

# COMPETITION EXPECTATIONS

## Conduct & Professionalism

- Debaters are expected to conduct themselves with civility, professionalism, and decorum throughout all programming.
- Aggressive, disrespectful, or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated.
- Participants are expected to engage respectfully with opponents, judges, staff, and fellow attendees at all times.
- Participants should arrive on time and prepared for all scheduled rounds and activities.

## Competition Materials

- All speech documents and research materials must be printed and brought in physical form (paper documents, note cards, or handwritten notes).
- Electronic devices, including laptops and tablets, may not be used during competition rounds.
- Cell phones may only be used for timing purposes.

## Debate Timing & Procedures

- Each debater is allotted two minutes of optional preparation time to use at their discretion throughout the round.
- Debaters are responsible for keeping their own time.
- After each use of preparation time, debaters should clearly state how much time has been used and how much remains.

## Judging Standards

- Judges evaluate each round using the official Ronald Reagan Debate Series rubric.
- Judges are instructed to evaluate rounds from the perspective of the average American voter.
- Use of excessive debate jargon or highly technical competitive debate terminology may negatively impact scoring.
- Judges assign speaker points to each competitor and determine a winner.
- Debaters may not receive identical scores.

## Tournament Administration

- All rulings made by tournament administration are final.
- Tournament schedules and procedures may be adjusted at the discretion of event staff.
- Questions regarding rules, logistics, or disputes should be directed immediately to tournament administration.

## Participation Requirements

- Each student must remain under the supervision of their approved adult chaperone throughout the duration of the regional tournament.