

# 2009-2010 Debate Terms and Conditions

In accordance with Section 1.450 of the IHSA Constitution, the Board of Directors has approved the Terms and Conditions governing the 2009-2010 IHSA Debate Tournament Series.

## I. SCHOOL CLASSIFICATION

Competition in the IHSA 2009-2010 Debate Tournament Series will be held for all member schools without classification.

## II. DATES AND SITES

A. The State Final Debate Tournament will be held at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, IL.

B. Dates for the tournament shall be March 18-20, 2010.

## III. ON-LINE ENTRIES, WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURES, ELIGIBILITY, AND ON-LINE LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

The policies for Original Entry Deadlines, Late Entries and Late Withdrawals shall be the policies and procedures regarding entries for all IHSA-sponsored activities, included in the 2009-2010 Entry Policies and Procedures which can be found in the Schools Center on the IHSA website.

### A. On-line Entries

All member schools must enter their school into the state series competition through the IHSA Schools Center on the IHSA Website at [www.ihsa.org](http://www.ihsa.org). The deadline for entry is November 1, 2009. The 2009-10 Entry Policies and Procedures outlining the online entry procedures for all IHSA-sponsored tournaments can be found in the Schools Center on the IHSA website.

Competing schools are responsible for Event Fees as described in Section IV. Checks for Event Fees should be made payable to the IHSA and brought to registration at the tournament.

### B. Late Entries

Any attempt to enter a sport or activity online after the established deadlines will be denied. Schools that wish to enter after the deadline will be considered late. To be considered for late entry, the Principal/Official Representative must contact the IHSA administrator in charge of that activity. The penalty for late entry shall be a payment of \$100.00.

### C. Breach of Contract By-law 6.041 (Withdrawal Procedure)

1. To withdraw without penalty, the school principal must notify the IHSA office, in writing, of the school's team withdrawal from Debate State Finals prior to **March 3, 2010**.

2. Withdrawal after **March 3, 2010** will result in a school being liable for payments of \$100.00 late withdrawal penalty.

3. If a school withdraws one or more entry after **March 3, 2010**, the school shall be liable for all event fees (see terms and conditions Article IV-A) for each debate category withdrawn and shall be assessed additional penalties in the amount of \$25.00 per event withdrawn.

4. If a school does not officially withdraw and/or does not show up for competition, the school will be assessed the penalties in "2" and "3" above and if applicable, the school may be charged for any additional financial loss sustained by the offended schools or the Association as a result of such breach (*Judges' fees if applicable*). **The school shall also be considered in Breach of Contract under the terms of the IHSA By-law 6.040, and the matter shall be reported to the IHSA Board of Directors for disposition.**

### D. Eligibility

Responsibility of Individual School: The principal is the official school representative in all interscholastic activities and is responsible to see that all students from his/her school entered in competition are eligible under the rules. All correspondence with the IHSA Office should be conducted through the principal.

In each contest in which his/her school is represented, the principal shall have present an adult, preferably a member of the faculty, who shall supervise and be responsible for the conduct of the participants and other persons from the school. Failure to comply with this provision shall result in disqualification of the school's contestants.

### E. On-Line List of Participants

Each school must complete the Online List of Participants by the deadline date of March 3, 2010. If a school does not submit the Online List of Participants by the deadline, coaches and/or participants from the school are subject to penalties which could include, but not be limited to being ruled ineligible to compete in the State Series **and/or charged \$100.00**.

#### 1. Entry Limitations

a. Schools are allowed to have up to four entries in Policy, Lincoln-Douglas, and Public Forum Debate. All entries will debate both sides of the question. Schools are allowed to have up to ten (10) entries in Congressional Debate.

b. Policy Debaters may participate in only one (1) debate event at the State Finals. Congressional Debaters may double enter in either Lincoln-Douglas or Public Forum Debate.

c. Substitutions and changes in entries are permitted with the following limitations:

1) Changes in Original online entries may be made prior to the deadline for submitting final entries to the contest manager (March 3, 2010), by notifying the IHSA Office in writing.

2) Members of participating teams shall be determined prior to the start of competition. No substitutions will be permitted once the Debate contest has begun.

## IV. HOST FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

### A. Event Fees

An Event Fee of \$50.00 per Policy team, \$25.00 per Lincoln-Douglas, \$15.00 per Congressional Debate Entry and \$25 per Public Forum Debate Entry shall be paid to the State Final Contest Manager. No contestant from a school will be permitted to participate in the State Final contest if the Event Fees (\$50.00 per Policy team, \$25.00 per Lincoln-Douglas, \$15.00 per Congressional Debate Entry and \$25 per Public Forum Debate Entry) are not paid. Checks for Event Fees should be made payable to the Illinois Wesleyan University and brought to registration at the tournament.

**B. Judges Fees:** Judges hired by the IHSA shall be paid a flat fee of \$150.00 for Policy, Lincoln Douglas, Congressional and Public Forum Debate at the State Final Tournament. However, if a judge is late for a round or misses an assignment, the flat fee will be rescinded and the judge will be paid \$10.00 per round actually judged. Any judge who drives more than 70 miles round trip to the site of the State Final Contest shall be reimbursed a travel allowance of \$.30 per mile in excess of 70 miles round trip. Reimbursement shall be directly from the IHSA office upon the judges' submission of a travel report form to be provided by the IHSA to the contest manager.

## V. TOURNAMENT ASSIGNMENTS

All schools will participate in the state contest at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, IL.

## VI. TOURNAMENT STRUCTURES AND TIMES SCHEDULES

### A. Contest Management:

1. Tournament Committee: Tournament committees composed of debate coaches and a representative from the IHSA Speech Advisory Committee will be appointed by the IHSA. One member shall be designated to be in charge of each of the four divisions: Policy, Public Forum, Lincoln-Douglas, and Congressional. The tournament committees will assist the State Final Manager.

Participating schools shall refer online to a listing of the State Debate Tournament

Committee members. The functions of the Tournament Committee shall be:

- a. to aid the manager in planning, organizing and administering the contest;
- b. to interpret the rules when necessary; and
- c. to serve as a panel to select contest judges.

The State Final Tournament Committee shall be authorized to conduct the contest under the provisions of these Terms and Conditions and to make final decisions on any issues not specifically covered by the rules. If a situation develops in which there is an apparent unfairness to a contestant, and which is determined to be the result of an administrative or judge's error, the Tournament Committee shall determine the manner in which the situation shall be resolved.

The Tournament Committee shall be responsible to resolve questions of rules interpretation, to arbitrate disputes and to apply penalties for violations of contest rules. Decisions of the Tournament Committee in all cases herein described shall be final.

#### B. Time Schedule

The time schedule for the State Final Tournament will be established by the state final tournament committee and will be posted online on the IHSA website.

### VII. ADVANCEMENT OF WINNERS

All contestants will debate five rounds on Thursday and Friday. The highest ranking contestants shall be paired for elimination rounds on Saturday. The winner of the final debate in each event shall be awarded first place and second place shall be awarded runner-up.

### VIII. TOURNAMENT RULES

#### A. Policy Debate Competition Rules

##### 1. Definition:

Policy Debate is organized oral argument which, in the setting of interscholastic competition, provides participants an opportunity to display their skills of oral persuasion, logical reasoning, research and application of evidence and extemporaneous delivery before critic judges.

##### 2. Debate Subject:

The topic for debate will be the national policy topic developed by the Discussion and Debate Committee of the National Federation of State High School Associations. By a poll of the coaches of the nation, the following resolution has been selected as the national policy debate topic for 2009-2010:

#### Problem area: Poverty

#### Resolution:

**Resolved:** The United States federal government should establish a universal health care system in the United States.

##### 3. Time Schedule and Procedures:

a. Tardiness or Absence: No debate shall start unless both members of both teams are present. If any debater is absent, the chairman shall wait five minutes for his/her appearance. If still absent, the team of which the debater is a member shall forfeit the debate to the other team. If members of both teams are absent, the debate shall be annulled and in determining the final ranking of the teams, both shall be charged with the loss of the debate.

If a coach is five (5) minutes late for a round that he/she is to judge, his/her team(s) will forfeit that round.

Note: If the manager is convinced that the tardiness of a debater, debate team, or coach/judge is due to clearly unavoidable causes, the starting time for the debate may be extended, or the debate may be arranged for another hour provided that it does not in any way interfere with or postpone termination of the contest.

b. Each elimination round must start no later than fifteen (15) minutes after it is posted. Coaches will be notified where elimination pairings will be posted and the time of posting will be recorded. If a team is late it will forfeit that round.

c. Individual Round Timing Procedures:

1) In Policy style debating, the questioner controls the time and may interrupt the person being questioned to ask that shorter or more direct answers be given or to inform the person that the answer is insufficient. The questioner should ask relevant questions. The questioner should neither comment on the answer, argue with the opponent nor make speeches. He/she should use the time for questioning only.

2) Time lost through unavoidable interruptions shall be made good to the debater. No debater may be interrupted by an opponent during the course of the debate.

3) A debate twosome shall take no more than eight (8) minutes total elapsed preparation time during a round of debate. The timekeeper should keep a record of elapsed time between speeches and indicate to the debater the time remaining.

4) Speeches in policy debate will be limited to: eight (8) minute constructives, three (3) minute cross-examinations, and five (5) minute rebuttals.

##### 4. Rules of Competition:

a. Debaters and coaches shall not exchange evidence or other materials with contestants from other schools during a contest.

b. Debaters should make all evidence read in their speeches available for perusal by their opponents. Debaters, however, should not be penalized for refusing to let opponents take such evidence back to their desks. If any judge wishes to read evidence following the debate, that evidence may be requested by the judge and should be provided. Judges must not provide such materials to the opposition.

c. Each debater is responsible for the validity of evidence read in the debate. All evidence cards or other evidentiary materials must contain the name of the author, the qualifications, the source, the date, the page number, even if the full citation is not read in the debate.

d. Prompting is not allowed. Prompting does not exclude time notations, but does prohibit all other forms of assistance to a debater during a speech or when involved in a Policy period.

e. New issues shall not be introduced during the rebuttal speeches.

f. The members of either team may switch the order of rebuttals; however, the judge must be so informed before the debate begins.

g. Observers are permitted to attend debates. Flows of the debates may be taken. Electronic (audio/video) recording of the debates shall be prohibited without prior consent of the IHSA.

h. The use of electronic retrieval devices will not be permitted. Internet access during a round of Debate is strictly prohibited.

##### 5. Matching of Teams and Drawing Procedures:

It will be attempted to allow each team to debate each side of the question three (3) times in the preliminary rounds.

a. There will be a random drawing to determine pairings for Rounds 1 and 2. Subsequent preliminary rounds should be power matched, high-low within brackets.

b. If there are at least forty (40) teams in the tournament, debaters advancing to the octa-final round will be paired according to a bracket prepared by the Tournament Committee. If there are at least eighty-five (85) teams, elimination rounds will begin with double octa-finals (top 32). If there are less than 40 teams, elimination rounds will begin with quarterfinals.

c. If in the elimination rounds, teams from the same school are necessarily paired against each other, they may either debate to determine a winner or the coach of the school involved may designate one of the teams as the winner of the round. Elimination brackets will not be altered to prevent such pairings.

d. In the elimination rounds, sides will be determined by a flip of a coin, unless they have met previously. In such cases the debaters will switch sides.

6. Judging:

a. Two (2) judges shall be used for each debate in the preliminaries. As availability permits, three (3) judges should be used in all eliminations except for the final round. Five (5) judges shall be used in the final debate.

b. Judges for Policy debate shall be in the second year removed from an Illinois high school. Judges who competed for an out-of-state high school must be high school graduates. All judges should have judged at a minimum of two tournaments on the current resolution. Each participating school shall provide a coach-judge for each team entered in the State Final. Schools which fail to provide the required number of judges in accordance with their entries shall be subject to disqualification of one Policy team per missing judge. Schools whose judges miss individual rounds shall be assessed a \$30.00 fee for each round missed.

c. Each judge shall complete the ballot indicating the winning team, reason(s) for the decision, and appropriate speaker points for each debater, and a written critique of the debate. The decision as to who won the round must be turned in to the tournament headquarters within fifteen minutes after the end of the second affirmative rebuttal. The completed ballot must be turned in as soon as possible and prior to the distribution of ballot packages to schools. A judge's decision should be made without consultation with anyone. Judges are not prohibited from oral critiques and/or disclosure of their decision to the debaters. All judges, including those who are school coaches, shall be available for all rounds including all elimination rounds.

d. Each judge shall keep a flow sheet during the debate to assist him/her in completing the ballot and reaching a decision. It is recommended that judges concentrate on the flow sheet during the debate and on the ballot after the debate has been completed.

e. Judges shall not converse with anyone, other than the debaters themselves, prior to submitting their decisions for a given round to the tournament manager.

f. Judges in any round must be at least four years removed from any affiliation with a team in that round. Judges are expected to notify the contest manager of any conflicts of interest prior to the start of competition. Judges may strike themselves from hearing any individual team(s) in the tournament.

g. Schools with teams in elimination rounds must maintain a representative in the tab room area until the rounds have started.

**B. Lincoln-Douglas Debate Competition Rules**

1. Definition:

Lincoln-Douglas Debate is organized oral argument which, with only one debater arguing on each side of a proposition of value, provides participants an opportunity to display their skills of oral persuasion, logical reasoning, research and application of evidence and extemporaneous delivery before a critic judge.

Lincoln-Douglas Debate is audience-oriented, meaning that people should be able to follow the clash of ideas without taking a flow sheet.

2. Debate Subject:

The topic for the IHSA Lincoln-Douglas debate series will be the March-April topic of the National Forensic League as published in The Rostrum (<http://www.nflonline.org/Rostrum/Rostrum>). Wording of this topic will be posted online at [www.ihsa.org](http://www.ihsa.org), on the debate menu page.

3. Timing Schedule and Procedures:

a. The order of speakers and time limits for each Lincoln-Douglas debate will be as follows:

Affirmative	6 minute constructive
Negative	3 minute cross-examination
Negative	7 minute constructive
Affirmative	3 minute cross-examination
Affirmative	4 minute rebuttal
Negative	6 minute rebuttal
Affirmative	3 minute rebuttal

b. State Final Time Schedule: The time schedule for the State Final Tournament will be established by the state final tournament committee and will be posted on the IHSA website.

c. Tardiness or absence: No debate shall start unless both contestants are present. If any debater is absent, the chairman shall wait five minutes for his/her appearance. If still absent, the absent debater shall forfeit the debate. If both competitors are absent after the five-minute grace period, the debate shall be annulled and in determining the final rankings, both shall be charged with the loss of the debate.

Note: If the tournament manager is convinced that the tardiness of a debater or judge is due to clearly unavoidable causes, the starting time for the debate may be extended, or the debate may be arranged for another hour provided that it does not in any way interfere with or postpone termination of the contest.

d. Elimination Rounds. Each elimination round must start fifteen (15) minutes after it is posted. Coaches will be notified where elimination pairings will be posted and the time of posting will be recorded. If a debater is late he/she will forfeit that round.

A debater may take no more than four (4) minutes total elapsed preparation time during a round of debate. The timekeeper shall keep a record of elapsed time between speeches and indicate to the debater the time remaining after each interval.

4. Rules of Competition:

a. Debaters and coaches shall not exchange evidence or other materials with contestants from other schools during a contest.

b. Each debater is responsible for the validity of evidence read in the debate.

c. Judges shall not reveal decisions to anyone prior to the announcement of results by the contest manager.

d. A debater shall not receive help from anyone during the debate.

e. New issues shall not be introduced during the rebuttal speeches.

f. If charts are used, they shall not remain on display after the speaker using the charts has finished his/her speech. However, if the opponent wishes the charts displayed, the above rule shall be disregarded.

g. Observers are permitted to attend debates. Electronic (audio and/or video) recording of the debates shall be prohibited without prior consent of the IHSA.

h. The use of electronic retrieval devices will not be permitted. Internet access during a round of debate is strictly prohibited.

5. Matching of Contestants and Drawing Procedures:

It will be attempted to allow every debater to debate each side of the question three times in the preliminary rounds. In the elimination rounds, sides will be determined by a flip of a coin unless they have met previously. In such cases the debaters will switch sides.

a. Preliminary rounds 1 and 2 will be randomly paired. Subsequent preliminary rounds should be power matched, high-low within brackets.

b. If there are at least forty (40) contestants, debaters advancing to the octa-final round will be paired according to a bracket prepared by the Tournament Committee. If there are at least eighty-five (85) contestants, elimination rounds will begin with double octa-finals (top 32). If there are less than 40 contestants, elimination rounds will begin with quarterfinals.

If in the elimination rounds, debaters from the same school are necessarily paired against each other, they may either debate to determine a winner or the coach of the school involved may designate one of the competitors as the winner of the round. Elimination round brackets will not be altered to prevent such pairings.

6. Judging:

a. Two (2) judges shall be used for each debate in the preliminaries. As availability permits, three (3) judges should be used in all eliminations except for the final round. Five (5) judges shall be used in the final debate.

b. Each participating school shall provide one (1) judge per (2) students entered as long as the tournament is double flighted. Each participating school shall provide one (1) judge per student entered if the tournament is not flighted.

Schools which fail to provide the required number of judges in accordance with their entries shall be subject to disqualification of one (1) Lincoln-Douglas contestant per missing judge.

Judges for Lincoln-Douglas debate shall be in the second year removed from an Illinois high school. Judges who competed for an out-of-state high school must be high school graduates. All judges should have judged at least two tournaments during the current season.

Schools whose judges miss individual rounds shall be assessed a \$30.00 fee per round missed.

c. Each judge shall complete the ballot indicating the winning debater, reason(s) for the decision, appropriate speaker points for each debater, and a written critique of the debate. The decision as to who won the round, and the completed ballot, must be turned in to the tournament headquarters within fifteen (15) minutes after the end of the second affirmative rebuttal.

Judges are not prohibited from oral critiques and/or disclosure of their decision to the debaters. All judges, including those who are school coaches, shall be available for all rounds including all elimination rounds.

d. Judges shall not converse with anyone, other than the debaters themselves, prior to submitting their decisions for a given round to the tournament manager.

e. Judges are expected to notify the contest manager of any conflicts of interest prior to the start of competition.

**C. Congressional Debate Competition Rules**

1. Definition:

Congressional Debate is a simulated congressional activity (debate) modeled after the State or National Congress. Participants research and write bills and/or resolutions which will be debated on the floor of the congressional debate, utilizing the tools of deliberative decision making such as Parliamentary Procedure and other group communication skills.

2. Debate Subject:

a. After preliminary entries are received, each school will be assigned to write legislation (bill or resolution) for one of the following areas: foreign affairs, economics, and public welfare. A school should submit one piece of legislation for that area. Schools entered in Congressional Debate will be notified in December for which committee they may write the piece of legislation. **Appropriate legislation must be submitted by January 30, 2010. The legislation submitted will then be available to schools online.**

b. Only legislation sent via an official coach's e-mail will be accepted.

3. State Final Time Schedule: Sessions will begin at the posted times. Debate will not wait for a late participant.

4. Procedures in Preliminary Chambers:

a. Committee Sessions:

1) Each chamber will have a committee for each of the three areas of legislation. The participants from each school will be assigned to the committee to which it was assigned to write legislation. The committee will select the chairperson for the committee.

2) The committees will meet during the assigned Committee Sessions to select bills to be debated within the respective chambers. Each committee will provide a prioritized list of the top four bills recommended for debate. The purpose of such committees is to select the most debatable bills. Discussions within the committees will be restricted by the chairpersons to the issue of debate-ability. ("Is the bill controversial, timely, and well written?" "Are there substantial pro and con arguments concerning the bill?") The merits of the idea contained within a bill should not be discussed within the committee meeting.

3) Committees will have the authority to recommend amendments to the legislation.

4) The bills on the prioritized committee lists will be considered in the order recommended by the respective committees, selecting the top priority bill first from Economics, then from Foreign Affairs, then from Public Welfare. The process will continue until time expires or until all bills are debated.

b. Apportionment:

One (1) entry per school will be assigned to a chamber.

c. Order of Events:

1) Two judges will be assigned to each chamber. The committee will prepare a seating chart for each chamber.

2) At the beginning of Session 1, judges will conduct an election for a Presiding Officer (P.O.) for that session. Presiding Officers for Sessions 2 and 3 will be elected at the conclusion of Sessions 1 and 2.

3) Debate will begin once the Presiding Officers have been elected. Debate on a bill will be limited to a maximum of one hour.

4) Debate on each bill will begin with a request for a four-minute authorship speech to be given by the author or representative from his/her high school. In the absence of a school representative, the Presiding Officer will call for a three-minute speech in favor of the bill. Following the delivery of the authorship or three minute first "pro" speech, the Presiding Officer will ask for a speech in opposition to the bill. This speech will be four minutes long if it follows a four-minute authorship. It will be three minutes long if it follows a three minute first "pro" speech. This alternating process of three-minute speeches will continue until the one-hour limit expires. Should a session terminate while a bill is still being debated, the Presiding Officer will instruct the Presiding Officer for the next session concerning the amount of time left for debate on that bill. Following each speech, a two-minute question and answer period will be held. The time clock will run continuously for the question and answer period.

d. General Rules

1) A participant may not speak on both sides of the same legislation.

2) Voting on all matters in the first three sessions will be one vote per person.

3) Abstentions shall not be counted in voting totals.

4) The members of a chamber may not suspend any of the above rules.

e. Judges Rules:

1) Judges will be responsible for evaluating the participants' speeches. Ordinarily they will alternate that responsibility except that no judge will evaluate the speech of a student from his/her own school. Judges should not evaluate a second speech of a student until the other judges have evaluated him/her. Ballots should be placed face up so that all judge can review them.

2) The judges will be required to keep track of the participation of members of the chamber by recording speeches and questions on the seating chart. Judges are to compare their seating chart with the chart of the Presiding Officer for accuracy. Both seating charts will be submitted to the Tab Room. Judges will assign a range of zero to three points per session to each legislator (with the exception of the Presiding Officer) based upon the constructive participation of each.

3) The judges, acting in concert, shall be the ultimate authorities on parliamentary procedure and fairness in recognizing speakers. They shall have the

power and the responsibility to correct or overturn a decision of the Presiding Officer.

4) At the end of every session, each judge will nominate two speakers (not a P.O.), not from his own school, to be considered for advancement to semis. The judges must not confer.

5) Judges will evaluate the performance of the Presiding Officer following each session. The P.O. will be given a score which will result in his/her earning 10% to 100% of the point total earned by the top speaker in the chamber. The percentage will be based on the criteria listed on the P.O. critique sheet. For All-State tabulation, actual fraction points (not rounded scores) will be recorded by the tabulation team at headquarters.

6) Judges will conduct elections for Outstanding Legislation at the end of the third session. All legislation that was debated within the chamber will be eligible to advance to semis. Each person in the chamber will be allowed one vote. The winning legislation must receive a simple majority of the votes cast. If no legislation earns a simple majority, the legislation which receives the lowest vote total (or legislation with the same lowest total) will be dropped from consideration until such a time as one piece of legislation does obtain the required simple majority.

7) Judges will conduct elections for best Presiding Officer at the end of the third session. Each person in the chamber will be allowed one vote. The winning candidate must receive a simple majority of the votes cast. If no person earns a simple majority, the candidate who received the lowest vote total will be dropped from consideration and voting will be repeated. If the two lowest vote getters are tied, a run off between the two will occur with the lowest vote getter being dropped. Another vote will be taken between the two remaining candidates.

f. Elimination Round Procedures:

1) Semi-final Congress

a) Eligibility for the Semi-final Session will be determined in the following manner at the end of Session 3. The high point speaker, all speakers with judge nominations, and the winning presiding officer from chamber will advance. Four Semi-final chambers will be established.

b) Three coaches will be assigned to judge the Semi-final Session.

c) Coaches will be assigned to preside over the Semi-final Sessions.

d) For this session, when giving a speech, a portion of the remaining time may be yielded to questions. There will be no separate questioning time as in the other sessions.

e) Four participants from each of the Semi-final chambers will advance to the Final Session (Super Congress). Selection will be based on the following criteria: high point speaker, greatest number nominations, and two members voted by preferential ballot.

2) Final Congress (Super Congress)

a) Sixteen participants will advance to the Final Congress.

b) Five coaches will be assigned to judge the Final Session. Each judge will evaluate all speeches.

c) A coach will be assigned to preside over the Final Session.

d) To determine final awards, each of the five judges will nominate two contestants each. A preferential ballot will be established containing those nominees, and the judges will rank order those contestants. The contestants with the smallest cumulative number will be ranked Champion, and the student with the second smallest cumulative number will be ranked Runner-Up.

**D. Public Forum Debate Competition Rules**

1. Definition: Public Forum debate uses current controversial subjects as topics (resolutions) to be debated. Topics are brief, require no plan, and are debatable. Debate teams do not know on which side of the argument they will be speaking. Due to the subject matter of these topics, much of the research toward building and understanding the topic of a public forum debate case will be conducted using current publications and news sources.

2. Debate Subject: The topic for the IHSA Public Forum debate series will be the March topic of the National Forensic League as published in The Rostrum (<http://www.nflonline.org/Rostrum/Rostrum>). Wording of this topic will be posted online at [www.ihsa.org](http://www.ihsa.org) on the debate menu page.

3. Timing Schedule and Procedures:

a. Public Forum Debate Timing Schedule

First Speaker – Team A.....	4 Minutes
First Speaker – Team B.....	4 Minutes
Crossfire (A1&B1) .....	3 Minutes
Second Speaker – Team A.....	4 Minutes
Second Speaker – Team B.....	4 Minutes
Crossfire (A2&B2) .....	3 Minutes
Summary – First Speaker – Team A .....	2 Minutes
Summary – First Speaker – Team B .....	2 Minutes
Grand Crossfire .....	3 Minutes
Final Focus –	
Second Speaker – Team A.....	1 Minute
Final Focus –	
Second Speaker – Team B.....	1 Minute
PREPARATION TIME FOR	
EACH TEAM.....	2 Minutes

b. State Final Time Schedule: The time schedule for the State Final Tournament will be established by the state final tournament committee and will be posted on the IHSA website.

c. Tardiness or Absence: No debate shall start unless both members of both teams are present. If any debater is absent, the chairman shall wait five minutes for his/her appearance, this allowance being granted specifically for variations in timepieces. If still absent, the team of which the debater is a member shall forfeit the debate to the other team. If members of both teams are absent, the debate shall be annulled and in determining the final ranking of the teams, both shall be charged with the loss of the debate.

If a coach is five (5) minutes late for a round that he/she is to judge, his/her team(s) will forfeit that round.

Note: If the tournament manager is convinced that the tardiness of a debater of judge is due to clearly unavoidable causes, the starting time for the debate may be extended, or the debate may be arranged for another hour provided that it does not in any way interfere with or postpone termination of the contest.

d. Procedure: Prior to the round in the presence of the judge(s), a coin is tossed by one team and called by the other team. The team that wins the flip may choose one of two options: Either the side of the topic they wish to defend (pro or con) or the speaking position they wish to have (begin the debate or end the debate).

1) Once the coin toss winners select their favored option, the other team makes a choice within the remaining options. Once speaking positions and sides has been determined, the debate can begin.

2) Each speaker shall have four minutes for constructive argument, alternating between pro and con. (Please keep in mind that the debate may begin with a con speech.)

3) Following the first two constructive speeches, the two debaters who have just given speeches will participate in a three-minute “crossfire”. (In “crossfire” both debaters “hold the floor”. However, the speaker who spoke first must ask the first question. After that question, either debater may question and/or answer at will.)

4) At the end of the first “crossfire” the four-minute constructive arguments are continued by the students yet to speak.

5) At the conclusion of the last two constructive arguments, another three-minute “crossfire” takes place between the two debaters who just spoke using the crossfire procedure discussed above.

6) Following the four constructive speeches and two “crossfire” segments, the 1<sup>st</sup> speaker for each team will each give a two-minute summary continuing established alternation. The summary speeches should include arguments his or her team is winning and refuting of arguments it is losing.

7) At the conclusion of the summary speeches, all four debaters will participate in a three-minute “Grand Crossfire” in which all four debaters are allowed to cross-examine one another. The speaker who gave the first summary speech must ask the first question.

8) At the conclusion of the “Grand Crossfire”, the second speaker will each give a 1-minute “Final Focus” speech. The “Final Focus” is a persuasive final restatement of why a team has won the debate.

4. Rules of Competition:

a. The first speaker for each position usually has a prewritten case that provides reasons for affirming or negating a topic.

1) After both speakers have stated their cases a cross-fire session occurs. In cross-fire both speakers ask and answer questions in a civil manner.

2) The second speaker for each position generally attempts to refute the points of the opposing side and can also provide additional reasons to vote for their position.

3) The second speakers conduct a cross-fire session in the same manner the first speakers did. The speech that follows is the summary in which the first speakers of both positions summarize their points and the opposing sides points and try to show the judges why their points still stand or why the opposing team’s points fall.

4) Following this speech is a grand cross-fire, a cross-fire session that is conducted sitting down and includes all four speakers. The final speech for both sides is a last shot in which the second speaker for each team provides one main reason why the judges should vote for their position on the resolution.

5) Remember, last shot speeches are only limited to one point!

b. Debaters and coaches shall not exchange evidence or other materials with contestants from other schools during a contest.

c. Each debater is responsible for the validity of evidence read in the debate.

d. Judges are not prohibited from oral critiques and/or disclosure of their decision to the debaters.

e. A debater shall not receive help from anyone during the debate.

f. The use of electronic retrieval devices will not be permitted.

5. Matching of Teams and Drawing Procedures:

It will be attempted to allow each team to debate each side of the question three (3) times in the preliminary rounds.

a. There will be a random drawing to determine pairings for Rounds 1 and 2. Subsequent preliminary rounds should be power matched, high-low within brackets.

b. If there are at least forty (40) teams in the tournament, debaters advancing to the octa-final round will be paired according to a bracket prepared by the Tournament Committee. If there are at least eighty-five (85) teams, elimination rounds will begin with double octa-finals (top 32). If there are less than 40 teams, elimination rounds will begin with quarterfinals.

c. If in the elimination rounds, teams from the same school are necessarily paired against each other, they may either debate to determine a winner or the coach of the school involved may designate one of the teams as the winner of the round. Elimination brackets will not be altered to prevent such pairings.

d. In the elimination rounds, sides will be determined by a flip of a coin, unless they have met previously. In such cases the debaters will switch sides.

6. Advancement and Determination of Winners: The highest-ranking teams will be paired for elimination rounds on Saturday.

7. Ties: Speaker points will break ties.

8. Judging:

a. Two (2) judges shall be used for each debate in the preliminaries. As availability permits, three (3) judges should be used in all eliminations except for the final round. Five (5) judges shall be used in the final debate.

b. Each participating school shall provide one (1) judge per (2) teams entered as long as the tournament is flighted. Each participating school shall provide one (1) judge per team entered if the tournament is not flighted.

c. Schools, which fail to provide the required number of judges in accordance with their entries, shall be subject to disqualification of (1) Public Forum team per missing judge. Judges for Public Forum Debate shall be in the second year removed from an Illinois high school. Judges must not be affiliated with the teams they are judging. Judges who competed for an out-of-state high school must be high school graduates. Schools whose judges miss individual rounds shall be assessed a \$30.00 fee per round missed.

d. Each judge shall complete the ballot indicating the winner debater, reason(s) for the decision, appropriate speaker points for each debater, and a written critique of the debate. The decision as to who won the

round, and the completed ballot, must be turned in to the tournament headquarters within fifteen (15) minutes after the end of the last final focus.

e. On the ballot, the judges should rank each debater 1-4 (No Ties). In addition, the judge should rate each speaker on a scale of 11-30. Finally, the judge needs to write a brief reason for his/her decision.

f. Judges shall not reveal their decisions to anyone prior to the announcement of results by the contest manager. All judges, including those who are school coaches, shall be available for all rounds including all elimination rounds.

g. Judges shall not converse with anyone, other than the debaters themselves, prior to submitting their decisions for a given round to the tournament manager.

h. Schools with teams in elimination rounds must maintain a representative in the tab room area until the rounds have started.

j. Judges are expected to notify the contest manager of any conflicts of interest prior to the start of competition.

**E. Special Rules and Limitations:**

1. Use of Inappropriate Material:

If, in the opinion of any judge, material which is debated for his/her adjudication is inappropriate for public presentation by a high school student, the judge may rank the team down. If, in the judge’s opinion, a debate is persistently inappropriate or is flagrantly profane and vulgar, he/she may stop the debate and disqualify the students or team. In either case, the judge shall explain his/her opinion and action in a written critique and the manager shall forward a copy of the critique to the IHSA Office.

Please Note: Material which is inappropriate for public presentation by high school students will not be tolerated.

IHSA By-law 6.010 will be applied in the event contestants utilize material which, upon investigation by the Executive Director, is determined to be inappropriate. By-law 6.010 states:

Any violation of the IHSA Constitution and/or IHSA By-laws, IHSA Terms and Conditions, IHSA Policies and Guidelines, and/or other rules of the Association, shall be reported to the Executive Director, who shall have authority to investigate all alleged violations. The findings of the investigation shall be made known to the school (or schools), person (or persons), alleged to have committed violation. The Executive Director shall then have full authority to invoke penalties against such school or persons found to have committed violations. Penalties shall include, but not be limited to, written warning or reprimand, requisite affirmation corrective action... up to and including

suspension and/or expulsion. Failure to take the corrective action required by any penalty shall be the basis for further action up to and including suspension and/or expulsion.

Note that these provisions include possible penalties against the school or individual persons found to have committed violations. This means that competitors, coaches, directors, and/or principals/official representatives may be penalized directly for the use of inappropriate material in the IHSA competitions.

A debate (language or action) which includes symbolic or colloquial expression describing or naming anything which is profane and/or vulgar, whether or not suited to a specific case being presented, IS ALWAYS CONSIDERED INAPPROPRIATE!

2. Violation of Limitation Rule:

If a student participates in more events than permitted by Art. III-E, his/her school shall be disqualified in all the events in which he/she participated. If the student or his/her school won any awards in, or as a result of, the events in which he/she participated, such awards must be surrendered to the IHSA Office.

3. Late Discovery of Violations:

If a violation, the penalty for which is disqualification, is not discovered until after the close of the contest in which the violation occurred, the following procedure shall be followed:

a. The student, team or school shall nevertheless be disqualified and the violation shall be reported to the IHSA office.

b. The rankings of the other contestants in the event shall be revised upward.

c. If the disqualified individual, team or school has won any awards, such awards shall be returned to the IHSA Office. An attempt will then be made to redistribute these awards on the basis of the revised ranking rankings.

**IX. TOURNAMENT POLICIES**

**A. Damage to Property or Equipment**

If contestants or people from any school entered in a state series are found guilty of carelessness or maliciously breaking, damaging or destroying property or equipment belonging to the host school, such school shall be held responsible for costs incurred in replacing or repairing such property or equipment.

**B. Media Policies**

1. Media Personnel

a. Any media person wishing to take photographs will contact the State Final manager to verify arrangements to take photos at the tournaments. Photographers are welcome to take photos in the commons area. Managers' names and information can be

found on the IHSA website or by contacting the IHSA Office.

b. Photography is NOT allowed in rooms while rounds are taking place, however, media personnel are invited and encouraged to sit in on rounds as spectators.

c. At all levels of IHSA competition, an area may be set aside for photographs. All participating students will be invited and encouraged to make themselves available during the tournament for the Official IHSA Photographer as well as local media outlets.

d. Results from each level of the tournament can be obtained by logging into the IHSA website and choosing the appropriate activity. State Final results will be posted online as soon as possible following the tournament.

2. Managers

a. May arrange an area for photographers and students to gather for photo opportunities.

b. Will post any information for all participating students to have the opportunity to meet with area media.

c. Will cooperate fully with media personnel to arrange photo opportunities and ensure coverage of all levels of the tournament.

**C. Tobacco Products:**

No coach, student or any other person connected with a school shall be permitted to use tobacco products during the contest, either during preparation times or competition.

**D. Use of Inhalers:**

A student with asthma may possess and use his/her medication during an IHSA competition under the supervision of school personnel, provided the school meets the outlined procedures of self administration in the Illinois school code.

**E. Alcoholic Beverages and IHSA State Series Events:**

The possession, distribution, sale and or consumption of alcoholic beverages are prohibited at the site and on any affiliated property of any IHSA state series contest. State series hosts are required to make all state series contest sites and any affiliated property, including parking lots, fan accommodation areas, and other school or event venue property, alcohol free zones on the date or dates of any IHSA event being held at the site. Violation of this policy by an event host will subject the host to a penalty for violation of IHSA By-law 2.020. Such penalty may include but not necessarily be limited to prohibition against subsequent event hosting assignments. Violation of this policy by a non-hosting member school will subject the school to penalty for violation of IHSA By-law 2.020. Patrons of any IHSA state series contest

determined to be in violation of this policy will be removed from the premise, and law enforcement officials will be called as warranted.

**F. Special Report Forms and SAWA Forms**

Special report forms have been developed to facilitate schools reporting any matter concerning high school programs that merit the attention of the high school principal. These forms can be used for reporting any incidents or problems with a competitor, coach, director or spectator. The forms may also be used to report errors in applying rules or any phase of judging in which a judge should immediately attempt to improve. The SAWA Report form should be used for reporting any instances where a coach, director, participant, judge or spectator has done an exemplary job of Sporting A Winning Attitude. These forms can be found on the IHSA Web Site at [www.ihsa.org](http://www.ihsa.org).

**G. Responsibility for Theft or Other Losses:**

The IHSA will not be responsible for loss or theft of any personal or school property during the course of the contest.

**H. Prayer at IHSA State Series Contest:**

Prayer at an IHSA state series contest that takes place over the public address system is prohibited.

**X. AWARDS**

Trophies shall be awarded to the Policy, Public Forum, Lincoln-Douglas and Congressional Debate teams finishing first and second. In Policy, Lincoln-Douglas, Congressional and Public Forum Debate, medallions shall be given to the top ten (10) ranking speakers in each event after the preliminary rounds and in Policy, Lincoln-Douglas and Public Forum all other contestants who qualify for the octa-final, quarter-final, semi-final or final rounds. In Congressional Debate, all qualifiers for the Super Congress will receive medallions.

**XI. JUDGING**

Refer to the Rules of Competition for each Debate category in Article VIII.