

SCJFL Basic Event Timing Rules

	Event	Timing Rules
Pattern A	Open SPAR Novice SPAR	2-2-2-4-2-2 Prep time 2 minute Pro Constructive 2 minutes Con Constructive 2 minutes Crossfire 4 minutes Pro Rebuttal 2 minutes Con Rebuttal 2 minutes
	Congress	Congress Legislation https://files.forensicstournament.net/tournamentdocs/2864-Congress%20Legislation.pdf 3 minutes speech followed by questions

	Event	Timing Rules
Pattern B	Storytelling	5 minutes
	Poetry	5 minutes - manuscript required
	Informative	5 minutes. - Audio-visual aids are optional
	Impromptu	7 mins bank
	Declamation	5 minutes
	Original Oratory/Persuasive	5 mins. - Audio-visual aids are optional
	DUO	6 minutes

GENERAL GUIDELINES

When ranking the students, remember that 1 is the **highest** number and 5 is the **lowest**. This means that the 1 is given to the **best** competitor. You stop ranking the students at 5 so if there are 7 competitors in a round, the bottom three students shall be all ranked 5.

Detailed Event Rules

SPAR

Order of Speeches in Spar:

Prep time	2 minutes
Pro/Aff Constructive	2 minutes
Con/Neg Constructive	2 minutes
Crossfire	4 minutes
Pro/Aff Rebuttal	2 minutes
Con/Neg Rebuttal	2 minutes

Before the Debate

Choose two students who will be the debaters. Debaters will be assigned to the pro or con side by the judge prior to the start of the debate. Each pair will consider 3 issues/resolutions. The pro will strike one resolution and then the con will strike one of the two remaining resolutions, leaving the pair with one final resolution to debate. Both sides will have two minutes to prepare their arguments before speaking must commence.

During the Debate

The pro speaker will give a two-minute speech in favor of the resolution; immediately after that speech, the con speaker will refute the position in a two-minute constructive. Strict adherence to the exact wording of the resolution is not required, but the debaters should at least regard the topic as a common frame-of-reference. Following the opening statements, there will be a four minute open crossfire. The pair should question each other, and should be prepared to take at least a few questions from the audience of other competitors. Only other Spar competitors listed to speak in that round are permitted to ask crossfire questions (judges and other spectators are not permitted to ask questions). The students should be running their own cross fire. Two rebuttal speeches of the pro and con respectively complete the round. No preparation time during the debate is allowed. Judges should give time signals to students in order to help them keep track of their speech.

Judging

Spar competitors should be judged on the basis of overall wit, persuasion and quality argument construction. Competitors may not access the Internet during the prep time or during the round.

Congress

Speakers compete in a mock legislative assembly competition. Competitors draft legislation (proposed laws) and resolutions (position statements), which they and their peers later debate and vote to pass into law by voting for or against the legislation. Congress is a limited preparation event, thus, speeches should be delivered extemporaneously, which means spoken spontaneously based on an outline of notes, rather than recited word-for-word from a manuscript. Legislation submitted for consideration to all SCJFL Congress events must follow the guidelines outlined in: <https://www.speechanddebate.org/wp-content/uploads/2017-Congressional-Debate-Guide.pdf>. Competitors should elect a presiding officer each round. Secret balloting is used when voting for presiding officer. The presiding officer must be elected with a majority of the vote: if one candidate does not receive a majority of votes, eliminate the candidate with the fewest votes and vote again. If candidates are tied for the fewest number of votes, vote to determine which of the tied candidates should remain in contention. Repeat this process until one candidate receives a majority. Precedence/recency should not reset each round. Debaters should address new legislation each round, unless tabled from previous preliminary rounds. When more than one speaker seeks the floor, the presiding officer must follow the precedence/recency method:

- 1) First recognize competitors who have not spoken during the session.
- 2) Next recognize competitors who have spoken fewer times.
- 3) Then recognize competitors who spoke earlier (least recently). Before precedence is established, the presiding officer should recognize speakers fairly and consistently. They may not link recognition of speakers to previous recognition of competitors asking questions, moving motions, or longest standing (standing time). Before precedence is established, the presiding officer should explain their recognition process and it must be fair, consistent and justifiable. Judges will include answers to questions when evaluating speeches.

A speaker may yield time on the floor during debate (for questions or clarifications) but that speaker will remain in control of his/her three minutes. Speeches introducing legislation are allotted up to three minutes, followed by two minutes of questioning by other delegates. A competitor from the school who wrote the legislation gets the privilege of recognition (called authorship), regardless of precedence; otherwise the presiding officer may recognize a 'sponsor' from the chamber, provided this recognition follows the precedence guidelines above. Should no competitor seek recognition for the authorship/sponsorship, the chamber will move to lay the legislation on the table until such time that a competitor is prepared to introduce it. The first negative speech must also be followed by two minutes of questions. Following the first two speeches on legislation, the presiding officer will alternately recognize affirmative and negative speakers, who will address the chamber for up to three minutes, followed by one minute of questioning by other delegates. If no one wishes to oppose the preceding speaker, the presiding officer may recognize a speaker upholding the same side. When no one seeks the floor for

debate, the presiding officer may ask the chamber if they are “ready for the question,” at which point, if there is no objection, voting may commence on the legislation itself. There is no ‘minimum cycle’ rule, however, if debate gets one-sided, the chamber may decide to move the previous question. In the event a competitor speaks on the wrong side called for by the presiding officer and the error is not caught, the speaker shall be scored and the speech shall count in precedence. In the event a competitor speaks on an item of legislation not currently being debated, said speech shall count in precedence.

The presiding officer fairly and equitably recognizes members to ask questions following each speech. The presiding officer starts timing questioning periods when they have recognized the first questioner, and keeps the clock running continuously until the time has lapsed. Speakers are encouraged to ask brief questions, and may only ask one question at a time (two-part/multiple-part questions are not allowed, since they monopolize time and disallow others to ask their questions). There is no formal ‘permission to preface,’ however, presiding officers should discourage competitors from making statements as part of questioning, since that is an abusive use of the limited time available. The presiding officer will pause briefly between speeches to recognize any motions from the floor; however, they should not call for motions (at the beginning of a session, the presiding officer should remind members to seek their attention between speeches).

Amendments: Amendments must be presented to the presiding officer in writing with specific references to lines and clauses that change. This must be done in advance of moving to amend. The parliamentarian will recommend whether the amendment upholds the original intent of the legislation, otherwise, it is considered dilatory. Dilatory amendments may be rejected by the parliamentarian. The title of the legislation may be changed. A legislator may move to amend between floor speeches. Once that motion is made, the presiding officer will read the proposed amendment aloud and call for a second by one-third of those members present, unless he/she rules it dilatory. Should competitors wish to speak on the proposed amendment, the presiding officer will recognize them as per the standing precedence and recency, and the speech will be counted toward their totals, accordingly. Simply proposing an amendment does not guarantee an “author/sponsor” speech, and any speeches on amendments are followed by the normal one minute of questioning. Amendments are considered neutral and do not constitute an affirmative or negative speech on the original legislation. If there are no speakers or the previous question is moved, the chamber may vote on a proposed amendment without debating it. All major voting (such as the main motion/legislation) which a Congressperson’s constituents should have a record of, shall be done with a counted vote. Competitors should ask permission to leave and enter the chamber when it is in session (personal privilege). However, do not interrupt a speaker. Visual aids are permitted in Congressional Debate. No more than three (3) audio-visual aids may be used. The use of Internet and/or computers is permitted, however, the tournament shall not be held responsible for providing Internet access.

Each tournament shall have two (1) piece of legislation per prelim round, and a final round with three (2) pieces of legislation (the first three (3) pieces of legislation will be designated as

prelim-legislation and the final two pieces of legislation will be designated as final-legislation). CMSF or Southern California Championship tournaments may allow for more bills, but not fewer. Neither middle school nor elementary should prescribe legislation to a specific round, other than for finals. As such, the competitors' chamber assignment should not change in the preliminary rounds. All legislation that is submitted for consideration must be in the NSDA format as demonstrated on the SCJFL website. Since the rules above ensure fairness for competition, they may not be suspended; the presiding officer should rule such motions out of order; except to extend questioning and allow for consecutive sides (Affirmative/Negative) to speak, provided the tournament staff permits doing so.

Public Forum

Public Forum Debate focuses on advocacy of a position derived from the issues presented in the resolution, not a prescribed set of burdens. Tournaments must use the current NSDA Public Forum topic for the month in which the competition occurs. If a tournament needs to use a different topic than the one outlined by NSDA, the Tournament Director must notify the league at least one month before the tournament. Refer to Rostrum or www.speechanddebate.org/topics for the current topic. Excessive speaking speed is discouraged by the league. The SCJFL Board has the power to select alternative age-appropriate resolutions for elementary tournaments at the discretion of the elementary chair. Changes of elementary resolutions should be distributed at least one month prior to the tournament. Entries: No substitution of competitors is permitted once the tournament has begun. Procedure: Prior to EVERY round and in the presence of the judge(s), a coin is tossed by one team and called by the other team. The team that wins the flip may choose one of two options: EITHER the SIDE of the topic they wish to defend (pro or con) OR the SPEAKING POSITION they wish to have (begin the debate or end the debate). The remaining option (SIDE OR SPEAKING POSITION) is the choice of the team that loses the flip. Once speaking positions and sides has been determined, the debate begins (the con team may lead, depending on the coin flip results). Following the first two constructive speeches, the two debaters who have just given speeches will stand and participate in a three-minute "crossfire". In "crossfire" both debaters "hold the floor." However, the speaker who spoke first must ask the first question. After that question, either debater may question and/or answer at will. At the conclusion of the summary speeches, all four debaters will remain seated and participate in a three-minute Grand Crossfire in which all four debaters are allowed to cross-examine one another. The speaker who gave the first summary speech must ask the first question. Plans/Counterplans: Neither the pro or con side is permitted to offer a plan or counterplan (formalized, comprehensive proposal for implementation); rather, they should offer reasoning to support a position of advocacy. Debaters may offer generalized, practical solutions. New arguments are not permitted after the second Crossfire speech.

Prompting Philosophy: Oral prompting, except time signals, either by the speaker's colleague or by any other person while the debater has the floor, is discouraged though not prohibited and may be penalized by some judges. Debaters may, however, refer to their notes and materials and may consult with their teammate while they do not have the floor and during the Grand Crossfire. Timing: A timekeeper is an option but isn't required. If no timekeeper is used, debaters may time themselves and their opponents. The use of Internet and/or computers is permitted, however, the tournament shall not be held responsible for providing access.

Storytelling:

A memorized performance of a single published, printed story, anecdote, tale, myth, or legend. The story may be delivered standing or seated, thus one chair is permitted, however, this is not an acting event; thus, no costumes, props, lighting, etc., are to be used. Maximum time is 5 minutes including introduction.

Poetry:

A performance of poetry of literary merit, which may be drawn from more than one source. A primary focus of this event should be on the development of language. This is not an acting event; thus, no costumes, props, lighting, etc., are to be used. Play cuttings and prose works are prohibited. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time limit for elementary competitions is 5 minutes including introduction. Maximum time limit for middle school competitions is 7 minutes including introduction.

Informative:

An original, factual speech by the competitor to fulfill the general aim to inform the audience. Audio-visual aids are optional. Multiple sources should be used and cited in the development of the speech. As this is a memorized event, notes are discouraged. Maximum time is 5 minutes.

Impromptu:

An impromptu speech, substantive in nature, with topic selections varied by round and by section. Topics will be derived from concrete nouns, abstract nouns, proverbs, famous people, quotations, or additional topic areas at the discretion of the tournament host. Speakers will have a total of 7 minutes for both preparation and speaking. Timing commences with the acceptance of the topics sheet. A single notecard not to exceed 4x6 may be used during the presentation. No props may be used. Each speaker will draw three topics and choose one.

Helpful Notes for Judges

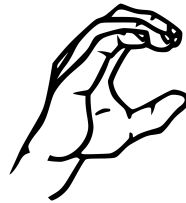
Hand students the envelope. Have them choose 3 topics. Begin a timer. Students choose one of the topics without reading the other choices out loud. Students have a 7 minute bank which allows them to choose how long to prep for and how long to speak. This means the time they have used to prep plus the time they speak should not exceed 7 minutes. During their prep time, let them know orally how much time they have used. Example: You have used 1 minute. You have used 2 minutes. You have used 3 minutes. Once the students stand up to speak, switch to hand gestures to help them know how much time they have left.

A Guide to Time Signals (For Impromptu ONLY)

When students have *minutes* left in their speech, hold up the finger that represents how many minutes they have left.



When students have *30 seconds* left in their speech, hold up a c shape.



When students have *10 seconds* left in their speech, count down their last 10 seconds using your fingers with the number of fingers you are holding being representative of how many seconds they have left.



When students have *0 seconds* left in their speech, hold up a fist to let them know they have reached the allotted time.



Declamation:

A memorized performance of a speech, not written by the contestant. The speech must have been delivered in public. The speaker should present an introduction that states the title, author, and date of the speech they are reciting. This is not an acting event; thus, no costumes, props, lighting, etc., are to be used. Maximum time is 10 minutes including introduction. Maximum time is 5 minutes for elementary school.

Original Oratory/Persuasive:

An original speech by the competitor. The intent of the speech is to persuade about a problem in society. Any other purpose such as to inform or entertain shall be secondary. Audio-visual aids may not be used. Multiple sources should be used and cited in the development of the speech. As this is a memorized event, notes are discouraged. Maximum time is 10 minutes for middle school. Maximum time is 5 minutes for elementary school.

DUO:

A memorized performance from one or more texts of literary merit, humorous or serious, involving the portrayal of two or more characters presented by two individuals. The material may be drawn from any genre of literature. This is not an acting event; thus, no costumes, props, lighting, etc., are to be used. Competitors are not permitted to touch each other nor make direct eye contact while performing except during the introduction. Maximum time limit for elementary competitions is 6 minutes including introduction. Maximum time limit for middle school competitions is 10 minutes including introduction.