

# **Pennsylvania High School Speech League**



# **STANDING RULES OF STATE PROCEDURE**

**Revised: June 2022**

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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>Participant</u> <u>s</u>	<u>Section</u> <u>A</u>	<u>Section</u> <u>B</u>
A	3	
B	2	
C	1	
D	4	
E		1
F		2
G		3
H		4
J		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 News Broadcasting may advance more speakers as conditions permit.

The two semi-final sections ought to be balanced based on the preliminary rankings of the contestants. Since two judges are used over the course of four rounds of preliminary competition, the highest and the lowest ranks will be dropped from the totals. The newly calculated totals will be used to determine which contestants advance.

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. Final placement in Radio and Impromptu will include the re-ranks from quarterfinals, semi-finals, and the five ranks from the judges of the final round.

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

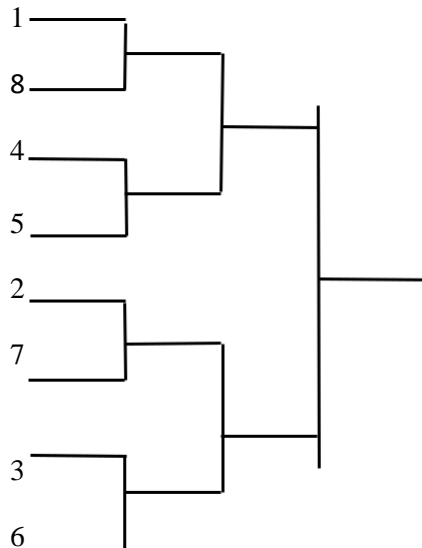
- A. No teams from the same school or district may meet in Rounds I and II. In Rounds III and IV no two teams from the same school may meet. In the elimination rounds there are no such restraints.
- B. Round III Direct Power (1 meets 2, 3 meets 4, etc.)  
Round IV Power Protect (Highest 3-0 meets lowest 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. opponent seed
- 3. head-to-head
- 4. standardized points (JudgeVar2 in Tabroom)
- 5. drop high-low points
- 6. total points
- 7. random number

- E. Brackets – The Board will determine break rounds based on the number of competitors in an event in debate. After any possible play-off rounds, the following bracket will be used. :

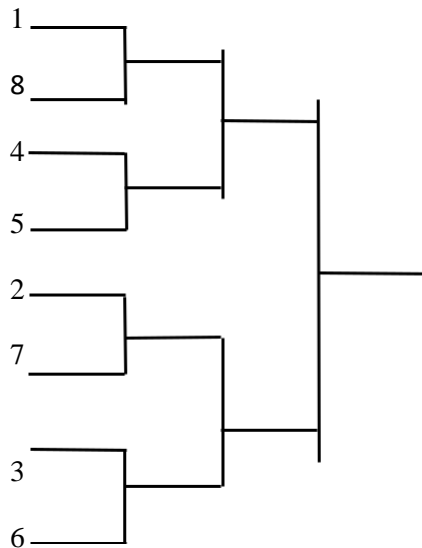
**Cross Examination Debate Bracket**



S7. STATE TOURNAMENT L-D PAIRING PROCEDURES

- A. No students from the same school or district may meet in Rounds I and II at the State Tournament. In Rounds III and IV no two students 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 debater from the middle of the next lower bracket moves up.
- C. Side constraints will be observed so that each debater 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:
  - 1. win-loss record
  - 2. opponent seed
  - 3. head-to-head
  - 4. standardized points (JudgeVar2 in Tabroom)
  - 5. drop high-low points
  - 6. total points
  - 7. random number
- E. Brackets – The Board will determine break rounds based on the number of competitors in an event in debate. After any possible play-off rounds, the following bracket will be used.

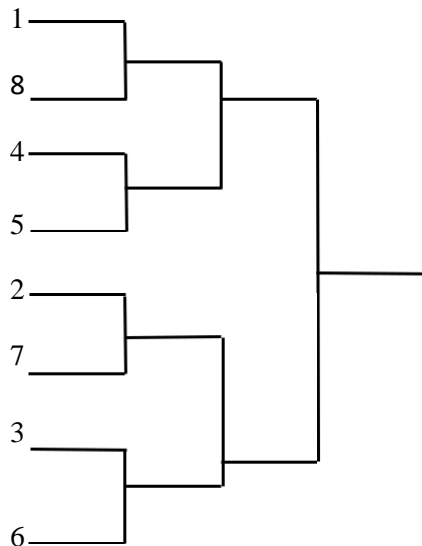
**Lincoln Douglas Debate Bracket**



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 debater will have a total of two affirmative and two negative rounds.
- D. Tie Breaking Procedures:
  - 1. win-loss record
  - 2. opponent seed
  - 3. head-to-head
  - 4. standardized points (JudgeVar2 in Tabroom)
  - 5. drop high-low points
  - 6. total points
  - 7. random number
- D. Brackets – The Board will determine break rounds based on the number of competitors in an event in debate. After any possible play-off rounds, the following bracket will be used. Debaters are ranked and placed in the following bracket:

**Public Forum Bracket**



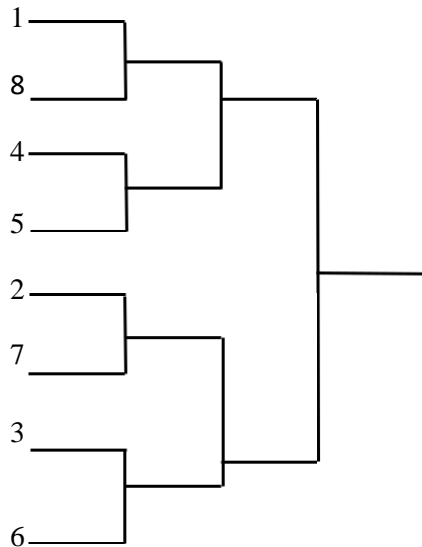


S9. STATE TOURNAMENT PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE PAIRING PROCEDURES

- 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. All of the rounds will be on extemporaneous 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. Tie Breaking Procedures:
  - 1. win-loss record
  - 2. opponent seed
  - 3. head-to-head
  - 4. standardized points (JudgeVar2 in Tabroom)
  - 5. drop high-low points
  - 6. total points
  - 7. random number

Brackets – The Board will determine break rounds based on the number of competitors in an event in debate. After any possible play-off rounds, the following bracket will be used.

**Parliamentary Debate Bracket**



S10. STATE TOURNAMENT EXTEMPORANEOUS DEBATE PAIRINGS PROCEDURES

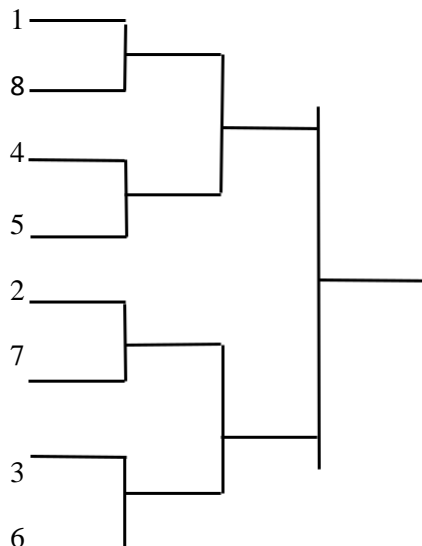
- A. No teams from the same school or district may meet in Rounds I and II. In Rounds III and IV no two teams from the same school may meet. In the elimination rounds there are no such restraints.
- B. Round III Direct Power (1 meets 2, 3 meets 4, etc.)  
Round IV Power Protect (Highest 3-0 meets lowest 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:

Extemporaneous Debate

- 1. win-loss record
- 2. opponent seed
- 3. head-to-head
- 4. standardized points (JudgeVar2 in Tabroom)
- 5. drop high-low points
- 6. total points
- 7. random number

- E. Brackets – The Board will determine break rounds based on the number of competitors in an event in debate. After any possible play-off rounds, the following bracket will be used:

**Extemporaneous Debate Bracket**



## S11. 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 S25 for information on electronic retrieval devices.

S12. 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, 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.

S13. DRAMA - see Handbook

S14. NEWS BROADCASTING - see Handbook

S15. STUDENT CONGRESS: - see Handbook

S16. 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.

S17. 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.

S18. 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.

S19. ROUNDS

A. Cross Exam Debate

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

D. Parliamentary Debate

Four rounds – two on the prepared motion and two on the extemporaneous motions. (First two rounds, chance pairing; third round, direct power; fourth round, power protect), quarterfinals, semi-finals, and finals. All elimination rounds are on the extemporaneous motions.

E. Extemporaneous Debate

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

F. Speech and Interpretative Events

Four rounds, semi-finals, and finals.

S20. 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 debaters - 1 judge
3. One or two Parliamentary Debate teams – 1 judge
4. One or two Public Forum Debate teams – 1 judge
5. One Extemp Debater – 1 judge unless a school has an odd number of qualifiers in LD, Parli, or PF, then no judge is required
6. Individual Events and Student Congress
  - 1-3 students - 1 judge
  - 4-6 students - 2 judges
  - 7-9 students - 3 judges
  - 10-12 students - 4 judges
  - 13-15 students - 5 judges
  - 16-19 students - 6 judges
7. All judges are expected to be available FOR THE ENTIRE TOURNAMENT.
8. Inexperienced judges are unacceptable at the PHSSL State Tournament.
9. The assigner of judges is to assign a separate timekeeper in semifinals and finals in Extemporaneous Speaking and Commentary events.
10. Judges may not reveal decisions in any event.

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 at a rate of \$125/day. No judges are permitted to be hired for Cross-Examination, Parliamentary Debate or L-D debate competition.

S21. 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.

S22. 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.

S23. 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.

S24. 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.

## S25. ELECTRONIC 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.

## S26. AWARDS AND SWEEPSTAKES

A. The formulas for determining sweepstakes at the State Tournament shall be as follows:

1. Speech events: Size of field minus over rank based in Speech Prelims, multiplied by 1  
Events to be counted: Prose, Poetry, Informative, Persuasive, Extemporaneous Speaking, Commentary, Humorous Interpretation, Dramatic Interpretation, Duo Interpretation
2. Debate events: Size of field minus overall rank based on Debate Prelims, multiplied by 1  
Events to be counted: Cross-Examination Debate, Lincoln Douglas Debate, Public Forum Debate, Parliamentary Debate, Senate
3. Auto-qualifying events: Size of field minus overall rank based on Final Placement, multiplied by .5  
Events to be counted: Impromptu, News Broadcasting, House, Extemporaneous Debate
4. One Act Play competition

B. A 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall sweepstakes award will be presented to schools in three divisions (Small School, Medium School, Large School) depending on the number of entries from a school at the state competition. Schools will be ranked by the total number of entries at the state competition; that ranking will be cut into thirds. Any school on the cutoff line will be moved into the lower division.

C. A 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place speech sweepstakes and a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place debate sweepstakes award will be presented at the State Tournament, regardless of the above-listed divisions.



D, Plaques will be awarded to all speech finalists, to all semifinalists and debate finalists, and to the top 6 congress finishers. Medals will be awarded to all speech semifinalists, to all debate quarterfinalists, to all non-ranking congress super session finalists.