

## JUDGING

We have a very specific philosophy regarding judging at our tournament. Please do not take these instructions as a criticism but just as a statement of clarity so that a universal message is being said and heard by all. We view the judge as only partially an adjudicator. The more important role is as educator. Therefore it is critical that we create an environment conducive to success and learning. We therefore ask the following:

- 1) Turn off all pagers, cell phones, and music devices during rounds.
- 2) FLOW THE ROUND. The students put a lot of time and effort into preparing their positions. The students deserve to know the judge is paying attention and is getting the intricacies of their positions. They won't think you are paying attention if you are not taking copious notes. As the judge, you are the check against new in the two. There is no way you can do that if you don't know what was said when.
- 3) The tournament encourages disclosures and oral critiques. We would just ask that you keep critiques to an absolute maximum of 10 minutes...set your timer! Before you do critique, give your completed ballot to a runner. In the interest of time though, please give only very brief (1 min – 2 min) critiques during preset rounds. If you are uncomfortable disclosing or critiquing, you are in no way obligated to do so.
- 4) Students have the right to ask questions of their judges of their views on the activity before the round. Please answer their questions. Students, don't ask vague questions that are impossible to answer.
- 5) Speaker points. Speaker points have become, on the whole, way too arbitrary. Therefore, we ask you adhere to the following guidelines, at least for this tournament. We can't stop you if you chose to do something different but remember, this activity is for the kids and we believe that standardization will help the students to some degree. Half points and low point wins allowed.
  - 30 – The debater was probably the best debater I will see at this tournament and it would be no surprise to me if this debater were in finals.
  - 29 – The debater was very persuasive, technically proficient with a thoughtful, well-developed position, and engaged the other position substantively and/or there is little she could have done to improve.
  - 28 – The case was solid with good backing. The debater was technically solid and engaged the opponent's position
  - 27 – The case could have been better developed. There were some technical issues or fluency issues. The debater could engage the other position more.
  - 26 – The case had some logical flaws and/or the student had difficulty engaging the other position in terms of creating developed arguments against the other case (blippiness)

25 – The case needs a lot of work. The student barely touched upon the opponent's arguments. The presentation was sloppy or abrasive.

24 and below are reserved for the following issues

- The student was nearly or completely unprepared.
  - The student was extremely rude to the judge or the opponent
  - The student acted inappropriately or offensively in some other way.
- If you are going to give below a 24, please be sure your ballot explains why in a very specific manner so that the coaches can work with the kids on these issues.
- Feel free to deduct points from a speaker if they go new in the 2.

6) Please be specific on the ballot. Do not write, "The AFF was more persuasive." What was more persuasive? Which arguments? In your decision, reference specific things that were said by the two debaters during the round. Please do not base your decision on your feelings on the topic or what you believe to be "right." It is up to the other debater to refute the opponent's positions, not you. The debater can only debate the other student in front of them. It is impossible to debate the position in your head. Base your decision on who of the two debaters, in the context of the round better proved their argument.

7) There will be 4 minutes of prep in LD and 2 in PF

8) BALLOTS ARE ELECTRONIC. Please make a tabroom account and sign up to receive your ballots.