



General Rules and Regulations for Debate



Lincoln Douglas

Division I
Division II
Division III

Public Forum

Division I
Division II
Division III

Policy

Division I
Division III

Communication, Speech, and Theatre Association of North Dakota

Phyllis Kadrmas, President

Devils Lake

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2011 - 2012 Edition

GENERAL REGULATIONS

ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS

All members of the North Dakota High School Activities Association regardless of class of school.

ELIGIBILITY RULES APPLICABLE TO FORENSICS/DRAMA

Rule 1: The student shall not compete for more than four seasons in any one branch of interscholastic contests, provided that competition while in the seventh and/or eighth grade shall not constitute one of the four seasons.

Note: Students below seventh grade shall not be eligible to compete in NDHSAA contests.

Rule 2: A student shall not be a graduate of a four-year high school higher rank than a secondary school, except in the case of an accelerated student doing work in an institution of higher rank. Such student shall continue to qualify for high school competition, if taking four or more high school subjects in the high school in which he/she is enrolled and fulfilling all other eligibility requirements.

Rule 3: A student shall be doing passing work in at least twenty hours per week, the passing grade to be computed from the opening of the semester and to relate to such a subjects only as severally and individually shall have credit value of one half unit per semester. (For accelerated students, a school may count a maximum of 2 four-semester hour college classes as part of their 20 hours per week.)

Rule 4: A student shall not be a graduate of a four-year high school course, nor graduate of a senior high school offering three courses comprising the tenth, eleventh and twelfth grades. Neither shall he/she compete after having earned credits sufficient to meet the graduating requirements in any course of study prescribed by the school he/she is to represent unless such credits have been earned in less than eight semesters of school attendance.

Rule 5: A student shall not be eligible to compete in interscholastic activities on or after the day on which the 20th anniversary of his/her birthday occurs.

Rule 6: After attending the first semester of the ninth grade, a student shall have at least four-half-units earned and recorded at the close of the first semester in which he/she was enrolled as a student, thirty days or more of attendance or participation in interscholastic competition within any shorter period being sufficient to constitute enrollment in a semester.

Rule 7: A student shall have been in attendance in the school he/she represents for 180 school days upon transferring from another school unless his/her parents have become residents of the district to which he/she transferred or the school from which he/she transferred does not offer work of the corresponding year in which he/ she is ranked.

NOTE ON HOME SCHOOL STUDENTS: A student receiving home education may participate in extracurricular activities either under the auspices of the student's resident public school district or under the auspices of an approved nonpublic school, if permitted by the administrator of that school.

NOTE: To be eligible for State competition even at the sub-varsity level, student congress and debate students cannot use the transfer exception found in the By-laws in reference to eligibility for some varsity competition.

Rule 8: A student shall have been in attendance as many school days as he/she missed at the opening of the semester, provided, however, that his/her enrollment has not been made at the opening of the semester, provided, however, that he/she shall have made such enrollment and began regular work prior to the eleventh day of the semester.

Rule 9: A student shall not participate in any interscholastic contest after his/her eighth semester in high school unless he/she is under 18 years of age, nor after his/her seventh semester if the seventh and eighth are not consecutive.

Rule 10: The use or possession of tobacco, alcohol, nonprescription steroids or any controlled substance as defined by North Dakota law is prohibited. Any extracurricular participant who is in violation of the foregoing shall be suspended upon official notification from the school administration from participation in interscholastic contests or activities for a minimum period of six consecutive school weeks for the first offense and a period of 18 consecutive school weeks for any subsequent offense.

Note: All Eligibility Rules are in effect for speech except for amateur rules (Part II, Article XIV, Section IX). Schools and individuals are also expected to conform to the Award Rule as outlined in Part II Article VIII of the By-Laws.

ADMINISTRATION OF CONTESTS

The Board of Directors of the North Dakota High School Activities Association is the final authority in the administration of all regional, state and qualifying contests and festivals. Ten regional committees in Class B schools and two regional committees in Class A schools elected by the schools of the region.

An advisory speech committee to cooperate with the Board of Directors in the organization and administration of the speech program for the state.

SANCTIONING OF INVITATIONAL CONTESTS

Schools do not have to formally sanction state held contests, but coaches are urged to submit their contest dates to Brian Bubach so a state schedule can be published online.

New Rules for Debate 2011-12

3-NDHSAA Code of Conduct

5-A minimum of 3 schools must have participants in order for NDHSAA to sponsor Policy at the State Debate Tournament

8-3 day window for late Regional and State registration and editing

8-Judges must complete the annual rules clinic to remain on the certified list.

8- Any rule violation as defined in this book shall result in disqualification from said entry.

8- Contest managers have the final say in all appeals.

NDHSAA Tournament Code of Conduct

***Purpose:** To elevate standards of Good Sportsmanship and to encourage the growth of responsible citizenship among the students, member schools, and their personnel.*

Fundamentals of Good Sportsmanship

- 1. Know, appreciate, and understand the rules of the contest.*
- 2. Show respect for the officials. Good sportsmanship implies the willingness to accept and abide by the decisions of the officials.*

3. *Show respect for the opponent at all times. Good Sportsmanship is the Golden Rule in action.*
4. *Recognize and appreciate the skill of performance regardless of team affiliation.*
5. *Maintain self control at all times. Good sportsmanship is a responsibility of all who are involved in the game.*
6. *Show a positive attitude in cheering, refraining from intimidation or negative cheering. Good sportsmanship is cheering your own team "on to victory."*

Acts of Misconduct

1. *Throwing of any object onto the playing floor or in the stands.*
2. *Behavior deemed dangerous or which interferes with the rights of others to watch the game.*
3. *Possessing, consuming, or being under the influence of chemicals.*
4. *Use of obscene, profane, or abusive language or gestures, signs, posters, or banners which show disrespect for opponent's team, officials, cheerleaders, band or other performing groups.*
5. *The use of noisemakers.*
6. *Entry onto the playing surface at any time.*

- ***THESE ACTS OF MISCONDUCT WILL NOT BE TOLERATED AND WILL RESULT IN AUTOMATIC REMOVAL WITHOUT REFUND OF ADMISSION.***
-

Debate has been defined as an "organized oral argument". It offers many opportunities for learning and using skills not provided by other speech activities. Because debate is unique in its learning possibilities, it merits a place in the forensics program in every school and as a classroom activity. Any school, coach or student interested in learning more about debate, or how to start a debate program should contact the state advisory board representative for debate. (see directory)

Forms of Debate:

Three forms of debate are offered in our state: Policy, Public Forum, and Lincoln-Douglas.

1. **Policy** – two-person team debate that uses one topic throughout the debate season. Each policy team works to prove that there is an inherent problem with the status quo and offers a plan that will solve the problem. Policy is a research-based form of debate.
2. **Public Forum** – two-person team debate that uses a different current event topic each month. Competitors formulate fact-based and/or analytical arguments which uphold the pro or con side of the topic. PF uses individual and team cross examination times.
3. **Lincoln-Douglas** - single person debate that uses a value-based topic. LD uses two topics during the season: one in November and December, and one in January and February. LD students use a combination of evidence and reasoning to develop their cases.

Divisions:

1. There are three divisions for LD and Public Forum (Div I, II, and III) and two divisions for Policy (Div I and III). The divisions are defined as:

Div. I – top- experienced debaters

Div. II – intermediate debaters with some experience

Div. III – novice or beginning debaters

2. Division III status, defined for all three categories of debate

a. 7th and 8th graders will retain Div. III status, regardless of the number of rounds. they have debated.

b. Any 9th-12th grader will not be eligible for Div III if.....

1. Any 9th grader has exceeded 19 rounds of debate the previous year(s)

2. Any 10th grader who has exceeded 9 rounds the previous year(s)

3. Any 11th or 12th grader who has exceeded 6 rounds the previous year(s)

*Note: There shall be a minimum of ten entries, per division, to warrant having a novice division or adding a JV division.

Debate Practices and Rules:

Policy:

1. A minimum of 3 schools must have participants in order for NDHSAA to sponsor Policy at the State Debate Tournament. (2011)

2. 2010-2011 Policy Debate Topic is: Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially reduce its military and/or police presence in one or more of the following: South Korea, Japan, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Iraq, Turkey.

3. The debate will progress on the following time limits/schedules: (the times are the maximum time allowed; there are no minimum times.

a. 1st Affirmative Constructive (8 minutes.)

b. Cross-Examination (3 minutes)

c. 1st Negative (8 minutes)

d. Cross-Examination (3 minutes)

e. 2nd Affirmative Constructive (8 minutes)

f. Cross-Examination (3 minutes)

g. 2nd Negative (8 minutes)

h. Cross-Examination (3 minutes)

i. 1st Negative Rebuttal (5 minutes)

j. 1st Affirmative Rebuttal (5 minutes)

k. 2nd Negative Rebuttal (5 minutes)

l. 2nd Affirmative Rebuttal (5 minutes)

m. Five minutes is set aside for preparation time for each team. Each team will instruct the judge when they will be using this time, and the judge will keep track of time used throughout the round

4. Debaters must maintain their speaking position in each debate. Example: The first affirmative constructive speaker must deliver the first affirmative rebuttal.

5. It is recommended that the affirmative team present its entire plan and basic justification of the plan in the first affirmative constructive speech. This does not mean that debaters cannot extend arguments or present more evidence later on; it does require the affirmative team to present its plan, in full detail, and to present the basic structure of its reason for adopting the plan (observations, advantages, needs, etc...) The affirmative is certainly not prohibited from saying something new in the second constructive, but these arguments should be minor new points that clarify the issues and further the debate rather than major new points.
6. A debater may receive no help from anyone during the time he/she is speaking.
7. New arguments may not be introduced in rebuttal speeches.
8. Policy judges must use a flow sheet.
9. Debaters may not ask for, and judges may not offer, oral critiques to the debaters.
10. Each policy debater will be given individual speaker points in addition to a win/loss decision.
11. Ballots will be turned in to the tabulation room. Teams will receive their ballots after awards are finished.

Public Forum:

1. Protocol:
 - a. Coin flip: Debaters flip a coin. The winner may choose either side (pro or con) or the speaking order (start or end the debate) If the team that wins the coin toss picks the side, the other team picks the speaking order and vice versa.
 - b. Time limits:
 - 1st speaker – introduction of issues (4 minutes)
 - 2nd speaker – introduction of issues (4 minutes)
 - 1st crossfire – question and answer period involving first two speakers (3 minutes)
 - 3rd speaker – refutation of issues (3 minutes)
 - 4th speaker – refutation of issues (4 minutes)
 - 2nd crossfire – question and answer period involving the second set of speakers (3 minutes)
 - 1st speaker – summary (2 minutes)
 - 2nd speaker – summary (2 minutes)
 - grand crossfire – question and answer period involving all four contestants (3 minutes)
 - 2nd speaker / team A – final focus (1 minute)
 - 2nd speaker / team B – final focus (1 minute)
 - c. Prep time:
 - Each team is allowed three minutes of prep time throughout the round.
2. There is no presumption, or burden of proof, in public forum debate as in policy debate. The pro should work to convince the judge that the topic should be adopted, and the negative should work to convince the judge that it should not be adopted. Hence, the negative could go first if the coin toss, and selection goes that way.
3. Introductory speeches: The first and second speakers should prepare, in advance, the reasons for adoption (or rejection) of the topic. Arguments should be carefully worded to be accurate and persuasive. Delivery should be conversational and extemporaneous in style. The second speaker, in addition to prepared material, may respond to the most important arguments made by the first speaker.

4. Crossfire: Both debaters hold the floor, but the first question must be asked to the speaker who just spoke. After that question, either debater may question, and or answer, at will. The first crossfire should be used to clarify arguments and identify where clash exists. The second crossfire should advance the debate by finding areas of agreement and attacking arguments with which the debater does not agree. Previously prepared dilemmas may be posed. Contradictions should be exposed.
5. Refutation: The third and fourth speakers have two duties:
 1. to refute their opponent's case
 2. to answer attacks made upon their arguments by their opponents
6. Summaries: Summary speeches are the same as rebuttals. Each team should summarize arguments it is winning and refute the arguments it is losing. Facts, opinions, statistics, and evidence of all kinds are legal and welcome to advance the debate. New arguments in summary and final focus speeches are forbidden. An answer in response to an argument originally presented by the opposition is not a new argument. The summary speakers should consolidate their positions by defending the most important point in their own case and attack the most important points in their opponent's case. Select only the most important issue or issues and cover them thoroughly.
7. Grand Crossfire: The first question is asked by the team that had the first summary to the team who had the last summary. After that, any debater may question or answer. The judge does not ask or answer questions during crossfire. Contestants should be polite but firm. They should keep questions and answers brief and the speaking style conversational. A debater should not interrupt or talk over their opponent. A debater should not interrupt his/her partner.
8. Final Focus: The purpose of the final focus is to clarify the issue or issues their team is currently winning. Many strategies may be employed, but teams who try to focus on too many arguments may find the time limitations of the final focus restraining.

Lincoln-Douglas:

1. Lincoln Douglas Debate is a one-on-one debate form that emphasizes the use of values in order to uphold their side. The affirmative is advocating the change that is in the resolution. The negative is against the change and is upholding the status quo.
2. Time Limits:
 - a. Affirmative Constructive – 6 minutes
 - b. Negative Cross-Examines Affirmative – 3 minutes
 - c. Negative Constructive – 7 minutes
 - d. Affirmative Cross-Examines the Affirmative – 3 minutes
 - e. Affirmative Rebuttal – 4 minutes
 - f. Negative Rebuttal – 6 minutes
 - g. Affirmative Rebuttal – 3 minutes
 - h. Each debater will be allowed 4 minutes of prep time.
- 3 Each side as an equal amount of time in the debate.
- 4 Constructive speeches usually contain the following: definitions, value, criteria, contentions(main points) and sometimes observations.
5. Cross Examinations questions are used to clarify and question the opponent's case.

6. Rebuttals are designed to clash the values, refute the opponent's case and uphold their own case.
7. The first negative constructive is used to present the negative case and to refute the affirmative case.

Tournament Rules:

Any rule violation as defined in this book shall result in disqualification from said entry. (NDHSAA Board 4/11) Contest managers have the final say in all appeals. (NDHSAA Board 4/11)

There shall be a \$50 fine per judge for any schools who bring uncertified judges to invitational.(2010) Judges must receive the annual update to remain on the certified list. This list and update information is online at www.ndhsaa.com>Fine Arts>Debate>Officials and Judges (2011).

Students who qualify from that tournament event(s) will be allowed the qualification provided all other regulations have been followed. (2010)

3 day window for late Regional and State registration and editing. Penalty of \$250 must be received by Contest Manager or NDHSAA within 3 day window prior to 4:00 p.m. CDT on day 3. On day 4, no participation in activity. (2011)

2 Business Days are allowed for tabulation correction for all speech, theatre, debate, and congress activities. (2010)

1. A State Debate Tournament Tabulation Committee will be named during the debate meeting at the C STAND Convention. This committee will work to schedule and tabulate the state tournament.
2. At the end of the state tournament, should a tie exist between schools on a total win-loss record, the school with the highest number of speaker points, in that division, shall be declared the winner of that division. If a tie should exist between schools on both win-loss record and speaker points, the decision shall go to the winning team if these teams have debated one another during the tournament. If they have not debated one another, the team whose competition scored the highest number of speaker points shall be declared the winner. The lowest speaker point score will be dropped before scoring unless it is needed to break a tie.
3. Forfeits: If a team forfeits a round, no points shall be awarded to the team forfeiting. No averaging of past or future rounds is allowed for that round forfeited.
4. Each decision rendered by any judge MUST be given to the ballot drop monitor immediately after the conclusion of each debate. Judges are not to give oral critiques or announce decisions.
5. Coaches will be asked to provide room monitors for the state semi-final and final rounds.
6. Each school may enter up to four teams in each form and each division of debate. All teams will debate four preliminary rounds using the following criteria:

- a. Preliminary rounds 1 and 2 will be randomly paired with half of the teams paired on the affirmative side, and the other half of the negative.
- b. One judge will be used in all preliminary rounds.
- c. Each team will be guaranteed one affirmative and one negative round.
- d. In the event that an uneven number of teams are registered, the bye for each round will be randomly drawn before the pairing begins. No team may receive more than one bye in the four preliminary rounds.
- e. No teams from the same school may meet in the first two preliminary rounds unless they account for more than fifty percent of the division.
- f. Round three will be power-matched based upon the records accumulated in the first two rounds. Teams will be power-matched within brackets with the highest seed in each bracket meeting the lowest seed. For example, if there were four teams with a 2-0 record, the team ranked first would meet the team ranked fourth and the team ranked second would meet the team ranked third.
- g. If an uneven number of teams have the same win-loss record, a team from the middle of the next lowest bracket would be drawn up to meet an undefeated team.
- h. No team may be pulled up into a higher bracket more than one time.
- i. No teams, from the same school, may meet in the third round unless 40 percent, or more, of the division are from the same school. The school may elect to have the higher seed win, or have the teams debate the round. If the school elects to have the higher seed win, the speaker points for both teams are averaged following the procedure used for byes.
- j. Round four will be power-matched based upon the records accumulated in the first three rounds.
 - i. Teams will be power-matched within brackets with the highest seed in each bracket meeting the lowest seed.
 - ii. If an uneven number of teams have the same win-loss record, a team from the middle of the next lowest bracket, not previously drawn up, will be moved to the higher bracket.
 - iii. No teams from the same school may meet in the fourth round unless 40 percent or more of the teams in the division are from the same school. The school may elect to have the higher seed win or have the teams debate the round without penalty. If the school elects to have the higher seed win, the speaker points for both teams are averaged following the procedure used for byes.
 - iv. Sides will be set based upon the need for a team to have an affirmative or negative side after three rounds.
 - v. All ties will be broken with the following criteria:
 - 1. records
 - 2. speaker points
 - 3. head-to-head competition
- k. Speaker points will be set based upon the need for a team to have an affirmative or negative side after three rounds.
- l. Speaker points will be tallied from all of the four preliminary rounds to determine individual speaking awards. Debaters with byes will receive the average of their speaker awards. Debaters with byes will receive the average of their speaker points for the other rounds in which they debated. In the case of

- ties, drop the highest and lowest score of each entry. If still tied. Just drop the low. If still tied, just drop the high score. If still tied, award as tie.
- m. All divisions will have quarter final, semifinal and final rounds.
 - n. The quarter final round will be bracketed as follows; winner of 1 vs 8 will meet the winner of 4 vs 5; winner of 2 vs 7 will meet winner of 3 vs 6.
 - o. The winners of the semifinal rounds will meet in the final round.
 - p. If two teams, from the same school, must be paired to meet in an elimination round, the school has the option of having the teams debate or advance the high seed to the next elimination round.
 - q. It is recommended that a school have competed in at least six rounds of North Dakota interscholastic debate prior to the state tournament.
 - r. Debate is one class; A and B are together.
 - s. The National Forensics League Debate Ballot will be used at the state tournament.
 - t. Debate coaches may submit a list (maximum of 15) of preferred judges to the NDHSAA office by November 1.

Awards at State:

- 5 Plaques will be given to semifinalists and finalists in all forms and all divisions.
- 6 Superior medals will be given to all quarterfinalists.
- 7 Superior medals will also be given to those teams who miss being in quarterfinals due to ties.

Judge Guidelines:

- 1. Each judge must be certified through the NDHSAA in order to judge at any invitational or at the state tournament. The test is online. Go to www.ndhsaa.com.
- 2. Be professional at all times.
- 3. Respect the classroom and area that you are using, and be sure that your debaters do the same.
- 4. Do not reveal your decision to debaters, other students, other judges, coaches, etc... until after the tournament.
- 5. Respect the rules of the host school.
- 6. Only bring in drinks if allowed by the host school. No food should be eaten during a debate round.
- 7. Judges should not be on their cell phone at any time during the round.
- 8. Judges must flow the round.
- 9. Judges must attend the judge meeting (if held) prior to the tournament. If you are unable to make that meeting, you should visit with the tournament manager prior to judging.
- 10. Follow all time limits
- 11. Judges must time each speech and show the debaters what their hand signals will look like.
- 12. If a judge has a conflict of interest with a debater he/she is about to hear, the tournament manager should be notified before the round begins. This conflict could include:
 - a. A debater from the school by which the judge has been hired.

- b. A team whom the judge has a personal relationship with. Team/debater they are about to hear.
 - c. A debater or team they have already heard in the tournament
 - d. At invitationals, the tournament manager will make the decision on each individual case. At the state tournament, the decision will be made by the NDHSAA representative.
13. If a dispute arises, the judge should notify the tournament manager immediately (at the state tournament-NDHSAA representative).
 14. Division III of policy debate will be using novice case limits which the affirmative is expected to abide by. If the negative does not challenge the plan, it should be considered within the limits by the judge. It should not be presumed that a case is topical just because it is being run.
 15. Decisions should be based on what occurs in the current debate round, not what has happened in previous rounds.
 16. The judge must take care when filling out a ballot. Be sure to make comments that are constructive, appropriate and useful to the debaters and their coaches.
 17. Judges should remember that they are not debating the round. The decision must be based on how the debaters respond to each other, not personal opinions.
 18. Judges should comment on fact, communication, and grammar errors, so the coaches can fix these issues.
 19. Fill out the entire ballot
 20. Be sure the winning team has the most points
 21. Return your ballot in a timely manner
 22. Comments should be clearly constructed.
 23. Award points which accurately reflect a debater’s ability and the round. These points are often needed to break ties, so low points can affect debaters.
 24. Judges may ask debaters to view their evidence. This should be done at the end of the round.
 25. The reason for decision (RFD) should be clear on the ballot.

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