

PCFL Congress Qualifiers 2022

Rules, policies, and procedures for PCFL #1, October 22, 2022. This document will be updated during the tournament as needed. Participants in the tournament are accountable for all rules explained within - we're counting on you to read it, and holding you to it.

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Contact Information

Need to contact Tab? **Email:** PCFLTabroom@gmail.com

Cell (Text, DO NOT CALL): 484-423-4554 Please give us your name, round, a brief description of the issue. We will respond promptly.

Please note that students should only be contacting the tournament regarding missing persons, round-related emergencies, or equity concerns. All other communications should come to tab through a coach.

Announcements/Updates

Wifi network

La Salle Event

Pw: PCFL2022

Schedule

Please be in your room at "In Room Time" with unassigned judges in the judges lounge. Starting early is OK if everyone is ready! Forfeit time is the start time.

	Schematics Released (judges press start)	In Room Time (all in room)	Start Time (should be underway!)
Varsity Session 1	8:40 am	8:50 am	9:00 am
JV Session 1	9:30 am	9:40 am	9:45 am
Session 2	12:00 pm	12:20 pm	12:30 pm

Session length: two hours of debate.

Rules and Procedures

The tournament follows PCFL/NCFL rules. PCFL requires the use of preset randomized seating charts and recency at the start of each session.

Judges will rank the top 8 at the end of each session, where #1 is the best rank. Parliamentarians will rank all competitors at the end of the legislative day (so after Session 2).

Docket and Agenda

PCFL regular season tournaments utilize a fixed agenda, proceeding through the docket in order. Modifications of the agenda are not allowed - each legislation item must be considered on the floor and voted upon before the next item is debated.

This tournament will begin with item #1.

INFORMATION FOR CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE JUDGES

BALLOTS

Please fill out a ballot for each speech in the round and give comments and a score (from 1-6) to the speaker. Note that you **MUST** record a score for each speech before submitting your ranks on tabroom. You can then edit your comments after the session, but **ONLY** if you have entered a score for each speech.

RANKINGS

Please rank the top 8 competitors in this session via your online ballot, and submit it as soon as possible after the conclusion of the session. Rankings should reflect the overall impact of each legislator on the course of debate and the session as a whole.

Rankings should take into account both quantity and quality of speeches, as well as other participation in the session (questions, motions, decorum, etc). The tournament frowns upon repetitive debate, and on the abuse of parliamentary procedure to change the agenda or rules excessively. You may make note of these issues on the back of a speech ballot for individual competitors.

SPEECHES

Congress is a **DEBATE** event! Speeches, whether constructives, rebuttals, or crystallizations, are all equally valuable. Please reward students who advance debate and engage with prior speakers, and students who move the chamber forward to the next legislation rather than giving a repetitive speech filled with “rehash.” Students do not possess the right to speak on every legislation, and students should not be penalized for moving the previous question to end debate on an exhausted topic.

QUESTIONING

Each speech will have a mandatory one-minute questioning period (except the first affirmative or negative speech on each piece of legislation, which will have two minutes). You should not score questioners, but should consider the quality of their questions and participation in questioning when ranking contestants at the end of the session. As part of the effort to turn the event into Congressional Debate, speakers are expected to be able to defend their arguments during questioning. How a speaker handles questioning should be part of the score for their speech, as well as part of their overall ranking. Keep in mind that although the questioner holds the floor, an overly aggressive or hostile posture should be discouraged.

PRESIDING OFFICERS

The Presiding Officer is an essential role in a Congressional Debate round. Students serving as the PO are sacrificing their opportunity to speak to serve the community. This is a leadership position. Accordingly, consider the PO when completing your rankings; rankings are a search for the Best Legislator, not the Best Speaker. It is not required that you rank the PO, but it is encouraged if they are able to run the chamber in a fair and efficient manner and contribute positively to the quality and quantity of debate.

Observers

This is an open tournament - rounds are open to observers. Observers must be respectful and silent, and may not interact with anyone in the round at any time. So long as they meet this condition, competitors and judges in their off flights are welcome to watch all rounds in the tournament. Observers may only be removed from a room if they are disrupting the participants (in which case, please send a message to tab so we can address it) or if there is not enough space in a room.

Judge Notes and Expectations

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 Rounds

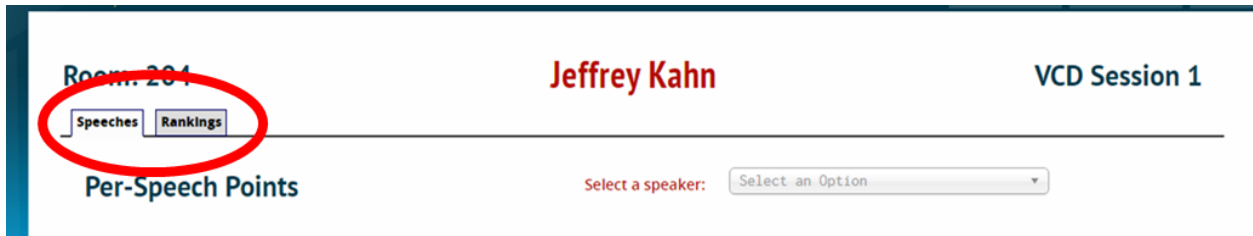
- PLEASE CLICK START TO ACKNOWLEDGE YOU HAVE RECEIVED THE BALLOT. Tab staff will check all rooms, so do not wait until starting to click start.
- At In Room, have competitors check their tech! Resolve any issues before start time.

During Rounds

Unlike other events, the judge has no role beyond completing ballots for each speaker. Each Congress chamber has a Parliamentarian, an adult who will organize the students for the start of the day and resolve any procedural disputes. Students will elect a Presiding Officer who will select speakers and questioners and keep time.

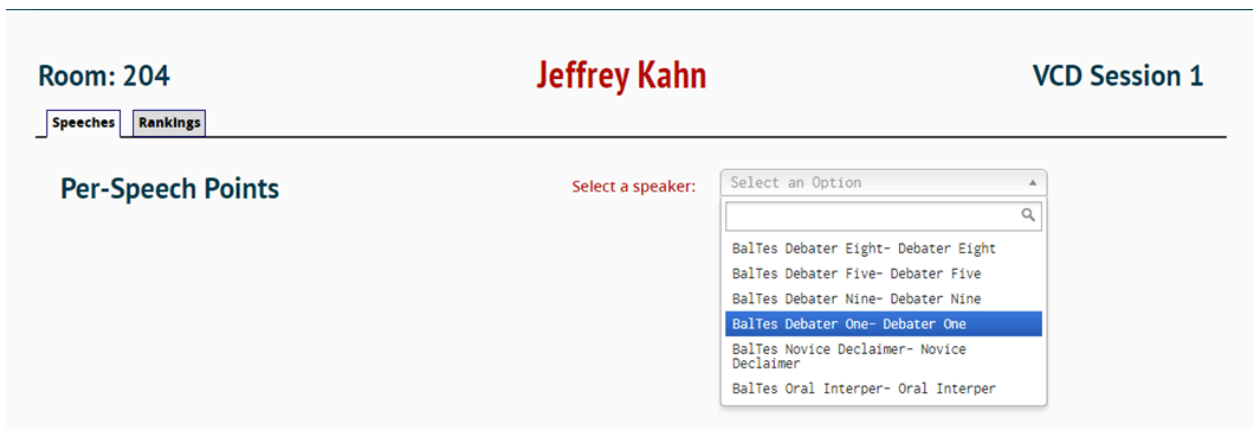
Using the Online Ballot

There are two parts to the online Congress ballot: feedback on the speeches and overall rankings within the room.



You only need the Rankings tab at the very end of the round. The bulk of these instructions deal with the Speeches tab, which you'll use throughout the round.

Each time a competitor speaks, you should use the "select a speaker" drop down menu to choose that speaker's name:



Speakers will identify themselves before they begin their speech. The Presiding Officer will choose who speaks, you just have to select the name of the speaker to give them feedback.

For each speech, you can note the topic of the bill, the side that the speaker is speaking on, comments about the individual speeches and an overall score for the speech.

Room: 204 **Jeffrey Kahn** VCD Session 1

Speeches Rankings

Per-Speech Points Select a speaker: BalTes Debater Nine- Debater Nine

BalTes Debater Nine: Debater Nine

New speech: Presiding Officer: N

Topic/Bill: Side: For the bill Against

Comments & feedback

 Formats ▾

Points for this speech (1 - 6): **Save New Speech**

**As an important note: the ranks for individual speeches are on a scale of 1-6, where 6 is the highest score. Here is a [rubric for scoring Congressional Debate Speeches](#).

When you save the speech, you'll immediately see a new box for that speaker's next speech. They won't speak twice in a row - you'll return to the dropdown menu to select the next speaker.

Room: 204 **Jeffrey Kahn** VCD Session 1

Speeches Rankings

Per-Speech Points Select a speaker:

BalTes Debater Nine: Debater Nine

New speech: Presiding Officer:

Topic/Bill: Side: For the bill Against

Comments & feedback

Formats ▾

Points for this speech (1 - 6): [Save New Speech](#)

Speaker's Speech #1 Session Speech #1 Presiding Officer:

Topic/Bill: Side: For the bill Against

Comments & feedback

Formats ▾

Great speech! Your use of evidence was excellent. Try to talk a little slower in the future.

Be sure to add a new speech every time a speaker speaks. **After the round, you will be able to edit feedback for speeches that already exist but will not be able to add new speeches or edit scores or ranks for any student.**

The feedback on individual speeches helps speakers to see how they can improve; however, the place where you will indicate the ranks that will impact a student’s overall score will be on the tab marked “rankings”.

Room: 204
Jeffrey Kahn
VCD Session 1

Speeches
Rankings

Give no rank higher than 9
Blanks will be auto-filled with a 9

Entry Code	Name	Speech Points	Average	Rank
BalTes Debater Eight	Debater Eight			<input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
BalTes Debater Five	Debater Five			<input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
BalTes Debater Nine	Debater Nine			<input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
BalTes Debater One	Debater One			<input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
BalTes Novice Disclaimer	Novice Disclaimer			<input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
BalTes Oral Interper	Oral Interper			<input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>

Submit Ballot

Here, you should rank the students’ overall performance relative to each other. Rankings should reflect the overall impact of each legislator on the course of debate and the session as a whole. The student who was the best legislator in the round should receive a rank of 1 (like speech events, 1 is the best rank - different from the points awarded to each speech in Congress).

Rank the top 10 only. Ranks left blank will be recorded as 11s. These ranks do NOT have to correlate exactly with speaker point totals - sometimes a student speaks once but is more impressive than a student who spoke twice; sometimes a student gives impressive speeches but bogs down the session with motions or other forms of grandstanding and may be ranked lower.

Equity and Inclusion

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.
- The video quality of a student's performance or speech may be impacted by lighting, internet, access to equipment, and other family members' presence in the home. To ensure a more equitable experience for our participants, please be sure your decision-making process and comments are related only to the content and quality of the presentation or speech itself.
- 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.