# 2018 Middle School Tournament of Champions Rules and Procedures Document

Contents

[2018 Middle School Tournament of Champions Rules and Procedures Document 1](#_Toc511739041)

[General Philosophical Principles for All Events 2](#_Toc511739042)

[General Disclaimer on Rules 3](#_Toc511739043)

[Education and Openness Policy 4](#_Toc511739044)

[Conduct Policy 5](#_Toc511739045)

[Use of Technology 6](#_Toc511739046)

[Harassment Policy 7](#_Toc511739047)

[Appeals Procedure 8](#_Toc511739048)

[Participation Procedures 9](#_Toc511739049)

[Eligibility 10](#_Toc511739050)

[Coach/Supervising Adult Responsibilities 11](#_Toc511739051)

[Judging 12](#_Toc511739052)

[Obligations 13](#_Toc511739053)

[Judge Philosophies 15](#_Toc511739054)

[Judge Preclusions 16](#_Toc511739055)

[Expectations 17](#_Toc511739056)

[Event Rules 18](#_Toc511739057)

[Topics and Formats 19](#_Toc511739058)

[Debate Topics 20](#_Toc511739059)

[Policy 21](#_Toc511739060)

[Lincoln Dougles 22](#_Toc511739061)

[Public Forum 23](#_Toc511739062)

[Congressional Debate 24](#_Toc511739063)

[Speech 25](#_Toc511739064)

# General Philosophical Principles for All Events

### General Disclaimer on Rules

This document establishes the rules and procedures for operation of the Middle School Tournament of Champions. It is not possible to predict every possible situation that may occur during the tournament. Any issue, problem or other instance not dealt with explicitly in this tournament procedures document will be considered and decided by the tab room for the event in which the question arises. All tab room officials will strive to make fair and transparent decisions to expeditiously resolve conflicts and avoid tournament delays that might jeopardize a timely tournament conclusion. Tab room officials will strive to consult with the Tournament Director when feasible, but given the size of the event, there may be situations in which the event tab room will make final decisions to resolve issues, problems or other instances not specifically addressed by this document.

### Education and Openness Policy

While the TOC is a competitive event, we strongly believe that it is an educational endeavor. All debates at the TOC are considered open to the public, and any person, including coaches, debaters, parents, school officials, and members of the public, may observe and take notes in TOC debate rounds. Any sources read as evidence in round should be available to other competitors should they make a request for the citation after the evidence has been read.

### Conduct Policy

All debaters and guests attend the TOC at the invitation of the University of Kentucky and must abide by all rules established by the tournament invitation, the MS TOC Tournament Rules & Procedures document, and any rules set by the University of Kentucky for guests on campus.

### Use of Technology

For **Policy, Public Forum and Lincoln Douglas Debate**, use of laptop computers, tablet computers, smart phones and other electronic devices able to access the internet are permitted during events. The use of computers during debates is permitted for both flowing and research purposes including retrieval of evidence stored on hard drives and accessing resources via the internet. Students should not attempt to use electronic devices to initiate or respond to contact with outside parties during a debate. The penalty for violation of this rule is loss of the debate in question and zero speaker points assigned to the offending debater. This rule recommends, but does not require, that all text messaging devices and cell phones be turned off during debates. It is meant to restrict the debaters from initiating or responding to any outside contact during a debate round. Example: A student’s cell phone ringing during a debate would not violate the rule. A student calling, emailing, chatting text messaging or responding to any contact from their coach during a debate would violate this rule.

For **Congressional Debate and all speech events** please refer to the event specific rules.

# Harassment Policy

#### Policy

All TOC participants should recognize the rights of others and communicate and act with respect for opponents, colleagues, critics, tournament hosts, and audience members. Communication or conduct which engenders ill-will and disrespect for forensics ultimately reduces the utility of forensics for all who participate in it and should, therefore, be avoided.

The Middle School Tournament of Champions follows the University of Kentucky’s policies and procedures concerning harassment and discrimination. A compliance officer with the Office of Institutional Equity and Equal Opportunity will be on call for the duration of the tournament. The Tournament Director must first be contacted if an issue involving allegations of harassment or discrimination arises.

All debaters, coaches, judges, staff and all other individuals present at the TOC, or participating in activities associated with the TOC, are expected to know and are required to abide by this Policy. TOC participants should also adhere to the policies and procedures of their own educational institutions, and abide by all local, state and federal laws, avoiding discrimination or harassment on any basis prohibited or regulated by law or applicable policies.

Coaches, program directors, judges, researchers and assistants must ensure their conduct complies with this Policy during the TOC avoiding, mitigating and preventing situations that may generate discriminatory, offensive or harassment actions, including during a judge’s post-round explanation of a reason for decision in a round. Coaches and program directors are encouraged to discuss this Policy with all their school’s participants prior to the TOC and are expected to take any reasonable and necessary actions to ensure compliance by participants who are affiliated with their respective schools. By participating in the TOC or in activities associated with the TOC, each individual shall be deemed to have agreed to comport themselves in accordance with this Policy.

#### Resources

For more information regarding University policy and procedures on harassment please see:

* UK Discrimination & Harassment Policy – <http://www.uky.edu/regs/sites/www.uky.edu.regs/files/files/ar/ar6-1.pdf>
* UK Title IX Policy - <http://www.uky.edu/eeo/title-ix>
* FAQs – <http://www.uky.edu/eeo/faqs>

# Appeals Procedure

Any party seeking an appeal to any rule or regulation set forth in this document should follow these procedures, depending on the subject matter of any challenge or appeal:

* **Evidence and ethics challenges** within the course of a debate are handled by the judge in the round. See the Evidence and Ethics Section below for each specific event.
* **Harassment or Discrimination complaints** are to be brought to the attention of the Tournament Director and then will be handled by Office of Institutional Equity and Equal Opportunity. See the above Harassment and Discrimination Prevention Policy for those procedures.
* **Procedures for resolving all other complaints**, challenges or appeals not explicitly set out in this document will be conducted by tournament staff, appointed by the Director of the Tournament.

Tournament staff will strive to make fair and transparent decisions to expeditiously resolve conflicts and avoid tournament delays that might jeopardize a timely tournament conclusion.

#### Protests must follow the following procedure

Protests are filed with an official on duty appointed by the tournament director. The tournament will provide a form on which protests may be filed:

1. Name of coach filing the protest (a coach of record must file the protest) and school, city, state.
2. Name of person being protested.
3. Round being protested.
4. Section/room and speaker number of person/team being protested.
5. Specific infraction being protested, described with supporting detail

After the infraction has been observed/discovered, the protest must be filed in a timely matter. For coaches initiating protests, **decisions of tournament officials are final.** If a perceived violation occurs in a subsequent round, another protest may be filed.

# Participation Procedures

### Eligibility

Students in grades 6-8 are eligible to participate in the tournament. No student may be older than age 15 (based on the US birthday system) when the tournament begins.

We do accept entries for independent students and clubs as long as those students are accompanied by an adult.

Independent students and clubs may participate under the following conditions --

\*There is no debate team at their school that competes in debate tournaments, unless otherwise agreed to by the coach.

### Coach/Supervising Adult Responsibilities

#### Availability for consultation with Tournament Officials

Coaches and chaperones should be on-site and available for consultation with the Tournament Director and/or Tab Room Officials who will seek out the coach for decisions regarding their debaters. If a reasonable attempt has been made to locate the coach without success, Tournament officials reserve the right to make decisions on behalf of the coach.

#### Medical Emergencies

The Tournament expects the coach or supervising adult of each debater to be available at the tournament site and have proper school and parental authorization to arrange for medical transportation, care, and payment in the event of an emergency. Since many debaters are minors, the coach should have proper medical releases and parental authorizations for each debater should they be required by a physician, hospital, law enforcement agency, and/or assistance provider.

#### Debaters without their School Coach

The Tournament will accept debaters without a debate coach, provided an accompanying adult is responsible for them. The adult can be a parent, a teacher, or a coach from another school. The name of the accompanying adult must be listed on the entry form. The supervising adult must also have proper medical releases and parental authorizations for each debater as outlined in the previous paragraph. We must also have a written statement from the coach and the parents approving that person as a chaperone. Students must still be competing as their own high school. Independent entries are not accepted.

#### Permissions & Verification

By submitting entry application information to the Tournament, both coaches and debaters certify that their applications are complete and reflect fully correct information. Submission of an entry form or at-large bid application grants permission for the information contained in the entry/application form to be distributed to TOC Tournament Officials, TOC tab room officials, and the University of Kentucky Debate staff. Permission is also granted for Tournament Officials (as just listed) to verify any information included on the application.

# Judging

### Obligations

Each entry must be covered by judging. High school students with experience in the particular event may judge. All judges are obligated through the Octafinal round in Public Forum, LD, and Policy and the finals in Congressional Debate, **and** one round past the school’s elimination in elimination rounds. So, for example, if your school’s last LD student is eliminated in quarterfinals, your LD judges must be available to judge the LD semifinal round. We are always very short on judging towards the end of the tournament, so we greatly appreciate any volunteers willing to stick around for the late elimination rounds. The tournament will assess a $300-dollar penalty for judges who miss a round.

#### For Policy Debate

You must provide 4 rounds per entry. Two entries require 8 rounds, three entries require 12 rounds, etc.

#### For Lincoln-Douglas

For 1 LD entry, the school is obligated for 4 double flighted rounds.

For 2 LD entries, the school is obligated for 8 double flighted rounds.

For 3 LD entries, the school is obligated for 12 double flighted rounds.

For 4 LD entries, the school is obligated for 16 double flighted rounds.

For 5 LD entries, the school is obligated for 20 double flighted rounds, etc.

#### For Public Forum

For 1 PF entry, the school is obligated for 4 double flighted rounds.

For 2 PF entries, the school is obligated for 7 double flighted rounds.

For 3 PF entries, the school is obligated for 11 double flighted rounds

For 4 PF entries, the school is obligated for 14 double flighted rounds, etc.

#### Congressional Debate

1 qualified judge per school is required.

#### Speech

1 qualified judge per 4 entries or fraction thereof.

#### Judging in event pools other than your particular entry

Judges may only cover their school’s obligation in the judge pool of another event with prior permission of the Tournament Director.

### Judge Philosophies

For Policy and Lincoln-Douglas, all judges must submit a judging philosophy on Tabroom.com.

No Policy or LD entry will be considered complete until all affiliated judges have submitted a judge philosophy.

For examples, please peruse the judge philosophy website.

### Judge Preclusions

Please indicate on the tournament entry website all preclusions for all judges. Judges should preclude themselves from any debater who they have previously coached, had a close, personal relationship with, or for any other reason the judge believes they cannot be objective towards them if assigned. This includes any judge who has done any paid or volunteer coaching, even if conducted digitally or otherwise-remotely. Any college debater or coach should preclude herself or himself from any debater whom they have seriously recruited to attend their school. Judges should preclude themselves from judging their alma matter.

### Expectations

#### General

The primary role of judges is to serve as educators. All judges are expected to adjudicate their rounds fairly, limiting their evaluations to the arguments delivered by the students in the round before them. The TOC encourages judge feedback and post-round discussion with the debaters, as appropriate.

In Policy, LD, and PF, judges are expected to assign one winner and one loser per round, by the decision time communicated by the tab room. The tab room will flip a coin to determine the winner of any round where the judge is unable to render a decision in the time allotted.

#### Judge Absences

All judges are obligated to adjudicate the round which the tab room assigns them. Any judge who fails to report to judge their debate before the forfeit time (15 minutes after the posted start time for the debate) faces sanction by the tab room, including disqualification of the debate entries from the judge’s school. Any judge who knows they will be late should make every attempt to inform the tab room if they have a legitimate time conflict (an emergency arises, illness, etc.).

**Fines**-Schools will be fined $100 per round missed round by one of their judges.

#### Disclosure of Decisions & Oral Critique Policy

The Tournament of Champions serves as both a competitive and educational forum for the nation’s best debaters, coaches, and judges. As such, the Tournament encourages judge-debater interaction by making decision disclosures and giving oral critiques in all four debate divisions. Please submit your ballot online to the ballot table before giving any post-round feedback.

# Event Rules

## Topics and Formats

### Debate Topics

#### Lincoln-Douglas

LD debaters shall debate the January-February 2018 National Speech & Debate Association LD topic.

#### Public Forum

Debaters will debate the April topic for PFD to be announced at the beginning of March.

#### Policy debate

Policy teams shall debate the 2017-18 National high school topic.

#### Congressional Debate

Legislation will be released 3 weeks before the tournament and will be announced by the tab director.

### Policy

#### Format

Policy uses the cross-examination format 8-3-5 which consists of eight-minute constructive speeches, three-minute cross-examination periods, five-minute rebuttals, and eight minutes of preparation for each team.

#### Speaker Point Scale

The TOC will use a 30-point speaker point scale with tenths of a point allowed, with no ties between the debaters.

#### Start Times

Teams will be allowed at least 20 minutes of prep time from release of pairings until the official debate start time. Coaches should conclude their coaching 10 minutes prior to the debate. Judges should report to their rooms no later than 5 minutes before official debate start time.

#### Decision Times

For preliminary rounds, decision time for judges to submit their decision will be 2:15 hours from the posted start time of the round. For elimination rounds, the decision time is 2:30 from the posted start time of the round. If the judge is unable to render a decision in the allotted time, the tab room will flip a coin to determine the winner of that debate/ballot.

#### Forfeit Times

Any team arriving later than 15 minutes after the posted start time will be at the risk of forfeit imposed at the exclusive discretion of the event tab room staff. Any team experiencing what they believe to be a legitimate delay should make every attempt to communicate with the tab room if they are going to be late.

#### Coin Flip

Teams should be present in their competition room no later than 20 minutes prior to the scheduled start time for the debate in order to flip for sides. If one team is not present at the scheduled time for conducting the flip for sides, then the team which is present will be allowed to choose their preferred side. If both teams are not present at the scheduled time for conducting the flip, then the tab room will assign sides for the debate.

### Lincoln Douglas

#### Format

The Lincoln-Douglas format is 6-3-7-3-4-6-3 with five minutes of preparation time for each debater.

#### Speaker Point Scale

The TOC will use a 30-point speaker point scale.

#### Start Times

Debaters will be allowed at least 20 minutes of prep time from the release of the pairings until the official start time of the A flight debate. Coaches should conclude their coaching 10 minutes prior to the debate. Judges should report to their rooms no later than 5 minutes until start time.

### Public Forum

#### Public Forum

Public Forum will use the National Speech & Debate Association format for speech and preparation times.

Public Forum will use the National Speech & Debate Association rules for the coin toss.

NSDA Rules can be found here: https://www.speechanddebate.org/rules-forms-manuals/

### Congressional Debate

#### Congressional Debate

Congressional Debate will use the National Speech & Debate Association format for speech and preparation times.

NSDA Rules can be found here: https://www.speechanddebate.org/rules-forms-manuals/

### Speech

#### Rules

Speech events will follow NSDA rules except for OI, which will follow NCFL rules.

NSDA Rules can be found here: https://www.speechanddebate.org/rules-forms-manuals/

NCFL Rules can be found here: http://www.ncfl.org/ncfl-resources

#### Is entry across events permitted?

Extemp, OO, HI, DI, Duo, and POI will be offered.

Entry across some IE events is permitted. There will be two patterns –

(1) Extemp, DUO, and HI

(2) OO, DI, POI

Students can enter up to two events per pattern, but Extempers need to enter an event in another pattern.