

# NITOC 2014 Debate Tournament Protocol

## Lincoln Douglas Value and Team Policy Debate

- All students/teams will compete in at least six Preliminary debate rounds
  - Even those students/teams accumulating four losses will be assured six rounds of debate
  
- **Preliminary Rounds 1 and 2** will be Power Protected (using Speechranks data), State protected (both student and club state, if possible), and Club protected as has occurred at all previous NITOCs.
  - Hi seeds will debate low seeds
    - E.g. Round 1 - #1 debates #100, #2 debates #99
    - E.g. Round 2 - #1 debates #99, #2 debates #100
    - The exception being if the top seeds are assigned a Bye or if State/Club protect requires the high seed to debate the first available lowest seed
  - Each student/team will debate one affirmative and one negative round
  
- **Preliminary Rounds 3 - 6** will be Power Matched - Hi/Lo within brackets (Win/Loss record)
  - This is the standard Power Matching used at all NITOCs and tournaments throughout the season
  - Aff/Neg side balance will continue
  - Prior opponent protection will apply
  - No State or Club protections apply
  
- **Preliminary Rounds 7 - 10**
  - All students/teams with 3 or fewer losses will continue competing
    - Any student/team accumulating a fourth loss will be eliminated from the tournament
      - Approximately one-half of the students/teams with three losses will accumulate their fourth loss each round and will be eliminated from the tournament
    - If the total number of students/teams with 3 or fewer losses is an odd number, then the highest ranked student/team with 4 losses will also advance to the next round, so that no Bye is given (This is explained in greater detail later in the protocol)
  - Power Matching will continue
  - Aff/Neg side balance will continue
  - Prior opponent protection will apply
  - No State or Club protections apply
  
- **Outrounds – Octofinals, Quarters, Semis and Finals**
  - The top 16 students/teams (with a 7-3 or better record) will advance to Octofinals
  - If fewer than 16 students/teams have a 7-3 or better record – the students/teams with the best record(s) will receive a Bye (win) per usual tabulation protocols
    - Breaks to Octofinals will be determined first by Win/Loss record and then by an even weighting of Speaker Points, Speaker Ranks, and Strength of Schedule
      - This is a superior means of breaking ties within the same Win/Loss record compared to the older serial method of tiebreakers
    - No State or Club protections apply
    - No prior opponent protections apply

- The Octofinal seedings are as follows:
    - #1 vs. #16
    - #2 vs. #15
    - #3 vs. #14
    - #4 vs. #13, etc.
      - #1 and #2 will be in opposite brackets
        - #4 will be in the bracket with #1
        - #3 will be in the bracket with #2, etc.
  - Students/Teams will advance through their respective brackets
    - No re-seeding will occur
    - A loss during the Octofinals, Quarters, Semis or Finals eliminates a student/team from the tournament
- **Determining Aff/Neg during Outrounds**
    - The student/team with the superior record will chose sides
      - This applies even if the students/teams have previously debated
        - This process helps level the playing field for those students/teams with superior records who now are at risk for tournament elimination without the benefit of an equivalent number of losses afforded to students/teams with inferior records
      - Tab will specify if a student/team has a choice of sides
        - Win/Loss records will not be revealed until the Awards Ceremony
    - If students/teams share the same record as their opponents:
      - If the students/teams are meeting for the first time - the debate will be flip for sides
      - If the students/teams are meeting for the second time - the sides will be locked opposite of the first debate
- **Judges**
    - Preliminary Rounds (1–10) will be single paneled (one judge)
    - Octofinals will be paneled with at least 3 judges (odd number required)
    - Quarterfinals will be paneled with at least 5 judges (odd number required)
    - Semis will be paneled with at least 7 judges (odd number required)
    - Finals will be paneled with at least 9 judges (odd number required)
- **Special Notes**
    - **Note to students/teams with three losses**
      - Depending upon the numbers of students/teams entered, there is the likelihood that many or all of the 7-3 students/teams will advance to Octofinals
        - There is no guarantee, however, as only the top 16 students/teams (with a 7-3 or better record) will advance to Octofinals
          - This is often dependent on how Aff/Neg side constraints affect the power matching
      - The three-loss teams are all debating for their final place of finish at NITOC
        - It is definitely preferable to have students/teams debate to determine their place of finish at Nationals
          - This is superior to the computer determining place of finish

- These students/teams are afforded extra debates at Nationals against some of the best debate competition in the country
  - **Preventing Byes in Preliminary Rounds 7 - 10**
    - An even number of students/teams are needed in Preliminary Rounds 7-10 to prevent Byes
      - There is no way to fairly allow one student/team to have a Bye during these preliminary rounds
    - In the event that there are an odd number of 3-loss or better students/teams, the top 4-loss student/team will be included in the following debate round
      - There are necessary and compelling reasons to advance this one student/team
        - It allows for the necessary even number of debate students/teams
        - The student/team has the opportunity to significantly advance their place of finish at Nationals
          - If they win their debate round they will be assigned the better record that they have attained
          - As the top student/team in the 4-loss bracket, they will likely have better tiebreakers than the lower teams in the 3-loss bracket
            - This means they will place higher in the final standings
            - At NITOC 2013 a team improved their placing by more 20 spots in the final standings
        - The top 4-loss student/team will continue to compete in each round in which a team is needed to even the brackets
          - These students/teams are afforded extra debates at Nationals against some of the best debate competition in the country
- **Speaker Awards** are based on results from Preliminary Rounds 1–6
  - Speaker Awards are calculated using an even weighting of a student's Speaker Points and Speaker Ranks
    - Judges will continue to award Speaker Points and Speaker Ranks throughout Preliminary Rounds 7 -10 for purposes of Power Matching these rounds
- **Tiebreakers**
  - Students/Teams are ranked based on the first tiebreaker of Win/Loss record
  - Subsequent tiebreakers rank students/teams within a particular Win/Loss record grouping
    - These tiebreakers are an even weighting of the three data points that are collected for every round:
      - Speaker Points
      - Speaker Ranks
      - Strength of Schedule (Opponent's aggregate Win/Loss record)
    - All three data points are considered for determining Power Matching throughout the tournament and for determining breaks and seeding in Outrounds
      - This is a method far superior (and much fairer) to the older method of serial tiebreakers that generally only considered a team's Speaker Points
      - Greater detail is available in the Stoa Joy of Tournaments Tabulation Instructions posted on the Stoa USA website under Tournament Tab & Help Files

# Parliamentary Debate

- All teams will compete in six Preliminary debate rounds
  
- **Prelim Rounds 1 and 2** will be Power Protected (using Speechranks data), State protected, and Club protected as has occurred at all previous NITOCs
  - Hi seeds will debate low seeds
    - E.g. Round 1 - #1 debates #100, #2 debates #99
    - E.g. Round 2 - #1 debates #99, #2 debates #100
    - The exception being if the top seeds are assigned a Bye
  - Each team will debate one Government and one Opposition round
  
- **Prelim Rounds 3 - 6** will be Power-Matched - Hi/Lo within brackets (Win/Loss record)
  - This is the standard Power Matching used at all NITOCs and tournaments throughout the season
  - Gov/Opp side balance will continue
  - Prior opponent protection will apply
  - No State or Club protections apply
  
- **Outrounds – Octofinals, Quarters, Semis and Finals**
  - The top 16 teams (with a 4-2 or better record) will advance to Octofinals
  - If fewer than 16 teams have a 4-2 or better record – the teams with the best record(s) will receive a Bye (win) per usual tabulation protocols
    - Breaks to Octofinals will be determined first by Win/Loss record and then by an even weighting of Speaker Points, Speaker Ranks, and Strength of Schedule
      - This is a superior means of breaking ties within the same Win/Loss record compared to the older serial method of tiebreakers
    - No State or Club protections apply
    - No prior opponent protections apply
  - The Octofinal seedings are as follows:
    - #1 vs. #16
    - #2 vs. #15
    - #3 vs. #14
    - #4 vs. #13, etc.
      - #1 and #2 will be in opposite brackets.
        - #4 will be in the bracket with #1
        - #3 will be in the bracket with #2, etc.
  - Teams will advance through their respective brackets.
    - No re-seeding will occur
    - A loss during the Octofinals, Quarters, Semis or Finals eliminates a team from the tournament

- **Determining Gov/Opp during Outrounds**
  - The team with the superior record will chose sides
    - This applies even if the teams have previously debated
      - This process helps level the playing field for those teams with superior records who now are at risk for tournament elimination without the benefit of an equivalent number of losses afforded to teams with inferior records
    - Tab will specify if a team has a choice of sides
      - Win/Loss records will not be revealed until the Awards Ceremony
  - If teams share the same record as their opponents:
    - If the teams are meeting for the first time - the debate will be flip for sides
    - If the teams are meeting for the second time - the sides will be locked opposite of the first debate
  
- **Judges**
  - Preliminary Rounds (1–6) will be single paneled (one judge)
  - Octofinals will be paneled with at least 3 judges (odd number required)
  - Quarterfinals will be paneled with at least 5 judges (odd number required)
  - Semis will be paneled with at least 7 judges (odd number required)
  - Finals will be paneled with at least 9 judges (odd number required)
  
- **Speaker Awards** are based on results from Preliminary Rounds 1–6
  - Speaker Awards are calculated using an even weighting of a student’s Speaker Points and Speaker Ranks
  
- **Tiebreakers**
  - Teams are ranked based on the first tiebreaker of Win/Loss record
  - Subsequent tiebreakers rank teams within a particular Win/Loss record grouping
    - These tiebreakers are an even weighting of the three data points that are collected for every round:
      - Speaker Points
      - Speaker Ranks
      - Strength of Schedule (Opponent’s aggregate Win/Loss record)
    - All three data points are considered for determining Power Matching throughout the tournament and for determining breaks and seeding in Outrounds
      - This is a method far superior (and much fairer) to the older method of serial tiebreakers that generally only considered a teams Speaker Points
      - Greater detail is available in the Stoa Joy of Tournaments Tabulation Instructions posted on the Stoa USA website under Tournament Tab & Help Files

*The preceding protocols will be performed to the best of Tab’s ability. No guarantee is made to any student/team that every procedure described above will be followed without exception. Circumstances may arise that require some small deviation from the protocol. Any changes will be made openly and transparently.*