

Dalmasse Sterner Steel City Invitational

Live Doc

Rules, policies, and procedures for the Dalmasse Sterner Steel City Invitational, November 14, 2020. This document will be updated during the tournament as needed.

Contact Information

Email: PittsburghNSDA@gmail.com Text: 412-376-3490 (text only)

Announcements/Updates

Award Ceremony Info

Starting at 5:30 PM - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AoAs4zUZMis&feature=youtu.be>

Non-Advancing Quarterfinalists in Debate - congrats!

JV LD

Theodore Peebles

JV PF

Scherer & Capella

Deshpande & Deepak

Anthony & Villard

VLD

Michael Quigley

Rebecca Peng

Sahishnu Hanumolu

VPE

Palagani & Narayan

School

La Salle

Pittsburgh Alderdice

West Windsor

Lakeland

La Salle

Pine-Richland

South Fayette

North Allegheny

Beckman & Simeon

Hunterdon Central

Bacdayan & Kethavath

Upper St. Clair

11/14 - PF Update - Due to a setting in Tabroom, we begin the day with flips in PF. We're sorry for the confusion. Flips will continue for all PF rounds.

Round 4 updated start times

Round 4 (LD)	12:15 pm	12:30 pm	12:40 pm
Round 4 (PF)	12:30 pm	12:40 pm	12:45 pm

11/12: Asynchronous Speech Update - Upload deadline changed until 12:00 PM tomorrow.

11/12: Debate schedule finalized - see pg. 2.

Schedule

If all the participants and all our technology cooperate, we will stick to the schedule below. Any significant changes will be highlighted here and blasted out via tabroom.

Schedule Notes

- All rounds are SINGLE-FLIGHTED.
- Judges should click start as soon as you see that you have a ballot, not when the round starts.
- All participants should be in the room at Tech Check time and should verify that all can be seen and heard.
 - Judges report missing competitors by email if they are not present at tech check. Report again if missing by start time.
- All rounds should start by the start time - starting early is OK!
- Asynchronous speech rounds should be judged during that rounds time slot.

PF/LD Schedule (all divisions) -- ALL TIMES EASTERN

Saturday, November 14 - PF/LD All divisions

	Pairings Released (judges press start)	Tech Check (all in room, unassigned judges in judge lounge)	Start Time (should be underway!)
Round 1	8:30 am	8:40 am	8:45 am
Round 2	9:40 am	9:50 am	10:00 am
Round 3	10:55 am	11:05 am	11:15 am
Round 4 (LD)	12:15 pm	12:30 pm	12:40 pm
Round 4 (PF)	12:30 pm	12:40 pm	12:45 pm
Semis	2:00 pm	2:10 pm	2:15 pm
Final	3:20 pm	3:25 pm	3:30 pm

Policy Schedule (all divisions) -- ALL TIMES EASTERN

Saturday, November 14 - Policy All divisions

	Pairings Released (judges press start)	Tech Check (all in room, unassigned judges in judge lounge)	Start Time (should be underway!)
Round 1	8:30 am	8:40 am	8:45 am
Round 2	10:15 am	10:25 am	10:30am
Round 3	12:45 pm	12:55 pm	1:00 pm
Final	2:45 pm	2:55 pm	3:00 pm

Congress Schedule (all divisions) -- ALL TIMES EASTERN

All sessions are two hours long!

Saturday, November 14 - Congress

	Pairings Released (judges press start)	Tech Check (all in room, unassigned judges in judge lounge)	Start Time (should be underway!)
Session 1	8:40 am	8:50 am	9:00 am
Session 2	11:40 pm	11:50 am	12:00 pm
Final	2:40 pm	2:50 pm	3:00 pm

Main Speech Schedule (Asynchronous) -- ALL TIMES EASTERN

Saturday, November 14 - DEC, DP, DUO, OO, POI, PRO, POE

	Pairings Released (judges press start)	Decision Time (ranks are due)
Round 1	8:30 am	10:00 am
Round 2	10:00 am	11:30 am
Round 3	11:30 am	1:00 pm
Finals	1:45 pm	3:15 pm

Main Speech Schedule (Synchronous) -- ALL TIMES EASTERN

Saturday, November 14 - Extemp, Impromptu

	Pairings Released (judges press start) (EXTEMP PREP STARTS)	Impromptu Tech Check	Round Start) (should be underway!)
Round 1	8:30 am	8:50 am	9:00 am
Round 2	10:00 am	10:20 am	10:30 am
Round 3	11:30 am	11:50 am	12:00 pm
Finals	1:45 pm	2:05 pm	2:15 pm

Speech Recording Instructions

1. All video submissions must be an unedited, one cut video.
2. Prior to beginning the speech, competitors must hold up a piece of paper/sign indicating that this performance is for the Dalmasse Sterner Invitational. It may also be written on a white board.
3. The camera used must be stationary throughout the entire performance.
4. Audience interaction may not be included in the video.
5. All video submissions must be titled as "Student Name-School-Event".
6. All video submissions must be set to "Unlisted" in Youtube and the url should be uploaded to the competitor entry by 5:00 PM on Thursday.

Speech Rules

Decisions regarding the enforcement of standing rules (including time limits) should be routed to tab for discussion before punitive action is taken. Enforcement of timing should begin when the student starts speaking. Meaning time before the speech, while holding a sign or resetting after clicking start

NCFL rules for all applicable events, PHSSL rules for Prose, Poetry, NSDA rules for Impromptu.

Impromptu Instructions

Each judge will get a spreadsheet of prompts. They will private chat the first 3 prompts to the first speaker. The speaker will quickly choose one of those three topics, letting the judge know via private chat and keeping the unselected topics a secret. When the speaker selects a topic, the judge should begin their timer.

Competitors have a total of 7 minutes to divide between preparation and speaking. There is no required minimum speaking time, but a competitor who exceeds 7:30 combined time cannot be ranked first.

The judge will remove the chosen topic from the list and will move down the list to provide the next speaker with the two unselected topics and one new topic.

Judge Notes and Expectations

The Judge Lounge is accessible from your tabroom.com home page (click on Current Ballots and Panels if you do not see it). There is no coffee, but there will be someone on staff to answer your questions.

Judges who are not assigned a round are on standby must be in the judges lounge at Tech Check time for possible substitutions. If you are on standby for consecutive preliminary rounds, there is a problem and you should ask the judges lounge manager.

ONLY THE ASSIGNED JUDGE MAY JUDGE. YOU MAY NOT (NEVER EVER) ALLOW SOMEONE ELSE TO JUDGE IN YOUR NAME. YOU MAY NOT FIND A SUBSTITUTE JUDGE.

Before the Tournament

- Check that you can see the tournament on tabroom.com - it should be listed under Upcoming under your judging section
- Update your paradigm (for PF, LD, Policy) - debaters use judge paradigms to decide how to best adapt to the judge, so tell them what kind of debates you want to see! Be sure your paradigm is honest and accurate - your jokes are both not funny and not understood by people who don't know you, which are the people who read your paradigm
- Check your connection - <https://campus.speechanddebate.org/>
- Here are some judging resources if you're judging for the first time or need a refresher. There are also some links to rules in the folder:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1YdZeTktwVMoecj0zH7dlwE2ip40RjN2&authuser=bedwards%40uscscsd.k12.pa.us&usp=drive_fs

Before Rounds

- PLEASE CLICK START TO ACKNOWLEDGE YOU HAVE RECEIVED THE BALLOT. Do not wait until the round starts to click start. Just start on time!
- If competitors are missing at Tech Check, send a message to tab (you don't need to leave to tell us!)

During Rounds

Remember to be considerate of the different situations that students are in, with some able to compete in their schools and some forced to compete from home in wildly different home situations. It is doubly important in a virtual tournament to consider how our implicit biases affect our judging.

- Debate:
 - Flow (take notes)

- Keep time
- Enter comments on tabroom between speeches or during prep time
- That's it. Do not ask questions, answer questions, comment on arguments, or get involved in the debate in any way
- Extemp/Impromptu
 - Keep time
 - In Extemp it is REQUIRED to give time signals from 5 down. In all events it is a sign of preparation, not lack of preparation, to ask for signals
 - Allow double-entered competitors to compete early and then leave, or to enter late after competing in their other room
 - DO NOT converse with the students. DO NOT give oral feedback. Welcome them, thank them, and that's it.
 - Enter comments on tabroom during performances. Please do not wait until the speaker has finished to begin typing your ballot. This can greatly delay the tournament. We greatly encourage you to test your system to keep two windows or screens open or even use two different computers.

After Rounds

Debate

1. Quickly read any evidence that is crucial to making your decision.
2. Enter points (following the scale; see ballot and below) and a decision (must be one winner and one loser).
3. Confirm decision in tabroom. Write the winning SCHOOL and SIDE in your RFD. Help debaters and coaches by explaining the argument that caused you to vote.
4. Our schedule does not allow for oral critiques.
5. Take a screen break, have a snack, and hydrate!
6. Complete comments later - they remain open until the end of the tournament

Speech

1. Dismiss all competitors
2. Enter and confirm rankings for the competitors
3. Take a screen break, have a snack, and hydrate!
4. Complete comments later - they remain open until the end of the tournament

Forfeits

Tab declares and enters forfeits. If you think a team should be forfeited, you must talk to tab. You may not enter that result on your own.

Rules Violations

Please consult tab before deciding that something in the round warrants punishment for violating the rules, excepting the evidence violation process described above.

Obligations

Judges are obligated for the full tournament. Judges may be asked to judge both Varsity and JV rounds, and may be asked to move to other categories if needed (especially in elimination rounds).

Advice

- A great resource for judge training: <https://sites.google.com/view/judge-training/home>
- A video explaining how to use tabroom.com: <https://youtu.be/IEHBHm5itGY>
- A set of event explainers and sample rounds with commentary: [PCFL Resources and Videos](#)
- Dos and don'ts of writing a ballot: <https://youtu.be/iXb9N05hl6g>

Tech Stuff

Our best advice to solve connection issues is to start each tournament day with a browser restart (not closing a tab, closing the full browser) and clearing cookies. This is also a key troubleshooting step that has solved most issues for most people. If you have a finicky computer, try restarting the entire system before rounds.

Debate Rules

- All debaters SHOULD be on separate cameras, and MUST maintain 6ft of social distancing except when physically impossible. While debaters are permitted to share a room and a camera (if this complies with local health guidelines), we would like teams to recognize that this creates a perceived advantage over teams who are not allowed to do so, and so encourage teams to compete in separate rooms except where it is not practical to do so. If sharing a room, debaters should wear a mask when it is not their turn to speak. Tab should be made aware of any situation that requires a deviation from this requirement.
- All competitors MUST have cameras on while speaking or involved in crossfire and are encouraged to keep their camera on throughout the debate unless tech issues prevent this.
- Judges SHOULD have their cameras on throughout the round so that the debaters can observe reactions and ensure that no tech glitch prevents you from hearing them.
- Always mute your mic unless it is your turn to speak
- Observers are not permitted - debaters may not record rounds or share their screen with non-participants or broadcast rounds in any format

- Participants are not allowed to move rounds to another platform. This causes legal problems. Moving rounds to another platform will result in large-scale disqualification of everyone involved and people from their schools.

Speech Rules

- Students should keep cameras off when not performing to help preserve the bandwidth of the active competitor.
- Judges should keep their camera on (unless bandwidth prevents you from doing so -- but please let the students know)
- Sitting vs standing: competitors may sit at the computer screen or stand while performing, but may not use a chair as a prop - if a competitor is seated in a chair, they must remain seated in the chair for the full performance. Competitors may not use the ability to sit to allow reading from a script or notes.

Mid-round tech issues

Please exercise patience and understanding if students get lost, drop out, freeze, lag, have dogs barking in the background, arrive appropriately late, forget their piece, go over the grace period, whatever. Regardless of reason, we want to ensure our competitors feel valued in their experience

If a **debater** loses their connection in the middle of a round, the team's 10 minute tech timer (or what is left of it) begins counting. This is not prep time! If a debater is unable to reconnect before tech time elapses, they will forfeit the round. If the connection was dropped mid-speech, the speech will resume from the point where it was lost.

If a **speaker** loses their connection in the middle of a round, they will be afforded an opportunity to rejoin the room and continue WHERE THEY DROPPED OUT. If students cannot rejoin by the end of the round, they should be ranked last. If you are waiting on a student to return, and time has elapsed, please dismiss the other students and keep your window open.

If a **judge** loses their connection in the middle of a round, competitors should contact tab right away.

Camera best practices

- Keep your webcam at eye level
- Do not move your webcam when someone is speaking. Ideally, keep your webcam at the same location for the entire round

Tech Troubleshooting Tips

Try these steps, starting with a browser restart, if you have trouble connecting. You don't need to try all the steps at the same time! Judges, if you are experiencing tech issues please contact tab so we don't fine you!

1. Restart browser (not just the tab, close all browser tabs and windows and re-open Chrome)
2. Try on another device (i.e. phone....download the Jitsi App and Google Chrome)
3. Reduce video quality (in Campus, click the three dots in the bottom right, select Manage Video Quality, and crank it down - and ask the rest of the room to do the same)
4. Turn camera off
5. Clear cookies
6. Incognito mode
7. Restart computer

Miscellany

Implicit Bias Reminders

We live in a world that is filled with bias. While it may be impossible to completely separate ourselves from our worldview and the many factors that influence us on a daily basis, we can make a concerted effort to minimize the way our personal biases impact the way that we interact with students within this activity. The vast majority of adults within this activity do a phenomenal job of this throughout the season but we wanted to put out a few reminders for everyone to take note of:

- Accents do not reflect intelligence.
- Race does not indicate socioeconomic status.
- Gender is fluid.
- There is no uniform in Speech and Debate. Your personal opinions about what a student chose to wear should not be indicated on your ballot.
- Pitch is not a personal choice.
- Positions that students take while competing don't necessarily equate to their personal beliefs.
- Your beliefs on a topic should have no bearing on how you judge a speech or performance.
- Recognize that words do not exist in a vacuum. Avoid using charged language on your ballots.
- You are the adult in the room. As such, please be mindful of how students will interpret what they see and hear you do. Please demonstrate respect in every aspect of the word.

Debate Speaker Point Scale

Speaker points are used to give a holistic measurement of the effectiveness of the debater's participation in the round - speaking, strategy, decorum, etc. Judges must follow the speaker point scale, regardless of what they are used to or may prefer, so that there is a fair standard across all rounds. Plus, if we have a standard, points provide meaningful feedback instead of being arbitrary and useless!

29.5-30: I wish I could frame your speeches – hard to imagine a better speaker

29.1-29.4: you left no doubt about who won and are better than most debaters at this tournament

28.8-29.0: you were effective and strategic, and made only minor mistakes

28.3-28.7: you hit all the right notes, but could improve (e.g. depth or efficiency)

27.8-28.2: you mainly did the right thing, but left something to be desired

27.3-27.7: you missed major things and were hard to follow

27.0-27.2: you advanced little in the debate or cost your team the round

26.0-26.9: you are not ready for this division/tournament

Below 26: you were offensive, ignorant, rude, or tried to cheat (MUST come to tab)

Low-point wins (where the winning team has fewer points than the losing team) are allowed.

Content Warnings

Teams reading sensitive content ought to offer a content warning before the round and obtain affirmative consent from all parties. Please ensure you have received a response from all parties; silence is not consent. If you are obtaining consent via text, have people text to opt in as well, or at least confirm again that you did not get any opt outs before you read the argument (eg: "I did not get any opt out texts. Is that correct?"). You can also try the Google form method, wherein everyone checks yes or no to indicate if they're okay with the argument anonymously and you count the correct number of answers. Remember to have a backup case on hand for opt outs.