

SPEECH/DEBATE Policies & Guidelines

CHAPTER I – UHSAA Policies

Article I – Recommendations

Section 1: Region Representative

Each region shall elect one member coach to represent that region to the Utah Debate Coaches Association (UDCA) to help solve problems occurring at major tournaments and to keep an open line of communication with the Activities Association.

Section 2: Missed School Time

It is recommended that no student miss more than five days of school for practice debate and forensic meets during a given school year.

Article II – Financial Rules

Section 1: Entry Fees

No entry fee in excess of \$4.00 per student per event per day may be assessed for any meet. A maximum \$15 school entry fee per day may be charged at invitational tournaments if deemed necessary by the host school. The Executive Committee must approve any exceptions.

Section 2: No Shows

A contract is formed when participant entries are submitted to the state tournament director and each “no show” entry will be fined \$25. Invitational tournaments may also levy a \$25 fine for each “no show” entry at UHSAA sanctioned tournaments.

Article III – Conduct of Tournaments

Section 1: Sanction Requirement

All speech and debate competitions must be sanctioned by the UHSAA (see UHSAA By-Laws Article 4). Forms must be submitted to and approved by the UHSAA no less than 30 days prior to the tournament.

Section 2: Preliminary Round Start Time

No preliminary round of a tournament, which is not a round robin or a Tournament of Champions qualifier, may start after 8:30 p.m.

Section 3: Intent to Participate

Coaches should notify local tournament directors of their intent to participate at least two weeks in advance of a tournament.

Section 4: Novice Policy Guidelines

Novice teams will only be allowed to run arguments from the approved argument list and corresponding evidence set. Novice policy teams will be limited to a “closed deck” of evidence files (every competitor will have the same set of cards). Novice students may rearrange the organization of evidence but may not add and/or change the content in order to produce new arguments not labeled in the evidence set, nor can they alter the fundamental intent of the argument.

These limits will be enforced from the start of the season until the end of December. Novices will be allowed to run any argument or evidence in January until the end of the season. Any novice team found to be running an affirmative not on the case list will forfeit the round. “Novice teams” will be defined in the tournament invitation.

The novice evidence set is established each year by the UDCA and NFHS to limit the areas of the high school debate resolution that novices will have to prepare to debate. The goal is to make the debating more manageable for novice students and to enhance the quality of each debate. Judges, coaches and debaters should also understand that by selecting these specific argument limits, the UDCA/NFHS is not necessarily endorsing the topicality any case, nor are they commenting on the strategic value of any one position. Traditional topicality arguments can still be presented by the negative team and should be considered by the judge. Theory and kritik arguments will not be allowed.

An executive committee of coaches will create the evidence set to be published on the Utah Debate Coaches website by the end of August.

Section 5: **Congress Guidelines**

1. A standard Orders of the Day would also be set and posted on the UDCA website.
2. Tournament directors have two options for their tournaments. The director may preselect the legislation released in any month prior to the tournament and create a tournament docket from the legislation posted on the NSDA website. Dockets will be published in tournament invitations. Alternatively, the director may allow for a caucus period at a tournament for students to choose legislation and set their own docket, provided that the legislation selected by the students is also from the preapproved NSDA legislation.
3. Sponsorship speeches for legislation will follow priority. Any student may elect to give a sponsorship speech for any legislation.
4. Seating charts for houses will be set prior to each tournament. Seating charts will rotate for each session of debate as directed by NSDA best practices.
5. An adult parliamentarian will be present in each house during debate. The parliamentarian will follow the job description for parliamentarians as outlined on the NSDA website: Judge Guidelines – Congressional Debate (Parliamentarian).

Section 6: **Ballots**

Ballots will not be accepted with “oral critique” only written. Every ballot must have a warranted reason for decision stating, “I vote affirmative or negative because...”

Section 7:

For any rule not specified herein, see the Utah Debate Coaches Association Handbook.

Section 8: **Contest Limitations**

Contest Limitations are 10 meets per individual.

- A. Contest: Any meet, game or competitive activity (including practices and scrimmages) in which one or more students participate, at least one of whom is not a member of the school’s own student body or the school sponsored program, counts toward the contest limitation.
- B. Tournament: Competition among four or more schools.
- C. The contest limitations apply from the starting date of competition until the first day of the state tournament in each classification. This applies to all levels of competition (i.e., varsity, j.v., sophomore, freshman, novice). State and qualifying region, NCFL and NSDA national qualifying tournaments do not count in the contest limitation total.
- D. An individual who violates the contest limit is ineligible to compete at the Region or State Tournaments.

Article IV – Electronic Devices

Section 1: **Events in Which Computer Use is Allowed**

No electronic devices will be allowed in any competition with the following exception: The use of computers within the guidelines stated in Section 2 is allowed at region and state tournaments in the following events:

Extemporaneous Speaking
 Lincoln-Douglas Debate
 Policy Debate
 Public Forum Debate
 Student Congress

Section 2: **General Rules**

- A. Computers equipped with removable wireless cards must have the cards removed before the beginning of any round of competition. It is the responsibility of the contestant to disengage the equipment.
- B. Computers with built-in wireless capability may be used only if the wireless capability is disabled. It is the responsibility of the contestant to disable the equipment.
- C. Wired connections (Ethernet or phone) during rounds of competition are not permitted.

D. Computers or other electronic devices may not be used to receive information from any source (coaches or assistants included) inside or outside of the room in which the competition occurs. Internet access, use of e-mail, instant messaging, or other means of receiving information from sources inside or outside of the competition room are prohibited. (This does not prohibit non-electronic communication between debate partners during prep time if applicable.)

E. **Penalty:** Contestants found to have violated provisions A through C above will forfeit the round of competition. Contestants found to have violated provision D (above) will be disqualified from the tournament and will forfeit all rounds.

F. **Availability of Evidence:** Contestants electing to use computers have the responsibility to provide promptly a copy of any evidence read in a speech for inspection by the judge or opponent. Printers may be used. Evidence may be printed in the round or produced electronically, but must be provided in a format readable by the opposing team and the judge.

G. Contestants electing to use computers are responsible for providing their own computers, batteries, extension cords, and all other necessary accessories. Tournament hosts will not be responsible for providing computers, printers, software, paper, or extension cords for contestants.

H. Because public speaking decorum remains an important element of competition, all contestants are expected to stand at the front of the room and face the judge while speaking.

I. Contestants choosing to use a computer and related equipment accept the risk of equipment failure. Judges and/or contest directors will give no special consideration or accommodation, including no additional speech time or prep time, should equipment failure occur.

J. By choosing to use laptop computers in the round, contestants are consenting to give tournament officials the right to search their files. Contestants who do not wish to consent should not use computers in the round.

CHAPTER II – Region Tournaments

Article I – Guidelines

Section 1: Region Representative Responsibility

It is the responsibility of each region representative to:

Conduct the region tournament.

A. Be in charge of seeing that each region has a place to host the region tournament, and that all necessary schedules and judges are secure.

B. Make sure that each coach in his/her region has a complete set of established guidelines, times and location for the meet and thorough understanding for judges' qualification well in advance of the starting time of the meet.

C. Submit results to the UHSAA office and the State Tournament Directors by the deadline listed on the UHSAA Calendar or within five (5) days of completion of the region tournament, whichever is sooner.

D. Request and secure region awards including the team trophy from their region's Board of Managers.

E. Secure Congress judges.

Section 2: Appeals

In matters that involve appeals, the region representative should bring all unsettled matters to the UDCA Executive Committee. The UDCA Executive Committee will determine if the issue merits a UDCA Judicial Meeting or if the Region Board of Managers (principals) should address the issue.

Section 3: Selection of State Qualifiers

The procedure for selecting qualifiers to the state tournament must be defined before the meet begins. Each school shall send to the state tournament the allotment as prescribed in the current edition of the UHSAA Handbook. Region tournaments shall not allow phantom entries. Drops should be removed as soon as possible and debaters should have as few byes as possible regardless of entry numbers. The exception being schools will not be required to compete against themselves in preliminary debate rounds.

Section 4: Participant Eligibility

All participants must meet eligibility requirements as specified in the By-Laws of the UHSAA.

Section 5: State Qualifiers Requirements

Participants nominated by their region to participate in state forensic meets shall not be so nominated unless they have actually participated and qualified through the region meet.

Section 6: Requirement to Participate at Region to Qualify for State

Students must participate in events at region to qualify for state. Students participating with a partner qualify as one entry. Once a partnership qualifies for the state meet, neither may be replaced and maintain the qualification for the state meet. Students must compete with a partner where appropriate (i.e., no “mavericks”).

Section 7: Publication of Results

The results of an event should not be made public until the event is completed. It is unethical for coaches or anyone else to divulge the results of a round until the entire event is completed at a region meet.

Section 8: Rules to be Followed

The region tournament is to follow exclusively the rules for each event including the timing and eligibility of all materials to be used in speech areas. Rules regarding events can be found in this handbook.

Section 9: Awards

Awards should be given to schools or participants as determined by the Region Board of Managers.

Section 10: Recording Not Allowed

No video or audio recording of any kind shall be permitted in the region meet.

Section 11: Correction of Clerical Errors

Clerical scoring errors may be corrected up to 72 hours after the conclusion of the meet. A team must file a written protest to the UHSAA within that time period. After that time results will stand.

Section 12: Region Rules to be Filed with UHSAA

All regions must have on file, at the UHSAA offices, a printed copy of their region tournament rules. These rules must follow UHSAA and Utah Debate Coaches Association guidelines.

Article II – Region Meets

Section 1: 1A State Qualification Limits

In 1A regions, no school may qualify more than 22 participants for the state forensic tournament. The allocation must not exceed 3 in each of the following: Spontaneous Argumentation, Student Congress, Original Oratory, Impromptu, Extemporaneous Speaking, and Lincoln-Douglas Debate. In Public Forum, 1A schools are allowed 2 entries. The only exception is when a school uses the “substitution rule.” (Ch. 3, Art. 1. Sect. 17).

Section 2: 2A State Qualification Limits

In 2A regions, no school may qualify more than 24 participants for the state forensic tournament. The allocation must not exceed 3 in each of the following: Spontaneous Argumentation, Student Congress, Original Oratory, Impromptu, Extemporaneous Speaking, and Lincoln-Douglas Debate. In Public Forum, 2A schools are allowed 3 entries. The only exception is when a school uses the “substitution rule.” (Ch. 3, Art. 1. Sect. 17).

Section 3: 1A/2A State Qualification

In 1A and 2A regions, all schools in the region shall be rank ordered based upon sweepstakes points at the region tournament. The top 50 percent will qualify a full slate (Full Slate is defined as all 24 participants allowed per the event limits described in Section 2). Regions with an uneven number should round up to determine the top 50 percent. These schools should list alternates in each event. Alternates will be allowed to compete only in the events they entered at region meet. All individuals or debate teams finishing in the top ten (or top 50 percent whichever is greater in their event) at the region tournament will qualify for the state meet, unless the school exceeds the limitations set forth above.

Section 4: 4A/5A/6A State Qualification Limits

In 4A, 5A and 6A regions, no school may qualify more than 26 participants for the state forensic tournament. The allocation may not exceed 3 policy teams, 3 Lincoln-Douglas debaters, 3 public forum teams, 2 3 student congress participants, 2 original oratory participants, 2 impromptu speaking participants, 2 national extemporaneous speaking participants and 2 foreign extemporaneous speaking participants. The only exception is when a school uses the "substitution rule." (Ch. 3, Art. 1. Sect. 17).

Section 5: 3A/4A/5A/6A State Qualification

In 3A, 4A, 5A and 6A regions, all schools in the region shall be rank ordered based upon sweepstakes points at the region tournament. The top 50 percent will qualify a full slate (Full Slate is defined as all 25 participants allowed per the event limits described in *Section 6*). Regions with an uneven number should round up to determine the top 50%. These schools should list alternates in each event. Alternates will be allowed to compete only in the events they entered at region meet. All individuals or debate teams finishing in the top ten in their event at the region tournament will qualify for the state meet, unless the school exceeds the limitations set forth above. There may not be alternates for these individuals.

Section 6: Region Entry Recommendations

Regions may determine their own tournament methods, although significant region competition is strongly recommended. It is recommended that all 1A and 2A regions permit each school to bring a maximum of six contestants in individual events including spontaneous argumentation and student congress to the region meets. It is recommended that all 3A, 4A, 5A and 6A regions permit each school to bring a maximum of four participants in each Debate Event, and three Individual Events participants in each category to the region meets. Regions may choose to bring four from each school in Student Congress.

Section 7: Alternates and Substitution

All alternates and substitutes must be cleared by the State Tournament Director prior to the beginning of the State Meet. An alternate must have been listed on official region results submitted to the UHSAA and must compete in only the event in which she or he is listed as an alternate. In placing the alternate the coach/advisor should contact his/her Region Representative as soon as the need for placing the alternate is known.

CHAPTER III – State Tournaments

Article I – General Instructions

Section 1: State Tournament Events

The UHSAA State Tournament shall consist of the following events:

3A, 4A, 5A, 6A: Impromptu, Original Oratory, Foreign Extemporaneous, National Extemporaneous, Congress, Lincoln Douglas Debate, Public Forum Debate, Policy (CX) Debate

1A, 2A: Impromptu, Original Oratory, Extemporaneous, Congress, Spontaneous Argumentation (SPAR), Lincoln Douglas Debate, Public Forum Debate

Proposals for changes to the UHSAA State Tournament event lineup may only be introduced and voted on once every three years beginning with the 2015 Spring Coaches meeting until 2021 Spring Coaches meeting then event changes may be voted on every 4 years.

Section 2: Qualification

Any student participating in the State Tournament must have qualified through his or her school's regional meet.

Section 3: Individual Entry Limits

3A, 4A, 5A, 6A: No student may participate in more than one event at the State Tournament. It is recommended that all regional meets be conducted on the same basis.

2A: Students may enter Lincoln Douglas, Public Forum, or Student Congress and one other individual event (including Spontaneous Argumentation) on both the regional and state levels.

1A: Students may enter Lincoln Douglas, Public Forum, or Spontaneous Argumentation Debate and one other individual event (including Student Congress) on both the regional and state levels.

Section 4: Missed Rounds

Any participant at the State Forensic Tournament who misses a round or session of an event will not be eligible for a final rating or team sweepstakes points.

Section 5: Judge Restrictions for Contestants

For 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A & 6A

Any student who knowingly allows himself or herself to be judged by any of the following individuals, without informing the meet directors, at any of the State Tournaments shall be disqualified and shall lose all sweepstakes points:

- A. Any judge judging for his or her school.
- B. Any alumnus from his or her school.
- C. Any student teacher assigned to his/her school.
- D. Any adult who has worked for his/her school in the past two years.
- E. Any person who may be construed to have a bias for a participant.

For 1A only

Any student who knowingly allows himself or herself to be judged by any of the following individuals, without informing the meet directors, at any of the State Tournaments shall be disqualified and shall lose all sweepstakes points:

- A. Any person who may be construed to have a bias for a participant.
- B. A family member of the student

When unavoidable and with all coaches involved permission, a judge may be assigned to a round with participants from his/her school.

Section 6: Judge Requirements

All judges must be high school graduated and whenever possible, have some knowledge of debate or forensics events. It is also the responsibility of judges to make a good faith effort to comply with all expectations listed in Section 5.

Section 7: Judges' Codes

All judges and participants should be assigned a code, which will identify conflicts of interest. In no way, however, should a participant be identified according to his or her school. All code letters should be kept throughout the State Tournament.

Section 8: Alternate Clearance

All alternates participating in the state tournament must be cleared by the State Tournament Directors before the State Tournament begins.

Section 9: Late Drops

Schools who drop contestants on the day of the state tournament without due cause will be fined \$25 for each participant dropped.

Section 10: Ballots

Only UDCA approved ballots may be used at state tournaments. Paperless ballots are allowed at state tournaments.

Section 11: Observers

Observers will be permitted in all rounds of all events, the only exception is that a Lincoln-Douglas contestant and Public Forum teams in the B Panel cannot observe the A panel and the A Panel cannot observe the B panel. Contestants and judges have the right to limit observers. Violators will forfeit that round. Any observer flowing or disrupting a round will be ejected for the round and their affiliated contestants may be disqualified. Observers may not have laptops or any other electronic devices in the round.

Section 12: Recording Not Allowed

No audio or video recording of any rounds is permissible in the State Speech and Debate Tournament.

Section 13: Awards

Awards will be given as listed in the UHSAA Yearbook.

Section 14: Ballot Review

Ballots will be sorted in the tab room and coaches will be allowed to review them at a specified time.

Section 15: Event Time Limits

Time limits for events in the State Forensic Tournaments shall be strictly enforced.

Section 16: Time Limit to Appear for Rounds

Contestants in each event must be in their assigned room and the round must begin within 15 minutes of the posted beginning time. A team or individual who fails to comply will forfeit that round and lose sweepstakes points.

Section 17: Schools to provide Judges

Schools who fail to supply their allotted judges will be fined \$100.00 per judge.

A. Schools are required to supply the following qualified judges:

1. One judge for one to two debate teams
2. Two judges for three debate teams
3. One judge for one to four I.E. contestants
4. Two judges for five to eight I.E. contestants
5. One judge for one to three L.D. contestants
6. One judge for one to three Public Forum teams
7. A full slate is required to bring a *minimum* of six judges.

B. Each judge must be available for assignments one round beyond the elimination of all students from that school. All judges must be available for all rounds held prior to the awards assembly. Each school must have one L.D. judge, one Public Forum and one Policy judge with entries in L.D., Public Forum or Policy available for elimination rounds. Failure to abide these rules will result in a penalty fine of \$25.

C. Region Reps are responsible for securing Congress judges.

Section 18: Entry Substitution

If a school qualifies more competitors than the rules allow in a particular event, the coach may choose to bring the extra qualifier to replace a region entry.

A. Extras in one event can only be entered if all entries in that event qualified outright at the region tournament.

B. Under this rule a student may only be entered in an event in which they competed at the region tournament.

C. Non-existing entries may not be dropped to meet the limit overall (substitutions may only be made for slots filled at the region tournament).

D. Entry limits shall not be exceeded:

1. The total number of entries per school shall not exceed 25 for 3A, 4A, 5A and 6A, nor shall it exceed 24 for 2A, nor 22 for 1A.
2. A policy or public forum team counts as two entries for the purposes of substitution. Two individual entries would need to be dropped to enter an additional policy or public forum team. Dropping a policy or public forum team would allow two slots in events where students compete individually provided the event limit is not exceeded.
3. No more than one extra entry per event may be made in the state tournament. (No more than four entries in individual or debate events shall be allowed in 1A and 2A. No more than three entries in individual events, nor more than four in debate events shall be allowed in 3A, 4A, 5A and 6A.)

Section 19: Tab Room

The state tournament director will appoint two persons per task in the tab room. These people may include State Speech Committee members, classification representatives, region representatives, as well as any others appointed by the tournament director. Any coach will be allowed to view ballots and results as soon as they become available. A ballot review is required before final rounds are posted. The state tournament director will be open to any questions and/or comments.

Section 20: Protest Procedures

A. Every coach should take the time to copy the UHSAA state rules for the competitors in every event to ensure that their students understand the rules and that they understand the violation of the rules could result in their disqualification.

B. Protests should be reported to the UHSAA representative, region representative or tournament director, who then reports the violation to the coach whose school is involved in the violation. All efforts should be made to determine the validity of the complaint. If the complaint is found to be valid, the individual receiving the protest reports to the state tournament committee (UHSAA or region representative or

C. tournament director) without disclosing the school that was involved in the violation. The issue is discussed and a decision as to what action is by the majority of the committee.

Article II – Sweepstakes Points

Section 1: Quartiling

All contestants (including disqualifications, drops the day of the tournament, no shows, etc.) in each category shall be ranked in order of finish. The category shall then be divided into equal fourths. Odd numbers shall be placed in the highest fourth possible (one odd number shall be added to the first quarter; two odd numbers shall add one to each of the two highest quarters, etc.). The first quarter shall be 'Superiors', the second quarter shall be 'Excellents', the third quarter shall be 'Goods', and the final quarter shall be 'Fairs'.

Section 2: Sweepstakes Points

Points are to be scored as follows for the State Forensic Tournaments:

Rating	CX and PF	
	Debate	Other Events
Superior	10	5
Excellent	6	3
Good	2	1
Fair	0	0

Section 3: Quartile Breaks

When quartiles do not break cleanly, adjustment will be made in the direction which least skews the quartile. For example: If ten superiors are needed and the choice is between nine superiors or seventeen superiors, nine will be used since it more closely approximates the quartile. If the number is the same, regardless of direction, the greater number should be used.

Section 4: Individual Event Rankings

Rankings in all Individual Events shall be based on cumulative ranks in preliminary rounds. Ties shall be broken by considering reciprocal ranks which gives preference to the speaker with the greatest number of 1s, greatest number of 2s and so on. Unavoidable ties shall increase the higher quartile by the number involved and decrease the lower quartile by the same number.

Section 5: Debate Event Rankings

Rankings in Policy, Public Forum, Lincoln-Douglas, and Spontaneous Argumentation Debate shall be based on win-loss records in preliminary rounds. Ties shall not be broken on speaker points. Unavoidable ties shall increase the higher quartile by the number of teams involved and decrease the lower quartile by the same number.

Section 6: Sweepstakes Tie Breaking Procedure (for all classifications)

If two schools tie for either 1st or 2nd place sweepstakes, the following tie-breaking procedure will be followed: The lowest total ranking score in all events wins the tie. Policy, Public Forum and Lincoln-Douglas Debate will be broken with 1 for wins and 3 for loss. Congress will quartile by judge. Only ties for 1st and 2nd place sweepstakes will be broken, all other sweepstakes ties will be listed and announced as ties.

Article III – 3A/4A/5A/6A CX, PF, and LD Debate

Section 1: Resolutions

The Policy Debate Resolution used at the State Tournament shall be the national topic/resolution for the current school year. The Lincoln-Douglas resolution used at the State Tournaments shall be the resolution designated by the National Speech & Debate Association or its successor organization for the month of March. The Public Forum resolution shall be that designated by the National Speech & Debate Association or its successor organization for the month of March.

Section 2: Maximum Allowable Entries

The maximum number of entries for 3A, 4A, and 5A school is three (3) policy debate teams, three (3) contestants in Lincoln-Douglas, and 3 Public Forum teams, unless using the substitution rule (Ch. 3, Art. 1, Sect. 17).

Section 3: Contestant Codes

All Debate teams, Public Forum teams, and Lincoln-Douglas contestants will be identified by numbers in such a way as to conceal the schools they represent.

- A. Teams and contestants should in no way reveal their school identities to the judges or other coaches, unless they are a tournament official.
- B. Teams and contestants should use both their first and last names for balloting.
- C. An official listing of teams and contestants and their school will be provided after the completion of the State Forensic Tournament.

Section 4: Win-loss Records

Win-loss Records of teams or contestants will not be made available to competitors during the state forensics tournament; however these records will be provided upon the completion of the state forensics tournament. Coaches may review the win-loss record of their teams during the Ballot Review process.

Section 5: Late Substitution

Substitution of participants after the State Forensics Tournament has begun is illegal. Violators will be disqualified.

Section 6: Maintenance of Pairings

Policy Debate teams, Public Forum Teams, and Lincoln-Douglas contestants must debate against the teams/individuals they are scheduled to meet and they must debate on the side of which they are scheduled. All rounds must be fully complete in order to count for sweepstakes.

Section 7: Judge Requirements

Judges in the Policy debate, Public Forum, and Lincoln-Douglas rounds must adhere to the following requirements in order to receive payment from the State Forensic Tournament:

- A. Return ballots to the tabulation room within 15 minutes of the end of the round.
- B. Never ask the teams which school they represent.
- C. Mark the speaker points on the ballot
- D. Confine all of their comments to the ballots and make no oral critiques.
- E. Judges no contestant twice during the five preliminary rounds.
- F. Make a good faith effort to comply with all expectations listed in Article I, Section 4 of this Chapter.

Section 8: 3A/4A/5A Prelim. Rounds Pairing

Whenever possible, pairing preliminary debate rounds for the 3A, 4A, and 5A State Forensic Tournament shall be as follows:

- A. Each team shall debate one team each from the other Regions
- B. No team shall meet two teams from the same Region in the first two rounds.
- C. No team will debate the same school twice in the first two rounds, except when a region with more teams must meet a region with fewer teams.
- D. No team shall debate a team from its own school.

Section 9: 3A/4A/5A Rounds III, IV & V Pairing

Pairing rounds III and IV and V for debate and Lincoln-Douglas for 3A, 4A, 5A and 6A States Forensic Tournaments shall be as follows:

- A. In rounds III, IV and V, all measures will be used to guarantee each team or contestant a fair number of affirmative and negative rounds.
- B. Round III shall be power matched (based on results of the first two rounds), high-low, by placing teams or contestants with the highest speaker points against the teams or contestants with the lowest points and the same win-loss record.
- C. Round IV shall be power matched (based on results of the first 3 rounds), high-low, by placing teams or contestants with the highest speaker points against the teams or contestants with the lowest points and the same win-loss record.
- D. Round V shall be power matched (based on results of the first 4 rounds), high-low, by placing teams or contestants with the highest speaker points against the teams or contestants with the lowest points and the same win-loss record.
- E. These brackets will be broken if:
 1. A team or contestant is scheduled to meet another from its own school.
 2. A team or contestant meets a team, which it has met previously in the preliminary rounds.
- F. When brackets are broken the next logical bracket shall be pulled up to fit the pairing from the middle of the lower bracket.

Section 10: 3A/4A/5A/6A Debate & L.D. Final Rounds

After round 5, quarterfinals will be held unless either: (a) There is a clean break that would allow a partial octo round of 4 or fewer additional debaters to debate into quarterfinals for the 7 and 8 seeds (this should be done only if there are more than 30 original contestants in the event) or (b) quarterfinals will break more than 50% of the participants in that event. If this is the case, semi-finals will be held instead. Final Rounds for Debate and Lincoln-Douglas in 3A, 4A, 5A and 6A State Forensic Tournaments shall be paired as follow:

- A. Teams or contestants from this point shall be ranked 1 through 8. The ranking of the top eight teams (or contestants) advancing will be: first on the basis of win-loss record; and second on the basis of speaker points. These teams will be bracketed according to the following schematic. The bracket is not adjusted to avoid two teams (or contestants) from the same school meeting.
 - 1 seed vs. 8 seed
 - 5 seed vs. 4 seed
 - 3 seed vs. 6 seed
 - 2 seed vs. 7 seed
- B. Team 1 shall be paired against team 8. Team 2 will be paired against team 7, and so on, setting up a quarterfinal bracket.
- C. Winners of the quarterfinal rounds will debate each other in a semi-final round, following the quarterfinal bracketing, regardless of preliminary records. Semi-final winners will debate in a final round.
- D. A panel of at least three judges shall be used in these rounds and they will receive additional payment.
- E. Teams choosing not to debate elimination rounds are ineligible for state tournament awards unless the elimination participants are from the same school.
- F. A first place will be awarded to the winner of the final round. The loser of the final round will be awarded second place. Both semi-final round losers will receive a third place award.
- G. If participants from the same school are scheduled to debate themselves in elimination rounds, the coach of that school may either choose to have the round run normally with a panel of judges, or they may decide which team to advance without debating. Their decision to run the round must be announced to the tab-room within 10 minutes of the round being posted. If the coach decides to advance a team without debating, that team must be declared to the tab-room before the end of that elimination round (i.e. they may not wait to see the outcomes of the other debates).
- H. If one school closes out the bracket such that no other debates can occur with different schools, those contestants will be considered co-champions.

Article IV – 3A/4A/5A/6A Student Congress

Section 1: Number of Houses

There shall be at least one house. If there are more than 25 contestants, there will be two houses of not less than 13 or larger than 25 members in each for the preliminary rounds. A final session will be held if there are two houses.

Section 2: Entry Limit

No school may bring more than two representatives to state student congress tournament, unless using the substitution rule (Ch. 3, Art. 1, Sect. 17).

Section 3: Legislation (3A, 4A, 5A)

All legislation will be chosen selected from the current UDCA docket by the tournament director and region representatives with suggestions from coaches of students who are participating in the state congress tournament. The tournament docket will be published up to two weeks in advance of the state tournament.

Section 4: Operation

The operation of the State Student Congress shall be as follows:

- A. The Tournament Director of each state tournament shall appoint an adult supervisor for each house.
- B. The schedule of the State Student Congress shall be arranged to provide each house with two sessions that last a minimum 2.5 hours each.
- C. Student Congress shall follow NSDA rules.
- D. In each house, the legislators shall elect student presiding officers who preside for one session each.
- E. Each speaker shall be limited to 5 speeches for each preliminary session. Priority will be reset if there is a final session. Serving as chair counts as one speech per hour.
- F. At the close of the student congress, the scorekeeper shall rank the senators in the session (including the presiding officers) 1 through 15.
- G. Congress will be tabulated cumulatively. Students advancing to the final session, if needed, will have all sessions counted in their ranking to determine the finish order.
- H. To determine sweepstakes points, the points of all scorekeepers shall be totaled; and then the top ¼ shall be rated superior, the next ¼ excellent, the next ¼ good, and the remainder (in other words the next ¼) fair. Sweepstakes points are based on preliminary session scores only.

Article V – 3A/4A/5A/6A Individual Events**Section 1: Entry Limits**

No school may enter more than two participants in any one individual event, unless using the participant substitution rule (Ch. 3, Art. 1, Sect. 17). No student may be double entered.

Section 2: Events

In the 3A, 4A & 5A state forensic tournaments competition will take place in the following events:

- A. Original Oratory
- B. Impromptu Speaking
- C. National Extemporaneous Speaking
- D. International Extemporaneous Speaking

Section 3: Number of Preliminary Rounds

There shall be four preliminary rounds for each individual event.

Section 4: Pairing

Pairing should meet the following objectives.

- A. There should be at least five students in a section. There may be no more than seven students in a section.
- B. The student's speaking order should vary from round to round.
- C. No student should be judged by the same person more than once in prelims.

Section 5: Set Up

The following preliminary steps should be followed.

- A. All individual events contestants will be identified by numbers in such a way as to conceal the schools they represent.
- B. Determine the number of sections consistent with the objective of no more than seven contestants per section and at least five in each section.

Section 6: Recording Results

Results, ranks, ratings and the school of each speaker are to be recorded on a chart listing each contestant's code and school. Contestants shall be ranked 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 in all rounds. Tied rankings are not permitted. Ranks must be truncated to the size of the smallest section in tabulation.

Section 7: Final Rounds

Final rounds at the state tournaments will be determined in the following manner:

- A. The best 6 participants or the cleanest break closest to 6 will advance to the final rounds.
- B. These participants shall be selected in the following manner:
1. Cumulative ranks in preliminary rounds.
 2. Reciprocal ranks, which gives preference to the speaker with the greatest number of 1s, greatest number of 2s, and so on
 2. Drop highest and lowest rankings
- D. To determine speaker position, order of the six final contestants will be based upon the above criteria from the preliminary rounds. Speaker position shall be determined based upon the following formula:
1. 6th speaker with the highest rank.
 2. 5th speaker with the fifth lowest rank.
 3. 4th speaker with the fourth lowest rank 4.
 - 3rd speaker with the third lowest rank 5. 2nd speaker with the second lowest rank 6. 1st speaker with the lowest rank.
- E. Three-judge panels shall be used in all final rounds.
- F. Final round results for impromptu and extemporaneous speaking will be determined with tiebreakers in the following order:
1. Rank score from all rounds.
 2. Rank score from final round.
 3. Judge pref score from final round.
 4. Reciprocals score from preliminary rounds.
 5. Rank score from the preliminary rounds, except the highest and lowest score.
- G. Final round results for oratory will be determined with tiebreakers in the following order:
1. Rank score from final round.
 2. Rank score from all rounds.
 3. Judge pref score from final round.
 4. Reciprocals score from preliminary rounds.
 5. Rank score from the preliminary rounds, except the highest and lowest score.

Article VI – 1A/2A Debate Events: Public Forum, Lincoln Douglas, Spontaneous Argumentation

Section 1: General Rules

1A and 2A schools will compete in separate tournaments. The general rules for the 3A, 4A, and 5A tournaments shall be followed except as noted in this article.

Section 2: Resolutions

The Lincoln Douglas resolution and the Public Forum resolution used at the 1A and 2A State Forensics Tournament will be the resolution designated by the National Forensic League for the months of March.

Section 3: Preliminary Rounds

The preliminary rounds of Lincoln Douglas, Public Forum, and SPAR at the State 1A and 2A Tournaments shall meet the following requirements:

- A. All rounds shall begin promptly fifteen minutes after the official postings.

- B. Debaters are required to debate against the opponent they are posted to debate on the side they are posted to debate.
- C. Debaters will be identified by number in such a way as not to reveal the identity of the school they represent.
1. Teams in no way should reveal the school they represent.
 2. An official listing of schools and teams will be provided at the conclusion of the State Tournament.
- D. Win-Loss records of schools, squads or teams will be made available upon completion of the State Tournament.
- E. There will be four preliminary rounds.
1. 1A: The first round will be randomly paired outside of region, unless the total number of entries is too small to allow outside of region pairings.
2A: The first two rounds will be randomly paired outside of region, unless the total number of entries is too small to allow outside of region pairings.
 2. Each debater shall uphold one affirmative and one negative whenever possible.
 3. No debater shall meet another school more than once unless the small number of entries and/or random drawing of byes make this unavoidable.
 4. 1A: In round three, each debater/partnership is an independent unit, and shall be paired and assigned sides based upon its own record.
2A: Debaters from the same school shall not be paired.
 5. 1A only: Debaters that have met previously should not meet again unless made necessary by the terms of paragraph E (3) above.
 6. 1A only: Debaters from the same school shall not be paired unless they are the only undefeated debaters remaining.
7. Advanced rounds shall be paired as follows.
- a. Round 3 shall be paired from the records of rounds 1 and 2.
 - b. Round 4 shall be paired from the record of all preliminary rounds.
8. Following round 4, quarterfinals will be held unless either: (a) There is a clean break that would allow a partial octo round of 4 or fewer additional debaters to debate into quarterfinals for the 7 and 8 seeds (this should be done only if there are more than 30 original contestants in the event) or (b) quarterfinals will break more than 50% of the participants in that event. If this is the case, semi-finals will be held instead. In any 1A debate event with 10 or fewer entries the event may break immediately to a final if outcomes permit. Final Rounds for Public Forum, Lincoln Douglas and SPAR in the 1A, and 2A State Forensic Tournaments shall be paired as follow:
- a. Teams or contestants shall be seeded. Seeding will be determined: first on the basis of win-loss record; and second on the basis of speaker points. Bracketing will be as follows. Brackets will not be adjusted to avoid the same school meeting.
- | <u>Break to Semi-Final</u> | <u>Break to Quarter-Final</u> |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 seed vs. 4 seed | 1 seed vs. 8 seed |
| 2 seed vs. 3 seed | 5 seed vs. 4 seed |
| 3 seed vs. 6 seed | |
| 2 seed vs. 7 seed | |
- b. Winners of the quarterfinal rounds will debate each other in a semi-final round, following the quarterfinal bracketing, regardless of preliminary records. Semi-final winners will debate in a final round.
 - c. A panel of at least three judges shall be used in these rounds and they will receive additional payment.
 - d. Teams choosing not to debate elimination rounds are ineligible for state tournament awards unless the elimination participants are from the same school.
 - e. A first place will be awarded to the winner of the final round. The loser of the final round will be awarded second place. Both semi-final round losers will receive a third place award.
 - f. If participants from the same school are scheduled to debate themselves in elimination rounds, the coach of that school may either choose to have the round run normally with a panel of judges, or they may decide which team to advance without debating. Their decision to run the round must be announced to the tab-room within 10 minutes of the round being posted. If the coach decides to

advance a team without debating, that team must be declared to the tab-room before the end of that elimination round (i.e. they may not wait to see the outcomes of the other debates).

g. If one school closes out the bracket such that no other debates can occur with different schools, those contestants will be considered co-champions.

9. Awards: The winner of the final round will be champion, the other final participant will be second and the non-winning semi-final participants will be tied for third.

10. When byes are necessary, they will be placed in the lowest possible bracket of the power matching.

Article VII – 1A/2A Student Congress

Section 1: General Rules

The general rules for the 3A, 4A, 5A and 6A tournaments shall be followed except as noted in this article.

Section 2: Houses

1A: All congress participants will be separated into houses of no more than forty.

2A: There shall be at least one house. There shall be more than one house if there are more than 22 contestants. In the case of multiple houses, no house shall have fewer than 11 members nor more than 22. If more than one house is used there shall be a final session.

Section 3: Seating

Congress participants shall be pre-seated according to a randomly placed seating chart as the contestants face the chair or front of the chamber. The parliamentarian will seat the participants according to the chart provided. The chart will be reversed for the second session.

Section 4: Number and Length of Sessions

There will be two, two and a half-hour sessions.

Section 5: Parliamentarian and Scorekeepers

There will be an adult parliamentarian and two adult scorekeepers. Scorekeepers will change each session.

A. The parliamentarian is to supervise each chamber, to preside in the event a student officer becomes too deeply involved in parliamentary rules, to correct errors in procedure, and to forbid the suspension of these state rules.

B. The parliamentarian will sit near the front of the room and will time the speeches.

C. The parliamentarian will mark the speaking order or verify that someone who desires to speak or has not spoken before or who has fewer speeches has precedence over someone who has spoken or has spoken more often.

D. The scorekeeper will mark a chart in the same manner and will mark the ballots with rankings and ratings.

Section 6: Legislation (1A, 2A)

All legislation will be chosen selected from the current UDCA docket by the tournament director and region representatives with suggestions from coaches of students who are participating in the state congress tournament. The tournament docket will be published up to two weeks in advance of the state tournament.

Section 7: Final Rankings

Final rankings will be based upon the combined scoring of ratings and rankings from the two rounds. A subjective numbering percentage shall also be given on each ballot in order to break possible ties if ratings and rankings are equal. Total rankings shall take precedence, with ratings next. Percentage totals will break final ties.

Section 8: Final Ratings

For final rating, the congress will be quartered with the top quartile receiving a "superior," 2nd an "excellent," 3rd quartile a "good," and the bottom quartile a "fair." If there is an odd number in the quartile, the odd competitor shall be moved up one quartile.

Article VIII – 1A/2A Individual Events

Section 1: General Rules

The general rules for the 3A, 4A, 5A and 6A tournaments shall be followed except as noted in this article.

Section 2: Preliminary Rounds

- A. Competitors shall compete in three preliminary rounds and a final round for finalists.
- B. If the number of qualifiers makes it possible, competitors from the same school shall not be paired in the same rounds with each other in the first two rounds.
- C. All preliminary rounds are pre-set. If an event has more than one panel, participants should be in different panels in each round as far as possible.
- D. Ratings at the region tournaments are not to be considered for seeding in any of the rounds at the state tournament.
- E. Each competitor will receive a different speaking position each round, if possible.

Section 3: Final Rounds

- A. The final round is set with top contestants from the preliminary rounds.
- B. There shall be three or more judges in final round competition.
- C. The best 6 participants or the cleanest break closest to 6 will advance to the final rounds.
- D. In the final round, previous speaking total rankings will indicate placement as follows:
 1. 6th speaker, highest accumulated rank.
 2. 5th speaker, fifth lowest accumulated rank.
 3. 4th speaker, fourth lowest accumulated rank.
 4. 3rd speaker, third lowest accumulated rank.
 5. 2nd speaker, second lowest accumulated rank.
 6. 1st speaker, lowest accumulated rank.

Section 4: Ranking

Contestants shall be ranked 1,2,3,4,5,5,5 in all rounds.

Section 5: Final Rankings

Final rankings will be based upon all preliminary round scores plus each of the three final round ballots, except in original oratory, where only the final round ballots will count. If a tie still exists, high and low judge evaluations will be dropped and the scores adjusted for finalists.

Section 6: Final Ratings

Final ratings are awarded on performance of the first three rounds by quartiling.

CHAPTER IV – Event Specific Rules**Article I – Extemporaneous Speaking****Section 1: Timing Rules**

- A. The time limit is 7 minutes maximum with 30 minutes preparation.
- B. The beginning of an extemporaneous round will be designated by the start of the draw for the first speaker. Once the draw has started, students will not be allowed to use the internet or cell phones. Any student found in violation will forfeit the round or become disqualified from the tournament (Ch.1, Art. IV, Section E). The round is over for each speaker once they have spoken. Cell phone use and internet are only prohibited during rounds.

Section 2: General Rules

- A. No notes or visual aids may be used during the actual speaking time. Use of notes or visual aids will result in the student being ranked last in the round.
- B. Outside coaching in the preparation room is absolutely forbidden.

Article II – Impromptu Speaking**Section 1: Timing Rules**

The time limit shall be 7 minutes maximum (the speaker will determine the division of this time between preparation and speaking).

Section 2: General Rules

- A. No notes or visual aids may be used during the actual speaking time. Use of notes or visual aids will result in the student being ranked last in the round.
- B. The participant will be asked to speak on a topic that will reflect his or her general knowledge in the following areas: one round of one-word-abstracts, one round of social value questions, and one round famous quotations.

Article III – Oratory**Section 1: Timing Rules**

The time limit is to be 7 minutes minimum and 10 minutes maximum. A grace period will be allowed where the oratory will not be penalized for either going 15 seconds over time or 15 seconds under time.

Section 2: General Rules

- A. No notes or visual aids may be used during the actual speaking time. Use of notes or visual aids will result in the student being ranked last in the round.
- B. The oratory must be the original work of the participant and should reflect subjects which are timely and significant to our society.
- C. Not more than ten percent of the material shall be quoted or paraphrased. Original oratories which have been largely paraphrased from previous oratories are ineligible. Also those which have been used in any competition during the previous school year (prior to June 10) are ineligible.
- D. All qualifiers to the State Meet must have submitted a copy of their original oratory one week in advance to the state forensic representative. This copy should be typewritten and double spaced. All quoted materials should be so specified with an appropriate bibliography attached.

Article IV – Spontaneous Argumentation (SPAR)**Section 1: Timing Rules**

- 1 min. Prep
 2 min. Affirmative Constructive
 2 min. Negative Constructive
 3 min. Cross Examination
 1 min. Affirmative Rebuttal
 1 min. Negative Rebuttal

Section 2: General Rules

SPAR at region and state tournaments for 1A, 2A and 3A will be assigned sides, with an equal number of Affirmative and Negative for each competitor. One topic will be given to the competitors by the judges, with the preparation time starting with the announcement of the topic. A judge will decide a winner and will assign speaker points. SPAR will be recorded as a debate event.

Article V – Lincoln-Douglas Debate**Section 1. Description:**

Lincoln Douglas debate is an event in which a student competes against another student to discuss affirmative and negative arguments of value. Topics center around the question of what ought to be instead of what is. For example, many topics invoke concepts like justice, morality, and duty. The Lincoln-Douglas debater learns value analysis, research skills, logical argumentation, political theory and philosophy, techniques for asking and answering questions, effective note taking, and oral presentation skills.

Section 2. Resolution:

Topics used in this area will be the same as topics designated by the National Forensic League. The November/December topic is announced in The Rostrum on October 1, the January/February topic is announced on December 1, and the March/April topic is announced on February 1. Schools not belonging to the NSDA may contact the State Forensics Representative for the official topic. The State Tournament will use the March/April topic. The UDCA strongly encourages Region Tournaments to use the State Tournament topic.

Section 3. Order of Speeches:

Each debater must give one constructive speech, one period of questioning, one period of answering, and one rebuttal speech, in the following order:

- Affirmative Constructive: 6 Minutes
- Negative Cross Examination: 3 Minutes
- Negative Constructive: 7 Minutes
- Affirmative Cross Examination: 3 Minutes
- Affirmative Rebuttal: 4 Minutes
- Negative Rebuttal: 6 Minutes
- Affirmative Rebuttal: 3 Minutes
- Prep Time: 4 Minutes per debater

Section 4. Explanation:

Only two speakers are involved, one fulfilling the affirmative responsibilities and the other negative. Emphasis is placed upon the issues involved rather than upon strategy in developing the case. Because of time limits, a wealth of evidence cannot be used, but research supported by good background reading is necessary. Debaters are encouraged to develop argumentation based upon a values perspective. A value is an ideal held by individuals, societies, governments, etc. The debate should focus on logical reasoning to support a general principle instead of particular plans and counter-plans. Debaters may offer generalized, practical examples or solutions to illustrate how the general principle could guide decisions.

Article VI – Public Forum (PF) Debate

Section 1. Description:

Public Forum Debate is audience friendly debate. Two pairs (teams) debate monthly controversial topics ripped from newspaper headlines. Rounds begin with a coin toss between the competing teams to determine side and order (Pro-Con or Con-Pro). Public Forum tests skills in argumentation, cross-examination, and refutation. PF focuses on advocacy of a position derived from the issues presented in the resolution, not a prescribed set of burdens.

Section 2. Resolution:

Topics used in this area will be the same as topics designated by the National Forensic League. The February topic is announced on January 1, and the March topic is announced on February 1. Schools not belonging to the NSDA may contact the State Forensics Representative for the official topic. The State Tournament will use the March topic. The UDCA strongly encourages Region Tournaments to use the State Tournament topic.

Section 3. Order of Speeches:

Prior to EVERY round and in the presence of the judge(s), a coin is tossed by one team and called by the other team. The team that wins the flip may choose one of two options: EITHER the SIDE of the topic they wish to defend (pro or con) OR the SPEAKING POSITION they wish to have (begin the debate or end the debate). The remaining option (SIDE OR SPEAKING POSITION) is the choice of the team that loses the flip. Once speaking positions and sides have been determined, the debate begins (the con team may lead, depending on the coin flip results).

- First Speaker - Team A 4 Minutes
- First Speaker -Team B 4 Minutes
- Crossfire (first question by speaker A1) 3 Minutes
- Second Speaker -Team A 4 Minutes
- Second Speaker -Team B 4 Minutes
- Crossfire (first question by A2) 3 Minutes
- Summary - First Speaker - Team A 2 Minutes
- Summary - First Speaker - Team B 2 Minutes
- Grand Crossfire 3 Minutes
- Final Focus - Second Speaker - Team A 2 Minutes
- Final Focus - Second Speaker - Team B 2 Minutes
- Prep Time 2 Minutes per team

Article VI I– Policy (CX) Debate

Section 1: Description:

Debaters work in pairs (teams) to address the school year's topic, either from the affirmative side (to propose a plan to solve a problem with the topic), or the negative side (to prove how the affirmative's plan is flawed). Argumentation includes a constructive case, cross examination, and refutation. Skills learned include research, policy analysis, case building, refutation, questioning, organization and communication.

Section 2: Resolution:

The resolution will be one requiring a policy judgment. The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) determines it annually.

Section 3: **Novice limitations:** See Ch. 1. Art. III Sec. 4

Section 4: Order of Speeches:

Each debater must give one and only one constructive speech, one period of questioning, one period of answering, and one rebuttal speech, in the following order:

- Affirmative Constructive Speech: 8 minutes
- Negative Cross Examines Affirmative: 3 minutes
- Negative Constructive Speech: 8 minutes
- Affirmative Cross Examines Negative: 3 minutes
- Affirmative Constructive Speech: 8 minutes
- Negative Cross Examines Affirmative: 3 minutes
- Negative Constructive Speech: 8 minutes
- Affirmative Cross Examines Negative: 3 minutes
- Negative Rebuttal: 5 minutes
- Affirmative Rebuttal: 5 minutes
- Negative Rebuttal: 5 minutes
- Affirmative Rebuttal: 5 minutes
- Prep Time: 5 minutes per team

Section 5: Explanation:

Debate is a persuasive event where opposing speakers present arguments for and against a predetermined resolution and strive to influence people to adopt or reject the proposed plan of action. Debate is essentially an intellectual pursuit, resulting in the growth of the thought process. The affirmative has the burden of proof in that they must support an assigned resolution through a case and plan which serve as an example. The negative team must clash through any of several approaches, including but not limited to: direct clash, plan meet need or advantage, disadvantages, counterplans, critiques, or any combination of debating paradigms. Complete examination of debate is impossible to summarize in a few paragraphs for this manual. It is recommended that a coach or student seriously wishing to understand this event consult a debate textbook or attend one of any number of summer workshops offered on this subject.

Article VII – Rules of Evidence**Section 1: Responsibilities of Contestants Reading Evidence:**

- A. The contestant is responsible for the validity of all evidence they read in the debate.
- B. In all rounds of LD and Public Forum Debate, debaters should, at a minimum, orally deliver title of the source and the author's name. In Policy Debate, all debaters shall orally deliver the name of the author or title of source (E.G. title of book, not chapter; title of journal, not article), and complete date.
- C. In all rounds of debate, complete citations for each piece of evidence introduced in the round must be available in the round. Written citations must include name of the author, qualifications, complete title of source (E.G. title of book, not chapter; title of journal, not article), and complete date.

Section 2: Responsibilities of Those Challenging Evidence:

- A. Indictments or protests of the validity of evidence must be made on substantive grounds and in a timely manner.

- B. A challenger must have either the original source or a mechanical copy of the source being cited, or
- C. A challenger must demonstrate that a reasonable search has not been able to locate the source -- mechanical copies of relevant pages in Books in Print, etc.

Section 3: Definitions of Non-existent Evidence or Evidence Which Seriously Distorts the Intention of the Original Source:

- A. Serious distortion exists when the evidence itself contains added or deleted word(s) which do not clarify but in fact change the position of the author with respect to the issues in question.
- B. Non-existent evidence means that a reasonable search is unable to produce the original source and/or the debater reading the evidence is unable to provide the original source or a mechanical copy of the relevant pages. The evidence cited is not located in the original source cited.

Section 4: Penalties for Non-existent Evidence or Evidence Which Seriously Distorts the Intention of the Original Source:

- A. If an evidence violation is presented where a debater is found to have committed a “serious distortion” or to have used “non-existent evidence”, at the conclusion of due process, the offending debater(s) may be disqualified from the tournament. Depending on the severity, an offense will result in notification of said offense to their high school administration.

Chapter V – Tournament Director and Region Representatives

Article I. Tournament Committee Responsibilities

Section 1: *Committee Members*

Tournament Committee members shall include the tournament director(s) and each of the region representatives and the UHSAA representative.

Section 2: *Committee Member Decision-Making Not Covered within the Rules*

The Tournament Director(s), in consultation with the Region Representatives and UHSAA representative, has the authority to rule promptly and in the spirit of good sportsmanship on any situation not specifically covered in the rules.

For additional debate resources please visit www.utahdebatecoaches.org