

2017-18 Debate

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1.1 Season Tournament Limitations for District Eligibility

§A. A school or individual may compete in up to ten tournaments for both speech and debate (ex. 3 debate only, 5 speech/debate combined, and 2 speech only). A tournament is defined as four or more schools.

§B. No debater may miss more than eight days of school to attend tournaments.

§C. Any school or individual exceeding the allowed number of tournaments (exception: NSDA) will be ineligible for district and state tournaments.

1.2 L-D and PF Resolution Determination

On February 1 (or the first school day thereafter), the debate commissioner will hold a vote for all head debate coaches to determine which resolutions competitors will debate in both Lincoln-Douglas and Public Forum debate for the district debate and state debate tournaments. S/he will close voting after no more than five school days and immediately disclose the results.

1.3 Principal Verification

§A. Tournament Limits: A signed Principal Verification Form must be submitted to both district and state tournament managers to verify the number of tournaments attended.

§B. Appropriate Debating: A signed Principal Approval Statement must be submitted to both district and state tournament managers to acknowledge that:

1. Argumentation advanced by debaters from the school will meet the standards of conduct of that school, and
2. Constructive speeches, rebuttals and cross examinations will be appropriate in language and action for public performance by high school students.

2.1 District Tournament Format

§A. State debate qualifiers will be determined at a district tournament in the manner approved by their Board of Control.

§B. No school may enter more than sixteen (16) entries in the district tournament. (A Policy team, a Public Forum team, an LD debater and/or a Congressional debater each constitute one entry). No school may enter more than eight (8) LD entries,

eight (8) policy entries, eight (8) public forum entries or eight (8) congressional entries.

§C. The District Board of Control may approve an additional entry or wild card for the district debate tournament to avoid bye rounds (created by an odd number of entries). Note: Byes do not apply to Congressional debate.

§D. Each district may hold one, two, or three qualifying tournaments based on the schools participating in the district tournament(s) with the approval of the local coaches and the District Board of Control. Districts will decide the format of their district tournament(s) by October 1st and notify the IHSAA.

2.2 State Debate Representation

§A. Representation from district to state shall be based on the actual number of entries that complete all rounds of the district tournament.

§B. Representation (LD, Policy, PF) quotas for state debate:

Dist Entries	# to State	Dist Entries	# to State
3 - 6	2	19 - 24	8
7 - 12	4	25 - 30	10
13 - 18	6	31 - 36	12

§C. Representation (Congressional Debate) quotas for state debate:

Dist Entries	# to State	Dist Entries	# to State
1 - 3	1	16 - 18	6
4 - 6	2	19 - 21	7
7 - 9	3	22 - 24	8
10 - 12	4	25 - 27	9
13 - 15	5	28 - 30	10

§D. Honest Effort: If an entry does not complete all rounds at the district tournament, that entry may be included in the count used to determine the number of state qualifiers provided the tournament manager determines that the non-finish was due to emergency circumstances beyond the student's control.

2.3 Alternates

§A. Alternates shall be determined at the district tournament, in the manner approved by the District Board of Control. Each district may designate two official alternates for each event. In the event a qualifying entry cannot attend State, the official district alternate entry will be entered. Note: Alternates do not receive repair rights at the state tournament.

§B. Drops shall be reported to the IHSAA and changed on the "Joy of Tournaments" website by noon on the Wednesday preceding State. Drops reported after that time will result in a fine being levied against the school (see speech arts general regulations).

§C. Alternates replacing late drops will be entered up to the start of the first round at State. First choice will be the alternates from the district reporting the drop. If that alternate is not available, another will be randomly selected from a pool of available district alternates, first from the #1 alternates' pool and then from the #2 alternates' pool.

§D. Schools choosing to bring official district alternates to the state tournament must register them upon arrival at the tournament site.

3.0 IDC/NSDA Rule Precedence

§A. The ISATA debate caucus will vote each year during the conference to adopt the current NSDA portion of the debate procedures and rules. This will serve to maintain consistency between the state and national rules.

§B. All references to the NSDA district tournament should be understood as embodied in the state debate tournament. Procedures and references unique to the district NSDA tournament—including but not limited to the tabulation committee, tabulation method, the national office and a national office referee—should be considered null and void at the state debate tournament.

§C. The NSDA is in no way affiliated with the state debate tournament. Duties and responsibilities tied to the national office defer to the state grievance committee who acts as the final arbiter at the IHSAA state debate tournament. All decisions rendered by this committee may not be appealed.

4.0 Judging Guidelines

§A. State debate judges shall complete a digital paradigm posted for coach and student access on the www.isata.org website.

§B. One policy debate constitutes a judging round. Two LD debates or two

Public Forum debates constitute a judging round.

§C. A judge should not judge an entry more than once.

§D. Each school will be provided with a copy of their ballot at the conclusion of the tournament.

§E. The ballot is the official decision of the judge. Judges are not obligated to “defend a ballot” or answer a coach’s questions regarding a ballot decision.

§F. Oral critiques are not given at state debate.

§G. Judges do not disqualify contestants. Rule violations shall be reported to the tournament manager.

§H. When sending judge names to the IHSAA for state debate, coaches must declare all schools with which a judge is affiliated and coded against.

5.1 General Tournament Rules

§A. Recording: Permission to record a debate must be obtained in writing from all coaches and debaters involved.

§B. Scouting—which is defined as sharing information regarding competitors’ cases, arguments, or evidence—is not permitted. No one may scout to obtain and share advance information of an opponent’s case. No one other than competing debaters or teams and the judge(s) may flow a round. Any contestant still competing at the tournament may not observe any round. Prior to octafinals, all observers must be affiliated with one of the competing teams. Observers may not participate in any manner during rounds, including flowing, note taking or coaching.

§C. Disqualification for code manipulation: Switching code numbers, divisions or partners is grounds for disqualification from the tournament.

§D. Forfeiture of Round for Tardiness: An entry will forfeit a round for failure to appear within ten minutes of the scheduled time, unless the delay is caused by the tournament itself. A forfeiture will result in a loss, a rank of 7 (in policy) or a rank of 9 (in congress), and 0 speaker points.

§E. Timed Road Maps: To ensure that rounds stay on time, speakers will be allotted a ten second ‘road map’ before their speech time begins. No arguments may be advanced during this time period.

5.2 General Argumentation Rules

§A. Topicality: The first affirmative must define the terms of the proposition either literally or operationally. The first negative may either accept or reject the definition of terms. Any topicality arguments must be initiated in the first negative constructive speech.

§B. Plans: In policy debate, the affirmative must present the plan, or a reasonable outline, during the first affirmative constructive speech. The affirmative in Lincoln-Douglas may choose to present a plan—although it is not required—but it must be presented during the first affirmative constructive. Note: Plans are not permitted in public forum debate.

§C. Counterplans: In policy debate, the negative must present a counterplan case (for which a minor repair is advanced by the negative), during the first negative constructive speech. The negative must not implement the resolution advanced by the affirmative. The negative in Lincoln-Douglas may choose to present a counterplan—although it is not required—but it must be presented during the first negative constructive. The negative must not implement the resolution advanced by the affirmative in Lincoln-Douglas debate. Note: Counterplans are not permitted in public forum debate.

§D. New Arguments: New issues shall not be advanced in rebuttal speeches; however, additional evidence and extensions on previous arguments are appropriate.

5.3 Idaho Congressional Debate Adaptations

Due to state tournament time limitations and differing means of registration from the NSDA district tournament format the following changes are made from NSDA Congress Guidelines:

§A. A session is defined as including:

1. A minimum of 2 ½ - 3 hours.
2. 12-17 students as the optimum number for a 2 and one half (2½) hour session; otherwise, a session should be lengthened by 10 minutes per each additional student beyond 17. Chambers may not be larger than 20 students.

§B. As students are not divided into the house and senate, chapter 9.3

Assigning Students to Chambers §1 is null and void. 9.3 Assigning Students to

Chambers §2 is the first section applied for purposes of the IHSAA rules.

5.4 Policy, Public Forum and Lincoln Douglas Adaptations

§A. The tournament management will assign five random preliminary rounds. No round will begin later than 9:00 p.m. on the first day.

§B. Contestants will debate two affirmative and two negative preliminary rounds in Lincoln-Douglas and policy debate. These styles of debate will flip for sides in round five. When possible, contestants should meet neither competitors from their own school nor prior opponents.

§C. At the conclusion of the five preliminary rounds, the tournament management will create an octafinal bracket. Octafinals, quarterfinals, semifinals and finals are single

elimination rounds.

1. All competitors in the bracket will flip for sides except for prior opponents in Lincoln-Douglas and policy debate, who will be locked on opposite sides.
2. Brackets will be broken to avoid teammates debating each other for as long as possible. When teammates are bracketed against each other, the lower-seeded of those entries will be replaced with the next lower-seeded entry in the bracket not from the same school.
3. Congress will provide a semifinal round to the top thirty-two (32) competitors in the tournament. This may be adjusted up to thirty-six (36) students, depending upon presiding officer selection in (only) the semifinal round. The top eight (8) competitors from each house will advance to the final super congress round.

§D. Tie Break Procedure: The determining factors for breaking a tie shall be

1) speaker ranking. If the tie still exists, the criteria shall be (in this order): 2) head to head, 3) opponents' win/loss record, 4) speaker points, 5) drop high and low speaker points, 6) additional tie breaker calculations available in the tournament software to avoid ties. In the event that a tie still exists, a coin will be flipped to break the tie. The debate commissioner and tournament manager will oversee this.

§E. Strike Privilege: Coaches of debaters in semis and finals will be provided with the names of the judges for those rounds, and will have the opportunity to disqualify one judge. Judges' school and district will be available for the purpose of striking.

5.6 Determining Team Champions

§A. Team winners will be determined based on a combined total of points earned in all four disciplines.

Place	Points	Place	Points
First	15	Semifinalists	12
Second	13	Quarterfinalists	8
		Octafinalists	4

§B. In Congressional Speaking, each of the sixteen competitors in the final super session will earn the equivalent points awarded in the other styles of debate. First place will receive 15 points, second place will receive 13 points, semifinalists (third – fourth places) will receive 12 points. Quarterfinalists (fifth – eighth places) will receive 8 points. Octafinalists (ninth – sixteenth places) will receive 4 points.

§C. Ties in team placement will be broken by:

1. Number of entries advancing into break rounds, then
2. Number of state qualifying entries.