

Standing Rule Changes from the Judging Standards and Ethics Committee

The following changes are proposed in order to align current practice with stated rules. Right now, the situation is confusing, especially for new judges, as some rules are not consistent with actual practice. Judges want to know that say what we mean and we enforce what we say. These changes are intended to move us closer to that goal.

Additions include language to empower tournament directors with regard to judging violations and language to allow teams to use communications technology in-round while preserving the restrictions on outside research and interference.

All proposals regard section “B” of the standing rules. Grey text is added material.

Crossed-out text is material to be removed.

PROPOSAL ONE – STANDARDS AND GUIDELINE LANGUAGE ALIGNMENT

1.) SECTION II – EVIDENCE STANDARDS

A. Standards for Evidence Citations:

1. Whenever a debater cites a source in a debate round, that debater must cite the author and date, and the source. The Wisconsin Debate Coaches Association formally requires all evidence citations to conform to the Modern Language Association's (MLA) standards for citing evidence from both printed and online sources. MLA standards are those used by the National Forensic League.
2. The WDCA requires complete Universal Resource Locators (URLs) to be available for any online information. The URL need not be read as the citation, but rather it needs to be present on the evidence card or sheet. The most efficient way to identify and locate a source online is by the URL.
3. All evidence used in a sanctioned WDCA tournament requires a full citation to be available in the round if requested. Evidence without full citation information will be given no consideration in the round.
4. Whenever a student cites a source in a debate round, a debate must cite the author and date, and the source.

2.) SECTION III – ADJUDICATOR GUIDELINES

~~B. A judge is not to ask or seek information as to the identity of the schools participating in the round he or she is about to judge.~~

~~E. — The review of evidence by a judge is not allowed unless there is a dispute by the opposition regarding the meaning, context, or validity of the evidence. A judge may review evidence at his or her discretion only if there is suspicion of falsification.~~

~~M. Approved as a statement of practice: A speaker, questioner, or respondent shall receive no assistance, such as "tag teaming," beyond time signals. Violation shall result in forfeiture of that point or argument.~~

PROPOSAL TWO – ETHICS/GREIVANCE LANGUAGE ADDITION

1.) SECTION IV – ETHICS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

- A. The concerned parties shall discuss the problem fully and settle the issue with the aid of the Tournament Director, if necessary. Judges who are in violation of [Section III] may be removed from the judge pool by the tournament director. Judges who are removed from the tournament are responsible for compensating the tournament for judging fees, providing a replacement judge, or removal of an appropriate number of their teams.
- B. If the issue cannot be settled in accordance with A., then the concerned parties and the Tournament Director shall file written statements with the committee. The committee shall judge the issue, contact the concerned parties, and mediate a settlement. The committee shall then draft written documentation of the mediated settlement and issue copies to the concerned parties involved and the WDCA Executive Committee.
- C. If a satisfactory settlement cannot be reached through B., then the chair shall inform the principals of the parties involved of the issue and call a hearing before the combined Judging Standards and Ethics Committee and the WDCA Executive Committee. The joint committee shall make a final determination on the issue and send written notification to the principals, coaches, and judges involved as well as all other WDCA member coaches.
- D. If any of the concerned parties or the tournament director is a member of the Judging Standards and Ethics Committee or the WDCA Executive Committee, that individual shall not participate in committee duties in direct regard to his or her issue involved.

PROPOSAL THREE – TECHNOLOGY LANGUAGE UPDATE

SECTION VI – TECHNOLOGY USE

Computers and similar digital technology may be used in all rounds by both judges and debaters with the following:

- A. ~~No computer to computer contact is allowed; this includes accessing the Internet or other networks on any digital platform.~~ Once the debate has begun, a team may not receive assistance, suggestions, or coaching from anyone while the round is in progress. This does not prevent debate partners from helping one another, but does prevent outside persons from helping a team during the course of a debate. Debaters may not receive electronic assistance from outside sources or perform electronic research during the course of a debate. If the judge is able to determine that a digital platform has been connected to other devices or networks violation has occurred, the judge should complete the ballot immediately and notify the tournament director. Following notification, the Tournament Director will convene a committee of not fewer than three other coaches. This committee will then determine whether or not the team using the digital communication technology shall follow the ballot decision or be disqualified from the tournament.