

Article XIV: The State Tournament - Congress Tabulation

Section 1. Paneling of Congressional Contestants

- A. There shall be three preliminary legislative sessions of ninety minutes each. Each chamber shall be randomly pre-matched and then balanced to avoid to the extent possible contestants' same school, the same League and the same Area.
- B. Students will stay in the same chamber for all three preliminary rounds.
- C. Placement of students on the seating chart shall be adjusted each session to avoid contestants placed in the same seat and row.
- D. Contestants shall be placed from one panel to another to avoid paneling together in the precedence listed:
 - 1. Contestants from the same school
 - 2. Contestants from the same League.
 - 3. Contestants from the same Area (balanced as much as possible)
 - 6. Contestants placed in the same seat and row.

Section 2. Semi-Final Unicameral Session

- A. The top five competitors from each chamber shall advance to the semi-final round determined by:
 - 1. The lowest cumulative total of each judge's rank in preliminary rounds.
 - 2. Ties shall be broken by the following criteria:
 - a. Judges' preference
 - b. Reciprocal ranks (# of 1s, # of 2s) from prelim round(s) , truncate to 10
 - c. Reciprocal ranks (# of 1s, # of 2s) from prelim round(s) , dropping the worst rank and the best rank.
- B. Two houses, designated A and B shall have fifteen members each.
- C. The two semi-final houses shall be balanced in power to the greatest extent possible keeping in mind the following limitations:
 - 1. Schools must be balanced between the chambers even to the detriment of the power balance.
 - 2. Leagues should be balanced, but not to the detriment of the power balance.
 - 3. Areas should be balanced, but not to the detriment of the power balance.
- D. Each chamber shall discuss and act on the bill/resolution assigned to the semi- final session.
- E. The semi-final sessions shall consist of ninety (90) minutes each.

Section 3. Final Bicameral Session

- A. There shall be two final sessions of Congress. Finalists shall be the top fifteen contestants from the semifinal round, determined by:
 - 1. Lowest cumulative total of each judge's rank in semifinals and preliminary rounds. In calculating this total, the worst rank and the best rank in preliminary rounds shall be dropped. Any rank above 9 should be truncated to 10. Every rank from the semifinal round should be multiplied by 2.
 - 2. Judges' preference in the semifinal round, if the tied contestants spoke in the same chamber.
 - 3. Lowest cumulative total of ranks in semifinals only.
 - 4. Highest total of the reciprocals of the ranks in the semifinal only.

5. Highest total of the reciprocals of the ranks in the semifinals AND the preliminary rounds, with the worst rank and the best rank in preliminary rounds dropped and any rank about 9 adjusted to 10.
 6. Judges preference in any rooms in preliminary rounds where the two tied contestants spoke in the same room.
- B. Each final session shall have 90 minutes of debate time [see Section 7]. The first session shall close, followed by a ten-minute recess. The recess will be followed by the opening of a second session of the final round.
 - C. Each session shall discuss and act on one bill/resolution assigned to the final sessions by the Congress Committee.
 - D. Each semi-final session shall select one presiding officer by popular vote to preside over one-half each of the final sessions.
 - E. Contestants in the final sessions shall be assigned seats by the Congress Committee.

Section 4: Official Scoring

- A. For each preliminary session, there shall be three official scorers in each chamber. Any contestant not ranked 1-9 shall receive a score of 10.
- B. There shall be five official scorers in each semi-final session and five different official scorers serving in each of the final sessions.
- C. For tabulation purposes, any contestant not ranked 1st through 9th shall receive a score of 10.
- D. Each scorer shall choose 1st through 15th best speaker for each semi- final session and for the final session. For tabulation purposes, any contestant not ranked 1st through 9th shall receive a score of 10.
- E. Each scorer shall be provided a copy of the assigned legislation, a seating chart of contestants, and an official ballot.

Section 5. Final Score

- A. First through fifteenth best speakers shall be computed on a low cumulative score determined by:
 1. Lowest cumulative total of each judge's rank in preliminary, semi-final and final rounds. In calculating this total, the worst rank and the best rank in preliminary rounds shall be dropped. Any rank above 9 should be truncated to 10. Every rank from the semifinal and final round should be multiplied by 2.
- B. Ties shall be broken using the following criteria:
 1. Lowest cumulative total of ranks in finals only.
 2. Judges' preference in the final round
 3. Highest total of the reciprocals of the ranks in the final round.
 4. Highest total of the reciprocals of the ranks in all rounds. If ties still exist, duplicate awards shall be given to the tied contestants.

Section 6. Presiding Officer Competition

- A. The presiding officer competition shall consist of a total of 12 presiding officers with one presiding officer representing each league. In every round, each presiding officer will serve half of the session. The presiding officer with the greatest combined total of judge and student votes shall be awarded a Win in the round and the opposing presiding officer a Loss.

Ties shall be broken by the greatest number of judge ballots. In the case of a no-show presiding officer, the remaining presiding officer in the round shall be awarded a bye similar to debate and this bye would count as a win. PO votes for the bye round shall be averaged from the other two preliminary rounds to determine the total number of PO votes. Byes shall be drawn randomly from presiding officers who have not received a bye yet in the tournament unless the PO pairings were made before the discovery of the no-show presiding officer.

- B. Presiding officers will alternate from first position to second position in preliminary and final rounds to the extent possible. In the semi-final round, positions shall be determined by a coin toss.
- C. The assignment of the presiding officers for the first preliminary round shall be random.
- D. Presiding officers from the same school shall not meet in preliminary rounds. Otherwise, presiding officers shall be power matched against each other on a high/low pairing based on ballot count. In the case of an odd number of presiding officers in a bracket, a pairing shall be made by randomly pulling up through a blind draw a presiding officer from one bracket lower to randomly face one of the presiding officers blindly drawn in the higher bracket.
- E. The four presiding officers shall be selected for the semi-final round based on the following criteria:
 - 1. The four presiding officers with the most “wins” will advance to the semifinal round.
 - 2. Ties shall be broken in the following precedence:
 - a. Head-to-head competition.
 - b. Total number of student ballots.
 - c. Greatest number of judge ballots.
 - d. Special election by all semi-finalists
- F. The presiding officers for the semi-final round shall be paired on a high-low basis using the following criteria:
 - 1. Greatest number of wins.
 - 2. Head-to-head competition.
 - 3. Total number of student ballots.
- G. The winner of each semi-final chamber, determined by the greatest number of student and judge ballots will serve in the final round. Ties shall be broken by judges’ preference.
- H. The presiding officer champion is determined by the greatest number of both student and judge ballots in the final round.
- I. Ties in the final round shall be broken in the following precedence:
 - 1. Greatest number of judge votes in the final round
 - 2. Greatest number of students votes in the final round
 - 3. Greatest number of wins
 - 4. Greatest number of judge votes in all rounds
 - 5. Greatest number of student votes in all rounds
 - 6. Head-to-head competition if contestants met in previous round
 - 7. Strength of opposition based on total number of student and judge ballots throughout the tournament
 - 8. In the case of an unbreakable tie, co-champions will be awarded

Section 7. Ballot Review

- A. Judge ballots for Congressional Debate and Presiding Officer shall be made available for coach review at the conclusion of the preliminary rounds, at the conclusion of the semifinal round, and at the conclusion of the second final round session. Ballots will be made available

for a half an hour, and it will be communicated to the coaches (by email or any other method determined by the State Tournament Director) when the ballots are published. Only coaches may review the ballots. The purpose of review is to determine errors in recording results. Published ballots will be made unavailable at the conclusion of the half hour review period.