

Section 7. At the beginning of each session elections will be held in each house for the presiding officer, except for the Awards House where the presiding officer will not be a student. If there is no member in the house qualified to be a presiding officer, the parliamentarian may preside upon approval by a member of the Debate Committee. Seating charts for all members will be determined by lottery upon entering the chamber. The seating order in session 1A will remain the same for the session 1B(if held).

Section 8. Appropriate awards will be given to all members of the AWARDS HOUSE and House B. Certificates will be awarded to the top members of the other houses.

Section 9. Evidence and Use of Electronic Devices

Clause 1. Members are responsible for the validity of all evidence they read in the session. Members must, at a minimum, orally deliver the title of the source, the author's name and dates associated with the source. Complete citations for each piece of evidence introduced in the session must be available if the session for verification if requested by a judge. Falsification or deliberate misuse of evidence may result in being disqualified. Evidence may be original research by the member or that which is procured from a third source such as a debate research service.

Clause 2. Cell phones cannot be used during competition unless being used as a timing device. Tablets, computers, cell phones, music devices and any current or future retrieval devices may not be used in congress sessions to access the Internet or to communicate with others. They may be used to present speeches, keep notes and ask questions. They may also be used as timing devices. JUDGES MAY ASK TO SEE THE DEVICES AT ANY TIME. Misuse of electronic devices is an ethical as well as a performance issue. Judges may use electronic devices to take notes. No texting or leaving the room to answer a phone call is allowed. Visual aids that require no Internet retrieval may be used in congress sessions.

Section 10. Following are some basic parliamentary rules and procedures. Any question of procedure not covered by these will be ruled on according to Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

Clause 1. All voting in the Student Congress will be done only by those members in the chambers at the time of the voting. Absentees and/or abstentions will not be counted in determining the results of the vote. On the final vote on a bill or amendment to the main motion, and in all cases where other than a majority is required for passage, a hand vote should be taken. For other types a voice vote may be used. A division of the house may be demanded by any two members on any question on which a voice vote has been taken. The call must be made before another motion has been placed before the assembly.

Clause 2. Bills and resolutions will be considered in the order in which they appear on the agenda as set by the tournament director, unless the rules are suspended by members in a given chamber by unanimous consent or a simple majority vote. Once the agenda has been accepted or set by the members, a motion to consider a bill out of sequence requires a suspension of the rules and a two-thirds vote.

Clause 3. A member should not ask for the floor unless he/she wishes to oppose the views of the preceding speaker. Debate must alternate from affirmative to negative. If no one wishes to oppose the preceding speaker, the presiding officer may recognize a speaker upholding the same side.

Clause 4. The author of the bill or resolution, or someone appointed by him/her, will be recognized to open the debate, but thereafter he/she will take his/her chance with the rest of the members for further speaking opportunity. No special privilege will be given to close the debate. All speeches are limited to 3 minutes. The authorship speeches and First Negative Speech are followed by two minute of cross-examination, which cannot be amended. All other speeches are followed by one minute of cross examination, which can't be amended.

Clause 5. Once a bill or resolution is taken up on the floor of the assembly, it no longer belongs to the author, but to the group. It, therefore, is not correct to ask the author what the bill (or part of the bill) means. It means what it says, and the group is not obligated to accept the author's interpretation.

Clause 6. The motion of the previous question should not be over-worked. As long as someone has something to say the opportunity to speak should remain.

Clause 7. There is a right way and a wrong way to speak in a legislative assembly. By studying parliamentary procedure a student can learn to use the correct language.

Clause 8. When referring to another member, use the following form: "Representative..." or "the Representative from...."