

**ILLINOIS CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE ASSOCIATION  
RULES FOR INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENTS**

**ELIGIBILITY, APPORTIONMENT, AND GENERAL RULES**

An invitational tournament must follow these ICDA rules in order to be eligible for the State Competition. Schools wishing to host an ICDA tournament must be approved at the Spring coaches meeting, and placed on the ICDA schedule.

1. An ICDA invitational tournament has the requirement that all entries must be current high school students in good standing.
2. Fees are based on original entry number or actual participant number, whichever is greater. Registration fees are \$10 per student for the Novice Workshop; \$10 for a one-day tournament.
3. Judging responsibilities are determined by the needs of the tournament according to the tournament director. The general rule of thumb is one judge for 1-9 participants (expect to judge all three rounds); more than 9 participants will judge the fraction thereof. Tournament host should count the oversight committee/tab room personnel as judging assignments.
4. Coaches must verify that their hired judges are qualified. In order to maintain objectivity, hired judges should be out of high school at least one full year.
  - A. The ICDA Oversight Committee will conduct a training session at ICDA #1 Session #1. This training will fulfill the training requirement for new judges.
5. Once registered, schools are responsible for their registration fees and judging fees (@ \$100 per session) even if they do not participate. This holds true as long as the tournament has not been cancelled.
  - A. Inclement weather: If a school principal or superintendent does not allow a team to attend a tournament due to inclement weather, or COVID restrictions, ICDA will release that school/district from the team's tournament fees.
    - i. The non-attending team will provide documentation from their school/district Principal/Superintendent verifying the directive not to attend the tournament due to inclement weather, or COVID restrictions.
    - ii. Oversight will work with attending schools to cover judging assignments
6. Chamber assignments will be randomized. Requests for pairing of students will not be honored.
7. The tournament manager will provide a copy of the rules in every chamber.
8. Varsity Teams are capped at 45 entries per school.
  - A. Novice Workshop/Junior Varsity Tournaments
    - o No limit on novice workshop attendees
    - o Teams may enter an additional 20 JV debaters beyond the 45 entry maximum
    - o Max of 45 Varsity entries
9. Debaters who have competed in an ICDA tournament in the previous ICDA season are not eligible for Junior Varsity chambers in the current ICDA season. Debaters new to ICDA in the current season

may be moved from Junior Varsity chambers to Varsity chambers and back to Junior Varsity chambers in the at the discretion of their coach.

10. It has been determined that **hosting schools will follow registration deadlines**, and any school that does not submit their registration by the Friday prior to the tournament **will not be allowed to participate**. A confirmation e-mail will be sent to all schools that registered for a tournament the Monday following the registration deadline.
11. The host school will pay the Illinois Congressional Debate Association a \$2 fee per student participant (not the number registered, but the number in actual attendance).
12. Oversight will conduct a meeting at the start of each tournament (8:00-8:15 a.m.) in order to provide information relevant to the tournament.
13. The Official Team Representative or their Adult designee will complete the tournament registration process in person on the day of each tournament.
14. ICDA Invitational Tournament sessions will be 2.25 hours in length. The schedule will be:

Committees/Coach and Judge meeting	- 8:00-8:15 a.m.
Session 1	8:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Session 2	11:00 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.
LUNCH	1:15 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Session 3	2:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

## **LEGISLATION**

15. Each school may submit legislation for the next tournament, which must be received electronically by the Oversight Chairperson no later than 5:00 pm Friday, one week before the tournament. Only legislation that is submitted by the due date and in the proper format may be considered for debate at the following tournament.
  - A. Teams must submit legislation to the committee to which they have been assigned.
    - i. Teams may submit additional legislation
    - ii. Additional submissions may be added to the proposed legislation for voting if a threshold of five (5) eligible pieces of proposed legislation in a committee is not met. In that case, all additional eligible submissions in the respective committee will be added to the proposed legislation for voting.
16. Bills should be authored by no more than two students.
17. A maximum of **three** bills per committee will be selected for the following tournament.
  - A. Oversight committee will select/reject legislation based on proper formatting and committee assignments.
  - B. Oversight Chairperson will electronically post all submitted legislation for review by ICDA Coaches.
  - C. ICDA Official Representatives will vote electronically by preferential ballot on submitted legislation.
  - D. The final legislation packet will be composed of the top three most preferred bills in each committee.
  - E. All submitted bills will be posted along with the final Legislative Packet
  - F. Rejected bills will clearly state the reason they were not selected.

## **COMMITTEE SESSIONS**

18. There will only be a **committee of the whole** for each chamber. Chamber members will place nominated dockets on the board. The chamber will then vote on the most desirable docket. Only one vote per school is permitted.
19. The committee of the whole shall meet (not before 8 A.M.) to select the bills to be debated within the respective chambers. The purpose of the committee is to select the most debatable bills. Discussions within the committee shall be restricted to the issue of debatability. ("Is the bill controversial, timely, well written?" "Are there substantial pro and con arguments concerning the bill?")
20. Only the committee of the whole shall have the authority to amend legislation providing that the amendments are for the purpose of clarification or correction of errors and does not change the intent of the legislation.
21. The bills on the docket shall be considered in the order recommended by the committee of the whole. The docket order ( Domestic Affairs (100), Foreign Affairs (200), Civil Policy (300)) must follow the same sequence throughout the docket. The docket sequence must provide for debate on each bill type before repeating a type. The process shall continue until time expires or until all bills are debated.

## **PROCEDURES WITHIN THE CHAMBERS**

22. Seating Charts will be randomized for each session in all chambers. Judges will assign participant seating based on seating charts provided.
23. The judges shall then conduct elections for Presiding Officers. Students may be nominated or may nominate themselves. Each nominee shall be given an opportunity to present a brief statement in support of his/her candidacy. Each person within the chamber may cast one vote for presiding officer, except that no school shall have more than two votes. Voting will continue until one person receives a majority. If there are more than three candidates, the candidate (or candidates if they are tied) with the lowest vote total shall be dropped from consideration on subsequent votes. The person who obtained the majority shall have first choice regarding the session for which he/she wishes to be presiding officer. The person with the second greatest number of votes shall have second choice. The person with the third greatest number of votes will preside over the remaining session.
  - A. Varsity Presiding Officers must have participated in at least one (1) Varsity level Congressional Debate tournament before presiding for the first time. The honor code will be in place, and violators will make their team ineligible for a sweepstakes award.
  - B. All participants in Junior Varsity (JV) tournaments are eligible to be Presiding Officers in Junior Varsity (JV) tournaments.
24. Voting in all elections (election of Presiding Officer, Best Presiding Officer, Second Place and Third Place Speakers, Best Legislation) shall be, one person, one vote except that no school shall have more than two votes.
25. Voting on all procedural matters, motions, rules, votes for and against bills and resolutions –all matters except for election of Presiding Officer, Best Presiding Officer, Second Place and Third Place Speakers, Best Legislation – shall be one person, one vote.

26. Debate shall begin once the presiding officers have been selected. Both judges must be present for debate to begin. Once procedural issues at the beginning of the session are completed, the P.O. will calculate the remaining time for debate in the session. The **maximum** amount of time the chamber may spend on any legislation will be **one half** of that remaining time, rounded up to the nearest minute.
27. Each session will be its own legislative day, with no bills carrying over to the next session. All debated bills will be voted on at the end of each session. If a bill is tabled and has not been debated, it may carry over to the next session. Once a speech has been given on a bill, it must be tabled or voted upon by the end of the session and cannot be removed from the table in a later session.
28. People who have not spoken have precedence over those who have and the Presiding Officer must acknowledge these people before s/he recognizes others. A reluctance to do so (intentionally or otherwise) would warrant a point of order.

*Cumulative Precedence*

- A. *When the Presiding Officer is choosing amongst potential speakers who have not yet delivered a speech in that session, they must choose the debater who has given the fewest speeches cumulatively throughout the tournament. (NOTE: This requires all Presiding Officers to keep a running tally of each debater's total number of speeches throughout the day.)*
- B. *When multiple speakers are tied for the fewest speeches cumulatively throughout the tournament, the Presiding Officer chooses amongst them at their discretion.*
- C. *Speaking order from a previous session does NOT carry over into subsequent sessions.*

Recency is at the discretion of the Presiding Officer. The Presiding Officer should indicate their methodology for selecting speakers at the beginning of the session in which they are presiding.

29. Debate on each bill will begin with a request for a four-minute authorship speech to be given by the author. In the absence of an author, the Presiding Officer will call for a speech in favor of the bill (sponsorship). Following the delivery of the authorship or three minute first "pro" speech, the chair will ask for a speech in opposition of the bill. This speech will be four minutes long if it follows a four-minute authorship. It will be three minutes long if it follows a three minute first "pro" speech. This alternating process of three minute speeches will continue until the time limit expires.
  - A. The only authorships that will be given are those by the actual author(s) of the bill. If the author is not in the chamber, the PO will call for a sponsorship. The representative school will not automatically be granted the sponsorship; all debaters have equal opportunity to present a sponsorship speech. Students may give as many speeches per session as desired, but only their top two speeches per session will be counted towards awards.
30. Direct Questioning will be used at all ICDA tournaments in all chambers. A 3-minute direct questioning will follow a 4-minute speech and a 2-minute direct questioning will follow a 3-minute speech. Each questioner will have 1 minute of time that cannot be yielded to the next questioner.
31. Presiding Officers will select questioners based on Precedence. Precedence is the act of acknowledging people who have yet to question a speaker before a representative earns a second, third, fourth, etc. chance. Essentially, people who have not questioned a speaker have precedence over those who have and the Presiding Officer must acknowledge these people before s/he recognizes others. A reluctance to do so (intentionally or otherwise) would warrant a point of order.

32. Voting procedures: In the case of needing a majority vote, 51% of those on the seating chart must vote in favor to pass. In the case of needing a 2/3 majority vote, it will be 2/3 of those on the seating chart. In cases of ties, the Presiding Officer may vote to break a tie.
33. A speaker who speaks on both sides of a bill will receive a '0' for the speech opposing his/her original speech.
  - A. A speaker who speaks contrary to the pro/con sequence will receive a score of zero for that speech.

### **JUDGES RESPONSIBILITIES**

34. Judges shall be responsible for evaluating all participants' speeches. Judges may evaluate their own participant's speeches, but these scores will not be averaged into speech totals. Judges should openly share their critique forms with the other judge. Judges shall attempt to keep speech scores from participants in the chamber.
35. Judges shall keep track of the participation of members of the chamber, including speeches and questions.
36. Judges shall each individually nominate at the end of each session two people to be considered for speaker awards. They will not confer, and they will not nominate students from their own school.
  - A. Judges will rank nominations 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>.
37. Prior to each individual session, both judges in each session will confer with one another about their expectations for "Congressional Ethos." Judges will introduce their shared "Congressional Ethos" expectations to each chamber each session. The oversight committee together will provide guidelines in the form of a Congressional Ethos Statement prior to the tournament.
  - A. Judges shall award **ethos** points to each member of the chamber following each session. Those points may range from 0-3 and shall be based on "Congressional Ethos." A student who does not participate should receive a '0'. A student on the seating chart who is absent should be marked as absent, *not* with a '0'.
  - B. Congressional Ethos scores will be given to Presiding Officers.
38. The Presiding Officer's score shall be capped at the maximum number of speeches during that session. If speakers have spoken a maximum of once, the two judges' scores shall be averaged to result in one Presiding Officer score out of 6 points. If the maximum number of speeches is two or greater, both judges' scores will comprise the P.O.'s score out of 12 points. The P.O.'s score may exceed the highest speaker's score.
39. The judges shall be the ultimate authorities in parliamentary procedure and fairness in recognizing speakers. They shall have the power and responsibility to correct or overturn a decision of the Presiding Officer.
40. All judges should return to the tab room with results at the end of the session in case there is a question concerning said results.

41. If a coach believes a judge has acted in an inappropriate manner, provides discouraging comments, and/or very limited feedback, the official team representative should provide the Oversight Executive Commissioner his/her concerns in writing. The Oversight Executive Commissioner will follow-up with the appropriate official team representative if necessary.
42. ICDA judges will be identified by name and school affiliation on tabulation sheets.

## **VOTING**

43. Judges shall conduct elections for Outstanding Legislation at the end of the third session. Only legislation that was debated and voted upon within the chamber shall be eligible for consideration. Each person in the chamber shall be allowed one vote with the exception that no school shall have more than two votes.
  - A. Voting will consider legislation by committee. (ie top legislation in 100s, then 200s, then 300s.)
44. Each chamber will record the total number of votes received for each piece of eligible legislation. Chamber results will be tallied in the tab room. The top legislation in each committee will receive awards based on vote totals.
  - A. The total number of chambers in which legislation received votes will be used to break ties. If the number of chambers is also equal, then a coin-toss will determine the award winner.
45. Judges shall conduct elections for best Presiding Officer at the end of the third session. Each person in the chamber shall be allowed one vote with the exception that no school shall have more than two votes. The winning candidate must receive a simple majority of the votes cast. If no person earns a simple majority, the candidate who receives the lowest vote total will be dropped from consideration and voting will be repeated.
46. Judges shall conduct elections for the Second Place and Third Place speaker awards at the end of the third session. The host school shall provide the judges in each chamber with the names of participants who have been nominated by judges for speaker awards. (The winner of the "First Place Speaker Award" shall be deleted from balloting.)
47. The names of all nominees shall be announced, and all chamber members shall be entitled to one vote with the exception that no school shall have more than two votes. The winner of the Second Place Speaker Award must receive simple majority of the votes cast. If no person earns a simple majority, the person who receives the lowest vote total (or all candidates with the same lowest total) will be dropped from consideration until such time as a candidate does obtain the required simple majority. On the balloting in which a candidate does receive a simple majority, the person with the second highest vote total shall be awarded the Third Place Award.
  - A. In the event there is a tie among persons with the highest vote total, a run-off election for the Third Place Award shall be held.
  - B. If, after three attempts, the chamber cannot break the tie between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place speakers, then the tab-room will break the tie using the same procedures used to break tie for 1<sup>st</sup> place speakers.
48. A First Place Speaker Award shall be given to the person with the highest speech average. A minimum of three speeches is required to be eligible for this award.

- A. In case of a 1<sup>st</sup> place tie, ties will be broken by Oversight in the following order: speech average, number of nominations, 1<sup>st</sup> place over 2<sup>nd</sup> place nominations.

### **CALCUATION OF SWEEPSTAKES (TEAM) AWARDS**

49. This contest is divided into two divisions, Large Teams and Small Teams, based on actual participants at the tournament, including all students even those entered for only part of the tournament. P.O. scores will count towards total team sweepstakes points.

- A. Large teams will consist of 11 or more actual participants in a varsity tournament.

50. Sweepstakes results will be provided after tournaments with teams listed by order of results.

### **CALCULATING SWEEPSTAKES AWARDS FOR LARGE TEAMS**

51. The first, second, and third place team awards shall be based on calculations as described below:

52. Scores for each individual participant—including “Congressional Ethos”, speeches, and presiding officer points—shall be totaled.

53. The number of high point speakers used to determine the sweepstakes award shall be the top eight per school.

54. The high point speaker scores shall be totaled by school and ranked accordingly. The three schools with the highest totals shall be declared the first, second, and third place winners. In the event of ties, duplicate awards shall be presented.

### **CALCULATING SWEEPSTAKES AWARDS FOR SMALL TEAMS**

55. The first, second, and third place school awards shall be based on calculations as described below:

56. Scores for each individual participant—including “Congressional Ethos”, speeches, and presiding officer points—shall be totaled.

57. The number of high point speakers used to determine the sweepstakes award shall be the top four per school.

58. The high point speaker scores shall be totaled by school and ranked accordingly. The three schools with the highest totals shall be declared the first, second, and third place winners. In the event of ties, duplicate awards shall be presented.

### **DECORUM AND BEHAVIOR**

59. No eating or drinking of in chambers by contestants. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the tournament host.

60. Inappropriate language will not be allowed.

61. Disrespect or misuse of facilities or furnishings will not be tolerated.
62. Appropriate behavior is expected at all times.
63. Unsportsmanlike behavior will not be tolerated.
64. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Plagiarism is defined as work or ideas taken word for word and passed off as one's own.
65. Falsification of evidence will not be tolerated.
66. **Electronic Devices** -Electronic Devices may be used in the chambers. Internet access during sessions (i.e. debate, recess, breaks) is allowed.
  - A. Neither speakers nor questioners may use electronic devices while speaking or questioning.
67. Consequences for infractions may result in the following actions by the Oversight Committee:
  - Disqualification from the tournament
  - Loss of participation points
  - Forfeiture of awards
  - Schools held financially responsible for all damages incurred
  - School administrators being notified of any misconduct
  - Any additional consequences deemed appropriate to the severity of the infraction
68. Judges are responsible for enforcement of the rules and reporting infractions.
69. Special needs students will be accommodated according to individual needs. Coaches should report those needs to the tab room at the beginning of the tournament.



## **APPENDIX**

### **OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS AND MEETINGS**

The responsibilities of the Oversight Committee include:

- Acting as an advisory body to tournament hosts
- Sponsor of the All State Team
- Assisting with the operation of the State Tournament

The Oversight Committee will meet during the 1<sup>st</sup> session of each tournament in lieu of a judging assignment.

Committee members should be very familiar with this activity, should have coached for at least three years, and should have hosted at least one tournament.

### **CAPTAINS MEETINGS**

Captains are an advisory body.

Captains meetings occur during the Saturday lunch break. Host school will provide an appropriate meeting space.

- Captains will eat in their team's homeroom
- Captains will meet at 1:30pm in the designated Captains Meeting room.

One representative per school will attend the Captains Meeting.

The ICDA Oversight Director and the Host of the upcoming tournament will attend the meeting.

### **ALL STATE TEAM**

The All State Team recognizes the top 10 debaters annually, as determined by the number of nominations received at the first four (ICDA 1-4) ICDA invitational tournaments.

To qualify, the schools must be ICDA members.

A student will receive one point per session for one or more nominations. A presiding officer will receive .5 points for each point earned by nomination at that tournament, with a maximum of three points per tournament. The All State Team will consist of the top 10 point earners. Ties will be broken by:

- Highest average points per speech for the five tournaments
- Greatest number of 6 point speeches for the five tournaments
- Total number of nominations for the five tournaments

### **UNIFORM FORMS (PO, JUDGING, ETC.)**

Forms will be provided to tournament Host by Oversight Committee.

*Revised, August 2023*

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