

Policy on Use of Electronic Devices

Florida Gulf Coast Catholic Forensic League

2018–2019

(1) Mobile phones are *prohibited in all events* and **must not** be seen, heard, or used by students for any purpose during a round. (A “mobile phone” is any device natively capable of providing telephony services over a cellular network. This includes feature phones, smartphones, phablets, and cellular-equipped smartwatches. *These devices may not be used even in “airplane mode” or without a SIM.*)

(2) [Judges] Judges may use their mobile phones (silenced and in airplane mode) solely to time rounds. Any other use of a phone in the round is subject to sanction. Judges **may not** instruct or authorize students to use a mobile phone for any purpose in a round.

(3) [LD, TD, PFD, CON] Handheld information retrieval devices (except mobile phones), laptop computers, tablets, e-readers, watches (including non-cellular smartwatches), stopwatches, countdown timers, calculators, and electronic dictionaries are *permitted* in LD, TD, PFD, and Congress *exclusively* for purposes of notetaking/flowing, evidence retrieval, calculation, and timekeeping.

(4) [EXT] The devices in rule 3, except calculators, are *permitted* in Extemp Prep *exclusively* for purposes of evidence retrieval and timekeeping. Electronic notetaking, outlining, and writing are *prohibited*.

(5) [OO, DEC, DP, OI, DUO] Information retrieval devices are *prohibited* in all other IEs.

(6) Medical and assistive devices are *permitted* in all events.

(7) Contestants **may not** use electronic means to access or communicate with any person, network, server, or device. *Establishing a connection violates this rule even if the connection is unintended, unused, and/or undesired.* Local web servers and browser-based applications are permitted.

(8) Use of electronic devices is subject to the scrutiny of League officials at any time. Participants agree to cooperate with any inquiries, examinations, or searches requested by the League. Participants assume all risk of equipment failure, damage, theft, or loss. It is the responsibility of contestants to demonstrate the proper configuration of their devices upon request:

(a) Devices **must** be battery-powered and **may not** be plugged into AC power during rounds.

(b) All network interfaces (Wi-Fi, LTE, Ethernet, etc.) must be removed or disabled, *i.e.*, made incapable of locating or accessing a network. “Airplane mode” and “antenna off” settings will generally suffice.

(c) No peripherals may be used other than flash storage devices and accessibility tools. Cameras and microphones must be disabled. All devices must be silenced (unless impossible, impracticable, or unsafe to do so) and must not present a visual distraction in the competition room.

(9) [LD, TD, PFD] Debaters remain obligated to furnish evidence in accordance with the event rules. No additional time will be provided for saving to/retrieving from flash drives, and debaters may insist on viewing their opponents’ evidence on the opponents’ screens.

(10) [CON] Legislators may use devices while speaking or presiding, but not as visual aids or props. Devices **may** be shared within the chamber. Rules governing devices remain in effect during recesses.

(11) [EXT] Contestants are limited to the approved categories of materials for Extemp Prep. Original content (other than a topical index) is prohibited. Use of electronic devices is prohibited from the time the student’s 30 minutes expire to the time she completes her speech.

(12) **PENALTIES:** A violation of these rules will result in DISQUALIFICATION FROM THE TOURNAMENT without further warning.

COACHES: Please be sure your students, judges, and observers understand the above expectations during tournaments. Coaches will be held accountable for the behavior of their teams.