

**ARTICLE XXXVIII  
Public Forum**

**Section 1. Entries.**

Clause 1. Each member school may enter six two-person teams in the State Contest.

Clause 2. The entry fee will be forty dollars (\$40) per team. If more than 60 entries are received in Public Forum, it will be divided into two separate pods and they will be divided by the numbers of entries starting with the largest schools and then going down the list. When the pod is at half, then the second pod will start. This will happen after all entries are received. If a school enters late, their entry will be placed in the pod that is within their enrollment.

Clause 3. Each member school will pay a “refundable” judges bond of \$200.00. This bond must be received by the State Office prior to the state tournament and accompany the tournament entry forms. The refund will occur after the completion of your school’s judging obligations.

**Section 2. Selections and Materials (Question for Debate).** The State Office will make known the questions for debate to entering schools upon receipt of registrations materials. The January Resolution from the NSDA will be used. Prior to each round the teams will flip a coin. The team winning the coin toss may choose either: Side of Topic or Order of Speaking. The team losing the coin toss may choose speaker order (if the winner chooses side) or side (if the winner chooses speaker order). The con may speak first arguing the resolution before any pro speech has taken place.

**Section 3. Length**

Clause 1. The time limit and order of speaking will be as follows:

Team A Speaker 1	4 minutes
Team B Speaker 1	4 minutes
Crossfire (between A1 & B1)	3 minutes
Team A Speaker 2	4 minutes
Team B Speaker 2	4 minutes
Crossfire (between A2 & B2)	3 minutes
A1 Summary	3 minutes
B1 Summary	3 minutes
Grand Crossfire (all speakers)	3 minutes
A2 Final Focus	2 minutes
B2 Final Focus	2 minutes

Clause 2. Each side will be allowed a total of 3 minutes preparation time during the debate. If either side goes over its allotted time of three minutes, the overtime will come out of the debater’s next speech.

**Section 4. Preparation and Presentation**

Clause 1. Each team must be prepared to debate both sides of the question.

Clause 2. In case of illness a student may be substituted during the tournament but not during a round already underway. The substitute must complete the tournament. If a debater becomes sick after the round has begun, the judge will allow a ten minute break before declaring the round a forfeit.

Clause 3. On-Line registration will be completed no later than Wednesday, three and one half weeks prior to the date of the tournament and the fees will be mailed to the State Office.

Clause 4. Dates and sites will be determined by the State Office. Pairings will be set by the Tournament Manager.

Clause 5. Each school must provide a qualified Public Forum judge for every two (or part thereof) teams entered. Said judge must not have judged a policy round in the school year that they are judging Public Forum, with the exception of a certified classroom educator. Judges must be available for a minimum of one round after all Public Forum entries from that school have been eliminated. If a school cannot provide enough judges, the fee will be two hundred dollars (\$200) for each judge not provided. If deemed qualified by the Tournament Manager, judges furnished by the schools may be assigned to other areas of competition. Students who are first year judges just out of high school will be allowed to judge if deemed qualified by the tournament manager. These judges may represent their own school or the IHSSA as a hired judge. An individual must contact the division manager to get the approval for this judge before they are allowed to use the student.

Clause 6. There will be no consolation match for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place. The runner-up in each semifinal match will be given 3<sup>rd</sup> place points.

Clause 7. All debaters will compete in five preliminary rounds. If there are sufficient numbers of entries, rounds 3, 4, and/or 5 may be power matched. After the 5<sup>th</sup> round, teams with a 5-0, 4-1, or 3-2 record could advance to elimination rounds. 20 – 32 entries = 8 teams advance to quarter finals, over 33 - 60 entries = 16 teams will advance to octo finals. 3 schools must be in the division to qualify for sweepstakes points. Pairings will be high versus low. If teams from the same school are meeting, the coach from that school may have them debate or may (before the end of that round) tell the Tournament Manager which team will advance. If a bye is necessary, the team with the best record from the preliminary rounds will receive it. However, no team may receive more than one bye during elimination rounds. Additional teams may be added to elimination rounds at the discretion of the Tournament Manager. Elimination rounds will have panels of three judges. No policy judges will be used in elimination round panels.

Clause 8. Results of the preliminary rounds will be posted before the elimination rounds are set. After 5<sup>th</sup> round the top teams with winning records will advance to elimination rounds based on the formula in Clause 7. Ballots will be available after the results have been posted or announced. Top ten (10) speaker awards for preliminary rounds will be given to all divisions of Public Forum. Oral disclosure of the winner in Policy, L-D and Public Forum will take place in all elimination rounds. No oral comments are to be made outside of the discloser of the winner of the round.

Clause 9. Appropriate awards will be given.

Clause 10. Falsification of evidence will be handled as follows: If evidence is questioned by the opposing debater, a protest must be filed with a member of the Debate Committee or the Executive Committee prior to the start of the next round. The debater protesting must document the protest by some original source (including handbooks). If the evidence is deemed false by those members present from the Debate Committee or the Executive Committee, the team which used the falsified evidence will lose the questioned round.

Clause 11. The IHSSA State Debate Tournament is a public event, governed by the rules and regulations of the IHSSA. All rounds and events are open to observers. Observers are allowed to flow or take notes during any event provided they are not disruptive.

Clause 12. No tape recording (audio or visual) will be allowed at any IHSSA Debate Tournament without the consent of the two debaters' coaches and the State Office.

Clause 13. Contestants may use electronic devices (including laptop computers, tablets, and/or cell phones) to access the internet during Public Forum sessions with the following conditions:

- a. Computers or other electronic devices may not be used to receive information for competitive advantage from non-competitors (coaches, assistant coaches, other non-competing students) inside or outside of the room in which the competition occurs.
- b. Internet access may be used to retrieve files, exchange evidence and/or arguments, research arguments, and communication with the other participant in the round. These electronic device guidelines do not limit communication between debate partners during the debate round.

Clause 14. If students are suspected of violating these rules a protest must be filed with the Contest Manager prior to the start of the next round. If the student(s) are found in violation of the rule, they will lose the round in question. Cell phones during competition cannot be used unless it is being used as a timing device.

Clause 15. Coaches and observers are not allowed to confront judges, but instead direct concerns to the designated Ombudsman of the Tournament.

**CASEBOOK: Questions - Answers**

1. Q. If our school has both a senior and junior membership, how many debaters may we enter?  
A. You could enter six teams per membership. However, all of the debaters on the junior entry must be ninth graders and none of the debaters on the senior high entry may be ninth graders. Each membership will be treated as a separate school.
2. Q. Does each student debate both sides during the tournament?  
A. Yes, this could happen.
3. Q. Who asks the first question in the crossfire?  
A. The first question of each crossfire must be posed by the team which did not speak just prior to the crossfire period.
4. Q. Could you only debate one side of the issue the entire tournament?  
A. Yes, this could happen.
5. Q. In The Final Focus, could more than one argument be presented?  
A. Yes.
6. Q. Are 'ins and outs' allowed at the IHSSA tournament?  
A. No.
7. Q. May a team run "Maverick?"                      A. No.