ARTICLE XI: The State Tournament - Debate Rules

Section 1. Rules for All Forms of Debate

A. Resolutions

1. Policy Debate
   The policy debate resolution shall be the national high school debate resolution.

2. Lincoln-Douglas Debate
   The National Forensic League (NFL) Lincoln-Douglas topic for September-October shall be used for the Fall California topic; the Lincoln-Douglas resolution for March/April shall be used as the second California Lincoln-Douglas resolution from February 1. The topic used at the CHSSA State Tournament will be the NFL March/April resolution.

3. Parliamentary Debate
   Resolutions are issued at the beginning of the twenty-minute preparation period of the round.
   a. Resolutions for each shall rotate through the following types:
      · Value: Both sides push for their value in the topic as superior to the other team's value.
      · Policy: Proposition shows there is a problem and offers a solution (plan) to the problem. Both sides debate the appropriateness and/or merits of the problem and solution asserted by the Proposition.
      · Fact: Both teams debate the circumstances under which the topic would be called a true statement.
   b. The topics for each round will be in a distinct topic area not to be used in any other round for the duration of the tournament. The topic areas and resolution type by round will be determined by the Debate Committee and communicated to the tournament director at the January meeting. Only topic areas will be announced at the January meeting. At least five resolutions based on each topic area will be written by the tournament director or designee and vetted by at least three members of the debate committee prior to the start of the state tournament. These individuals shall be selected by the Debate Committee Chair from members of the Debate Committee that do not have any Parliamentary Debate teams entered at the State Tournament, using any criteria the Debate Committee Chair deems appropriate. If there are not at least three eligible members of the Debate Committee based on the foregoing, then the Debate Committee Chair may make up the shortfall by selecting a non-Debate Committee Member familiar with debate that has no Parliamentary Debate entries at the State Tournament.

Three final resolutions will be selected for each topic area and placed into a sealed envelope by round to be used in a blind draw for topic selection each round.

4. Public Forum Debate
   Resolutions will correspond to those published by the NFL.

B. Debate Both Sides of Resolution as Assigned
Over the course of the tournament, each team or individual in Policy Debate, Parliamentary Debate, Public Forum, and Lincoln-Douglas Debate may be assigned to uphold either side of the resolution in any given round.

C. Number of Participants.
In Policy, Parliamentary, and Public Forum Debate teams consist of two members only. The two members of a team who qualify to the State Tournament from a league state qualification tournament must debate as a team in the State Tournament. In Lincoln-Douglas Debate only one person debates each side of the resolution. In all forms of debate, including Public Forum, the affirmative/proposition side will always begin the debate. In Public Forum the negative side will always conclude the debate. In all other forms of debate the affirmative or proposition side will always conclude the debate.

D. Length and Order of Speeches in Each form of Debate.
A speaker's time begins as to any given speech when she/he begins to speak. All speaking time must be timed, including "thank you's" and "roadmaps".

1. Policy Debate

1st Affirmative Constructive	8 minutes
Cross-Examination of 1st Affirmative	3 minutes
1st Negative Constructive	8 minutes
Cross-Examination of 1st Negative	3 minutes
2nd Affirmative Constructive	8 minutes
Cross-Examination of 2nd Affirmative	3 minutes
2nd Negative Constructive	8 minutes
Cross-Examination of 2nd Negative	3 minutes
1st Negative Rebuttal	5 minutes
1st Affirmative Rebuttal	5 minutes
2nd Negative Rebuttal	5 minutes
2nd Affirmative Rebuttal	5 minutes

2. Lincoln-Douglas Debate

Affirmative Constructive	6 minutes
Cross-Examination	3 minutes
Negative Constructive	7 minutes
Cross-Examination	3 minutes
Affirmative Rebuttal	4 minutes
Negative Rebuttal	6 minutes
Affirmative Rebuttal	3 minutes

3. Parliamentary Debate

1st Proposition	7 minutes
1st Opposition	7 minutes
2nd Proposition	7 minutes
2nd Opposition	7 minutes
Opposition Rebuttal	5 minutes
Proposition Rebuttal	5 minutes

4. Public Forum

1st Affirmative Speaker	4 minutes
1st Negative Speaker	4 minutes
Crossfire between First Speakers	3 minutes
2nd Affirmative Speaker	4 minutes
2nd Negative Speaker	4 minutes
Crossfire between Second Speakers	3 minutes
Summary (First Affirmative Speaker)	2 minutes
Summary (First Negative Speaker)	2 minutes
Grand Crossfire (All speakers)	3 minutes
Final Focus (Second Affirmative Speaker)	2 minute
Final Focus (Second Negative Speaker	2 minute

E. Constructive vs. Rebuttal Speeches. *[existing language in Public Forum rules only]*

1. Constructive Speeches: All arguments a team intends to present during the debate may be presented in the following speeches:
   a. Policy Debate, Parliamentary Debate and Public Forum Debate: First Four Speeches.
   b. Lincoln-Douglas Debate: First two speeches
2. Rebuttal Speeches:
   a. A team's formal response to opponent arguments from constructive speeches or an extension of their own arguments; the synthesis of a side's argument.
   b. No new arguments may be introduced in rebuttals. However, new analyses of

prior arguments are allowed in rebuttals.

c. In Public Forum the first rebuttals speeches are known as “Summary” speeches and the last rebuttal speeches are known as “Final Focus” speeches.

F. Preparation Time Allotted

1. Policy Debate
   No more than eight minutes of total preparation time shall be allowed each team during the debate.
2. Lincoln Douglas
   No more than four (4) minutes of total preparation time shall be allowed each debater during the debate.
3. Parliamentary Debate
   a. No preparation time is permitted during the debate presentation period before the judge(s).
   b. Twenty minutes of preparation time is allotted to be used before the debaters report to the judge(s). During the presentation period the next speaker must get up to speak within 20 seconds following the preceding speech.
4. Public Forum Debate.
   No more than two minutes of total preparation time shall be allowed to each side during the debate.

G. Use of Preparation Time.

1. Policy Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, and Public Forum Debate.
   a. Each team/individual may allocate this time as they/she/he see(s) fit during the round, utilizing time prior to speeches for their side.
   b. Speakers may not use preparation time to make prefacing remarks to their speeches. A speaker’s time begins, and prep time ends, when he/she begins to speak.
   c. No team may forfeit cross-examination time to gain additional preparation time. Preparation time begins for a team as soon as the previous speaker has finished with a speech or cross-examination.
2. Parliamentary Debate.
   a. During preparation time, Parli teams will report to designated Prep areas and remain there until dismissed to go to their rounds. In the preparation room, a topic shall be presented to the teams simultaneously. The teams have 20 minutes of preparation time from the announcement of the topic to prepare for each debate.
   b. Students may consult their partner, and no one else, dictionaries, reference materials, and prepared notes during the preparation period. Each Parliamentary debate contestant may make use of an electronic retrieval device to store and to retrieve subject files. Electronic retrieval devices are defined as laptop

computers, netbooks, iPads, or other portable electronic retrieval equipment. Secondary devices such as flash drives or external hard drives are allowed as well. Cell phones or smart phones are prohibited except as timing devices during the round. Power plugs or outlets may not be used in the prep room at any time. All computers used in the prep room must be battery operated at all times. Contestants shall not access the Internet or use it to communicate. All wireless capability must be turned off. Penalty for violation of this rule shall be automatic forfeiture of the round by the offending team.

c. At the end of 20 minutes of preparation time, debaters shall be released to go directly to their assigned rooms. In transit to the assigned rooms, no communication by any means should occur with anyone other than a student's partner or tournament officials. The First Proposition speech should promptly begin after the debaters and judges are all present in the competition room.

H. Examination of Opponents.

1. Policy Debate and Lincoln-Douglas Debate.
   a. In Policy Debate, both members of a debate team must participate as a questioner and respondent during cross-examination, but only one member of each team may do so within a given cross-examination period.
   b. In both Policy and Lincoln-Douglas Debate
      1) The questions must be directed to the speaker who has just completed his/her constructive speech and must be answered by that speaker alone.
      2) Questions must pertain only to materials and arguments offered by the opposition.
      3) The respondent may decline to answer only if a valid reason is given for doing so.
      4) The questioner controls the time and may interrupt a lengthy reply. Any form of time-wasting is considered unethical.
      5) Cross-examination time may not be yielded for the purpose of gaining additional preparation time.

2. Parliamentary Debate: Points of Information
   To make a point of information, a member of the opposing team rises for recognition by the speaker. The speaker then has the discretion to accept or refuse the point. If the point is accepted, the opposing team member directs a statement or question to the speaker. The speaker is technically yielding time from his/her own speech for the point of information and the time for the point is deducted from the speaker holding the floor.
   a. Points of Information are only allowed in the first four (4) speeches of the debate.
   b. Points of Information must be concise statements or questions lasting no more

than fifteen seconds.

c. Debaters may or may not take points of information at their discretion. The speaker accepts a single point; the opposing speaker is not allowed to make following questions or arguments unless again recognized by the speaker holding the floor.

d. The opening and closing minute of each speech are "protected;" i.e., no Points of Information are allowed. Points may be made after the first minute and before the last minute of each speech. The judge should tap the desktop to indicate that one minute has elapsed and points of information may commence. The judge should then tap the desktop when one minute remains in each speech to indicate that no more points may be attempted.

e. Both members of a debate team must participate as a questioner and respondent during cross-examination, but only one member of each team may do so within a given cross-examination period. Oral prompting by a participant of either the questioner or the respondent is discouraged, and may be considered by the judge as a factor in deciding the debate.

3. Public Forum: Cross-Fire.

a. In cross-fire, the team who finished speaking receives the first question.

b. In the first two cross-fires, both participating debaters may ask and answer questions of the other. Only the speakers indicated above may participate.

c. Grand Cross-fire: All four debaters may participate. All may ask and answer questions.

I. Validity of Evidence in All Forms of Debate

1. Definition of Terms:

a. Evidence is quoted information read in the round and must be identified by source.

b. Distortion of evidence exists when the evidence itself contains added or deleted words that do not clarify, but, in fact, change the position of the author with respect to the issues in question.

2. Evidence Rules Specific to Parliamentary Debate

The intent of Parliamentary Debate is to encourage extemporaneous or impromptu argumentation. Reference to "outside materials" should be limited; instead, students should rely on general knowledge, common sense, and application of logic and analysis. Nevertheless, the use of "outside materials" is allowed within the following parameters:

a. No published materials or materials prepared prior to preparation time may be brought into the debate round for the debater's use or reference. The debaters shall be allowed to bring to the round only the notes they have made on colored paper provided during the preparation period as referenced in

subparagraph 3 below, and nothing else.

b. Debaters are not permitted to read published materials in the speeches of the debate to support their argument claims from anything other than their handwritten notes prepared during preparation time. Those notes may contain specific factual information (such as statistics) and/or hand transcribed quotations from published materials so long as full quotations are included in the notes as opposed to ellipsed versions of quotes (ellipses occur after the first word of the quotation and before the final word). Full citation to the referenced information or quotation must be included. The citation must include the name of the author, the source title, and the date. The opposing debaters may ask to see the debaters' notes containing any cited material as part of a Point of Information and the team reading the cited materials must show the handwritten notes, with citation, upon such request.

c. During the debate, students may consult only notes prepared during the preparation period on the colored paper provided in the prep room for each round.

d. Debaters may take and use notes during the debate only on the colored paper provided in the prep room for each round.

3. Responsibility for Evidence.

Debaters are responsible for the validity of all evidence read in the debate. In all rounds of debate, all debaters shall have available, if challenged by the opponent during any round, complete citations for each piece of evidence introduced including the name of the author, qualifications, complete source title, complete date and page number. Lack of a full citation shall void any effect of that piece of evidence in the round. Either no internal ellipsis (ellipses occur after the first word of the quotation and before the final word) may be used in evidence cited on a card (this must be the case in Parliamentary Debate because no outside materials other than notes on provided colored paper may be brought into the round), or ellipses must be shown on document, if the original source or a photocopy is present. In Policy Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, and Public Forum Debate the evidence may be read in ellipsed form, but the entirety of the evidence must be available in one of the two ways cited. Personal letters, electronic messages, telegrams, and the like are not admissible as evidence.

4. Evidence challenges – all forms of Debate.

a. The burden of proof rests with the individual that challenges the validity of any evidence.

b. The individual/team challenging evidence must indicate prior to the conclusion of the round that a challenge will be made and indicate the specific evidence to be challenged.

c. The round will be completed and the judge(s) will withhold decisions, returning ballots to the tournament tabulation room. Decisions will be rendered on the ballots only after the protest has been resolved by tournament officials. The judges may be asked if the evidence in question was or would have been significant in their decision.
d. The evidence challenge must be made within thirty minutes of the conclusion of the round by the adult sponsor or designated representative of the individual/team who initiated the challenge.
e. The challenging individual/team must be able to provide proof of the charge, within a reasonable time as set by tournament officials, through the use of either original copies of photocopies of the source in question or be able to demonstrate that there is reasonable cause to believe the evidence is nonexistent through the use of photocopies of books in print, periodical guides or other types of bibliographical resources.
f. The tournament committee will adjourn to a private area with the two individuals and examine the charges and evidence along with materials presented by the challenging individual. Adult coaches or sponsors may be present during the examination.
g. Individuals utilizing "handbook" evidence rarely have available the facilities to check all sources found in those handbooks. Handbook evidence proven inaccurate will be disallowed in the round, and judges instructed to not consider the evidence in rendering a decision.
h. Evidence proven to be falsified or distorted from the original source will be grounds for awarding the challenging individual/team a win and disqualifying from the tournament the individual/team found guilty of using falsified or distorted evidence.
i. If the evidence challenge is not upheld, the judges will be asked to render a decision and turn in their ballots after they have been informed that the evidence in question was not found to be falsified or inaccurately presented.
j. The tournament committee has one-half hour to hear arguments and examine evidence and must render a decision within fifteen minutes of the conclusion of the presentations. The round following the contested round may not begin until the dispute is resolved.

J. Evidence Exchange/Note-Taking.

1. Judges may not request nor be given any evidence or written material from teams/individuals except when the evidence is challenged as illegal by the opposing team/individual during the round. The evidence in question should be collected by the judge and delivered to the Tournament Committee.

2. In Policy Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, and Public Forum Debate, teams or

individuals may request evidence from opponents during cross-examination/cross-fire or preparation only. The specific evidence cited must be provided. The requesting team must have access to the evidence during their subsequent speech, but must return it at the conclusion of that speech if requested. In Parliamentary Debate, the opposing debaters may ask to see the debaters' notes containing any cited material as part of a Point of Information and the team reading the cited materials must show the handwritten notes, with citation, upon such request.

K. Computers and Electronic Devices.

1. Computers are allowed in Policy Debate, Public Forum Debate, and Lincoln-Douglas Debate subject to the rules set forth herein. Computers are allowed in Parliamentary Debate only during preparation time.
2. For all debate events, a computer is defined as a laptop, netbook, iPad, or other portable electronic retrieval equipment. Devices such as flash drives or external hard drives are not considered computers for the purposes of these debate rules.
3. In all debate events, cellular phones/smart phones may be used during the round for the exclusive purpose of functioning as a timer (device must be put into airplane mode, and be incapable of receiving or sending correspondence). Penalty for violation of this rule shall be automatic forfeiture of the round by the offending side. Students must make all cell phones used as timers available for inspection by judges and/or tournament officials upon request. A cell phone/smartphone used as a timer shall not be counted as one of the computers/electronic retrieval devices allowed in a specific debate event.
4. In all forms of debate, debaters shall not have access to or activate any other electronic devices during the round, other than those specified in paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Section K. Debaters shall not be allowed to utilize the Internet during rounds. In a round where the use of computers or cellphones as timers is permissible, Internet access must be disabled. Evidence acquired from the use of the Internet during the round is invalid. Therefore, the debater(s) shall not explicitly encourage or invite judges to acquire evidence from the Internet.
5. The allowances and restrictions on the use of computers and electronic devices are as follows:
    a. In Policy Debate, three computers per team, one printer per team, and one electronic timing device per debater are allowed. The debaters shall not have access to or activate any other electronic device during the round.
    b. In Lincoln-Douglas Debate, two computers per debater, one printer per team, and one electronic timing device per debater are allowed. The debaters shall not have access to or activate any other electronic device

during the round.

c. In Public Forum, three computers per team, one printer per team, and one electronic timing device per debater are allowed. The debaters shall not have access to or activate any other electronic device during the round.
d. In Parliamentary Debate, no computer use is allowed during the round. Computer use is permitted only during the preparation period. During both the preparation period and the competition period, debaters shall not have access to or activate any other electronic device during the round, with the sole exception that each debater may have one electronic timing device.

6. In Policy Debate and Lincoln-Douglas Debate the debaters are permitted to provide to a judge in digital format (e.g., CD, USB drive, flash drive) prior to the beginning of the round, for the sole purpose of, and as the most efficient way to demonstrate that questioned evidence was not acquired during the round via the Internet. Competitors are strongly encouraged to follow this practice.

L. Definition of Round.

For the purposes of the rules listed in this Article, a round shall begin in Policy Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, and Public Forum Debate when the first speaker in the debate begins his/her speech, and shall end when the last speaker in the debate ends his/her speech. In Parliamentary Debate a round shall begin when the resolution for the round is released and the round ends when the last speaker in the debate ends his/her speech.

M. Restriction of Communications.

During a round, a debater shall not communicate through any method with anyone other than that debater's partner (if applicable), the opposing debater(s) and the judge(s).

Section 2. Unique Rules as to Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Parliamentary Debate, and Public Forum Debate.

A. Lincoln-Douglas Debate : Value Debate – No Plan Permitted.

No plan may be presented by either debater in the round. A plan is defined as a formalized, comprehensive proposal for implementation.

B. Parliamentary Debate

1. General rules:
    a. Rebuttals must be given by the first speaker for each side
    b. Heckling is not allowed.

2. Rules specific to Points of Order:
   a. A point of order is a serious charge and should not be raised for minor violations, nor may it be used as a tactic to disrupt the opponent's speech, and these expectations should be noted in the judging instructions.
   b. Points of order are allowed on a limited basis. Points of Order may be raised in only the two final speeches of the debate: the Opposition Rebuttal and the Proposition Rebuttal. A point of order is allowed only to claim that the opposing team has introduced a new argument in rebuttal.
   c. Points of Order may be made at any moment of a rebuttal; in other words, there is no protected time.
   d. To make a point of order, a member of the opposing team rises and states "point of order." The debater must then provide any rationale in no more than 15 seconds.
   e. The opposing team may respond to the points of order as they choose but their response comes out of their allotted speech time.
   f. Timing for Points of Order
      1) Once a Point of Order is raised, time should be immediately stopped.
      2) The debater that raised the Point of Order must make a concise statement, lasting no more than fifteen seconds that clearly identifies the new argument or offense alleged to have been committed by the speaker.
      3) The speaker will then be granted the opportunity to respond to the Point of Order with a statement, lasting no more than fifteen seconds, that either directly responds to the offense brought up in the Point of Order, or accepts the Point of Order. No other arguments may be brought up while time is stopped due to a Point of Order.
      4) Once the speaker has responded to the Point of Order, time officially restarts.
   g. The judge simply observes the point/s of order. The judge/s may take the point of order into account in their deliberations as they choose and no new arguments in rebuttals are allowed; both of these points shall be noted in the judging instructions.

C. Public Forum Debate.
   1. No Plans/Counterplans.
      a. In Public Forum debate a plan is defined as a formalized, comprehensive proposal for implementation. Neither the affirmative or negative side is permitted to offer a plan or counterplan; rather they should offer reasoning to support a position of advocacy. Debaters may offer generalized, practical solutions.
   2. On both sides, the Summary (First Rebuttal) is given by the first constructive speaker and the Final Focus (Second Rebuttal) is given by the second

constructive speaker.

3. Cross-Examination Rules
   a. The format is intended to be question and answer and comments by debaters are restricted to advancing questions or answering an opponent's question. Students should conduct themselves in a civil and professional manner during the cross-fire - - cross-fire is intended to help clarify the debate for the judge and is not intended to be a verbal brawl.

Section 3. Penalties for Violating Debate By-Laws in All Debate Events.

Debaters may not make an agreement among themselves or with the judges to modify the above rules in any round. Judges should not direct students to deviate from these rules or encourage students to violate them. In ruling on protests for violation of debate rules set forth in this Article, the Protest Committee shall consider the total facts and circumstances associated with the violation including whether it

- was intentional or unintentional,
- was unethical and/or dishonest,
- would be considered abusive
- was intended to obtain an unfair advantage in the debate
- violates the purpose behind a rule in addition to its express language, and the degree of prejudice resulting to the opponent from the violation.

Unless another penalty is included in any specific rule, the Protest Committee is empowered to impose any of the following penalties or take any of the following actions:

1) warning and/or reprimand, including a statement of clear consequences for a repeated violation.
2) require the round be repeated under terms considered fair and just by the Committee
3) impose a loss on the debater(s) in violation
4) disqualification