

Tournament Methodology

2024 FGCCFL Grand Finals

Debate (LD & PF)

There will be five preliminary rounds, paired by Tabroom (no repeat opponents, same-school protection unless mathematically impossible) as follows:

1. Preset: Random
2. Preset: Random with side constraints (Aff/Pro teams in R1 will be Neg/Con in R2)
3. High/high (seed 1 hits seed 2, seed 3 hits seed 4, etc.)
4. High/low within brackets (highest 3-0 hits lowest 3-0, etc.) and side constraints
5. High/low within brackets, flip for side

In preset rounds, any required bye is drawn at random. In powered prelim rounds, the bye goes to lowest-seeded debater who has not yet received a bye. If a pull-up is required due to uneven brackets or side constraints, Tabroom will pull up the debater in the next bracket down who has had the weakest opponents thus far.

Debaters will be seeded according to the following criteria:

1. Win/loss record
2. Speaker points, highest and lowest scores dropped
3. Total speaker points
4. Average opponent's seed ("strength of schedule")
5. If tied debaters have met previously, the winner has the advantage; otherwise, random

All debaters with a winning record (3-2 or better) will advance to the break rounds. Based on current registration, Tabroom estimates that we will need three break rounds to select our qualifiers and alternates.

Break rounds will be run following a single-elimination, power-protect (1 v. 16, 2 v. 15, etc.) bracket until there are four surviving entries. The bracket in break rounds will NEVER be modified. Debaters may face opponents they already met in prelims, and they may face opponents from their school (but see "Coach-Over Procedure").

All break rounds are held before a panel of three judges. Debaters will flip for sides unless they met previously, in which case they will switch sides from their prior round.

In Round 6, the highest seeded debaters will receive byes to even out the bracket.

Qualifiers and Alternates

The winners of Round 7 will be the first four qualifiers and will receive byes in Round 8.

The losers of Round 7 will debate in Round 8; the winners of this round will be the other two qualifiers, and the losers will be the alternates. The finishing order of the alternates will be determined by last round competed and prelim seed.

Coach-Over Procedure

If debaters from the same school are scheduled to meet, the coach will be contacted and offered the following options:

- (A) Advance an entry by name or code (and potentially eliminate the other)
- (B) Advance the higher or lower seed (and potentially eliminate the other)
- (C) Run the round as usual

If the coach does not respond within 10 minutes of the initial outreach, the round will be run as usual. Coaches will not be told their entries' seeds before making the decision. Decisions are irrevocable once communicated to and confirmed by the Tab Room.

Policy Debate

Policy Debate will be run as a round robin. All rounds are preset; even-numbered rounds are side constrained, and Round 5 will be flip for side. All participants will be national qualifiers.

Individual Events

All IEs will run four prelim rounds, sectioned as follows:

- Ext, OO, OI: Random for all rounds
- Dec: Random for Rounds 1-3; snaked Round 4
- DP, Duo: All contestants are in the same section

Seeds will be determined as follows:

1. Total ranks
2. Total reciprocals ($1^{\text{st}} = 1.000$, $2^{\text{nd}} = 0.500$, $3^{\text{rd}} = 0.333$, ... , $7^{\text{th}} = 0.143$)
3. Total speaker points
4. Total ranks with worst rank dropped
5. Total points with lowest points dropped

In events with 6 entries or fewer, all entries are national qualifiers. In events with 7 or 8 entries, the top six seeds are qualifiers, and the remaining contestants are alternates.

Events with at least 9 entries as of the end of on-site registration will break to an eight-contestant cumulative Final round with three judges. The finishing order will be determined as follows:

1. Total of final ranks + Best 3 prelim ranks
2. Total of final ranks
3. Final round judge preference
4. Final round reciprocals
5. Final round points
6. Prelim seed

The top six contestants will be the qualifiers; the seventh and eighth will be the alternates. Further alternates if necessary, will be determined by prelim seed.

Student Congress

There will be three preliminary sessions, each with two Scorers, plus a ranking from the Parliamentarian for the full day. Seeds will be determined as follows:

1. Adjusted total ranks, with ranks of 9 imputed to students not ranked 1-8
2. Judge preference, with ranks of 9 imputed as above
3. Adjusted total reciprocals, with ranks of 9 imputed as above
4. Adjusted total ranks except best and worst, with ranks of 9 imputed as above
5. Preference of the Parliamentarian

The top 6 seeds in each chamber will advance to Super Congress.

The Super Congress will have three Scorers and a Parliamentarian. All four officials will rank all of the finalists at the end of the Super Congress. Finishing order will be determined as follows:

1. Adjusted total ranks, with ranks of 9 imputed to students not ranked 1-8
2. Total ranks
3. Judge preference on ranks
4. Preference of the Parliamentarian

The top six contestants will be the qualifiers; the seventh and eighth will be the alternates. Further alternates will be determined by finishing order in Super Congress, then, if necessary, by prelim seed.

Sweepstakes

Each school's **best entry** in each event counts toward its sweepstakes total. Each school's best entry in LD, PF, CX, and Congress counts toward the Bill Gibron Award.

The "best entry" is the one that accrues the most sweepstakes points using the rubric below:

Debate (LD, PF, CX)

- Each winning **ballot** – 5 points
- Each losing **ballot** – 3 points
- Each prelim bye – 5 points (equivalent to a win)
- Each break round bye or coach-over – 15 points (equivalent to a 3-0 decision)

Student Congress

- Each prelim rank of 7-8 – 1 point
- Each prelim rank of 5-6 – 2 points
- Each prelim rank of 3-4 – 3 points
- Each prelim rank of 2 – 4 points
- Each prelim rank of 1 – 5 points
- Each prelim round – 1 point
- Advancing to finals – 4 points
- Serving as PO – 3 points
- National qualifier – 15 points
- 1st or 2nd Alternate – 10 points

Individual Events

Rank →	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Prelims	5	4	3	2	1	1	1	1
Finals	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	4