

Southern California Debate League

State Qualifying Tournament Guidelines for Speech Events

Section 1. Rounds and Panels

A. There shall be three preset preliminary rounds for each individual event. In the case of events with entries fewer than 15, we shall have two preliminary rounds, one semi round and a final round.

B. Speaking Order in Preliminary Rounds shall be varied and preset

C. Speaking Order in Semi and Final rounds shall be random

Section 2. Computing Rankings

A. Whenever a judge has marked a contestant lower than fifth, such a rank shall be changed to fifth before tabulation occurs in all rounds. However, in a tie-breaking situation, the 6 or 7 will be used for judge preference or #1's, 2's, 3's, down to # 6's and # 7's.

Section 3. Semi-Finalist Selection

A. On a low cumulative basis, based on the three preliminary round ranks, the semi-finalists shall be composed of the top contestants divided as following:

a. In events with 35 or fewer entries, 2 semi-final panels of SEVEN each.

i. If ties in cumulative scores bring the total to over FOURTEEN, the following shall be considered in order of precedence listed to arrive at the fourteen contestants.

1. Greatest number of first, seconds, etc. (a 1-2-5 will advance before 2-2-4)

2. If ties still exist, we will advance, in the following order, 15, 16, 13, 12

3. If speakers are still tied and have met in a preliminary round, the tie shall be resolved on the better rank in that round.

b. In events with 36 or more, 3 semi-final panels of SIX each.

i. If ties in cumulative scores bring the total to over EIGHTEEN, the following shall be considered in order of precedence listed to arrive at the eighteen contestants (we will not advance more than half the field).

1. Take, in the following order, 19, 20, 21

2. Greatest number of first, seconds, etc in round ranks

3. If speakers are still tied and have met in a preliminary round, the tie shall be resolved on the better rank in that round.

4. If ties cannot be resolved by the above methods, then those tied shall advance to the semi-final round: 22, 23, 24, 17, 16, 15 (we will not advance more than half the field).

Section 4. Finalist Selection

- A. The finals round shall be composed of the top seven contestants selected on a low cumulative basis, adding in the round rankings from the preliminary rounds to the total of all individual judges' decisions in semi-final round.
- B. If ties bring the number to over seven, the following shall be considered in order of precedence to resolve ties:
 - a. Rank in semi-final round only, speakers tied need not have been in the same panel.
 - b. Judges' preference in the semi-final round, both speakers in the same panel.
 - c. Greatest number of firsts, seconds, etc. in the semi-final round.
 - d. Greatest number of firsts, seconds, etc. in ranks of all rounds including the semi-final round.
 - e. If speakers are still tied and have met in a previous preliminary round, resolve the tied based on the better rank in that round.
 - f. If ties cannot be resolved, the panel will include up to 8 speakers. If more than 8, then 6 will be included.

Section 5. Final Score

- A. The winner in each event shall be determined on the basis of low total cumulative score, counting the rankings of each judge's decision in the three preliminary round judges, and each judge's decision equally in the semi-final and final rounds.
- B. If ties exist, the following shall be considered in order of precedence listed to resolve ties:
 - a. Rank in final round only.
 - b. Judges' preference in final round only.
 - c. Greatest number of firsts, seconds, etc. in final round only.
 - d. Greatest number of firsts, seconds, etc. in round rankings for all rounds.
 - e. Greatest number of firsts, seconds, etc. from all judges in all rounds.
- C. If ties still exist, duplicate awards shall be given to the tied contestants.

Section 6. Errors

- A. Individual judges' ballots shall be made accessible to coaches after round two and each succeeding round through the final round. The purpose of the posting is to allow coaches to check for errors in recording results.
- B. The results of preliminary and semi-final rounds shall be posted in an area designated only for coaches. The purpose of the posting is to allow coaches to check for errors in tabulation.
- C. Any error shall be immediately reported by the coach of the contestant or contestants concerned to the tab room. Such notification shall be done prior to the start of the subsequent round of the event in order that any errors may be rectified.
- D. Inadvertent clerical errors in tabulation shall not void the contest. If errors occur and can be corrected before the next round begins, this correction shall be made. If, however, correction of an inadvertent clerical error would force the rerunning of any

round or rounds, the correction shall not be made. In cases of uncorrectable errors, the President shall be authorized to make appropriate apologies.

- E. A round shall not be rerun due to timing errors which occur during the rounds.

Section 7. Judging

- A. In all individual events one judge shall be used in each section or panel of the three preliminary rounds. Three judges will be used in semi-final rounds and in the final rounds. No judge should judge the same individual event twice in the same event during the tournament.

Section 8. Unauthorized video and/or audio recording of any panel of events is prohibited.

Authorization shall be secured in writing from the League President. Judges shall be given both oral and written instructions that video and/or audio recording is prohibited without the expressed written consent of the Tournament Director.

Section 9. State Quals Tournament Grievance Committee.

- A. The Grievance Committee shall be comprised of the four League Officers and shall be chaired by the President of SCDL .
- B. The jurisdiction of the Grievance Committee shall extend to any allegation of misconduct or violation of the By Laws during the Tournament. The decision of the Grievance Committee shall be final.
- C. All investigations and deliberations of the Grievance Committee shall follow this prescribed procedure:
 - a. The protest must be presented by a member school coach of record or designee.
 - b. The protest must be presented in writing, using an appropriate form designated by the President. This form must include the following information:
 - i. Name and mailing address of the complainant
 - ii. School address and principal of the complainant.
 - iii. Requested remedy
 - c. The protest must be submitted prior to the next round of the event protested.
 - d. The President shall convene the Grievance Committee immediately, and a reasonable attempt shall be made to notify all member schools involved in the protest. The Grievance Committee has fifteen minutes to convene after the President has called for a quorum.
 - e. The President shall notify the appropriate Tabulation Room immediately of the protest, requesting that the next round be delayed until the decision is reached by the Committee.
 - f. The Grievance Committee shall meet privately with the person submitting the protest, and with any other persons involved, but with the exclusion of the extraneous persons. A student must be represented by his/her coach, and may be accompanied by an adult of his/her choosing. However, only the coach of record (or designee) and the student may speak before the Grievance Committee.

- g. A statement of the allegation shall be presented to all parties concerned, who may present any information and arguments which may be germane to the issue. All parties need not be present at the same time. At the discretion of the Grievance Committee, judges or other witnesses may be questioned.
 - h. The Grievance Committee shall meet privately for deliberation. The President shall facilitate the discussion from a neutral point of view. A voting shall determine the decision of the Committee, with the President voting only in case of a tie. All concerned parties shall be informed of the decision immediately.
 - i. The decision and rationale of the committee shall be
 - i. Presented in writing to the affected parties.
 - ii. Added to appendix and
- D. Any protests must be submitted by the coach of record (or designee) of the school involved in the protest. In no case shall a parent, contestant, or member of the contestant's family register a protest. In no case shall an observer or judge register a protest.
- E. Consequences for violation of rules as stipulated in the SCDL Rules and Regulations shall be considered a maximum penalty, and may be modified at the discretion of the Grievance Committee. In the absence of any such stipulation in the Rules and Regulations, the Grievance Committee has the authority to impose an appropriate consequence for a violation of rules. If a student who has placed in a final round is found to have violated the rules, that student must relinquish the award, and other students placing below the disqualified student shall move up one rank.
- F. The consequence for unethical conduct may result in reduction in rank.
- G. All decisions of the Grievance Committee shall be communicated to the principal of the school against whom the decision reached and the coach of record

Section 10. Auto Qualifying Students:

- A. Students who earn a total cume placing of 2 or 3 at Fall Varsity (IE) and Spring Varsity (IE) will automatically qualify to the State Tournament.
- B. Cumes from the Fall and Spring Varsity Tournaments must be earned from the same event.
- C. C. If the event is a partnered event, auto-qualifying entries must consist of the same two partners who competed at Fall and Spring Varsity.

Section 11. Eligibility

- A. Schools are eligible for State Quals IE if they have paid CHSSA dues and League dues at least two weeks before the State Qualifier.
- B. Schools must have participated in either Spring Varsity IE or Spring Varsity Debate at a 1:4 ratio. (for every one entry at either SV or SVD they may have 4 entries at SQ)
- C. Students may enter any two events with the exception of Extemporaneous.
- D. All competitors must be in grades 9-12 to participate in the SCDL.

Section 12. CHSSA Procedures Default

A. Any rule violation or procedural issue not mentioned in the above verbiage will be, by default, addressed by CHSSA's bylaws.