

## **ARTICLE XXXVII**

### **Student Congress**

#### **Section 1. Entries.**

Clause 1. Each member school may enter six members.

Clause 2. The entry fee will be twenty dollars (\$20) per member. If more than 120 entries are received in Student Congress, 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 school must provide a qualified judge for every six (or part thereof) entries. The judge must be available for all three sessions. If a school cannot provide a judge, the fee will be two hundred dollars (\$200). 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. A coach/school must contact the division manager to get the approval for this judge before they are allowed to use this student. If deemed qualified by the Tournament Manager, the judge furnished by the school may be assigned to other areas of competition.

Clause 4. Each member school will pay a "refundable" judges bond of \$200. 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. Houses of Congress**

Clause 1. The number of houses will be set by the Tournament Manager based upon the number of entries. Should entries fall to 20 or below the day of contest, one congress session will be held the first day and one session the second day. The six judges' ballots will be used to determine the awards. The top five speakers will receive awards. Each house will be considered a unicameral.

Clause 2. At the conclusion of the session II, a student's total scores will be totaled from Sessions 1A, 1B and II. The highest rated students (generally the top 3 - 8 members in each house) will be assigned to the AWARDS HOUSE for the final session. The presiding officer will be appointed by tournament management.

**Section 3.** Each school planning on entering Student Congress must fill out an intent form from the State Office and submit it and at least two bills or resolutions to the State Office by November 15. The Bill(s) or Resolution(s) shall be suitable for the United States Congress and/or Iowa State Legislature (see Section 10 as to style). These bills will be read by a committee appointed by the Executive Director. This committee will then pick at least one bill from each school to be used at the State Tournament in preliminary sessions. From the pool of remaining bills and resolutions not selected for preliminary sessions, 6 - 8 of these will be selected for Session III for use in all houses. The Committee may provide up to five bills in addition to those provided by schools. A separate agenda will be set for each session. The bills will be sent by December 1 to the schools who have returned an "intent to enter" form.

**Section 4.** 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.

**Section 5.** Each house will have judges assigned to it. One of the judges will be designated as the parliamentarian. The judges will be re-assigned for the 1B (if held), II, III sessions. Additional judges will be assigned to the AWARDS HOUSE for the third session.

#### **Section 6. Points.**

Clause 1. At the end of each session, each of the judges will award points for each member of the house (including the presiding officer). The judge will also assign a rank for the first through the tenth member.

Clause 2. For members the points will be awarded on the basis of quality of arguments, quality of evidence, refutation skills, clarity and persuasiveness, attitude toward colleagues and presiding officer, knowledge and skill in use of parliamentary procedure, and general leadership skills. The 1A PO gets credit for running the meeting and/or points equal to two speeches. Also, recency for the 1A PO is listed as last speaker.

Clause 3. For presiding officers the points will be awarded on the basis of attitude toward members, knowledge and skill in use of parliamentary procedure, and general behavior.

**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. Contestants may use electronic devices (including laptop computers, tablets, and/or cell phones) to access the internet during Congress 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 participants during the round.

Clause 3. 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 is found in violation of the rule, they will lose the round in question.

**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 they wish 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 the author, will be recognized to open the debate, but thereafter they will take their 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 minutes 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...."

Clause 9. The correct way to obtain the floor to offer a motion or participate in the debate is to rise immediately at the conclusion of the preceding speaker's remarks and at the same time say: "Mr. (or Madam) President." If the presiding officer recognizes the member, the member should then proceed to make his/her motion or discuss the pending legislation. If another member is recognized, the member should take their seat until the next opportunity to try the procedure again.

Clause 10. If a member wishes to amend a motion that is before the house, the member must gain the floor in the usual manner. The amendment must have been sent to the chair before the motion to amend is made. One-third of the members must then second the motion to amend, before it can be debated. A motion to amend will be considered neutral in the speaking order of proponent and opponent speeches on a bill or resolution. Amendments to fix technical errors and/or typos that do not change the intent of the bill do not need to be brought up in a speech prior to amending.

Clause 11. A secretary or clerk may be appointed by the chair to assist in keeping track of amendments and motions.

Clause 12. A member may not yield any portion of their speaking time to another except for a question. However, only a question may be asked. No statement or exposition is permitted. To interrupt a speaker for questioning, a member should use the following procedure: "Mr. (or Madam) President, will the speaker yield to a question?" The chair will then ask the speaker if they will yield. If the speaker does not yield, the member should resume his/her seat immediately and not interrupt the speaker again. If the speaker does yield, the question should be asked clearly and concisely. No long prefatory statements are allowed. Frequent interruptions of the same speaker should be discouraged. A house may also suspend the rules (two-thirds vote required) to allow the examination of a speaker to be controlled by that speaker on the floor, thus avoiding the process of directing questions through the chair. If this is done, however, the speaker on the floor should make every attempt to recognize as many questions as possible.

Clause 13. When Members stand to speak (including questions), the Presiding officer will first recognize those who have not spoken, or the members who have spoken the least.

Clause 14. Toward the close of the session, the chairperson should announce that until further notice only those who have not spoken more than once will be recognized. As soon as debate lags, general recognition will be resumed. It is not necessary that every member speak, but it is encouraged. Members should not be forced to contribute if they have no meaningful contribution.

Clause 15. Under no circumstances is a member permitted to argue with the presiding officer. The PO was elected to preside and their decisions should be abided by unless they grievously violate the rights of the assembly or its members. If the member feels the error is significant enough, a point of order should be made.

Clause 16. The Parliamentarian is the final authority on any procedural rules. The Parliamentarian should correct any important deviations from the rules even if no question is raised by a member. Presiding Officers cannot be impeached. So vote carefully for the PO. If they struggle, it is your role to help them in a very respectful manner.

### **Section 11. Bills and Resolutions.**

Clause 1. A bill is an enumeration of specific provisions which if enacted will have the force of the law. It must be definite; it must state exactly what is to be done or not to be done. A penalty must be stipulated or the law will not have force. If there is a cost factor, the bill should explain where the financing is to come from. A bill does not have "whereas clauses."

Clause 2. A resolution is usually a generalized statement expressing the belief of the group adopting it, and it does not have the force of the law. Resolutions may be preceded by one or more whereas clauses stating the principal reasons for adopting the resolution.

Clause 3. In constructing a bill or resolution, the following procedures should be followed:

1. The bill or resolution **must** be typed.
2. The typing must be double spaced, and the bill or resolution may not be longer than one page.
3. The first words of a bill are "Be it enacted by the IHSSA Student Congress that..."
4. The first words of a resolution after the whereas clause are "Be it resolved by the IHSSA Student Congress..."
5. Each line of a bill must be in the imperative mood. That is, it must state exactly what is to be done and by whom.
6. Each line is to be numbered.

The following are examples:

**A BILL TO BAN THE SALE/DISTRIBUTION OF SEMI-AUTOMATIC HANDGUNS**  
By Denison High School

1. Be it enacted by the IHSSA Student Congress that:
2. Section 1. Any semi-automatic handgun will be banned for sale or distribution in the United
3. States.
4. Section 2. Any persons found attempting to purchase or in possession of any such weapon will be
5. subject to the following penalties: fines not exceeding \$30,000 and imprisonment of not less
6. than five years and not exceeding fifteen years.
7. Section 3. Persons found guilty of committing a felony with such weapons will be subject to
8. life imprisonment without parole.
9. This act will go into effect June 1, 1996.

**A RESOLUTION TO CHANGE THE METHOD OF ELECTING THE PRESIDENT**  
by Kuemper High School

1. Whereas, The Electoral College is not a true measure of the people's voice;
2. Whereas, Only a direct election is an accurate expression of the wishes of the people; and
3. Whereas, Several Presidents have been elected to office without winning the greatest number
4. of the popular votes; now, therefore,
5. Be it resolved by the IHSSA Student Congress, That the President of the United States will be the
6. candidate receiving the greatest number of popular votes in the general election.

**CASEBOOK**

**Questions - Answers**

1. Q. Can bills and resolutions be written as if intended for an Iowa Legislature?  
A. Yes, and they may also be written as if intended for the United States Congress.
2. Q. If our school has both a senior and junior membership, how many congresspersons may we enter?  
A. You could enter 12 congresspersons. However, all of the students on the junior high entry must be ninth graders and none of the students on the senior high entry may be ninth graders. Each membership will be treated as a separate school.