**Wayne – Oakland Debate League (WODL)**

**2018 League Rules**

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**I. LEAGUE STRUCTURE**

The **WODL** consists of two **Divisions – Novice and Varsity**

**Each school** may field one Novice Team and one Varsity team.

Within a school district, multiple schools may have the same coach or coaches but

each school is to be considered its own entity for rank scoring purposes.

**II. ELIGIBILTY**

**Novice Speakers and Presiding Officers** (hereafter known as “Speakers”) must have **no prior competitive Debate experience** at the High School level (with the exception of participation in the Mackinac spring event).  A Novice Speaker may participate in as many events as he or she wishes during his or her first season.

**Varsity speakers** are speakers who have had High School level competitive Debate experience in any previous season.

**Junior class Speakers may participate as Novices only at the discretion of their coaches. Senior class speakers** must participate as Varsity speakers even if they lack prior experience. A Speaker **cannot change Divisions** during a season unless he or she is “moving up” from Novice to Varsity.

**III. CALENDAR OF LEAGUE EVENTS**

**Monday,** **October 1 - First WODL League Meet – Millennium MS**

**-Bills due – Sept. 17**

**Monday, October 22rd - Second WODL League Meet – Edsel Ford High School**

**-Bills due – Oct. 8**

**Monday, November 12 – Third WODL League Meet – Dearborn High School**

**-Bills due – Oct. 29**

**Monday, December 10 - WODL League Finals – South Lyon**

**-Bills due – Nov. 26**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Mandatory Judge Certification on \_\_October 1\_\_**

**\*\*Anyone judging in the WODL MUST ATTEND THE TRAINING FOR 2 CONSECUTIVE YEARS.**

**IV. JUDGES AND JUDGING**

Each coach must supply **1 Qualified Judge for every 12 Speakers +/- 2** participating in a given Meet.

Judges **must** base their scores and rankings on the **Rubric** provided by their associated coach (see Appendix).  Rubrics are to be **shared with all judges at the onset of each meet**. Given that each of the five parameters used have a score range of 1 – 5, the starting point for all parameter assessments is “3” and the starting score for all speech scores is thus “15”.  **Speaker scores are to move up or down from this starting score.** \* Note that the “Delivery” score is out of 10 points. A Speaker’s delivery score should reflect the proper utilization of the speech preparation sheet.  In addition, **a speaker who simply READS a pre-written speech should be given a score of 1 on delivery, along with a note reprimanding that practice.**

Judges are expected to make **constructive comments** for all speakers for the dual purposes of providing useful feedback to speakers trying to improve their skills and of providing justification for whatever score and rank the speaker receives.  Judges should **only reward new ideas**, not speeches or questions that merely rehash previous arguments. Other than proper verbiage pertaining to Parliamentary actions, judges should not expect specific phrases and / or specific language. Judges should strongly discourage and **score against “friendly questions”** during Cross Examination.

Reading of speeches should significantly decrease Speaker rank.

This is a speech event, not a writing event, so be sure to **judge against Speakers who merely read their speeches**.  Speakers should know their topic and be presenting new information and information that responds to previous Speakers. **Speakers who do not respond to, or anticipate, the arguments of other Speakers should be marked down significantly**.

**Speaker ranks must reflect their scores.** Speakers are to be ranked from 1 – 10 with any all lower ranking Speakers receiving an “11” rank. If two or more Speakers earn the same rank, their scores will be used to break the tie. If two Speakers earn the same rank and score, the judge must break the tie and rank one ahead of the other based on the perceived overall impact that Speaker had during the Chamber.

As always, **appropriate language is expected**, free of profanity or derogatory slang.

Our “Points of Emphasis” for judging this season will be **improving delivery by decreasing reading of speeches.**At our first Meet, Ballots are to be reviewed by head coaches at the end of both chambers.

**Plagiarism** is defined as using all or a portion of another speaker’s speech in one’s own speech.  This has been an issue in recent seasons. To combat plagiarism, speakers will be required to provide a copy of their speeches (or outlines of speeches) to be turned in to the judge before one’s speaking time.

**If a student makes 2 or more speeches in a round, the judge will take the BEST of the scores for ranking purposes (no longer the average)**

**V. FINANCIAL COMMITMENT**

All teams must pay **$75 for the first 10 speakers and $5 for each additional speaker** to the Bookkeeper (host of the League Final) **by the beginning of the second league Meet**. This money will be used for Trophies, Food, etc.  Funds left over will be rolled over to the following year so we can make improvements.

**VI. BILLS AND DOCKETS**

Bills must be properly formatted and can be written for **either the state or federal** **Legislature**.  Properly formatted bills must be single-page, double-spaced, 11 - 12 font with lines numbered. **\*\*\* Please do not allow writers to use “autonumber” functions as this creates problems** when making corrections and compiling the Docket.  **Only one author** is allowed per Bill.  Improperly formatted Bills cannot be used in League events.  An example of a properly formatted bill can be found in the Appendix.

**This season we will be utilizing a “4 bills per session” maxim.  All schools are encouraged to submit high quality bills to the host coach, and that host coach has discretion over which of those entries constitute the top 8 bills received.  They will then randomly divide the bills into 2 groups of 4 bills for each session and share the completed docket a minimum of 10 days prior to the competition date.**

The coaches will choose a **Best Bill** from among those written for the season and present a Best Bill trophy to one student at the League Final in December.

**Best Bills** are to be judged **based on the following criteria**:

            1. Originality

            2. “Debatability”

            3. “Researchability”

Coaches are encouraged to use one of their first two practices to teach Bill writing.

**VII. MEETS**

**Meet Schedule**

      By **3:30pm Arrival and Gathering**

**4:00pm – 7:10pm Chamber**

                4:00 – 5:25 Session 1 with P/O 1 (85 minutes)

                5:25 – 5:55 Break and Prep – deliver Session 1 Ballots to Tab

                5:55 – 7:10 Session 2 with P/O 2 (75 minutes)

**7:10 – 7:45pm Scoring and Return of Ballots**

                Teams are expected to stay until results are tabbed and returned.

      Schools may bring **up to 12 +/- 2 competitors per Division for each Judge they**

**supply**, no exceptions.

There will be **two Chambers at each regular season Meet** with a guarantee of **at least 6 minutes of speaking time per speaker per Chamber**. The League Final will   consist of two Chambers / Division, one standard Chamber (for a total of 7 League Chambers) in which all speakers may participate and one Final Chamber / Division to determine the Speaking Award winners.

**Chamber Format**

**Maximum chamber size will be 12 Speakers +/- 2** (no late additions are allowed,             substitutions only).

**Chamber Lists** will be posted **in advance** to assist Speakers, Coaches, and                      Spectators alike.

**Seating Charts** will be created in advance, 4 copies per Chamber, and should be             “randomized” to the best ability of the host coach.

There will be **3 Affirmative Speeches, 3 Negative Speeches then automatic Moving of Question** unless 2/3 vote suspension of rules.  Speakers have up to 3 minutes to deliver a speech.

**Cross-Examination time** shall be \*\*\*one minute for a given speech unless rules are                        suspended by a 2/3 chamber vote.

       - POs will be discouraged by Judges to extend Cross-Ex!

      Standard MIFA **Parliamentary Procedure (P/P)** is to be followed at all times during               Chambers.

                - A basic summary of major P/P actions can be found in the appendix.

**No amendments are allowed.**

**Team Scoring**

The **average ranks of a school’s top 5 Speakers** (3 Speaker minimum) determine the team “winner” of the Meet and the League.  There will be a Novice Team winner and a Varsity Team winner. League Team Scores **will not include the Final Chamber**.

**VIII. BALLOTS**

We will use the Speaker Ballot found in the Appendix for judging Speakers. **New for 2016- The Speaker Ballot and Newly REQUIRED speech preparation sheets MUST be submitted to the judge prior to speaking.**  Remember that **Ballots are to be filled out in advance** to save time during Chambers.

**IX. PRESIDING OFFICERS**

For Meets, each coach must provide at least **one P/O for each 12 +/- 2 Speakers per Division**, including Novice. Begin training Novice POs during your first practices so you can provide an adequate number for the first League Meet.

P/Os are judged on **a track of their own**.  They are ranked against the Speakers in the Chamber but these rankings are only used to compare P/Os with other P/Os. They will be judged using a different Ballot, color-coded to avoid mix-up. Students will be able to P/O **only one** of the two sessions within a single Chamber and **may compete as Speakers** during the other session.  The top scoring P/O during league competition will preside during the **League Final.**

**Recency** to determine Speaking **is standardized** and can be found in the Appendix.  Recency resets between Chambers.

**X. AWARDS**

**Best Speaker** awards are given to the Speaker with the lowest average ranking in his or her Division including the Final Chamber. Only the fifteen speakers who qualify for the Final Chamber are eligible for the Speaker Award.  To qualify for the Final Chamber, a Speaker must have spoken in a **minimum of 4 Chambers during the season**.

**Best Presiding Officer** awards are given to the P/Os who earned the lowest average ranking during the season. P/Os must **preside over at least 3 Chambers to be eligible**.  The P/O awards are given before the Final Chambers and the award winners preside over the Final Chambers. If the P/O declines to preside in the final Chamber, he or she forfeits the award and the second place finisher wins the award.

The **Best Bill** award is given to the Bill from the season that receives the highest number of votes by the coaches. Only one vote per coach is used to determine the winner.

The **Team Award** is given to the school with the lowest average rank of its top 5 Speakers (3 Speaker minimum) and will include only the first 7 sessions of the season. League Team scores do not include the Final Chamber.

**XI. APPENDIX**

**STANDARD BILL FORMAT**

**Title of Bill**

1. Be it enacted by this Congress here assembled that:
2. Section I: Concise statement of the new policy to be adopted.
3. Section II: Create subsequent sections (as many as needed) to define any
4. important terms, lay out plans for implementation, and offer other guidelines and
5. requirements.
6. Section III: State the implementation date for the legislation.
7. Section IV: Designate a government agency or agencies responsible for
8. executing the terms of the bill, indicate how the financial costs of the legislation will
9. be funded, and what penalties (if any) will be imposed for violations.
10. Section V: Provide a null and void clause.

Respectfully Submitted,

Author’s Name

Author’s School

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Michigan Interscholastic Forensics Association Legislative Debate Handbook for Students **Paige L.R. Beauchene, Harper Creek High School, Battle Creek Michigan**

**SAMPLE BILL**

**A Bill to Repeal the Power of the Federal Reserve System to Make Interest Rate Changes**

1. Be it enacted by this Congress here assembled that:
2. Section I: The Federal Reserve System shall lose its power to make changes to
3. interest rates.
4. Section II: The “Federal Reserve System” shall include the Board of Governors,
5. Regional Reserve Banks, branches, and the Federal Open Market Committee
6. Section III: This legislation shall take effect three (3) months after passage by this
7. legislative body.
8. Section IV: The U.S. Congress shall assume responsibility for interest rate
9. changes. The Federal Reserve System shall be permitted to make
10. recommendations to the U.S. Congress regarding changes in the interest rate.
11. Section V: All laws or portions of laws in conflict with the provisions of this
12. legislation shall hereby be declared null and void.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jason Wysong

Hollywood HS

Michigan Interscholastic Forensics Association Legislative Debate Handbook for Students **Paige L.R. Beauchene, Harper Creek High School, Battle Creek Michigan**

**Legislative Debate Judging Rubric**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **1**  ***POOR*** | **2**  ***FAIR*** | **3**  ***AVERAGE*** | **4**  ***GOOD*** | **5**  ***SUPERIOR*** |
| **Delivery**  **\*note score range**  **is 1 -10\*** | 1-2  Reserved for only the  most casual  presentations, or where  the  student is **not**  **engaged**. | 3-4  **Some**  **substantial or significant**  **failures** in vocal delivery or presentation. | 5-6  Student  demonstrates **competence**  in delivery. | 7-8  Student speaks  with confidence,  **broadly**  **professional**,  some vocal  mannerisms may  remain | 9-10  Speaker is **polished in delivery and poise**. The style is natural, with vocal variety as appropriate. |
| **Organization** | The speech rambles.  **Lacks discernible**  **organization** or  point of view. | One or more  **parts of the**  **speech is**  **missing**.  Conclusion or  introduction  may be  perfunctory. | Point of view is presented;  **major**  **sections**  **present.** | Speaker **presents**  **point of view**,  signposts internal  argument | **Well rounded in**  **structure**, with clear introductions,  development and  conclusion.  The point of view is  carried throughout. |
| **Reasoning** | An abusive speech.  Speaker employs *ad*  *hominem* attacks; states categorical approval or  disapproval **without**  **support**. | Speaker  **appeals to**  **personal experience**, appeals to  emotional truth  or moral truth  as self-evident. | Speaker  **provides**  **reasons for position**.   May have  some logical  fallacies. | Speaker provides  reasons for position, links to previous points in  debate. **Avoids**  **logical fallacies.** | Speaker links position  to broader issues of significance;  **points relate in a**  **unified view.** |
| **Evidence**  **\*Must have a CITED source including**  **“who, what,     when” \*** | **No properly cited**  **evidence** presented.  Relies on personal  experience or anecdote. | Cited evidence  presented  **minimally**  **supports case**;  may come from  contested or biased sources. | Provides **at**  **least one**  **piece of cited evidence** pertinent to the  point, drawn  from press  reports and  analyses. | Provides **two or**  **three pieces of**  **pertinent cited**  **evidence**.  Quality may be  mixed | Provides **multiple**  **pieces of pertinent**  **evidence with**  **credible citations**. |
| **Clash** | **Does not engage**  **opposing views** or  objections in speech.  For authorship speeches, does not anticipate any arguments. | Speaker  addresses  general  objections.  **Not specific**.  For authorship speeches,  does not  anticipate  many  arguments. | Provides  **objections to**  **other side**,  argues for  superiority of own  case.  Reacts to what  has been said,  but does not  provide analysis.   For authorship speeches,  anticipates at  least one opposing argument. | **Provides refutation**.  May quote other side  directly. Answers  objections, explains superiority of his or  her position.  For authorship  speeches,  anticipates  some opposing  arguments. | Speaker **engages**  **other arguments**  **directly** with analysis,  counters with superior  cited evidence;  advances new  arguments.  For First  Aff. speeches,  anticipates most  opposing arguments. |

**“The Big Four Method” of Learning Parliamentary Procedure**

**Motion "to move the Previous Question"**

**Second is required**

**Motion is not debatable**

**Motion is not amendable**

**Requires a two-thirds majority**

**Motion "to Lay on the Table"**

**Second is required**

**Motion is not debatable**

**Motion is not amendable**

**Requires a simple majority**

**Motion "to Suspend the Rules"**

**Second is required**

**Motion is debatable**

**Motion is not amendable**

**Requires a two-thirds majority**

**Motion for a "Point of Order" or "Point of Parliamentary Procedure"**

**Second is not required**

**Motion is not debatable**

**Motion is not amendable**

**Requires the Decision of the Chair**

[**http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Forum/1093/Student\_Congress/parliamentary.html**](http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Forum/1093/Student_Congress/parliamentary.html)

**Presiding Officer Chamber Recency:**

·      **Gaveling Procedure** (notifications to the speaker how much of their allotted 3 min. is left)

o  At **2 min., one tap** of the gavel; at **2 min. 30 sec., two taps**; at **3 min.** (the max. amount of time for speeches) the speaker will be **“gaveled down”** (tap the gavel until the speaker stops speaking)

§  Some POs employ a **“grace period”**—at 3 min. they tap the gavel three times, giving the speaker a small amount of time (at most, 10 sec.) to conclude their speeches.

·      **Recency** (determining who, among multiple senators, gets to speak)

o  Number of **speeches**: the senator with the fewest number of speeches gets to speak

o  Number of unsuccessful **attempts** to speak: if there is a tie, the senator who has attempted to speak, without success, the most times gets to speak.

o  Number of **questions**: If there is *still* a tie, the senator who has asked the most questions gets to speak

o  **“Geography:”** When all else fails, the senator sitting furthest away from the previous speaker gets to speak.

§  Also, you might want to clarify whether you want senators to stand or to raise their placards to indicate that they want to speak or have questions

§  If you’re unsure of your handle on “parli-pro” (the procedures you and everyone else will be following, described below), encourage senators to make **“points of order”** to correct you when appropriate (i.e. anytime other than during a speech or voting).

**\*\*See schoology folder with double sided PDF file for 2018 speech preparation sheet/ballot.  This is the ONLY ACCEPTABLE BALLOT FOR THE 2018 WODL season!**

**Wayne- Oakland Debate League- Presiding Officer Ballot**

***Printed PO School: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Printed PO Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

***Division: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Chamber/Room #: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_   Session: I  II  Super Session***

***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

**Parliamentary Procedure                        Constructive Comments:**

*Things to look for-*

      Correct use of the Rules of Order,

      Resolution of Conflicts,

      Commands respect of Chamber      

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Score 1 – 10 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Advancement of Debate**

*Things to look for-*

      Minimizes Redundant Comments,

      Promotes Speech on Both Sides,

      Discourages / Quells “Friendly Questions”

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**Leadership**

*Things to look for-*

      Equal opportunity to Speak and Participate,

      Controls Cross-Examination Questions,

      Utilizes Seating Chart to Note Speech

                and Quality Questions Attempts

­**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Score 1 – 10 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Temporal Management**

*Things to look for-*

      Keeps track and announces Speech Time,

      Provides a Visual Countdown to Speakers

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Score 1 – 5**

**TOTAL SCORE = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\*\*Rank\*\* =\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

***Judge:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ School:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_