

HISD-Houston Urban Debate League

# Rulebook



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## Rulebook Overview

The purpose of this rulebook is to provide the Houston Independent School District (HISD) -Houston Urban Debate League (HUDL) community with a set of general rules and principles by which tournaments will be managed. This document does not include regulations pertaining to non-tournament aspects of the HISD-HUDL program. Please keep in mind that the rules and norms at HISD-HUDL tournaments may differ from those of other debate leagues and circuits you are familiar with.

**Updated rules and guidance provided during the tournament season may supersede this document.**

### The Houston Urban Debate League

The Houston Urban Debate League is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that was established in 2008. For nine years, HUDL operated exclusively within HISD. During the 2017-2018 academic school year, HUDL expanded by partnering with the Harris County Department of Education (HCDE). Through this partnership, CASE Debates was founded as an HUDL expansion league. Although HUDL is comprised of both the HISD league and CASE Debates, this rulebook only pertains to HISD tournaments.

At the end of the debate season, both HISD and CASE Debates come together at the HUDL City Championship. Rules at the HUDL City Championship may differ from those presented in this rulebook. Furthermore, any additional tournaments that combine both HISD and CASE Debates may have their own unique rules.

### The Intersection of HUDL's Mission and Rule Enforcement

The HUDL 501(c)(3) was established in 2008 with the following mission:

**The mission of the Houston Urban Debate League (HUDL) is to build, support, and sustain programs in Houston's public schools to make policy debate available to all students.**

The goal of HISD-HUDL is to bring debate to as many students as possible. Debate can be a transformative activity that has long lasting impacts on students' lives. Unfortunately, debate has many barriers to entry including financial costs, content knowledge, etc. A large percentage of HISD's student body does not have a dedicated debate program on campus. Bringing debate to these students to help them grow and succeed is the primary goal of the program from HISD's perspective.

HISD-HUDL is designed as a welcoming environment for new debaters and debate programs; however, we also strive to provide opportunities for more established programs. When in conflict, the needs of new and growing debate programs will supersede those of more established programs.

Rule breaches during debate rounds will rarely if ever require any ballot intervention by a League Director or other tournament staff, instead they are considered in the judge's assessment of how persuasive a speaker was when it comes to adjudicating the debate. In other words, the rules specify what can and cannot be done in debaters' efforts to win debates. They are not optional, though in most cases, violations of them are small mistakes and should be treated as such, rather than being deemed an outrageous attempt to cheat.

Coaches should instruct their debaters to point out potential rule violations during the round and to bring them up with the judge. Debaters should explain the rule violation and ask the judge to verify. When explaining a rule violation, debaters are recommended to bring a copy of this document with them to use as evidence within the round. Failure to notify the judge of potential rules violations during the round makes it difficult to prove if a rule was broken after the fact. When the Tournament Directors

are notified of a potential rule breach, the first action they will take is to discuss the situation with the judge. If the judge did not notice the rule violation or wasn't made aware it, determining what actually happened becomes extremely difficult for the Tournament Directors.

Once the round has ended, a Tournament Director will in most cases not intervene if the violation wasn't brought to the judge's attention by the debaters, if the judge didn't notice it themselves, or the violation cannot be proven.

## Rule Modifications for Online Tournaments

Due to COVID-19, the 2020-2021 debate season will begin with virtual tournaments until such time as the district rules in-person academic events to be safe. This rulebook has been updated to reflect this reality. Further changes and modifications to this document will likely be required as best practices and norms for online tournaments are established. Future rule changes and modifications for online tournaments may be distributed separately from this rulebook. Before each tournament, make sure you are reading all tournament related correspondence to stay up to date on any rule changes.

**Coin Flipping Online:** For Public Forum debate and any other instance where flipping a coin is required we recommend the following website: <https://justflipacoin.com/>

## Tournament Registration and Attendance

A few weeks before each tournament, coaches will receive an email asking several questions including:

- if their school is attending
- for an estimate of the number of students attending
- if the school will need a bus. (in-person tournaments only)

If a school does not respond by the deadlines mentioned in the email (this is especially important for reserving a bus) we will assume the school is not coming. If a school responds to the email after the deadline has passed, we cannot arrange bus transportation or guarantee space at the tournament.

Tournament registration will be conducted through SpeechWire for both online and in-person tournaments. Registration must be completed in SpeechWire by 5:00 p.m. on the Friday a week before the tournament. Late registration can be accommodated only as availability of space and judging allows; it cannot be guaranteed. Schools are urged to make their final registration confirmation at least 48 hours in advance of the first round and update the Tournament Directors of any changes. The Tab Room Director and League Directors reserve the right to disallow any team reconfigurations or adds on the day of the Tournament, though these will generally be allowed (if feasible) up until about 2 hours prior to the start of the first round of competitive debate.

Yaarly will be used as the platform for synchronous debate and overall event management. Coaches will be required to set-up a free Organization Account for their debate team. Once the account is created coaches can invite debaters to join their Organization's Account. Coaches must ensure that all students registered on SpeechWire are also registered on Yaarly. Please reference the Online Tournament Technology Guide found on the HUB.

## Coach Attendance

At in-person tournaments, coaches are always required to be physically present. For online events, coaches must be present at the tournament, or immediately reachable, for students to be able to compete. This means that coaches or school affiliates cannot 'check in' to a tournament in the morning and then log off/be unreachable for the rest of the day. If a coach or school affiliate is not present at the tournament, or is not immediately reachable, the first violation will result in a warning for the team. However, if a coach or school affiliate is not present, or is not immediately reachable a second time, all students from that school will be disqualified from the tournament.

## Late Drops and Additions

Coaches should try their best to provide accurate numbers when signing up for a tournament and registering teams. These numbers are used to forecast transportation, food, and judge needs. Dropping large numbers of students just before and during the tournament leads to unneeded expenditures on food, transportation, and judges. Likewise, when you attempt to add students at the last minute, we oftentimes will not have enough food or other resources to allow them to participate. Furthermore, late drops and changes cause huge delays (making the tournament run late), problems with tournament tabulation software, and creates unneeded additional work and stress for all tournament staff. Schools that make a habit out of late drops and additions may have certain restrictions imposed. For online tournaments, we will not have as much flexibility to add students or make changes at the last minute.

## Punctuality

Punctual arrival to both in-person and online tournaments by the coach and students is essential to running the event according to schedule. If using an HISD provided bus, please make sure to have your students get to school on time. We often put multiple schools on the same bus, so if you are not ready to load the bus on time, each additional school that is being picked up by your bus will also be late.

Schools are asked to make registration changes themselves using SpeechWire up to one hour before the tournament.

All rounds must begin within 30 minutes of their scheduled starting time (for online tournaments 30 minutes includes 15 minutes of dedicated tech time to resolve any technical or access issues), or a forfeit will be charged against the team that is unready to begin. Double forfeits are possible. Judges are asked to begin debates as soon as possible after announced start times, so that the tournament can adhere to its schedule.

## Meals at Tournaments

Meals are provided at in-person tournaments. We usually order a light breakfast and recommend students who prefer a more substantial meal to eat before they arrive. For lunch and dinner, only students who have the approved meal tickets will be served. Coaches are responsible for the keeping track of these tickets. Please do not delegate this responsibility to your students. If your tickets are lost, we cannot guarantee your students a meal.



***If you want to eat, be on time!*** If students decide to go prepare for their next debate or socialize instead of coming to eat, they risk the possibility of not eating.

## Cleanliness

Debaters are expected to clean up and reset furniture in the classroom following each debate. When the final debater leaves the room, it should appear as if a debate had never occurred. If a school or team consistently leaves a room disheveled, they may be placed on cleaning duty. When in common spaces like the cafeteria or auditorium, debaters should take special care to clean up after themselves and their peers if necessary.

## Tournament Procedures and General Rules

Format specific rules may apply in addition to (and may override) the rules listed in this section.

1. Students shall not enter classrooms without the judge assigned to that round. (in-person tournaments only). For online events, if a judge is not present within 5 minutes of the scheduled start time, debaters should contact their coaches to inform the Tournament Directors.
2. Maverick teams (those missing a debater) will not be allowed to advance to elimination rounds; although members on these teams are eligible to receive speaker awards.
3. Teams that swap members during the tournament will not be allowed to advance to elimination rounds or win speaker awards.
4. Teams will be paired by the Tab Room Director using debate tabulation software.

## Elimination Rounds

1. Eliminations round breaks will be determined by the following criteria:
  - a) 35 or more teams: break to octo-finals
  - b) 16-34 teams: break to quarter-finals
  - c) 9-15 teams: break to semi-finals
  - d) 8 or less teams: break to finals
2. Elimination round brackets will not be altered ("broken") by the tab room to prevent teams from the same school from debating.
3. Two teams from the same school who are paired against each other are permitted the following options: (1) debate the round and abide by the decision of the judge(s) in the round; (2) not debate the round but instead have the coach decide which team advances; or (3) defer to the tab room to allow the higher seeded team from preliminary rounds to advance. If option 2 or 3 is chosen, the tab room will not disclose who is advancing prior to the posting of the next round. The coach(s) of the competing teams will have final authority on how to decide who advances. The decision, once agreed upon, is final. If a school in this circumstance does not decide what to do in a timely fashion, a Tournament Director will make the decision for them. The only exception to this rule is City Championship. All teams who make it to the elimination rounds will have to debate or forfeit.
4. Team sides, in elimination rounds, will be determined first by team sides in a previous meeting at that tournament. If two teams debated previously at the same tournament, teams will alternate sides in the elimination round. If the teams did not meet in preliminary rounds, they shall flip a coin to determine sides. The judge(s) and both teams must be present for the coin flip.

## Observers

All in-person debate rounds are open to the public, with the following exceptions:

1. Prior to elimination rounds, students competing in the tournament are only allowed to watch debate rounds that contain teams from their school.
2. Coaches of teams competing in the tournament are prohibited from observing any round, prelim or elimination, that does not contain a team from their school until every one of their teams has been eliminated.
3. Elimination rounds are open to everyone, except for coaches with competing teams not in the round, to watch.
4. Spectators are expected to act in a respectful manner and stay engaged in the round. Therefore, observers are prohibited from using their cell phones during the round.
5. Spectators shall only leave/enter the room during a break in speaking. They are not to leave/enter during any speech or cross-examination period, except for an emergency.
6. Students who are registered to observe can watch any round but are not permitted to compete at the tournament.

## Taping and Filming of Rounds

Video recording of in-person debate rounds is prohibited. Only recording by the Tournament Directors or an individual under their direction is allowed. Recording of online debate rounds is also prohibited. The majority of HUDL students are minors. Without a guardian present, minors are not able to give permission to be recorded. With modern technology, we must be diligent in protecting the rights and images of our students.

## Coaching During Debate Rounds

Debaters shall be separated from the audience and shall receive no coaching while the debate is in progress. Participants in rounds shall receive no communication, whether verbal, physical, or electronic, from anyone inside or outside of the round other than their debate partner in that round.

This policy also applies to online tournaments. Students are not allowed to receive communication, whether digital or physical, from anyone other than their partner(s) or opponents during rounds. This includes but is not limited to texting, direct message chatting, or calling.

## Flex Prep

**Flex Prep is not allowed at HUDL tournaments. This is not a judge or team choice. This is a league wide rule.**

- Students cannot use their prep time to question their opponents. During prep time, a team can ask their opponents for evidence, but not the typical questions reserved for cross-examination times. During prep time, judges should not take into consideration any information that arises from unauthorized questioning.
- Students cannot not use their cross-examination time for prep time.

Our definition of flex prep is: The melding of cross-examination time and prep time. When using flex prep, teams use cross-examination time (typically used to question one's opponent) as preparation



time. Under this model, teams can also use their preparation time to ask their opponents more questions thereby extending their cross-examination time.

## Verbal Prompting

HUDL follows the UIL prompting philosophy as outlined below. HUDL judges will be told to warn the debaters if they verbally prompt and if verbal prompting continues, to penalize the offending debaters by deducting speaker points and in extreme cases, giving the offending team the loss. Neither time signals nor the exchange of written communications constitutes verbal prompting.

**UIL - Prompting Philosophy:** In all contests, the debaters shall be separated from the audience and shall receive no coaching while the debate is in progress. Viva voce or other prompting either by the speaker's colleague or by any other person while the debater has the floor is prohibited. Debaters may, however, refer to their notes and materials and may consult with their teammates while they do not have the floor.



***It is the debater's in-round responsibility to point out violations of the prompting rule. Debaters should explain how the prompting behavior violates the rules, and it is recommended they bring a copy of this document with them to use as evidence within the round. If the debaters do not bring up the violation during the round, post-round prompting protests will be denied.***

## Preparation Time for Online Tournaments

Most debate formats have some form of preparation time where students get to work independently during the round. In partner events debaters can use this time to strategize with one another. For in-person events using prep time is straightforward as all participants are in the same room together. For online tournaments, different procedures are needed.

**Cross Examination and Public Forum:** In both these events teams are composed of two members. Team members may need to discuss things privately during prep time. To facilitate this, teams can use private breakout rooms.

**Lincoln Douglas:** In this event, debaters compete individually and don't have partners. During prep time, debaters are free to mute their microphones but should remain in the same room with the judge and their competitor with their camera on if possible.

**World Schools:** Refer to the World Schools specific section for more information.

## Tournament Protest Procedure

A protest is defined as a formal declaration of objection or an expression of opposition through action or words. A form for a "Statement of Protest" is available at the Judges Table. Protests must be timely and brought to the attention of the Tournament Directors within 30 minutes of the end of the round in question. Ideally, protests will be brought to the attention of the Tournament Directors before the start of the next round. If the protest takes longer than that, it will be denied.

For online tournaments if you feel that a technical issue affected the outcome of the round please contact the Tournament Directors immediately to see if further action is warranted.

1. Making a Protest: Protests are only accepted from a school's coach. The critical components of your written protest are:
  - a. **Identification:** You must include the following information when identifying the protest.
    - Your name and school affiliation
    - Names and team code of your debaters
    - Round being protested
    - The person/team being protested
  - b. **Explanation of the protest/grievance:** At this juncture we must have an exact and precise statement as to what the infraction was.
    - Briefly and accurately articulate in writing the concern or potential violation. The better the details, the better the opportunity for the Tournament Directors to make a fair decision.
    - If possible, state the problem in a way that will allow a solution.
    - You must be able to clearly cite (in our rules, not another other league's rules) why your objection should be examined. There must be a clear rule violation and you must be able to cite that violation from the HUDL Rule Book.
  - c. **Signature:** You signature is required on the protest form. Anonymous protests will not be accepted.
2. Getting a Ruling: After the Tournament Directors look over your protest, they will decide if it merits a protest. Please understand that a number of issues that coaches/students think are violations are in fact, not a protest issue. This is why we ask you to very carefully cite the violation. Just because another debate organization (NSDA, TFA, UIL) has a specific rule or norm does not mean it is followed in HUDL.

For those protests deemed to be in good standing, the Tournament Directors will give their ruling. Either the protest will be upheld and appropriate action will be taken up to and including disqualification from the tournament or the protest will be denied. The Tournament Directors have the final say in protest.

The protest procedure is in place to insure a fair and level playing field for all students and coaches. The protest process works so please follow it! However, it should never be taken lightly and should never be lodged unless it meets ALL of the criteria mentioned above.

3. Here are a few examples of protests made that had no merit or no standing.

"My judge looked bored."

"The other team was rude."

"This judge doesn't like my teams and has voted against me in the past."

"The judge was too young, doesn't have any experience, or know anything about debate."



***There is a big difference between a protest issue and an action that should not have occurred but did.*** That action may have caused some unpleasantness or been alarming but it was not a direct violation of HUDL's rules. In these instances, the Tournament Directors may still take some action but it does not follow our flow chart of the protest paradigm. While these actions are not in the venue of our protest model, we do our best to talk to those people who created the turmoil in order to avoid any further problems.

## Tournament Video Recording

It is the Tournament Directors' prerogative to video any rounds at various tournaments and post them online as a learning resource.

## Evidence

Evidence is one of the most important aspects of debate. Evidence is used to validate or prove an argument and oftentimes comes in the form of "cards," or quotations from published authorities. Cards consist mainly of three parts, (1) The tag line, meant to summarize the meaning/claim of the card in one sentence (2) the citation and (3) the content that is being quoted.

Although cards are the preferred method of presenting evidence within a debate round, some teams may elect to present their evidence in another form either by choice or because they are new to debate and unfamiliar with cutting cards. As long as a team provides complete citations and the text from which the evidence that was quoted, they aren't required to present their evidence in card form.

See below for an example of a card.

**Whales have the potential to solve for climate change** } — TAG LINE

Metcalf, 14, (John, correspondent for City Lab, 7/4/14, <http://www.citylab.com/weather/2014/07/whale-poop-might-help-fight-climate-change/373957/>), Accessed 4/10/19 } — CITATION

The seas are becoming ever more acidic due to humanity's CO2 flooding the atmosphere. The altered PH of the water makes for a bevy of problems, from making fish act in really weird ways to dissolving the shells of creatures critical to the marine food chain. But a group of scientists from the University of Vermont and elsewhere think the ocean's future health has one thing going for it: the restoration of whale populations. They believe that having more whales in the water creates a more stable marine environment, partly through something called a "whale pump"—a polite term for how these majestic animals defecate. Commercial hunting of great whales, meaning the baleen and sperm variety, led to a decline in their numbers as high as 66 percent to 90 percent, the scientists write in a new study in Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment. This mammalian decimation "likely altered the structure and function of the oceans," says lead author Joe Roman, "but recovery is possible and in many cases is already under way." The researchers—who are whale biologists—present a couple of arguments for how these animals help secure the climate-threatened ocean. The first is their bathroom behavior: After feeding on krill in the briny deep, whales head back to the surface to take massive No. 2s. You can see the "pumping" process in action amid this group of sperm whales off the coast of Sri Lanka: You have to feel for the person who took that photo. But these "flocculent fecal plumes" happen to be laden with nutrients and are widely consumed by plankton, which in turn takes away carbon from the atmosphere when they photosynthesize, die, and wind up on the ocean floor. A previous study of the Southern Ocean, to cite just one example, indicated that sperm-whale defecation might remove hundreds of thousands of tons of atmospheric carbon each year by enhancing such plankton growth. Thus, these large whales "may help to buffer marine ecosystems from destabilizing stresses" like warmer temperatures and acidification, the researchers claim. The other nice thing whales do for the climate is eat tons of food and then die. In life, they are fantastic predators. But in death, their swollen bodies are huge sarcophagi for carbon. When the Grim Reaper comes calling, whales sink and sequester lots and lots of carbon at the bottom of the sea, like this dearly departed fellow:

} — QUOTED CONTENT

## Tag Line

When writing the tag line please keep in mind that:

- Tags are meant to summarize the meaning of the evidence in a short sentence or phrase
- Avoid writing tags that misrepresent what the evidence says
- Keep it simple when writing tags

## Citation

The citation should include:

- Author's name
- Date of publication
- Publication source
- Online publications or databases also require the publication medium (online), internet URL and date accessed.

Some teams will also read the author's qualifications if they wish to emphasize this information.

### Quoted Content (body of the card)

Here are several guidelines to follow when considering what to include in the content of the card:

- A full card is considered at-least the whole paragraph that the quote or paraphrased information was taken from.
- If the part read, was from more than one paragraph, then the debater needs to include all the relevant paragraphs with no gaps in wording.
- We would prefer the whole article.

### Requirement to Submit Evidence Upon Request

All participants submitting evidence in competition shall do so orally and possess and present promptly upon demand of debater such evidence in printed hard copy or electronic form, easily accessible and readable by opponent. Failure to meet this requirement can result in (at the discretion of the judge) the evidence not being counted in the round, the evidence not being given as much weight in the decision of the round, or in extreme cases, the loss of the round. If a team is not asked by a competitor to share their evidence, they are not required to.

We take this to mean that:

- Once a debater presents evidence orally in the round, they are required to provide it to their opponents if requested (evidence does not have to be produced until the end of the speech).
- Although we encourage teams to promptly share the evidence they read after the speech in which it was presented, they are not required to until their opponent requests it.
- We define evidence as the full card (or quotation) that you are using, not just the citation. If evidence is requested, debaters must present the full cards (or quotation) used in their speeches.
- Once a debater has presented evidence in the round (not before they have read it), their opponents can request it at any time.
- Once requested, debaters must be able to produce their evidence in one of two ways (1) electronic file on a flash drive (2) paper copy. If a paper copy is provided, it should be made available to the opponent for the remainder of the round.
- If a team with a computer has an opponent without a computer, the team with the computer must (1) produce a paper copy of their evidence or (2) lend the other team a computer for the entirety of the round. (You can always bring a third viewing computer.)

If a team brings only one computer, they must have their evidence available in paper form. Not adhering to this rule is equivalent to not producing evidence and you will lose the round for not providing evidence.

## Pre-Disclosure in HUDL

In the wider debate community, pre-disclosure can take several forms including:

- The practice of teams posting their tag lines, citations or even full text on websites like <http://www.debatecoaches.org/resources/wikis>. This process takes place before the tournament begins. Many teams nation-wide post their information on this site and others like it.
- At tournaments, some teams will orally share with their opponents what arguments/evidence they are running before the beginning of the round.
- At tournaments, some teams will provide electronic files/paper copies of what arguments/evidence they are running before the beginning of the round.

In some debate communities, disclosure has become a widespread norm. There are arguments in favor and against it. Some tournaments require disclosure while others do not. **In HUDL, mandatory disclosure is not required.** If a team decides to disclose, we recommend the following guidelines:

- Disclosure of arguments, cases, etc. will be done on a mutual and individual basis. All shared materials must be cleared with a coach and must come from an individual. You may not share teammate materials.
- If communication is needed with other teams to share materials, it must occur between coaches. No student to student deals should be made and you should not approach another team's coach on this issue.
- There is often confusion related to disclosure, thus keeping coaches in the loop is key, especially within HUDL where a significant number of coaches/debaters are new to the activity and the practice of disclosure.

## Sharing Evidence at Virtual Online Tournaments

It is recommended that teams share evidence with one another via shareable links (Dropbox, Google Drive or OneSource) during the round. Links can be posted into the chat for both the debaters and the judge to view. If links don't work, students can share information through Outlook or Microsoft Teams. When it comes to sharing evidence with judges, please keep in mind that judges and volunteers are not allowed to communicate with students through email or any other personal electronic means such as by text, phone calls, or through social media.

For online tournaments it is highly encouraged that you submit your evidence before the round or speech in which it is presented to ensure that the round flows smoothly. If your opponents or judges cannot hear what you are saying because of technical issues, having your evidence in front of them will help them make the best decision.

## Evidence in World Schools

**In-person tournament rules:** Evidence in World Schools is handled differently than any other division. World Schools debaters are not allowed to use or read printed materials during the round. Debaters should have researched the debate motions extensively before the tournament and have a good working knowledge of the topics at hand. Debaters are allowed to bring handwritten cases and notes into each round, and it is recommended that pieces of evidence are cited on these notes. Debaters may refer to any information that is within the realm of knowledge of educated and informed citizens.

Printed speech templates, designed to be written upon, can be used if most of the text on the page is handwritten.

(Handwritten is defined as the original handwritten document. Copies of handwritten notes are considered printed material.)

## Use of Electronic Devices



*If your team is using a computer to debate, make sure it is not connected to the internet. Then, without making a big deal out of it, politely inform the judge and your opponents before the round begins that your computer is not connected to the internet.*

Students can use computers in debate rounds under the following guidelines:

1. Students are permitted to flow debate rounds on the computer. Electronic flows do not need to be provided to opposing team members.
2. Students can read evidence from a computer in Congressional Debate, Lincoln Douglas Policy Debate, and Public Forum Debate. Debaters must be prepared to provide copies of all evidence to the opposing team in the form of either (1) a paper copy of the material, (2) a viewing computer, or (3) a memory stick if the other team has a computer. If this rule is not followed, it will result in the loss of the round.
3. Computers are not to be connected to the internet during a debate round. Access to the internet is strictly prohibited.
4. Accusations of misconduct regarding internet usage shall be addressed to the judge at the time of the incident. After the ballot has been signed, all allegations not previously raised will be forfeited.
5. Transfer of evidence to a viewing computer shall be taken from the speaker's prep-time. The speaker should transfer all evidence to be read in the upcoming speech before beginning that speech.



***If a team believes their opponent is using the internet during the round, they need to raise the issue with the judge during the round. It is near impossible to prove internet cheating allegations after the round has ended. Instead of contacting your debate coach during the round, you may ask the judge to call a Tournament Director to resolve the issue. Calling your coach during the round could violate the rules under the Coaching During Debate Rounds section below. Once the round has ended, a Tournament Director will not intervene if the violation wasn't brought to the judge's attention by the debaters, if the judge didn't notice it themselves, or the violation cannot be proven.***

For online tournaments internet usage is restricted to the transfer of evidence and the round itself. No outside websites may be accessed for any reason. If you are caught cheating through improper access of the internet or improper coaching, your team will be disqualified.

## Divisions and Debate Formats

Once debaters have competed in 5 tournaments during the previous or current seasons (or combined) they will compete in the varsity division.

(Example: Student competed in 2 tournaments during the 18-19 debate season, they can compete JV for 3 tournaments this season; Student competed in 1 tournament during the 18-19 debate season, they can compete JV for 4 tournaments this season)

Debaters who make it to semi-finals or higher twice in the current season are recommend to move up to varsity.

First year debaters who want to start in Varsity are still welcome to move back down to JV, with the 5-tournament rule still in place.

## Cross Examination Debate

Affirmative and negative sides will be predetermined for all preliminary rounds.

## Speeches and Time Limits

### CONSTRUCTIVES

1AC—8 minutes

CX by 2N—3 minutes

1NC—8 minutes

CX by 1A—3 minutes

2AC—8 minutes

CX by 1N—3 minutes

2NC—8 minutes

CX by 2A—3 minutes

### REBUTTALS

1NR—5 minutes

1AR—5 minutes

2NR—5 minutes

2AR—5 minutes

Total prep time for each team to use throughout the round—8 minutes

## CX Division Restrictions

There are no longer any restrictions on Junior Varsity Policy Debate.

## Lincoln Douglas Debate

Affirmative and negative sides will be predetermined for all preliminary rounds.

### Speeches and Time Limits

#### CONSTRUCTIVES

Affirmative—6 minutes

CX by Neg.—3 minutes

Negative—7 minutes

CX by Aff.—3 minutes

#### REBUTTALS

Affirmative—4 minutes

Negative—6 minutes

Affirmative—3 minutes

Total prep time for each debater to use throughout the round—4 minutes

## Public Forum Debate (New Speech Times as of August 2019)

1. Each round (both in-person and online tournaments) starts with a coin toss; the winning team selects either:
  - a. The side (pro or con) they will argue, or
  - b. The speaker order (to begin the debate or give the last speech).

The team that loses the toss will then decide their preference from the option not selected by the winner.

2. The current National Speech and Debate Association topic for public forum will be used at each HUDL tournament.

### Speeches and Time Limits

Speaker 1 (Team A, 1st speaker ).....4 min.

Speaker 2 (Team B, 1st speaker) .....4 min.

Crossfire (between speakers 1 & 2)....3 min.

Speaker 3 (Team A, 2nd speaker ) .....4 min.

Speaker 4 (Team B, 2nd speaker ).....4 min.

Crossfire (between speakers 3 & 4)...3 min.

Speaker 1 Summary.....3 min.

Speaker 2 Summary.....3 min.

Grand Crossfire (all speakers) .....3 min.

Speaker 3 Final Focus.....2 min.

Speaker 4 Final Focus.....2 min.

Each team may use up to three minutes of prep time.



## World Schools Debate

1. Proposition (affirmative) and opposition (negative) sides will be predetermined for all preliminary rounds.
2. Teams are comprised of 3-5 students. Only three students participate in any single debate but other team members are allowed to assist in preparation before the tournament, during impromptu round prep, and are required to observe during competition even if they are not one of the three students participating in the round. As long as three team members are participating in each round, it does not matter which team members participate in any given round.
3. The first proposition speaker is required to inform the judge (if they are not aware) about when and how to signal the beginning and end of protected time. This does not count towards their speech time and can be done before the round begins.
4. Before the debate round begins, each team will notify the judge of the names and order of the speakers. This will include the name of the speaker giving the reply speech.
5. Teams may not use or read any printed or published materials during a debate, with the exception of an English Language dictionary, a bilingual dictionary, and a single-volume encyclopedia or almanac per team. Any printed materials debaters may have with them need to be put away and out of sight during a debate.
6. Printed speech templates with limited printed text are permitted.
7. The use of computers during the debate is not allowed in this format.
8. As of the 2017-2018 debate season, Varsity and Junior Varsity divisions will use the same time limits. Prepared motions will use the longer times and impromptu motions will use the shorter times. Please read below for more information on the time limits.

### **Prepared Motion Time Limits**

#### CONSTRUCTIVE SPEECHES

- 1 Prop—8 minutes
- 1 Opp—8 minutes
- 2 Prop—8 minutes
- 2 Opp—8 minutes
- 3 Prop—8 minutes
- 3 Opp—8 minutes

#### REPLY SPEECHES

- Opp Reply—4 minutes
- Prop Reply—4 minutes
- No prep time during the round*

### **Impromptu Motion Time Limits**

#### CONSTRUCTIVE SPEECHES

- 1 Prop—5 minutes
- 1 Opp—5 minutes
- 2 Prop—5 minutes
- 2 Opp—5 minutes
- 3 Prop—5 minutes
- 3 Opp—5 minutes

#### REPLY SPEECHES

- Opp Reply—3 minutes
- Prop Reply—3 minutes
- No prep time during the round.*

## Prepared Debate Rules

Prepared motions are announced in advance of the tournament. The motions will be designated for specific rounds. Students may work with coaches and any available sources on prepared motions.

## Impromptu Debate Rules

Impromptu motions are announced thirty minutes prior to the beginning of the round. Once the motion is announced, teams may not communicate with their coaches or any other participants except for their own team members. Teams may not use any handwritten or printed or published materials with the exception of an English Language dictionary, a bilingual dictionary, and a single volume encyclopedia or almanac per team. Debaters prepping for an impromptu debate must put away all telephones, computers or any other devices capable communicating or accessing information outside the preparation room. There is no prep time during the round.

- Sides for impromptu rounds will be determined by the pairings.
- If the pairing says flip sides, teams must flip and choose between proposition and opposition before the topic is announced. Once the topic has been announced, prep time will begin.

## Online World Schools Debate

**Evidence Rules:** For online tournaments, World Schools debaters are not restricted to using only handwritten notes. In the virtual online environment, debaters can read directly from a computer or from print outs of typed up notes. All material should have been prepared before the round. Students are not allowed to use the internet to research during any round, whether prepared or impromptu.

**Acceptable Online Dictionaries, Encyclopedias and Almanacs:** World Schools debaters can use dictionaries, encyclopedias, and almanacs for in-person tournaments with certain restrictions. To ensure this resource is available for online tournaments, World Schools debaters are permitted to use the internet to access online versions of these resources. Below are a number of websites debaters are encouraged to use.

### Almanacs

- CIA World Factbook: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>

### Encyclopedias

- Encyclopedia.com: <https://www.encyclopedia.com/>
- Britannica.com: <https://www.britannica.com/> (subscription required may be available through HISD account)

### Dictionary

- Oxford English Dictionary: <https://oed.com/>
- The Free Dictionary.com: <https://www.thefreedictionary.com/>
- Merriam-Webster.com: <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/free>

**For Prepared Motions:** If your team has more than three debaters, please decide which debaters are speaking during the round before entering your virtual room on Yaately. The three debaters that are speaking in the round should enter as participants. The debaters not speaking in the round should enter as observers. Teams must notify judges before the start of the round who will be speaking and who will be observing.

**For Impromptu Motions:** All debaters on a team should enter their virtual debate room on Yaately as participants. Once all debaters and judges are present in their rooms, the tournament staff will announce the impromptu motion with an event wide announcement. Each team has access to their own private prep room. Once the impromptu motion is announced teams should enter their private rooms to

prepare for the round. Prep time for online tournaments is 30 minutes. If your team has more than 3 members, all the members are allowed to communicate during prep time. Once students are in the preparation room, they should keep their microphones and cameras (if possible) on. If a judge or tournament staff member enters your prep room and requests you to turn on your camera, you must do so. Teams are not allowed to use electronic devices, except to access the preparation room, for research during the preparation time for impromptu motions, nor may they speak with anyone not on their individual team. Judges and tournament staff are allowed to perform room checks during prep time or enter prep rooms to resolve technical issues. When prep time is over debaters should go back into their main competition room. Non-Speaking debaters on teams with more than three people should leave the competition room entirely and reenter as observers. Observers do not have the access to use video or audio. Once everyone is back in the competition room in their appropriate roles the round will begin.

**Points of Information (POI):** POIs should be non-verbal. It is recommended that debaters use Yaately's POI feature. This feature makes it very obvious that a debater wants to ask a POI. Other less preferable methods of asking a POI include raising a hand or using a handwritten note with POI written on it. Once a Point of Information is recognized, the speaker can turn on their microphone to offer the Point of Information, then turn it off again.

## Congressional Debate

For this contest, HUDL will use the current Texas Forensic Association Docket. For the most part, HUDL will use the University Interscholastic League (UIL) rules as a guide for running this contest; although, modifications may be put in place to better meet the needs of HUDL students. Some rules and procedures may be simplified. Below, you will find some highlights from the 2018-2019 UIL rule book.

RUNNING THE EVENT: A congress tournament begins with the establishment of an agenda, or order of legislation selected to be debated from the complete docket. The speech introducing legislation is called an authorship speech if the student who wrote the legislation delivers it before the assembly, or if delivered by a teammate of the student. It is called a sponsorship speech if given by another student in the chamber. The author or sponsor may speak for up to 3 minutes, followed by 2 minutes of continuous questioning by other delegates in the chamber. The first opposing speech is also 3 minutes, followed by 2 minutes of questioning. Each speech afterwards on the same legislation is 3 minutes followed by 1 minute of questioning. Each judge (also called a "scorer") evaluates each speech every student in the chamber delivers. Judges also take answers to questions into account. Students are awarded points per speech. The official parliamentarian also scores. Top scorers advance to a "super" final congress.

SIZE OF CHAMBERS: The optimum size is 20 legislators per chamber for a three-hour session; otherwise, a session should be lengthened by 10 minutes per each additional student beyond 20.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN CHAMBER: The use of laptop and tablet computers and other electronic retrieval devices by competitors in UIL Congress is allowed so long as wired or wireless connections are disabled and remain disabled throughout the contest. Rules are synonymous with those in UIL Debate and Extemporaneous Speaking. Cell phones and smart phones are prohibited in the chamber. Traditional timing devices are permitted.

STUDENT PRESIDING OFFICERS (PO): This year, we may use student POs; however, we will put a process in place to ensure they the POs understand their roles and will fulfill their duties fairly.

## Debate Judges

Debate judges are a highly important component of any debate program and need to be treated with respect.

### General Judge Expectations

1. The judge must assign a winner and loser for each round.
2. The judge must allocate speaker points between 20 and 30 for each participant in the round.
3. Judges shall be blocked against schools where they have prior coaching, mentoring or debating experience.
4. Judges are prohibited from disseminating their flows from rounds to individuals or squads that are competing at the tournament.

### Diverse Judge Pool

HUDL has a pedagogical commitment to maintaining a judge pool that is diverse in important ways: academic debate experience, age, demographics, and professional background. This commitment includes support for the use of judges without extensive or no prior debate experience. HUDL debaters must become proficient at understanding and articulating debate arguments in a way that is understandable to an educated layperson. Debaters have the additional burden of explaining their arguments at a moderated speed and in terms of general language (rather than relying on debate jargon), as they may need to do in most “real world” situations. And they practice the valuable skill of “reading their audience”. At the same time, HUDL is committed to including a segment of debate expert practitioners or professionals in its judge pool (university debaters, former HUDL debaters, or coaches, primarily). These persons help advance the debaters’ technical sophistication and advanced knowledge about debate practices and the topic area.

### Coach Judges

Coaches are obligated to comply with the judging guidelines as outlined in the Coach Agreement; however, coaches are expected to judge when needed regardless of the situation.

### High School and Recent Graduate Judges

HUDL alumni who have graduated high school less than two years ago are prohibited from serving as judges for any of the Varsity divisions. Only in rare circumstances (ballot table error, significant judge shortage, etc.) would HUDL alumni less than two years out from graduation end up judging a Varsity debate round.



*We will do our best to ensure that recent HUDL alumni graduates do not judge a Varsity debate round; however, **if it does happen, it does not provide grounds for a protest.** HUDL students should be prepared to adapt to any type of judge they may face.*

## Judge Disclosure

HUDL Judges are instructed to not disclose the outcome of any round to the debaters or coach(es) of the teams who debated; although, we understand this sometimes happens. Judges are welcome to give a limited but constructive criticism after the conclusion of the round, but only after their ballot is delivered to the judges' room.



Debaters **SHOULD NOT** ask or pester judges for their decision once a round is complete. Debaters who do this may be given the loss for the round (even if they won on the ballot) if a judge complains of rude behavior.

## Judge Protests

Due to the high number of judges needed to run a tournament, we have a wide diversity of judges. Unfortunately, from time to time, we may get a judge that isn't ideal. In order to facilitate better tournaments, we need to know from coaches if the judges are not following the rules. This is where a judge protest comes in.



Good and bad judge feedback helps us provide the best quality judges. With that in mind, please take the time to give us both good and bad feedback on judges.

If a coach witnesses or is alerted to inappropriate behavior by a judge, they should not confront the judge. All judge complaints should go through the League Directors. Depending on the severity of the issue, coaches may choose to approach the League Directors immediately. If not, an email on the following Monday after the tournament would be appreciated.

In general, HUDL will honor all judge decisions and will not overturn a decision because of claims the individual was a "bad judge." Judge complaints/protests must always come from a coach and must always follow the protests guidelines outlined in this document. Coaches may complete a formal judge complaint using the standard Judge Complaint Form which can be found at the ballot table. All formal judge complaints will be reviewed before the judge in question is allowed to attend a future HUDL tournament.

As stated numerous times in this document, it is a team's responsibility to inform judges of any rule violations made by their competitors; especially if it could affect the outcome of a debate. This should be done within the debate round.

## Culminating Activities

### City Championship Eligibility

For a team to participate in the HUDL City Championship, each student on that team must have competed in at least three (3) HUDL tournaments prior to the City Championship in the same debate season. The City Championship qualifying tournament can count towards the required 3 tournaments.

The City Championship includes the top teams from Houston ISD and CASE Debates. A proportional entry system will be used to determine how many spots each sub-league will receive at the City Championship. Once both sub-leagues have their preliminary debates, the Directors will announce breaks and brackets for the City Championship.

### Squad of the Year Point Structure

Due to a need to make this a more balanced competition, this award will use a cumulative points system. Sweepstakes points will accumulate from year to year and the team whose total is highest at the conclusion of the debate season (not including City Championship) will win. The winning team's record will be set back to zero and the records for other schools will be carried forward to the next year. This process will begin with the winner of the 2017-2018 award.

### Sweepstakes

Sweepstakes will be calculated at each individual tournament for the purpose of determining the overall team of the year award. The five Varsity divisions will count towards sweeps. The results of Junior Varsity will only be used as the first tie breaker. Number of prelim rounds won will be used as the second tie breaker.

Point structure:

- 1st place 20 points
- 2nd place 15 points
- Semi-finals 10 points
- Quarter-finals 5 points
- Octo-finals 2 points