

**AUE Debate and Public Speaking Tournament Rules and Regulations**

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“[*The extracurricular activity in which I was most engaged - debating - helped shape my interests in public policy.”*](https://www.quotemaster.org/qb220db46a42c9cfa451f472dc9f21a84) *J*[oseph Stiglitz,](https://www.quotemaster.org/author/Joseph%2BStiglitz) American economist

“*Let us listen to the other side."* Aeschylus, 525-456 BC, Ancient Greek tragedian.

“*We ought to be able to persuade on opposite sides of a question; as also we ought in the case of arguing by syllogism: not that we should practice both, for it is not right to persuade to what is bad; but in order that the bearing of the case may not escape us, and that when another makes unfair use of these reasonings, we may be able to solve them*.” [Aristotle,](https://www.azquotes.com/author/524-Aristotle) Ancient Greek philosopher

“*There are only two parts to a speech: You make a statement, and you prove it.”* Aristotle, Rhetoric.

*“Higher education should provide an environment to test new ideas, debate theories, encounter challenging information, and figure out what one believes.*” Kirsten Powers, American author.

**Purpose**

1. To provide education and experience in oral communication/public speaking in English and Arabic in as wide variety of situations as possible.
2. To encourage a spirit of constructive competition and good sportsmanship among tertiary students.
3. To engage students in educational experiences that develop skills, inter alia, in research and problem-solving.

**Code of Conduct**

1. PARTICIPANTS:

GENERAL

a. Participants shall be courteous and friendly to other competitors, judges, organizers, and guests.

b. Participants shall use language conducive to proper public speaking decorum. **Profanity is unacceptable.**

c. In the event of a complaint, all participants must bring the issue to their coaches only, who will then approach the tournament organizer on their behalf. Complaints must be lodged immediately following a round of debate or speech.

d. Participants shall not argue with the judge or their opponents about the conduct or the result of the speech or debate. Participants shall not dispute the result of a debate or speech round in the presence of the judge(s).

DEBATE

a. Debaters shall not seek to influence the judge by means other than evidence and argumentation during the debate.

c. Use of audio or visual equipment for the purpose of recording a debate is subject to the prior consent of both teams and the event organizer.

d. A team shall not seek or provide second-hand information regarding the cases of potential opponents.

e. Debaters shall not breach standard courtesy by interrupting, heckling, grimacing, or whispering loudly while an opponent speaks.

f. Debaters shall not, either by word or action, seek to belittle their opponents. Debates must be a clash of issues and not personalities.

g. Competing teams must not collude to affect the debate in any way.

h. Debaters must respect the personal physical space of an opponent. (Do not invade an opponent’s space.)

i. In an Impromptu style debate, debaters must define definitions in the spirit of debate. In other words, they must be defined fairly and allow for debate on both sides of the resolution.

j. Students may not use computers, cell phones, or any communication technology during a round of debate. Debaters must compete on their own merit and the strength of their research conducted before the event.

k. A debater shall not pass notes/cards to his/her partner when one of them has the floor. Debaters are judged on individual skills.

**Any conduct not in accordance with these rules will be grounds for disqualification. Matters may be** **referred back to university-based administrators.**

2**. Coaches**:

1. Coaches must demonstrate qualities of courtesy and good sportsmanship. These are evidenced by the proper acceptance of officials’ judgment, positive encouragement of student performance, and polite interaction with tournament organizers in the event of a complaint.
2. Coaches will support the volunteer efforts of fellow coaches and judges and will encourage their debaters to do so, too.
3. The coach, as a representative of the University, is responsible for the conduct of all personnel composing the school’s team (participants, spectators from their university, and parents of their students). Coaches shall attempt to control any negative situation before it becomes an issue for the tournament organizer.
4. Coaches must not scout out teams. **Violation by coaches of the scouting rule is grounds for disqualifying their teams from the current competition.**

**Any conduct not in accordance with these codes shall be grounds for the AUE to notify the University’s Administration. If the behavior does not change, the AUE will hold the right to ban coaches from attending future AUE activities/tournaments.**

3. PARENTS AND SPECTATORS:

1. Spectators and supporters will demonstrate courtesy and good sportsmanship by positive encouragement (before and after a debate) for their team.
2. Supporters and spectators will demonstrate respect towards opponents, coaches, judges, and tournament organizers.
3. In the event of a complaint, supporters and spectators are only permitted to approach their team’s coach, who will then approach the tournament organizer (in that order).
4. Supporters, spectators, and coaches will not approach opposing teams, coaches, or judges after a debate has been completed.
5. Supporters and spectators will act in a supportive manner towards all volunteer personnel, who help develop all participant’s skills.

**Any conduct not in accordance with this code shall be grounds for expulsion from the tournament and may include suspension of future participation in AUE tournaments.**

**Judges**

Judges must be punctual, and the Judging Director must do a judge roll call before each round.

**AUE Debate and Public Speaking Tournament Rules**

* The AUE Debate and Public Speaking Tournament is a four-day event held on the premises of the American University in the Emirates in the Dubai International Academic City, UAE (United Arab Emirates).
* The tournament will have an English and an Arabic track.
* All audience members, judges, and participants must silence all electronic devices during the tournament.
* Allowances will be made for speakers who double-entered to speak out of assigned order if there is a time conflict.
* Adjudicators must undergo mandatory judges’ training in the form of, but not limited to, online tests and training workshops prior to the tournament. Failure to do so will result in being expelled from the list of adjudicators.
* An online ballot system will be used so judges can submit ballots digitally. In the unlikely event of a malfunction, paper ballots will be used.
* A panel of an odd number of adjudicators will adjudicate each debate or set of assigned original oratory speeches. One of these shall be designated as Chairperson. In exceptional situations, and only in Phase 1, a debate may be adjudicated by a single experienced adjudicator.
* Any cases of misconduct on the part of judges, participants, audience members, or AUE personnel and students will be dealt with swiftly and with strict adherence to AUE’s code of ethics.
* **Universities will initially be limited to a total of eight (8) entries (2** debate groups (4 students), 2 Arabic oratory, and 2 English oratory)**. Extra entries will be allowed only as space permits, with precedence going to UAE universities.**
* Each university should provide one judge for every four entries.
* In the interest of transparency, all participants and judges will be given a code, and every effort must be made to safeguard their identity for the duration of the tournament. To that end, debate teams must choose a name (with no indication of the country of origin or university they attend) and refrain from giving any details other than their participant ID number to adjudicators. **Their full names and the university they attend will be known only to the Tab Room personnel.** The tab room will be accessible only to the Tab Master, his/her assistants, and the president of the Organizing Committee.
* All persons participating in the AUE Debate and Public Speaking Tournament, or any activity associated with the tournament, shall at all times and in all circumstances conduct themselves with respect for all other participants.

**Debate Rules**

* The AUE Debate Event consists of two phases: **Phase one**, the ‘Preliminary Rounds,’ will incorporate four (4) rounds of competitive debating for each team. **Phase two**: the ‘Knock-out Rounds,’ namely the quarter-finals, semi-finals, and finals.
* A hybrid team composed of two debaters from two different universities may petition the AUE Organizing Committee Chair for permission to participate. Still, acceptance is subject to providing a waiver by their respective universities and the availability of slots in the Debate event.
* Each team’s position in the debate is drawn randomly just before the debate begins regarding the first round, but then in rounds two to five, they are placed according to their ranking (power pairing). Team positions shall be maintained and updated after each round, with the top team being the one with the best win/loss record and the highest speaker scores. In Phase 2, all the rounds are knock-out ones, with the winning teams in each tie advancing to the next round. **Teams shall not compete against each other more than once in the first four rounds except if the number of participating teams is such that a second time cannot be avoided**. (Please check the Tab Room rules for more details)
* Match-ups and assigned rooms will be announced before motions are revealed. From the time of the motion's release, teams have thirty (30) minutes of preparation time; this includes arrival at the designated classroom before the debate in that round. The Opening Government team has the right to prepare in chambers (the designated room). During preparation, teams must decide which team member speaks first and which is second**. In phase 2, the preparation time is extended to forty-five (45) minutes.**
* Teams failing to arrive in time for the debate will forfeit that round.
* The **American Parliamentary Debate** rules apply in all rounds. According to the American Parliamentary Debate, two teams of two persons each engage one another through a series of speeches. The two sides in the debate are the Government and the Opposition, each represented by one team.
* **The debate is divided into six speeches of different duration.** Speakers alternate between the two sides.

 **DEBATE ROUND FORMAT:**

* **Prime Minister Constructive (PMC) 6 minutes**
* Announce the resolution and provide a link.
Give a clear and precise case statement.
Support the government’s case with several independent arguments.
* **Leader of the Opposition Constructive (LOC) 7 minutes**
* Provide opposition philosophy
Announce opposition strategy/counter-case.
Introduce independent analysis
Rebut PMC arguments
* **Member of the Government Constructive (MG) 7 minutes**
* Provide overviews
Attack Opposition independent analysis
Rebuild/review Government case
Introduce new arguments
* **Member of the Opposition Constructive (MO) 7 minutes**
* Review Opposition philosophy
Introduce new points and analysis
Cover main issues
Counter Member of Government
Set Government burdens

**Rebuttals (No new Arguments or** **POIs allowed)**

# **Leader of Opposition Rebuttal (LOR) 3 minutes**

* Address main issues
Crystallize with new examples
* Provide dichotomies
Conclusion

# **Prime Minister Rebuttal (PMR) 4 minutes**

* Summarize Round
* Address crucial issues
* Crystallize with new examples (**except in response to new arguments made in MO)**
* Provide dichotomies
* Organizers will make every effort to create a panel of three adjudicators for every round. They will appoint a Chair, who is usually the most experienced one. A panel of more than three experienced judges will adjudicate quarterfinals, semi-finals, and finals.
* **The chair sits in the middle with the other judges on his/ her right and left. Across from the judges’ panel is the speaker’s podium, while the Government is on the left of the judges’ panel and the Opposition on its right facing each other.**
* The Chair is the person referred to by debaters as Mr. or Madam Speaker. Her or his mission is to keep order, ensure the speeches are timed, manage the panel, and fill out the paperwork that records the result.
* **The Chair has the tiebreaking vote—if the panel is equally split, he or she decides the winner.** Other adjudicators (the “wings”) help form the consensus on the decision. If it comes to a vote, three wings can outvote the Chair. A decision must be reached in no more than **20 minutes**.
* The first two rounds are open adjudication ones, and the Chair is required to give verbal feedback on the debate, explaining the reasons for the panel’s decision and offering advice on areas in which the debaters can improve. **Nevertheless, he/she only gives the result (ranking of teams) but not the individual speaker points.**
* Adjudicators are free to give feedback for the other three rounds **after the announcement of which teams break (qualify for the quarterfinals)** if debaters ask them**.**
* To avoid bias, no coach of an institution involved in any debate or having any relationship with a debater in the room should judge the particular debate. However, if a debater or adjudicator feels there is a conflict, she/he is asked to report it, and the organizers will switch adjudicators. **Note for Adjudicators**: Beware of conflict of interest. In the interest of transparency, if you are affiliated with a university other than the one you currently represent or have relatives participating as debaters, please indicate so when registering. Failure to do so will mean immediate expulsion.
* Timekeepers will keep the time, do the appropriate signals, and indicate the protected minutes and the end of a speech. If a speech exceeds the limit by 20 seconds, the timekeeper will bang the table repeatedly until the speaker stops. Timekeepers exit the room when the debate ends and are not present during deliberations. Time signals will be given as follows: End of the first minute - single clap. At the beginning of the final minute of each constructive speech - single clap. At the end of the time allocated to each speech- double clap. Once the double clap has sounded, speakers have a 20-second ‘grace period,’ during which they should conclude their speech. After this grace period has elapsed, the gavel will be knocked continuously, and adjudicators must disregard the rest of that speech. Speakers continuing after the ‘grace period’ can also be penalized by the adjudicators in the Method category.
* Electronic devices will be used for timekeeping, but in the event of a malfunction, the timekeeper will use "timecards" to indicate to the contestants the time remaining. The “timecards” will always be visible to the speaker.
* Before the round starts, the Chair will consult the ballot to check that the teams are in the right room and in the correct position on the table. Each team will also indicate the order in which they intend to speak. The Chair will intervene if someone tries to offer a Point of Information in a speaker’s protected time or if a Point is offered legitimately but goes beyond fifteen (15) seconds. In these instances, the Chair can say “order” or “out of time” and signal to the offending party that he/she should sit down.
* When a debate ends, the Chair will thank all the speakers and invite them to “cross the floor”—they are then welcomed to stand up, leave their seats, and shake hands with their opponents before exiting the room. Once the debaters have left, the process of deliberation begins. Regarding the first two rounds, the debaters will wait outside until they are summoned back inside to get feedback.
* The government’s definition of the motion must be fair to the competitors, be set in the present day (except if the motion itself specifies otherwise), and be set in a place appropriate to the topic.
* Points of Information (POI) may be offered between the first and last minutes of the four constructive speeches but are prohibited during rebuttals. Points of information can raise a debater's speaker points, and debaters are encouraged to accept and ask POIs (Points of Information) (doing so excessively, however, can be distracting and detrimental). Points of Information should not exceed **15 seconds** in length and should only be directed to speakers on the other side of the table. To ask a Point of Information, a debater should stand, extending their right hand toward the member speaking. The debater may announce that he would like to ask a “Point of Information” or use other words to this effect, such as “on that point.” Any indication of his/her intended point is not allowed. The debater who is speaking may accept or decline to answer the Point of Information.
* Debaters should attempt to answer at least one Point of Information during their speech and offer Points of Information. (**Adjudicators will note Points of Information and reward the ones asking challenging and interesting points as part of their overall assessment of the debate.** **Failure to engage in the debate beyond the delivery of a speech is something that adjudicators assess negatively. Adjudicators are also given clear instructions to penalize speakers who fail to take at least one point in their speech.)**
* Judges must record the debate by making sufficient notes to fulfill both adjudicator’s tasks: making a decision and justifying it. (Judges often disagree about who should win and sometimes about what was said in the room. Notes are a helpful guide through those issues, enabling adjudicators to reach a conclusion.)
* **The use of electronic devices is strictly forbidden during preparation time**. Printed and prepared materials may be used during the preparation period. No access to electronic media or electronic storage or retrieval devices is permitted after motions have been released. This includes all kinds of computers, electronic data banks, cellular phones, etc. Printed and prepared materials may be accessed during a debate but may not be used by a speaker holding the floor. If teams need further explanations, after the announcement of the motion, a member of the organizing team will be present at the student lounge and can offer clarifications. **Invigilators will monitor the preparation, and any violators will be reported immediately to the organizing committee.**
* Teams must prepare on their own. Once motions have been released, there must be no contact (other than the permitted one with a member of the organizing committee for clarifications) between debaters in a particular team and coaches, trainers, friends, observers, or any other individual for the purposes of assistance in the context of the debate. Such contact and assistance are deemed as ‘cheating’ and will be punished accordingly.
* Members of the audience must enter the room before the start of the debate, and they are not allowed to leave before the end. During the debate, they are not allowed to use any electronic devices to record or photograph the debate and should refrain from doing anything that could distract the debaters, such as talking or gesturing. (If they wish to take photographs of debaters, they should ask permission from the Chair before the round starts so he/she can ask the debaters whether they object to this request. Failure to ask permission violates the debaters’ rights and cannot be tolerated)
* The Tab results will be sent no later than two days after the end of the tournament, along with the speaker points for every debater, by e-mail to the head coach of each participating University.
* All adjudicators must register every morning, be punctual, and avoid any contact with the teams during preparation time. Furthermore, apart from the first two rounds with open adjudication, judges cannot give any indication of a ranking if asked for individual feedback on Rounds III and IV.
* All teams and adjudicators need to consult the widescreen in the students’ lounge and the judges’ room, respectively, as to which room they have been placed, then consult the map on their file, if need be, and proceed to the particular room so as not to delay the start of any round.
* Round I and Round III of the AUE Debate tournament are prepared. All head coaches of the participating Universities will set the motions for these rounds at a meeting they will have no later than October 12. Regarding the impromptu rounds, they will be selected from a list of motions a few minutes before the preparation time for each round. Head coaches are encouraged to submit a list of three motions. Every effort will be made to render every motion as specific and straightforward as possible in wording.
* **All participating Universities must provide at least one judge**. Ergo, if an Institution would like to bring a debate team and two orators, one judge from the institution must also participate. However, for universities from abroad, special permission may be granted for less than the required number of judges, subject to the availability of judges. (All participating Universities are encouraged to register more judges than the ones required, as the Tournament will provide them with valuable experience. All judges will receive a certificate of participation.)
* There are three distinct criteria when a debate is assessed. **Judges evaluate the content, style, and strategy of each team and each debater.** Consequently, teams are ranked, and individual speakers are awarded speaker points according to their performance.
* Fair judging means that a debate would have been decided similarly, regardless of who the judge in the round is. To that end, debates may be recorded for quality control.
* It is not possible to award a tie in a debate - it is a comparative decision of why one team persuaded the judges more than the other teams in that debate, so there must be a winner.
* English is the language of the English track of the tournament, but a standard for "accent-free" English cannot be set. Participants’ accents must not be a factor that influences judges’ decisions. **Communication is the goal, and the variety of speech is discounted unless it seriously interferes with accomplishing this goal.**
* **Profanity and/or sexual innuendos are strictly prohibited**.
* Scores are awarded to each speech on a scale of 1-100, but only scores in the range of 60-80 are valid.

79 - 80: Superb - best ever seen

76 - 78: Excellent - definitely finals quality

74 - 76: Extremely good - a possibility for the finals

71 - 73: Very good - above average for this tournament

69 - 71: Good - average for this tournament

66 - 68: Satisfactory - some strong and weak qualities

63 - 65: Fair - more weaknesses than strengths

60 - 62: Poor - lacking qualities expected, improvement needed

**The final grade should consider the style of the speaker (40%), the content of the speech (40%), and the speaker's strategy (20%)**

**ORIGINAL ORATORY**

* Orators can choose between English and Arabic but not a combination of both. Arabizi is not permitted.
* Participants’ speeches can be about topics of personal interest and significance to them, as well as current and relatable to audience members. However, orators must abide by common decency stipulations.
* Original Oratory is primarily a persuasive speech on a topic of human interest. Therefore, each speech must raise an issue that concerns society, takes a stand, and tries to persuade his/her audience to: change its point of view, change its behavior, or accept another way of looking at the problem. Original Oratory competitors can use evidence, logic, and emotional appeals to craft an argument.
* The speech should be written out in full and then memorized. **Delivery must be made from memory and without using notes or other promptings.**
* **The style of the speech must be expository, not a dramatic monologue. However, treating the topic in a light or humorous manner is permissible.**
* The quoted material must not exceed approximately 10% of the speech, and the source of these quotes must be cited as part of the speech.
* The orator's script must be sent to the Organizing committee no later than two days prior to the tournament. The script must identify the quotes, state the number of quoted words, and the source in APA format. Moreover, both the orator and the coach must attest by signature that the oration is the contestant's original work.
* In case a judge suspects that a speech is not original, he/she will inform the other judges after the ballots have been submitted, and together, will immediately find a Tournament Official to discuss and resolve the matter. All plagiarism detection tools will be used to determine the veracity of the suspicion. The same procedure will be followed if a third party reports his/her suspicions to a judge.
* **The maximum duration of a speech is eight (8) minutes.** **Speeches of less than six (6) minutes or more than 8’ 20” shall not receive a score of over five (5).** At 8’00, the timekeeper will bang twice on the table to tell the speaker that they must finish speaking, and at 8’20, he/she will bang on the table repeatedly until the speaker stops. The timekeeper informs the judges how much time the speaker exceeded the limit.
* Judges, participants, and the audience must remain in the room as quietly as possible after the final participant has finished until the end of the round is announced by a tournament official. They are not to leave the room until all participants in every room have finished the round.
* When the round is over, the judges ask the participants and audience to leave the room, complete their own ballots and submit them.
* **Judges are not to confer about performances until after the ballots have been completed and submitted.**
* The Timekeeper cannot leave until he/she has checked that all ballots have been submitted.
* If judges cannot access the electronic ballot, they should ask the Timekeeper for support and a device through which they can submit the ballot.
* English is the language of the English track of the tournament, but a standard for "accent-free" English cannot be set. Participants’ accents must not be a factor that influences judges’ decisions. **Communication is the goal, and the variety of speech is discounted unless it seriously interferes with accomplishing this goal.**
* **Profanity and/or sexual innuendos are strictly prohibited**.
* The participants’ performance on both rounds is scored on an assessment scale of one (1) to seven (7). The five (5) contestants with the most points qualify for the finals.
* In the finals, the five (5) contestants that have qualified will be ranked by a panel of no less than three (3) experienced judges.
* **Conduct of the final rounds**: Speaking order will be drawn at random; the name and number of each finalist will be announced immediately prior to his/her performance and will not be posted or otherwise revealed before this time.
* **Selection of “First Among Equals**”: Immediately following each finals event, the judges will confer as to the choice of the “First Among Equals” from among the finals with the aim of reaching a unanimous decision. A tie for this honor is impossible since only one award will be given. The judges will report their decision to the Tab Room, and the English and Arabic track winners will be announced at the Awards Ceremony.
* **Honorable mention:** will be given to all participants who missed being in the finals by ½ or 1 point below the lowest finalist score. There will be an announcement of the names of these participants immediately following the performances by all finalists in each track.
* Electronic devices will be used for timekeeping, but in the event of a malfunction, the timekeeper will use "timecards" to indicate to the contestants the time remaining. The “timecards” will be visible to the speaker.
* Members of the audience must enter the room before the start of the round, and they are not allowed to leave before the end. During the round, they are not allowed to use any electronic devices to record or photograph the speeches. They should also refrain from doing anything that could distract the speakers, such as talking or gesturing. (If they wish to photograph any of the participants, they should ask permission from the Chair before the round starts so he/she can ask the participant whether they object to this request. Failure to ask permission violates the participant’s rights and cannot be tolerated)
* Participants are scored on a scale of 1 to 7. Half points may also be awarded. Points reflect the following standards:

 7 = exceptional in all respects, in a class by itself, and definitely finals material.

 6 = excellent performance, deserving to be in the finals.

 5 = very good, a fine job.

 4 = good, competent performance.

 3 = lacking in some qualities expected in the event.

 2 = poor; serious problems with the material or the presentation mar the performance.

 1 = very poor, not of tournament quality.

 Z = disqualified. (The judges must write a statement detailing the reasons for disqualifying the participant. Questions regarding rules or procedures should be brought to the Tournament Director(s) before submitting the evaluation form.)

 Judges may award half points for a performance that falls between two of these descriptions (e.g., 4.5; 5.5).

* Any of the above rules, regulations, and guidelines are subject to change at the organizers' discretion.
* **GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL Any serious grievances during the competition may be communicated in writing to the Organizing Committee.**

**Registration Rules**

**Eligibility:** Any student attending a full-time or part-time course at a university/college at the undergraduate or postgraduate level, and he/she is judged eligible by their own institution. Students may not compete after graduation. Priority for participation in the AUE debate and public speaking tournament will be given to tertiary institutions in the UAE and the GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) region.

An individual student may be entered in both debate and original oratory events, provided that these events do not conflict with one another in the schedule.

Registration is possible only through the tournament website. The participants’ names must be filled in as they would wish them to appear on their certificates of participation.

**No changes other than drops will be possible afterOctober 29**.This measure is necessary so that the host university can organize the tournament in a timely manner.

If there are changes to be made to a university’s registration, the complete amended form must be sent **by October 29.**

**Substitutions will only be possible with participants already listed as alternates.**

1. Concerning debate, one substitute is permitted in debate, but his/her name must already be included on the participant list. If, during the competition, a debater is certified by his/her coach as being legitimately absent due to unforeseen circumstances and such an excuse is approved by the Tournament Director, the substitute may be used. No more than one substitute may be used per university/college team.
2. Concerning original oratory, no substitutes will be allowed after the competition has begun. An alternate whose name is listed on a school’s registration form may take a teammate’s place only at the beginning of the competition.

**Team size**

There is no minimum team size, but all teams are limited to a maximum number of contestants per event as designated below:

Debate: 2 teams of 2 students each

Original oratory (English): 2 students

Original Oratory (Arabic): 2 students

If registration of all universities/colleges results in an odd number of debate teams, the host university may exercise its prerogative to enter a third team.

**Note for Adjudicators**: Beware of conflict of interest. If you are affiliated with a university other than the one you currently represent or have relatives participating as debaters, please indicate so when registering. Failure to do so is a severe breach of ethics and compromises the tournament’s integrity.

**Conflicts of interest in which a judge should preclude themselves from judging a particular team or school include:**

i. Previous significant coaching relationship with a debater,

ii. Current or previous romantic relationship with a debater,

iii. Current romantic relationship with a member of the coaching staff of a university,

iv. Familial relationship with a debater or member of the coaching staff of a university,

v. Recent (within the last five academic years) coaching position with a university

vi. Recent (within the last five academic years) undergraduate competitor for a university,

vii. Anything else that would create a serious perception of a conflict of interest.

Judges are reminded that even seemingly harmless actions may foster a perceived conflict of interest among tournament participants. Judges should avoid conduct that may create such a perception, including but not limited to wagering on tournament events and/or outcomes.

**Any changes must be communicated immediately to ensure a well-scheduled event.**