. 1A

Time Period 4

1A vs. 3B
1B vs. 2B
4A vs. 3A
5A vs. 4B

Time Period 5

2A vs. 3B

Time Period 6

4A vs. 5A
3A vs. 1A
2A vs. 1B
4B vs. 2B

At the end of four rounds, determine the State qualifiers using the tie-breaking criteria below. In all instances, all undefeated debaters are qualified to the State Tournament.

Tie-breaking procedures:

Ties need not be broken unless (1) the tie determines which debater(s) qualify to the State Tournament or (2) to award district sweepstakes points. The following are the criteria for determining State qualifiers in L-D debate and for breaking ties. The criteria are to be used in the order listed:

1st criterion	win-loss record
2nd criterion	median points
3rd criterion	total points

If a tie exists after applying these three criteria in the order listed, a run-off debate with a three judge panel **MUST** be held. Please note: this is the only time that an L-D debater would debate more than four rounds at a District Tournament. School restraints are no longer considered. The sides will be determined by the toss of a coin. If the L-D debaters have met previously in the District Tournament, they must reverse sides.

D14 PUBLIC FORUM DEBATE

Introduction

Each school entering Public Forum Debate may enter one or two, two-person teams. Each PF team must be prepared to debate both sides of the resolution. The number of rounds in PF Debate in the District Tournament will depend on the number of debaters entered. If 12 - 20 debate teams participate in the District Tournament, a third team qualifies to the State Tournament. If 21 or more teams participate, a fourth team qualifies to the State Tournament. The topic for the District Tournament will be announced on the first day of the month preceding the District Tournament. For example, the February topic would be announced on the first day of January. The topic for the State Tournament will be announced on the first day of the month preceding the State Tournament. PHSSL will use the NFL topics published in the Rostrum or online at www.nflonline.org. All PF rounds must be randomly paired. If power- pairing is desired, see paragraph below.

All rounds will be judged by **speech judges**. **ONE** judge will judge each debate unless specified otherwise below.

Power-Pairing for District Tournament in PF Debate

In any instance in which a District determines that due to the number of schools and/or teams competing in Public Forum Debate, the District Tournament may deviate from the PHSSL rules for random pairing. The District must file a plan for that pairing with the State Office and designated District Executive Board Member by January 15. That plan will be reviewed for approval at least two weeks before the District Tournament. The plan must be submitted with the signature of a majority of PF coaches in that District. If the plan is not approved, existing PHSSL Bylaws (random pairing) will prevail.

Swing Team

With the agreement of a majority of a districts PF debate coaches, a district may exercise the option to have a swing team available on the day of the district debate tournament. Should a district exercise the option to use swing teams, the preceding year's first-place school will provide the team. If that school cannot provide said team, other schools are to be asked in the order in which they placed in the preceding year (second, third, etc.). After two rounds of competition, the swing team and the team with the lowest rank are to be dropped. This allows the remainder of the tournament to continue with an even number of teams.

General Pairing Philosophy

Public Forum Debate rounds must be paired randomly. Teams from the same school should not meet. Sides are set by the tab staff. Each team is guaranteed one pro and one con round on the resolution.

Five or Fewer Teams entered

A. If there are five or fewer PF teams entered in the District Tournament, two rounds of debate will be held. Debaters from the same school may not meet in these rounds.

B. If three PF teams enter the District Tournament:

1. If the teams are from three different schools, each team debates the other two teams. At the end of these rounds, use the tie-breaking procedures below to determine the state qualifiers.

2. If there are two teams from one school, and one from another school, debate:

1A vs. 2A and 1B vs. 2A

The winners of these two debates are the State Qualifiers. If 2A wins both debates, use the tie-breaking procedures below to determine the second qualifier.

C. If four PF teams enter the District Tournament, two random rounds will be held observing school restraints. If the debate teams represent only two schools, follow the example below:

Round 1	Round 2
1A vs. 2A	2A vs. 1B
1B vs. 2B	2B vs. 1A

State qualifiers will be determined using the tie-breaking criteria below.

D. If five PF teams enter the District Tournament, two random rounds will be held observing school restraints. Follow the example below using three time periods to debate.

Time Period 1	Time Period 2	Time Period 3
Pro Con	Pro Con	Pro Con
1A vs. 2B	2A vs. 1A	2B vs. 3A
3A vs. 1B	1B vs. 2A	

Six Teams entered:

If there are six of Public Forum Debate teams entered in the District Tournament, three rounds of debate will be held. Each team will be guaranteed a Pro round and a Con round. In the third round the teams will toss a coin to determine sides. Teams from the same school may not meet in these three rounds. At the end of three rounds, determine the state qualifiers using the tie-breaking criteria below.

MODEL: Six Teams from Three Schools

Round I PRO CON
 1A vs. 2B
 1B vs. 3A
 2A vs. 3B

Round II PRO CON
 3B vs. 1A
 2B vs. 1B
 3A vs. 2A

Round III FLIP FOR SIDES
 1A vs. 3A
 1B vs. 2A
 3B vs. 2B

Seven teams entered:

If there are seven Public Forum Debate teams entered in the District Tournament, three rounds of debate using four time periods will be held. Each team will be guaranteed a Pro round and a Con round. In the third round the teams will toss a coin to determine sides. Teams from the same school may not meet in these three rounds. Follow the example below for odd numbers of teams participating:

Time Period 1	Time Period 2	Time Period 3	Time Period 4
1A vs. 2A	2A vs. 3A	4A vs. 1A	Drop the team
3A vs. 1B	1B vs. 2B		which is 0-2 with
2B vs. 3B	3B vs. 4A		lowest median pts.

In Time Period 4 pair remaining teams randomly. Teams may not meet if they have already met in time periods 1-3.

At the end of three rounds, determine the state qualifiers using the tie-breaking criteria. In all instances, all undefeated teams are qualified to the State Tournament.

Even Number of PF teams (eight or higher) entered:

If there is an even number (eight or higher) of PF teams entered in the District Tournament, four rounds of debate will be held. Debaters from the same school may not meet in these four rounds. At the end of the four rounds, determine the state qualifiers using the tie-breaking criteria below. In all instances, all undefeated teams are qualified to the State Tournament.

Odd Number of PF Teams (nine or higher):

If there is an odd number (nine or higher) of PF teams entered in the District Tournament, four rounds of debate using five time periods will be held. Debaters from the same school may not meet in these four rounds. Follow the example below for odd number of teams participating:

Time Period 1	Time Period 2	Time Period 3
PRO CON	PRO CON	PRO CON
1A vs. 3A	3A vs. 2A	4B vs. 5A
3B vs. 1B	2B vs. 1A	
2A vs. 4B	1B vs. 4A	
4A vs. 2B	5A vs. 3B	

At the end of these three time periods, drop the lowest team using win-loss record and median points. Pair the remaining debaters randomly for the 3rd and 4th rounds. Teams from the same school cannot meet in these rounds.

At the end of the four rounds, determine the state qualifiers using the tie-breaking criteria below. In all instances, all undefeated teams are qualified to the State Tournament.

Tie-breaking procedures:

Ties need not be broken unless the tie determines which team(s) qualify to the State Tournament. Ties may be broken to award district sweepstakes points.

The following are the criteria for determining state qualifiers and breaking ties. The criteria are to be used in the order listed:

- 1st criterion win-loss record
- 2nd criterion median points
- 3rd criterion total points

If a tie still exists after applying these three criteria in the order listed, a run-off debate with a three-judge panel must be held. This is the only time that a PF team would debate more than four rounds at a District Tournament. School restraints are no longer considered. If the teams in the run-off have met before, they should reverse sides. The three judges in the room should not have judged either team previously in the District Tournament.

D15. PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE

Introduction:

Each school entering debate may enter one or two three-person teams. Each team must be prepared to debate both sides of the motion for the Prepared Rounds and motions for the Impromptu Rounds.

The number of rounds of debate in the District Tournament will depend on the number of teams entered. Two teams from each district will qualify to the State

Tournament. If 12 - 20 debate teams participate in the District Tournament, a third team qualifies to the State Tournament. If 21 or more teams participate, a fourth team qualifies to the State Tournament.

All rounds in debate competition must be randomly paired. However, if power-pairing is desired, see the next paragraph.

Power-Pairing for District Tournament in Debate

In any instance in which a District determines that due to the number of schools and/or teams competing in Parliamentary Debate, the District Tournament may deviate from the PHSSL rules for random pairing. That District must file a plan for that pairing with the State Office and designated District Executive Board Member by January 15. That plan will be reviewed for approval at least two weeks before the District Tournament. That plan must be submitted with the signature of a majority of Parliamentary Debate coaches in that District. If the plan is not approved, existing PHSSL Bylaws (random pairing) will prevail.

Swing Team

With the agreement of a majority of a district's Parliamentary Debate coaches, a district may exercise the option to have a swing team available on the day of the district debate tournament. Should a district exercise the option to use a swing team, the preceding year's first place school will provide that contestant. If that school cannot provide said team, other schools are to be asked in the order in which they placed in the preceding year (second, third, etc.) After two rounds of competition, the swing team and the team with the lowest rank are to be dropped. This allows the remainder of the tournament (Round 3, or Rounds 3 and 4 depending on numbers entered) to continue with an even number of teams.

General Philosophy of Pairing

In Parliamentary Debate there are two types of rounds: Prepared Rounds and Impromptu Rounds. Please consult the Bylaws for the specific differences between the types. Two rounds at the District Tournament will be Prepared Rounds. If there are more than two rounds of Parliamentary Debate at Districts, then other rounds will be Impromptu Rounds.

Five or fewer teams entered:

A. If there are five or fewer debate teams entered in the District Tournament, two rounds of debate will be held. Each team must debate one round in favor of the Prepared Round motion and one round in opposition to the Prepared Round motion. Teams from the same school may not meet in these two rounds.

B. If three teams enter the District Tournament:

1. If the teams are from three different schools, each team debates the other two teams. At the end of these rounds, use the tie-breaking procedures below to determine district place winners.

2. If there are two teams from one school and one team from another school, debate:

1A vs. 2A and 1B vs. 2A

If 2A wins both debates, use the tie-breaking procedures below to determine the remaining place winners.

C. If four teams enter the District Tournament, two random rounds will be held observing school restraints. Each team must debate one round in favor of the Prepared Round motion and one round in opposition to the Prepared Round motion. If the debaters represent only two schools, follow the example below:

Round 1	Round 2
1A vs. 2A	2A vs. 1B
1B vs. 2B	2B vs. 1A

At the end of these rounds, use the tie-breaking procedures below to determine district place winners.

D. If five teams enter the District Tournament, two random rounds will be held observing school restraints. Each team must debate one round in favor of the Prepared Round motion and one round in opposition to the Prepared Round motion. Follow the example below using three time periods to debate:

Time Period 1	Time Period 2	Time Period 3
2A vs. 1A	1A vs. 2B	2B vs. 3A
3A vs. 1B	1B vs. 2A	

Even numbers of teams (six or higher):

If there is an even number (six or higher) of Parliamentary Debate teams entered in the District Tournament, three rounds of debate will be held. Two of the rounds will be on the Prepared Round Motion. One will be an Impromptu Round. Each team must debate one round in favor of the Prepared Round motion and one round in opposition to the Prepared Round motion. In the Impromptu Round the teams will toss a coin to determine sides. Teams from the same school may not meet in these three rounds. At the end of three rounds, determine the state qualifiers using the tie-breaking criteria below.

In all instances, all undefeated teams are qualified to the State Tournament.

MODEL: Six Teams from Three Schools

Round I FOR AGAINST - Prepared Round Motion
 1A vs. 2B
 1B vs. 3A
 2A vs. 3B

Round II FOR AGAINST - Prepared Round Motion
 3B vs. 1A
 2B vs. 1B
 3A vs. 2A

Round III FLIP - Impromptu Round Motion

 1A vs. 3A
 1B vs. 2A
 3B vs. 2B

Odd numbers of teams (seven or higher):

If there is an odd number (seven or higher) of Parliamentary Debate teams entered in the District Tournament, three rounds of debate using four time periods will be held. Each team must debate one round in favor of the Prepared Round motion and one round in opposition to the Prepared Round motion. In the Impromptu Round the teams will toss a coin to determine sides. Teams from the same school may not meet in these three rounds. Follow the example below for odd numbers of teams participating:

Time Period 1	Time Period 2	Time Period 3	Time Period 4
1A vs. 2A	2A vs. 3A	4A vs. 1A	Drop the team
3A vs. 1B	1B vs. 2B		which is 0-2 with
2B vs. 3B	3B vs. 4A		lowest median pts.

In Time Period 4 pair remaining teams randomly. Teams may not meet if they have already met in time periods 1-3.

At the end of three rounds, determine the state qualifiers using the tie-breaking criteria. In all instances, all undefeated teams are qualified to the State Tournament.

Tie-breaking procedures:

Ties need not be broken unless the tie determines which team(s) qualify to the State Tournament. Ties may be broken to award district sweepstakes points.

The following are the criteria for determining state qualifiers and breaking ties. The criteria are to be used in the order listed:

- 1st criterion win-loss record
- 2nd criterion median points
- 3rd criterion total points

If a tie still exists after applying these three criteria in the order listed, a run-off debate with a three-judge panel must be held on one of the Impromptu Round motions. Please note: this is the only time that a team would debate more than three rounds at a District Tournament. School restraints are no longer considered. The sides will be determined by the toss of a coin.

D16. PREPARATION ROOM PROCEDURES FOR EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING AND COMMENTARY

1. The topics for the District Tournaments are supplied by the District Committee. 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 generally consist of words or phrases that identify issues, personalities, trends, events, or concerns of contemporary importance.
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 District and State tournaments. The topic areas will be announced in the Communicator.
3. The order of speaking and drawing topics is determined by lot prior to the time for drawing topics. 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 director 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 share reference materials; however, any collaboration on speech preparation is forbidden. If the speaker consults 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 the original article or copy is intact and uncut.
 - C. There is no written material on that original or copy.
 - D. Underlining or highlighting will be allowed if done in only one color on each article or copy.

Topical indexes without 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.

D17. INDIVIDUAL EVENTS – MATERIALS

Speeches and readings for PHSSL District Tournaments may not have been used in competition by the student prior to the current academic year. Failure to abide by this rule will result in disqualification from the tournament.

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.

D18. MEMBERSHIP DUES

In order to participate in the Regional Drama Festival, and/or the District Tournament, a school's membership dues must be paid prior to the date of that festival and/or tournament.

D18. DRAMA

- A. Every play entered in a Regional Drama Festival will be allocated a total of 40 minutes for tech rehearsal, including setting of the stage, and striking the set. The total time to accomplish these may not be exceeded.
- B. A play entered in the PHSSL Drama event must be performed before an audience of the high school community prior to the Regional Festival.

D19. PARTICIPATION

- A. In Districts which hold split tournaments (debate and speech on separate days):
 - 1. A debater who does not qualify to the State Tournament may participate in the subsequent District Individual Events (including Public Forum Debate) Tournament.
 - 2. An individual who does not qualify to the State Tournament in an individual event (including Public Forum Debate) may participate in the subsequent District Debate Tournament.
 - 3. Additional Exceptions:
Students participating in Regional and State Drama Festivals may compete in District and State individual events and debate contests.

D20. ALTERNATE QUALIFIERS TO STATE TOURNAMENT

- A. If a student or debate team who has qualified to the State Tournament cannot attend the Tournament, the coach should notify the Executive Director no later than the Friday prior to the State Tournament. The Executive Director will then certify, if possible, the next ranked student or debate team to the State Tournament and notify that student or debate team and coach.
Alternate qualifiers will not be certified after the one week deadline.

D21. REGISTRATION

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

D22. 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.

D23. TIME LIMIT - GRACE PERIODS

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

D24. DISTRICT TOURNAMENT RULES COMMITTEE

- A. **PROTESTS:** All protests at the District must be filed in writing, on the appropriate form, with the District Chair either at the Tournament or no later than 72 hours after the conclusion of the Tournament.
- B. The District Rules Committee shall consist of the District Chair, a member of the District Committee, and the PHSSL Executive Board member assigned to that particular District.

D25. ELECTRONIC RETRIEVAL DEVICES

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.

D26. DISTRICT CHAIRPERSON JOB DESCRIPTION

1. Schedule a fall meeting of all District schools.
2. Distribute minutes of fall meeting reminding all schools of State dues and District fees, if applicable.
2. Contact all schools to insure membership is retained.
3. Establish District speech and debate tournament dates and sites and advise the League Office of the dates.
4. Mail registration forms and invitations to all schools for Regional drama and District speech And debate tournaments. Include registration forms and any other requirements (i.e fees, judges, etc.).
5. Schedule, in conjunction with District Committee, the contests. PLEASE NOTE: IT IS THE DISTRICT CHAIR'S RESPONSIBILITY TO CREATE EXTEMP TOPICS FOR DISTRICT COMPETITION.
6. Report all results to the League Office immediately following contests using forms as Contained in the PHSSL binder.
7. Communicate with schools as often as possible to promote quality speech activities. Examples might include thank you notes to coaches and their principals for hosting, congratulatory messages to schools, etc.
8. Hold an election at the District Tournament in the second semester to elect the chairperson for The following year.
9. Share all district concerns, questions, or suggestions with the Executive Director and/or Executive Board. Remember, you are the district representative to the League.
10. After the District Tournament, send extemporaneous topics to the League's Office. List corrections/additions to District list.

CHECK LIST FOR DISTRICT CHAIRS

MONTH	CHECK
September	<input type="checkbox"/> Become familiar with PHSSL Constitution, Bylaws, and District Chairperson Job Description <input type="checkbox"/> Hold meeting with District Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Appoint additional chairpersons for district, i.e., Host School, Extemp Topics, etc., as needed <input type="checkbox"/> Secure Tournament site for District's State Qualifying Tournament <input type="checkbox"/> Send out "Welcome to PHSSL this year" letter to all District schools <input type="checkbox"/> Make certain all schools in District have been contacted regarding One-Act competition and that each has the proper registration forms
October	<input type="checkbox"/> Make certain all schools qualifying to the Regional competition know what their responsibilities are in registering with the State Office <input type="checkbox"/> Send results to the State Office at Susquehanna University within 2 days
November	<input type="checkbox"/> Personally contact schools who are late in paying dues <input type="checkbox"/> Hold meeting with host of speech/debate qualifiers regarding rooms, cost, food, equipment
December	<input type="checkbox"/> Relax -- get ready for a busy January and February
January	<input type="checkbox"/> Get supplies ready, check what the State Office supplies; run off ballots <input type="checkbox"/> At least four weeks before the District Tournament, mail complete invitation to all District schools; time, place, fees, lunch information, registration form, JQP form, rules, regulations <input type="checkbox"/> Order trophies or awards if your district uses them to recognize winners <input type="checkbox"/> Appoint Tournament officials <input type="checkbox"/> Make certain that someone is writing the topics for extemporaneous speaking and extemporaneous commentary; check Communicator for list of five topic areas in each event
February	<input type="checkbox"/> Secure list of rooms to be used for Tournament <input type="checkbox"/> Hold scheduling meeting with members of your District Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate schedule of preliminary rounds <input type="checkbox"/> Hold District's State Qualifying Tournament: always check PHSSL rules to make certain results are correct; when in doubt ask your District's State Executive Board liaison <input type="checkbox"/> Hand out qualification forms at Tournament; make certain qualifying students and coaches know what their responsibilities are in registering for States <input type="checkbox"/> Elect District Committee for following year <input type="checkbox"/> Send results to State Office at Susquehanna University within 2 days <input type="checkbox"/> Send extemporaneous topics to the State Office
March	<input type="checkbox"/> Distribute financial report to District schools <input type="checkbox"/> Work in tab room at State Tournament
April	<input type="checkbox"/> Meet with new Chair for smooth transition; transfer records, sample forms, helpful hints, etc