

Welcome to the 33rd annual Stanford Invitational Speech and Debate Tournament! While we are certain that all competitors, judges, coaches, and observers will have a fun and safe tournament, we are highlighting a non-exhaustive overview of many common-sense policies and procedures that are codified elsewhere, such as in the [tournament invitation](#) or in the [tournament guide](#), that we expect everyone to abide by.

Safety & Environment

- The safety and security of all attendees is our utmost concern. In the event of a serious emergency threatening life or limb, call 911 immediately BEFORE contacting the Help Desk or your coach!
- While Stanford is a generally safe environment, it is an open campus. You should always take reasonable and prudent precautions, especially after dark, and we encourage students especially to always travel in groups and to avoid any remote, secluded or concealed areas.
- Any single adult (judge/coach/etc) should never find themselves alone with a single student in a room with a closed door for any reason. For example, at the Marriott speech competition site, a judge should never allow any round or speech to proceed with only the speaking student present in the room. Instead, (at a minimum) the following speaker should be in the room during the prior speaker's speech, or in the case of the last speaker in a round the previous speaker shall stay for the final speech.
- Stanford University's [Smoke Free Environment](#) policy refers to an environment that is free of smoke from, among other things, tobacco products and/or vapors from electronic smoking devices, and prohibits smoking inside of or within 30 feet of buildings, windows, covered walkways and ventilation systems.

Equity

Equity is the concept of striving to create a debating environment where everyone is able to compete. This looks like checking unconscious bias against certain types of arguments or the people making them, avoiding generalizations about groups of people, or the attacking of individuals for any reason. The following list contextualizes equity but is by no means exhaustive:

- Recognize that many people you interact with at this tournament will be from a different background than you. This may mean that arguments, or the way they are presented, may differ from what you are used to. This should not detract from their value and should be adjudicated or engaged with equally.
- Ensure that immutable characteristics of anyone present does not affect how they are treated. Be sure to check that how you treat someone is detached from their race, gender, sexual orientation, age, etc.
- Note that adjudications are final and should be respected. That is to say, that no judge should be harassed or feel targeted for a decision they've made. The tournament's position is that the judge is the final arbiter capable of adjudicating the outcome of the round as it was debated in its entirety. This level of deference relies on judges providing an appropriate amount of feedback and a justification of their reasons for decision. This mutual respect makes speech and debate accessible and, given the time people take out of their days for this activity, is simply the respectful thing to do.

Complaint Escalation

Stanford Debate members will be wearing Stanford Debate shirts or jackets and should be alerted if you feel as if your ability to compete in the tournament has been compromised by another attendee's actions. They will work with you, and the coach for your school, to identify who in our staff will be most helpful and what actions we can take. Stanford Debate reserves the right to ask campus safety or hotel security to remove anyone who is making speech & debate inaccessible for others or who is generally creating an unsafe environment.

Rules Enforcement & Dispute Arbitration

As per our [tournament invitation](#), the Tournament Director is the ultimate and final arbiter of any disputes, ambiguous or nebulous rules situations or other unforeseen situations that may arise in the course of the event.