

2. If five teams from four schools enter the District Tournament, debate using three time periods.

Time Period 1	Time Period 2	Time Period 3
1A vs 2A 3A vs 4A	4B vs 1A 2A vs 3A	4A vs 4B

3. If five teams from five schools enter the District Tournament, debate using three time periods.

Time Period 1	Time Period 2	Time Period 3
1A vs 2A 3A vs 4A	5A vs 1A 2A vs 3A	4A vs 5A

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

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.

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.

Time Period 4: Drop the team which is 0-2 with the lowest median points. 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:

win-loss record

opponent seed *

head to head *

standardized points (JudgeVar2 in Tabroom)

median speaker points

total speaker points

random number

*If a debate event has six or fewer entries, then head-to-head takes precedence over opp seed

Debate Evidence Rules

Students have 30 seconds or what is deemed reasonable by judges outside of prep time to produce all requested evidence, then prep time starts for the opposing team. Prep time shall not be deducted for either team during the exchange of evidence. Evidence that cannot be produced leads to an automatic loss of the round.

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.

D13. 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.

D14. 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, i.e., 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 and obscenities may be replaced. 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.

PHSSL recognizes that videos of student performances are available from many sources. These videos are good learning tools for delivery, characterization, blocking and gestures. However, these features are unique to each performance. Significant copying is theft of the video performers' intellectual property and is cause for disqualification from any PHSSL tournament.

Prior to each PHSSL tournament the student must send a copy of the speech, a bibliography and a cover sheet, signed by the student and the coach declaring this is an original speech. These speeches will be held by the Tournament Committee in case of a challenge. If at the tournament, another coach thinks there was plagiarism, it is up to that coach to provide proof of his/her statement.

D15. STUDENT CONGRESS: SENATE

1. Each school shall be permitted two entries. Each competing school is required to submit one piece of legislation. The District chair may add legislation if not enough is collected. It is suggested that 12 pieces of legislation is enough for debate. Please consult the PHSSL Congress manual for proper format for legislation. Each District Chairperson may establish a deadline for legislation based on the date of the district tournament. The District Chairperson will distribute the legislation packet at least two weeks before the district tournament, along with an agenda for the day. This agenda will be a random order of the school submitted bills first, followed by the supplementary legislation that was added by the District Chairperson.
2. Debate in the district senate will follow the rules and procedures outlined in the Congress manual.
3. Three plans are outlined for use in Senate 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. Before the first session, the District Chairperson must announce which plan is to be followed for that event in the tournament.

PLAN A

If there are two (2) to eight (8) participants, there shall be three rounds of Congress (similar to speech rounds) with the Parliamentarian acting as Presiding Officer. Please consult the PHSSL Congress manual for the format of the full debate session. For the first round, the speeches will be on any of the supplementary legislation; the second round will debate the bills submitted by district schools; the third round will debate any remaining legislation. Judges (one per round) shall rank all speakers. District winners are determined on the total of the judges' ranks. The two speakers with the lowest total cumulative ranks shall qualify to the state tournament. Ties need not be broken unless (1) the tie determines which senator(s) qualify to the state tournament, or (2) to award district sweepstakes points. Ties will be broken using reciprocals. If the tie cannot be broken using reciprocals, the parliamentarian will rank the students to break the tie.

PLAN B

If there are nine (9) to twenty (20) participants, there shall be two full two-hour debate sessions of Senate with a Presiding Officer for each Session. Please consult PHSSL Congress manual for the format of the full debate session. For 9 entries, the top 2 will advance to States. Entries between 10 and 20 will advance 3 to States. Judges (two per Session) and parliamentarians shall rank their top six speakers with all other speakers receiving a rank of 7. District winners are determined on total (judges plus parliamentarian) ranks. The three speakers with the lowest total cumulative ranks shall qualify to the state tournament. Ties need not be broken unless (1) the tie determines which senator(s) qualify to the state tournament, or (2) to award district sweepstakes points. Ties will be broken using reciprocals. If the tie cannot be broken using reciprocals, the ranks of the parliamentarian will be used to break the tie.

PLAN C

If there are twenty-one (21) or more entries, students shall be separated into two chambers. There shall be two full two-hour debate sessions of Senate with a Presiding Officer for each Session. Please consult PHSSL Congress manual for the format of the full debate session. Judges (one per session and parliamentarians shall rank their top six speakers with all other speakers receiving a rank of 7. The top 5-7 speakers in each chamber will advance to Super Session based on total

preliminary (judges and parliamentarian) ranks.

Ties for breaking to Super Session will use reciprocal ranks. The Super Session will be one and a half hours. District winners are determined on total (two judges plus preferential vote by the chamber as described in the congress manual) Super Session ranks. The four speakers with the lowest total cumulative super Session rank shall qualify to the state tournament. Ties need not be broken unless (1) the tie determines which senator(s) qualify to the state tournament, or (2) to award district sweepstakes points. Ties will be broken using judges' preference of the ranks in the Super Session. If the tie cannot be broken using judges' preference, reciprocals will be used.

D16. 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.

D17. DRAMA

- A. Every play entered in a Regional Drama Festival will be allocated a total of 60 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.

D18. 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.

D19. 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.

D20. 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.

D21. 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.

D22. 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.

D23. 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.

D24. ELECTRONIC RETRIEVAL DEVICES

Being able to collect and organize current data is an important skill in today's digital environment. We believe that having the opportunity to use digital resources and synthesize information taken from them to make the best speeches and arguments possible will provide practice in a valuable skill that cannot be matched in any other academic situation.

The use of electronic retrieval devices is permitted in all PHSSL events. This ruling is not meant to imply that any student must use electronic devices, merely that it is now 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.
- This includes using digital resources to time debates and speeches.

No guarantee of power or of Internet connectivity should be presumed. There should be no expectation placed on host schools to provide either of these resources. Students wishing to use digital devices must be responsible for providing these resources and for having an alternative plan if the digital devices fail.

Digital communication between speakers and persons outside of the competition event or room is

not permitted. PHSSL's intent is similar to its rules under Cross-Exam Debate and under the Preparation Room Procedures for Extemporaneous Speaking and Commentary: consulting with a coach or anyone outside the competition room once the competition has begun will result in disqualification from the competition.

D25. DISTRICT TOURNAMENT AUDIT

All district tournaments are to be run on Tabroom.com. There will be a mandatory audit of all district tournaments by the PHSSL tech adviser, an executive board member, and the district representative.

D25. 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 ensure 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. Work with the state-appointed software coordinator to set up properly the district tournament and schedule the tournament using the state-approved software (Tabroom.com). Tabulation and reporting must be run through the software.
7. Report all results to the League Office immediately following contests using forms as contained on the PHSSL website.
8. 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.
9. Hold an election at the District Tournament in the second semester to elect the chairperson for for the following year.
10. Share all district concerns, questions, or suggestions with the Executive Director and/or Executive Board. Remember, you are the district representative to the League.
11. After the District Tournament, send extemporaneous topics to the League's Office. List corrections/additions to District list.

CHECK LIST FOR DISTRICT CHAIRS

- September** ___ Become familiar with PHSSL Constitution, Bylaws, and District Chairperson Job Description
___ Hold meeting with District Committee
___ Appoint additional chairpersons for district, i.e., Host School, Extemp Topics, etc., as needed
___ Secure Tournament site for District's State Qualifying Tournament
___ Send out "Welcome to PHSSL this year" letter to all District schools
___ Make certain all schools in District have been contacted regarding One-Act competition and that each has the proper registration forms
- October** ___ Make certain all schools qualifying to the Regional competition know what their responsibilities are in registering with the State Office
___ Send results to the State Office at Bloomsburg University within 2 days
- November** ___ Personally contact schools who are late in paying dues
___ Hold meeting with host of speech/debate qualifiers regarding rooms, cost, food, equipment
- December** ___ Relax -- get ready for a busy January and February
- January** ___ Get supplies ready, check what the State Office supplies; run off ballots
___ 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
___ Order trophies or awards if your district uses them to recognize winners
___ Appoint Tournament officials
___ 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** ___ Secure list of rooms to be used for Tournament
___ Hold scheduling meeting with members of your District Committee
___ Duplicate schedule of preliminary rounds
___ 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
___ Hand out qualification forms at Tournament; make certain qualifying students and coaches know what their responsibilities are in registering for States
___ Elect District Committee for following year
___ Send results to State Office at Bloomsburg University within 2 days
___ Send extemporaneous topics to the State Office
- March** ___ Distribute financial report to District schools
___ Work in tab room at State Tournament
- April** ___ Meet with new Chair for smooth transitions; transfer records, sample forms, helpful hints, etc.