

KCPDL Rules for Debating and Judging

Adapted from "NPDL Rules for Debating and Judging"

I. Scope of Rules.

These rules shall be binding upon all rounds of the KCPDL monthly and championship meets. Any meet host who wishes to modify these rules in whole or in part must gain the prior approval of the League President to do so.

II. Enforcement of Rules.

Rules applied to debaters shall be enforced by the judges in each round. Judges who violate or encourage violation of these rules should be reported to the meet host. The meet host may remove judges from the tournament if found in knowing breach of these rules, and the school or association with whom the judge is affiliated will be barred from bringing this judge to any future meets.

III. Prior to the Round

A. Topic Selection—Topic Areas

- 1. Application.** Topic areas are intended to stimulate education, research and preparation.

B. Resolutions

- 1. Scope.** Resolutions may be framed and interpreted in either specific or metaphorical language. Resolutions may refer to a broad range of issues including current events, social problems, culture, history, science and philosophy.

C. Judge Preparation. All first-time judges should be provided judging training by their affiliate school. At the start of all KCPDL meets, a brief judges' training session or a written judging guide should be offered. Training sessions/guides should touch on the following topics: How to administer rounds, appropriate behavior for students and judges, points of order, criteria for decision-making, specific evidence.

D. Selection and Announcement. Immediately prior to the start of preparation time, the coaches and tab room director shall select the resolution for the round from the resolution pool. The selected resolution shall be announced directly to all debaters and judges.

E. Preparation Time.

- 1. Initiation.** Preparation time shall commence immediately upon announcement of the resolution.

- 2. Duration.** Preparation time for each round shall be 15 minutes. If necessary, the tournament may add time for travel to rounds. Debates must begin or be declared a forfeit no later than 10 minutes after preparation time has expired.
- 3. Coaching.** Coaches may choose to assist teams during preparation time. Coaches must ensure that such activity does not interfere with their judging obligations. Similarly, competitors may choose to collaborate during preparation time.
- 4. Documentation.** Coaches and debaters may use any materials they wish during preparation time, but with the exception of notes prepared by the debaters, once the round begins debaters may only use items that they themselves prepared during the duration of the preparation time. Using these "KCPDL Rules for Debating and Judging" in a round shall be deemed an exception to this rule. Debaters and judges may possess, reference, and/or quote from these rules in rounds as necessary.

IV. During the Round

- A. Audience Attendance and Heckling.** All rounds shall be open to the public. Use of recording devices shall be permitted so long as such use does not substantially interfere with the round. Attendees, judges, and teams may applaud, cheer, or hiss as appropriate, but should avoid abusive verbal heckling. Attendees who become disruptive may be removed at the discretion of the judges.
- B. Order and Duration of Speeches.**

Prime Minister Constructive (PMC): 7 minutes

Leader of Opposition Constructive (LOC): 8 minutes

Member of Government Constructive (MG): 8 minutes

Member of Opposition Constructive (MO): 8 minutes

Leader of Opposition Rebuttal (LOR): 4 minutes

Prime Minister Rebuttal (PMR): 5 minutes

Prep Time. There shall be no preparation time between speeches.

C. Cases and Arguments.

- 1. These rules shall not be interpreted so as to require any specific case structure, opposition argument structure or type, or judging paradigm. Issues of paradigm and debate theory shall be reserved for argument and justification by the debaters.**
 - 2. Explicit definition of terms in the resolution shall not be required. Definitions may be presented explicitly, implicitly, contextually, and/or by metaphor. Normative values and/or evaluative criteria, if used, should be offered explicitly.**
 - 3. Government interpretations of the resolution should reflect a fair division of ground. Specifically, government interpretations should not be framed in such a way as to force the opposition to oppose well-established facts (i.e. physical realities), to embrace overtly racist, sexist, or otherwise discriminatory positions, or to uphold a value that is tautological (aka "Tight Case") with the resolution or with the Government case also known as a tight case.**
 - 4. The Opposition team must provide direct clash with the Government case as a part of or in addition to any other type of argumentation they engage in during the round.**
 - 5. Constructive speeches shall be used for the establishment and explication of primary lines of analysis. New arguments may be presented at any time in any constructive speech.**
 - 6. Rebuttal speeches shall be used for the crystallization and weighing of previously established lines of argument. New arguments may not be presented in rebuttal speeches except in the case of a Prime Minister responding to an argument originally made by the Member of Opposition.**
- D. Point of Information. Point of information shall be allowed during constructive speeches, excluding "protected time" during the first and last minute of each speech. Debaters desiring to raise a point of information may so indicate verbally and/or by standing and/or by raising their hand. The debater currently speaking shall have the option to accept or decline each point of information and may so indicate verbally and/or by gesture. While a debater may choose to limit the number of points of information he or she will accept, no such limit shall be imposed by the judge. Point of information may be offered in the form of questions or statements. Point of information should not be excessively long in duration. The speaker's partner may interject information either verbally or in the form**

of notes to the speaker at any time during the speech without gaining formal recognition.

- E. Point of Order.** Point of order shall be allowed during both constructive speeches (during protected time as well) and rebuttals. Debaters who perceive a violation of the rules may raise a point of order by standing or raising their hand and verbally announcing "point of order". Upon recognition by the judge or chair, time should be stopped. The debater should briefly state the nature of the violation. The judge or chair may then ask the other team for their defense and following that, rule on the point of order. "Point well taken" shall indicate that the point of order was valid. "Point not well taken" shall indicate that the point of order was not valid. "Point taken under consideration" shall indicate that the point of order is being deferred for later evaluation. When a point of order is deemed to be "well taken", the judge may instruct debaters to retract, rephrase, and/or avoid arguments. Points of order are intended only to address rule violations and shall not be raised to insert new arguments or to disrupt another debaters' speech.
- F. Point of Personal Privilege.** Point of personal privilege may be noted in rare instances when a debater feels that the speaker has insulted one of the participants in the debate, made an offensive comment, or badly misrepresented a point. The time of the speech is stopped when the point is raised and the judge must rule on whether the argument is acceptable.
- G. Timekeeping.** The judge or chair of the judging panel shall provide time signals to the debaters or shall appoint someone to do so. The timekeeper shall indicate to the debaters the end and beginning of "protected time" during constructive speeches by loudly striking the table. Time shall not be stopped for points of information, but shall be stopped during presentation and adjudication of points of order and points of personal privilege.
- H. Evidence.** With the exception of the document you are reading now, "The KCPDL Rules for Debating and Judging," debaters should use only materials that they themselves wrote or similarly transcribed or produced after the announcement of that round's resolution. Debaters should not use in any debate 1) quoted evidence or "cards;" 2) electronically or "nearly instantly" copied files or recordings; nor 3) materials written or similarly transcribed or produced during preparation time by others such as coaches or teammates (except their debate partner for that round). Debaters may cite statistics or sources for facts or definitions, but such factual citations should not be the sole basis upon which an argument rests. Debaters should rely upon their own analysis as the primary basis for arguments.

V. After the Round

- A. Ballot and Speaker Points.** As soon as possible after the conclusion of the round, judges shall complete and return to the tab room a written ballot. The ballot must include a designated winner and loser. Speaker points shall be assigned to each debater on a 20-30 scale as follows:
- 30:** Rare example of outstanding achievement in analysis and presentation.
 - 28-29:** Excellent accomplishment in analysis and presentation.
 - 26-27:** Good accomplishment of analysis and presentation.
 - 24-25:** Fair accomplishment of analysis and/or presentation with some deficiencies.
 - 20-23:** Several to severe deficiencies in analysis and/or presentation.
 - 0:** Deliberately offensive behavior, intentional violation of rules.
- B. Basis for Decision.** The resolution forms the basis for the round. The Government may derive any legitimate interpretation of the resolution and construct a case based upon that. If, at the end of the round, the Government has crafted such an interpretation and successfully defended a case based upon it, the Government should win the round. The Opposition may oppose the linguistic legitimacy of the Government's interpretation of the resolution and/or the case itself and/or the underlying resolution as the Government interprets it. If, at the end of the round, the Opposition has successfully opposed the Government in one or more of these areas, the Opposition should win the round. The basis of the judgment shall be on the analysis and not on evidence within the round.
- C. Non-Intervention.** Judges shall base their decisions upon the arguments made, persuasive style displayed by the debaters, and the rules for the event. While judges are encouraged to make verbal and written comments to educate debaters as to relevant factual or normative concerns that were not raised by the debaters, the win/loss decision for the round should be grounded solely in the persuasiveness of the arguments made by the debaters.
- D. Exit.** Immediately after the round, debaters and audience members should leave the room. Judges must complete the written ballot and return it to the tab room. Judges should refrain from offering verbal critiques.