

IV- State Qualifying Tournaments:

1. It is the intent of the TCFL to run each of our three qualification tournaments according to the State Tournament rules as closely as possible. Our rules follow CHSSA's rules except where otherwise noted.
2. TCFL communicates to its members via e-mail reminders and our league website, created by and maintained by its president/co-presidents (<http://trivalleysite.yolasite.com>).
3. Tournament Dates and Locations
 - a. The dates of our state qualifying tournaments are calendared during the summer preceding the academic year; each tournament is hosted by a volunteer member school. All tournament expenses are paid for by the league, and the host schools receive a monetary honorarium.
 - b. Ideally, our state qualifying tournaments are held on three successive weekends in the following order: Debate, Congress, IEs. Contingent on the state tournament entry deadline, our state qualifying tournaments begin in late February and conclude by mid-March.
4. Eligibility
 - a. Any paid-up member school (league dues are due at the first tournament of the season) who is a verified member in good standing with the parent organization, CHSSA, may enter any or all of the state qualifying tournaments.
 - b. Individual students must satisfy their eligibility to enter by competing in at least one TCFL-sponsored Open level Debate or IE tournament or one Student Congress during the competition year. There are at least six opportunities from October to February for students to enter and compete three rounds at a league open tournament.
 - c. Eligibility is verified by a league officer upon submission of student name.
 - i. Students gain eligibility under their team's name. For example, if John Smith competes three rounds at a TCFL tournament with Team A, but transfers to Team B only after all TCFL Open-level opportunities are exhausted, they are not eligible to compete at state qualifying tournaments.
 - ii. Even if a student competes with both Team A at one TCFL open-level tournament and transfers to Team B in time to compete at a second TCFL open-level tournament, they are not automatically eligible to compete; their eligibility is still subject to CHSSA transfer rules in Section Six, subsection F.
5. Entry Restrictions & Limits
 - a. By the first day of each competitor's first state qualifying tournament, their coach must submit a signed form outlining the student's event preferences in order.
 - i. For example, Student A may have the following preferences:
 1. Compete at the state championship in Parliamentary Debate and Impromptu Speaking

2. Compete at the state championship in Parliamentary Debate and Original Oratory
 3. Compete at the state championship in Student Congress
 4. Compete at the state championship in Parliamentary Debate
 - a. This student would be allowed to attend the Debate Qualifier, the Congress, qualifier, and the speech qualifier. They are competing in good faith.
 - ii. However, Student B may have the following preferences:
 1. Compete at the state championship in Student Congress
 2. Compete at the state championship in Parliamentary Debate
 3. Compete at the state championship in Parliamentary Debate and Impromptu Speaking
 4. Compete at the state championship in Parliamentary Debate and Original Oratory
 - a. This student, if they qualified in Student Congress, would yield their slots in Oratory and Impromptu at the IE qualifier; they would not compete at the IE qualifier.
 - b. Parliamentary Debate qualifiers are prohibited from entering in National or International Extemp at the IE qualifier.
 - c. Teams are allowed to enter up to seven Lincoln-Douglas Debaters, four Public Forum debate teams, four Policy debate teams, and four Parliamentary debate teams at the debate qualifier.
 - i. No student may be entered in more than one debate event at the debate qualifier.
 - d. Teams are allowed to enter up to 10 Congressional Debaters and two presiding officer candidates at the congress qualifier.
 - i. No student may be entered both in Congressional Debate and the presiding officer contest.
 - e. Teams are allowed to enter up to five students per competitive category at the IE qualifier.
 - i. No student may be entered in more than two events at the IE qualifier.
 - f. Students who are unavailable to attend on the dates of the state championship are ineligible to compete in the qualification tournaments.
6. Entry Fees, Deadlines, and Requirements
 - a. The entry deadline for each tournament is generally the Tuesday prior to the tournament date.
 - b. Entries are submitted electronically.
 - c. Entry fees are due prior to the first round or will be subject to disqualification.
 - d. Debate entries are seeded by the submitting coach and are subject to limitations.
 - e. State Qual Entry fees are slightly higher due to the greater expense of qualifying plaques and finalist medals and judging stipends; there is also a mandatory school fee.

- f. Coaches are required to meet judging obligations, typically one judge per every 2 teams, 4 LDs, 6 congress speakers, and 6 IEs. College-age judges must be 2 years out of high school. Every effort is made to secure a “non-biased” judging pool.
 - g. Speech Script/Entry Submission
 - i. The procedure for approving a script will be proposed to and approved by a majority of the league no later than the final Open league speech tournament of the year.
 - 1. For example, in past years, scripts have been submitted to committees roughly a month prior to the competition and subjected to a series of checklists.
 - 2. However, there are other options, including requiring students to only submit their titles and subjects in advance, and have copies of the script available at the competition in case of protest; the checklist-based vetting could take place for the qualifying scripts when the contest is over.
 - ii. In the 2019-2020 season, coaches must submit a verification form to the TCFL EB indicating their students competed in three full rounds at an Open Speech TCFL tournament, an Open Debate TCFL Tournament, or a TCFL Congress tournament. The TCFL EB will verify the submission.
 - 1. Students who did not compete for a full three rounds at one of those competitions will not be eligible to compete at the state qualifying tournaments.
 - iii. In the 2019-2020 season, coaches must submit publication information for interpretation speeches on Tabroom by the conclusion of the Debate Qualifier. The TCFL EB will review and verify this information.
 - iv. Coaches must submit a filled-out CHSSA cover sheet for each prepared event, scripts for every platform speech, and highlighted scripts (with added words indicated) for every interpretation speech in accordance with CHSSA guidelines by the Wednesday before Speech Qualifiers to the TCFL EB.
 - v. Students in prepared events who have not successfully submitted an approved script by the state qual paneling session are not permitted to enter.
 - h. In order for a school's entries to participate at the Congress state qualifier, schools will have to submit a bill/resolution in accordance with a deadline established by the TCFL EB (typically two weeks prior to the Congress state qualifier). The Congress state qualifying tournament will have two pieces of legislation per round.
7. Judging Assignments
- a. For IEs and Congress, we use 2 judges in prelims unless we have enough for 3.
 - b. Events advancing straight to Finals are assigned 3 judges in Finals.

- c. For bigger Speech events and Congress, Semis have 3 judges and Finals have 5.
 - d. We will use two debate judges per preliminary round and three per elimination round.
8. Speech Procedures
- a. Coaches are permitted to “protect” two of their speakers in each event.
 - i. Coaches may use a double star for their top seed and a single star for their next in line.
 - ii. TCFL encourages its coaches to use this system judiciously and to only star those speakers who truly have demonstrated their abilities
 - b. Every effort is made to keep double stars away from each other, to keep speakers from the same school apart, and speakers who have identical or very similar pieces apart.
 - c. The starring system becomes moot after the first round and is replaced by actual round 1 results. However, the tournament continues to power-protect based on seeding until the final round.
9. Debate Tabbing and Tiebreakers
- a. Automatic Qualification
 - i. If there are not enough entries from other schools to compete for all qualifying spots, a school can automatically qualify for those spots as long as the students taking those spots have competed in at least one Open level TCFL tournament. The coach from the school with several entries will choose the students to fill the vacant spots.
 - ii. Historically, the only debate event affected by Auto Qual is Policy Debate.
 - b. Judges:
 - i. Each school needs 1 qualified judge for every team in one event or fraction thereof.
 - ii. Each school needs 1 qualified judge for every 2 LDs or fraction thereof.
 - c. Judging Panels
 - i. We will use two judges for prelims and begin using 3 judges, depending on our judging pool, after the fourth preliminary round
 - ii. If the judging pool is small, then we will begin using 3 judges when it is mathematically feasible and use one judge per prelim.
 - d. Paneling
 - i. Schools will rank their entries from 1-4 for team events and 1-7 for LD. This is because we will try to power-protect through the entire tournament. No 1s should be hitting each other during round 1.
 - ii. Rounds 1-4 - Preliminary rounds:
 1. All teams or individuals shall debate in rounds one, two, three, and four.
 2. Teams or individuals will not be matched against students from their same school.

3. Pairings will be based on:
 - a. Number of ballots won
 - b. Number of debates won (both judges, not a split decision)
 - c. Number of ballots won by all four Opponents faced
 - d. Number of ballots won by Opponents who split with them
 - e. Number of ballots won by Opponents who defeated them
 - f. Speaker points
 - g. Speaker points, drop hi-lo
 4. After round one and prior to the elimination round, all competitors shall be matched against opponents with the same record of ballots won.
 - a. If the winner's bracket is uneven, the lowest speaker in the loser's bracket that fits will be put into the winner's bracket for that round. If the same thing occurs in the loser's bracket, a bye will be drawn following these guidelines
 - i. No school can have more than one bye unless all schools in the once-defeated pool already had one.
 - ii. Byes are drawn from competitors who lost to a team in the winner's bracket.
 - iii. If all candidates for byes are from schools with a previous bye, then the bye will be randomly drawn from all other schools in the once defeated pool with no previous byes.
 5. Students are guaranteed to be assigned Affirmative and Negative one time each in rounds 1 and 2. Beginning with round 3, students will flip for sides.
- iii. At the conclusion of round four all teams or individuals shall be ranked according to the following criteria:
 1. Number of ballots won
 2. Number of debates won (both judges, not a split decision)
 3. Number of ballots won by all four Opponents faced
 4. Number of ballots won by Opponents who split with them
 5. Number of ballots won by Opponents who defeated them
 6. Speaker points
 7. Speaker points, drop hi-lo
- iv. The undefeated competitors/teams in each event, based on these rankings, will auto-advance to the state championship.
 1. If there are more undefeated teams than there are state qualification slots in a category, there will be no auto-advancing competitors in that category. Rather, the tournament will break to a bracket and follow the guidelines listed in CHSSA article XII, section 3, subsection G.

- v. If our league has additional slots for the state championship after determining auto-advancing/undefeated competitors, we will have an elimination round in order to determine who the final state qualifiers are.
 - 1. For example, if we have seven slots in a category, and the top four auto-advance to the state championship, then seeds 5-10 will debate in the elimination round to determine who our fifth, sixth, and seventh-place team will be.
 - 2. The sides for the elimination round shall be determined by a coin toss immediately preceding the round when both teams or individuals and judges are present unless the teams or individuals have previously met. Rounds must begin no more than five minutes after the coin-toss-decision on sides.
 - 3. If students from the same school would face each other based on seeding in the elimination round, we will ‘break the bracket’ in order to ensure that they are not paired against each other.
- vi. If the tournament is paired according to the procedures outlined in this Article, no byes should be necessary. If some unforeseen circumstance occurs (i.e. a team dropping from the tournament due to illness, the awarding of double wins as a result of a protest, etc.), it may be necessary to draw byes in preliminary rounds.
 - 1. If this is the case, byes should be drawn from the lowest ranked bracket that has an odd number of entries, so as to best maintain the integrity of each bracket through the tournament. If a bye is necessary in round one, it should be drawn at random.

10. Speech/Congress Tabbing and Tie-Breakers

- a. Paneling follows state guidelines per the CHSSA constitution, Article X “I.E. Tabulation” pages 1-4.
- b. Results of each round are recorded on cards and then the next round is paneled following CHSSA guidelines.
- c. Ties are broken using CHSSA rules (Article X).
- d. For semis we place 7 in each panel instead of 6 and use CHSSA tabulation rules for final placement.
- e. Students in events with 14 or less advance straight to Finals and students in events with more than 14 competitors advance to Semis and then Finals.

11. Correcting Errors

- a. If an error in tabbing or paneling is caught before the round goes out, it is re-paneled immediately.
- b. Once a preliminary round begins, it won’t be re-run.
- c. If a student is accidentally dropped due to tabbing error, and the breaking rounds have already begun, s/he will be placed in one of the break round panels for that event.
- d. We have an open tab room so coaches can view scores and identify tabbing errors before the break rounds begin.

- e. If a student has been accidentally placed in a round when they should have been eliminated prior, and the round has already started, the round may conclude, but the students' scores will be discounted and they will be ineligible to advance further.
 - i. For example, if Student A was placed in a semifinal round when they should have been eliminated prior, and they ranked 1st place from a judge that round, the next-in-line (Student B) will receive Student A's rankings instead (2nd place on that judge's ballot will be bumped up to first place).

12. Protests

- a. In general, the TCFL will follow the CHSSA bylaws for protests (ARTICLE XIV, Section 8), but will replace the language about 'area chairs' and 'protest committee' with 'TCFL executive board.'
- b. Protests are handled by the league's elected executive committee. A majority of committee members must agree on the remedy for the protest.
 - i. No lone executive committee member may make the sole determination as to the resolution of the protest.
- c. A protest must be presented in accordance with CHSSA rules for protests.
- d. If a member of the committee has a bias/interest in the resolution of the protest, they must act in good faith and recuse themselves from the deliberation.
- e. If it is determined that a script, speech, or action by a competitor has deliberately or inadvertently violated a TCFL or CHSSA rule, s/he may be warned, have his/her rank lowered, or be disqualified, depending on severity.
- f. If it is uncertain whether a CHSSA rule was violated, or the TCFL executive committee is deadlocked, a call to the Vice-President of CHSSA will be made to rectify the problem. Should a protest occur concerning tabbing, it will be resolved using CHSSA rules for IEs and Congress, and both TCFL rules and CHSSA rules for debate.
- g. All protests, including the initial complaint, the response, and the determination, must be documented in writing by the TCFL executive committee. The documentation must be made available upon request to any involved party.