

Griffin Invitational Forensics Tournament NPDA Parliamentary Debate Judging Guidelines

Thank you for judging. Below is a quick guide for judging NPDA.

Dear Coaches and Judges,

Our PSCFA Region has recently (Sept 2024) passed a number of new rules for PSCFA Tournaments, mostly pertaining to NPDA Debate, but since some also impact IPDA, I wanted to address those here. PSCFA, for those of you outside the region, is a regional group of programs that runs four tournaments a year (Warm Up, Fall Champs, Spring Champs and Cool Off). Their rules would govern those tournaments.

I have chosen to abide by our new rules for PSCFA in regards to Parliamentary Debate at this tournament. I've also mirrored some practices from Phi Rho Pi for Parli. I understand that this will be a learning process for many coaches/judges and competitors. I do believe it will bring back more competitors to Parli debate, so I hope many of you will try these "original" rules of Parli debate that have been brought back. Here they are:

- **Coaching:** No coaching allowed for Parli Debate. (Coaching still allowed for IPDA)
- **Topic striking:** We will be using 5 resolutions to select from in the room with the judge. There will be 2 policy, 2 value and 1 fact per round for the competitors to select from. The opposition team will strike first and then the affirmative will strike and go back and forth, until the final topic has been selected. As soon as the competitors have selected their topic, the 20 minutes prep time should begin.
- **Flex Time:** Remove flex time from Parli times. Therefore, we should see more Points of Information used during the debates. The rule should be that the first and last minute of each constructive speech is in protected time, but then the competitor may interrupt the speaker by saying: "Point of Information" and ask one question. POI's are not allowed during rebuttals, only point of order or personal privilege.
- **Laptops:** No laptops for flowing, or anything else in debate rounds, this is for all debates. Judges can flow NPDA rounds on laptops and work on their electronic ballots, but Nothing else.

SPECIFIC GUIDELINES FOR JUDGES:

1. Go to your room immediately, according to the time the debate begins. Welcome your four competitors. The students will strike from the 5 topics you will have on your ballot. As soon as they've selected their resolution, start the clock. They have 20 minutes to prep.
2. When they return after their 20 minute prep, please verbally check that you know which student is in which position, so that you can award speaker points at the conclusion of the debate on your ballot.
3. Some judges still introduce the speeches by titles and times. (For example: "We thank the Prime Minister and recognize the Leader of the Opposition for a constructive speech not to exceed 8 minutes.") But most judges no longer follow this tradition.
4. Below are the times. The competitors may time themselves using their cell phones. However, you should also time and if they are over time, please announce "time", and they should stop speaking. Speeches should not exceed the following times. There is no preparation time between speeches, since we are eliminating "flex time".

7 minutes: **PM (Prime Minister)** Constructive

8 minutes: **LO (Leader of the Opposition)** Constructive

8 minutes: **MG (Member of the Government)** Constructive

8 minutes: **MO (Member of the Opposition)** Constructive

4 minutes: **LO (Leader of the Opposition)** Rebuttal

5 minutes: **PM (Prime Minister)** Rebuttal

{No new arguments in Rebuttals new extensions/examples O.K.}

5. **Points of Information (POI's)** are allowed during constructive speeches only and only after the first minute and before the last minute of the speech. Speaking time does not stop during POI's.
POI's are for the non-speaking side to ask brief questions. The speaker can decide whether or not to accept the POI.
6. **Points of Order** may be used by the non-speaking side to point out a rule violation, such as making a new argument in rebuttals. The time should stop when a Point of Order has been requested in rebuttals. You, as the judge should ask for a brief response by the member who is asking to rule on a violation and then you should hear a response from the speaker to give their response to the violation. Then you can agree with the violation by saying: "Point well taken" or reject the POO, by saying point not well taken or point taken under consideration if you will decide after the debate.
7. **Please do not provide oral critiques until after you have submitted your ballot!!!**
Oral critiques are discouraged, so that the tournament can stay on time. Also, your ballot critiques will go back to the coach, and will be more valuable than a competitor trying to remember your critique to tell their coach a day or two later.
8. No laptops are allowed by the competitors during the debate.

Written materials: Debaters are allowed to refer to written materials during prep time, but they may not actually read such material during the round beyond what notes they wrote in prep.

9. Writing Your ballot: write the decisions and reasons for the decision on the ballot. Please be constructive. Rank speakers 1-4 (no ties) and rate them up to 30 points each (ties permitted). A range from 24-28 is "common". 0-20 points are discouraged unless the debaters were very rude, or disruptive. If you give a score between 0-20, come to the Griffin Gate and check in with the monitor, to let them know there was a serious problem with a debater. 30 points is perfect, which is also rare. Reserve that score for a truly outstanding debater.

Forfeit Rule: After the 20 minutes prep period the debaters should be ready to debate. Allow a minute or two grace period. Please keep the tournament on time. 5 minutes is the maximum tardiness allowed.

Final Round Judging: Do not consult with the other judges, prior to submitting your ballots. If you are asked to reveal your decision, you should have the debaters leave the room, while the 3 judges make their final critiques on their ballots. Then you can each share your decision, so that when the teams return, the "chair" will announce the winning team, giving the decision as a 3-0 or 2-1. Then each judge can briefly give their reason for their decision, knowing that the next round is about to begin. Please keep your comments brief.

10. Your ballot is the most important information for the coach to be able to help the student improve on their next tournament experience. It is very difficult for the student to relay clearly your oral comments after several rounds of competition and preparing to go to another round.

Thank you for judging at the Griffin!