



ND Parli Tournament Rules and Procedures

Welcome to the ND Parliamentary Debate Invite! We're excited to have you all here. Please read these rules before the tournament, and refer to this document before contacting tournament staff. This document is being updated frequently as we get more questions from competitors, judges, and coaches.

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Parli Prep

- Topics can be received through the topic announcement Google Doc
- Students are advised to prep outside, and shouldn't enter competition rooms until the judge is present
- Students may only prep with their debate partners, so no team or coach prep. Electronic devices and the internet are allowed during prep. However, students

are NOT allowed to use electronic devices during the round. Notes used in round must be written on paper.

In-Round Procedures - Debaters

- Debaters are strictly prohibited from consulting coaches or teammates other than their partner during the round. Violations of this should be reported to the Protest and Rules Violation form.
- Rounds will be powermatched (paired based on rounds won/lost) starting in round 3.
- Students who arrive in their rooms more than 5 minutes after the end of prep will forfeit that round.

In-Round Procedures - Judges

- We will be using CHSSA Parli Rules for this tournament. Please refer to the [Parliamentary Debate Rules](#) section for more information.
- There is no judge check-in. Please make sure you are checking your Tabroom account for judging assignments and turn on email/text notifications to receive updates.
- Pairings will be released before the 20 minute prep time, meaning that debaters may not be present in the rooms until prep time has ended.
- As with all tournaments, **judges should press “Start Round” on Tabroom as soon as they receive their ballot**, NOT when the round starts. This lets the tournament staff know whether or not judges are present.
- Judges should evaluate arguments based on the information presented in round, rather than their outside knowledge. If a debater says something factually inaccurate and the other team does not address it, the judge should not fill in the gaps on behalf of the debaters. Judges may include their own observations in the feedback section of their ballot, but it should not influence their decision. Please keep in mind that because parliamentary debate is a limited prep event, evidence in round is encouraged, but not mandated. Judges should not vote for or against a team solely because of the amount of evidence cited in the round.

- When Points of Order are called during rebuttal speeches, they may be evaluated at the judges' discretion. More information on Points of Order can be found under [Parliamentary Debate Rules](#).
- Judges should not consult with anyone during the debate round, and should not ask questions regarding the debate prior to submitting their ballot. Judges are not required to disclose their decisions in preliminary rounds.
- Judges who would like to give verbal feedback must submit their ballots first. Please limit verbal feedback to 5-10 minutes to ensure that the tournament runs on time.
- Speaker points are on a scale of 30. Judges typically adjudicate from 26-30 points, 26 being on the low end, 27-28 being average, and 30 being spectacular/excellent. You may also add decimal points to your speaker scores. Speaker points should be evaluated on the basis of presentation, ability to connect evidence, quality of questions, effective rebuttals, etc. Please note that sometimes, debaters will speak more convincingly than the other team but may not necessarily win the debate round. This is rare, but judges should check "low point win" on Tabroom to indicate this.
- Debaters will usually keep their own speech time, but judges may keep time on their own. There is a 30 second grace period after each allotted speech time if debaters go overtime.
- To properly submit ballots, judges should press "submit" and then "confirm" on Tabroom. Judges may edit their feedback after submitting their decision, but they cannot change their decision.

Parliamentary Debate Rules

We will be using the following modified CHSSA Parli Rules for the ND Tournament. Please read these rules carefully prior to making an inquiry at the Help Desk.

Parliamentary Debate Rules - taken from CHSSA Website

- A. Round Definition
 1. A parliamentary debate team consists of two debaters.
 2. A parliamentary debate round consists of one Government team debating against one Opposition team.

3. The Government team proposes a case to uphold the resolution. The Opposition team opposes the Government team's case.
- B. Resolutions
1. Resolutions will be announced by the tournament at the start of preparation time.
 2. A different resolution will be used each round.
- C. Round Format
1. Prime Minister Constructive (PMC): 7 minutes, given by the first Government speaker
 2. Leader of Opposition Constructive (LOC): 8 minutes, given by the first Opposition speaker
 3. Member of Government Constructive (MGC): 8 minutes, given by the second Government speaker
 4. Member of Opposition Constructive (MOC): 8 minutes, given by the second Opposition speaker
 5. Leader of Opposition Rebuttal (LOR): Rebuttal 4 minutes, given by the first Opposition speaker
 6. Prime Minister Rebuttal (PMR): 5 minutes, given by the first Government speaker
- D. Preparation Time
1. Debaters shall have 20 minutes of preparation time between the time the resolution is announced and the time debaters report to their judge(s).
[If a team does not show up within the first 5 minutes of the round start time, it will be considered a forfeit. Judges should note this in their "reason for decision" when submitting ballots.](#)
[ADDENDUM: Please note that flex time is not included in CHSSA parliamentary debate rules.](#)
 2. The two partners may communicate with each other. Debaters are also allowed to communicate with tournament officials to clarify tournament logistics. Other than that, debaters are not allowed to communicate with anyone by any means during preparation time.
 3. During preparation time, debaters may consult both physical and electronic copies of any material, including both prepared notes and published sources. Debaters may use computers and the internet to store and to retrieve this material.
- E. Round Rules
1. There is no preparation time between speeches. The next speaker must begin their speech (or their roadmap) within 20 seconds following the preceding speech.
 2. Debaters are not allowed to access computers during the round after preparation time has ended.
 3. After preparation time has ended, a debater is not allowed to access any written material except notes that were handwritten on paper by the debater or their partner after the resolution was announced.
 4. Judges should disregard new arguments (including new responses) during rebuttal speeches, regardless of whether a Point of Order was raised. The exception is that the PMR may respond to new arguments made in the MOC. New analysis of prior arguments is allowed in rebuttal speeches.
- F. Points of Information
1. A Point of Information (POI) is a single short question or statement addressed by a member of the opposing team to the debater who has the floor.
 2. The debater who has the floor may accept or decline each POI at their discretion. Follow-up POIs are only allowed if separately recognized by the debater who has the floor.

3. POIs come out of the speech time of the debater who has the floor, so time should not be stopped for a POI. Each POI may not exceed 15 seconds.
 4. POIs are only allowed in constructive speeches. POIs are not allowed in the first or last minute of any speech.
- G. Points of Order
1. A debater may raise a Point of Order if they believe that the opposing team is bringing up a new argument in a rebuttal speech. Points of Order may not be used for any other purpose.
 2. Points of Order are not allowed during constructive speeches but are allowed at any time during rebuttal speeches.
 3. To raise a Point of Order, the debater shall state "Point of Order." Time should then be immediately stopped. The debater then has 15 seconds to explain why an argument made by the opposing team is new.
 4. The opposing team then has 15 seconds to respond to the Point of Order. Once the response is finished, time should immediately resume.
 5. Debaters should not use Points of Order as a tactic to disrupt their opponent's speech.
 6. Judges should not announce their rulings on Points of Order during the round.
- H. Evidence
1. The intent of Parliamentary Debate is to encourage extemporaneous argumentation. Debaters should primarily rely on logic and general knowledge. Reference to published sources is allowed but should be limited.
 2. A debater may refer to information from a published source during their speech. The debater must transcribe the full quotation this information is based on. The transcription must be done during preparation time, by hand, and without ellipses. The debater must then write down the citation and must say the citation during their speech. To the extent that these are provided by the original source, the citation should include the name(s) of the author(s), the source title, and the publication date.
 3. The team which refers to information from a published source must show the opposing team the sheet of paper containing the quotation and citation if requested. The request can be made during a POI.

Elimination Round Procedures

- We will not break brackets for elims. If teams from the same school hit each other in elim rounds, they should either report a walkover or debate as normal. We will use (in this order) win/loss record, opposition seed, speaker points - hi/low, speaker points, judge variance, and coin flips to determine seeding for elimination brackets.
- There will be multiple judges in elim rounds. Please do not confer with the other judges prior to submitting a decision. Once all judges have submitted their ballots, they will see the final result on Tabroom and can then disclose their decisions to the competitors. We ask all judges to disclose their decisions in elims.
- Coin flips will be via Tabroom.

Competitive Equity

To ensure that debaters are practicing intellectual honesty, below are the established rules for competitive equity. Suspected cheating may be reported to the Protest and Rule Violation form. A first instance of a verifiable complaint will result in a round forfeit/last rank. A second instance will result in the team being dropped from the tournament.

Violations include:

- Any type of fabrication of cards or other evidence
- Theft of intellectual property/plagiarism (construing someone else's work as your own or reading evidence but construing it as original analysis)
- Consultation of a coach or non-partner student to acquire evidence or answers during the course of a debate round or during prep
- Competing in the novice division with more than a year of experience.

A novice is any student who has been competing in debate for less than one year. Students who have competed in different debate events prior to the tournament do not qualify as novices.

- Students who are registered as novice but found to not fit that definition will be moved to the varsity division and issued a forfeit/last rank for any rounds competed in the incorrect division. Students discovered to be in the wrong division in outounds will be automatically eliminated, but previous outounds will not be re-run.

School Check In/Registration

- Coaches and/or School Chaperones should check in with the Help Desk in the Judges room each day of the tournament to verify that all competitors and judges have arrived.

Belonging and Inclusion Station

- The Belonging and Inclusion Station (BIS)—formerly Equity Office—exists to address violations of harassment and discrimination policies and provide a safe space for individuals who report harassment and discrimination incidents at tournaments.
- Please fill out the [BIS form](#) to report any incidents so that our tournament staff can address the issue.

We hope you all have a wholesome and memorable tournament experience!

- Notre Dame Speech and Debate

