Use of Electronic Devices

ALL EVENTS

- **Mobile phone use by students is PROHIBITED during rounds, with the following exceptions:**
  1. Phones **may** be used as hotspots in events where internet access is allowed (LD, PFD, Policy, Congress, and Extemp Prep). If a phone is used as a hotspot, it must be set up, silenced completely, and put away before the round/prep starts.
  2. Students (in Congress, only the PO) **may** use their phones for timing if they demonstrate to the judge that the phone is (a) silenced, (b) in airplane mode or otherwise unable to connect to a network, *and* (c) running a timer or stopwatch app. No other apps are permitted. A phone used for timing **may not** simultaneously be used as a hotspot. The judge is permitted to examine the phone at any time during the round to ensure continued compliance with the rules.
- Timers are permitted. Any device used by students (other than a PO) to time must be placed on a lectern or table. A student using a timer is not entitled to time signals. The judge's time is authoritative.
- Judges may use electronic devices in rounds for timing, flowing/notetaking, and electronic balloting. Devices must be silenced. Judges DO NOT have power to authorize device use in violation of this policy.

DEBATE EVENTS (LD, PFD, POLICY & CONGRESS)

- Electronic storage and retrieval devices (laptops, tablets, etc.) are permitted for evidence retrieval, flowing/notetaking, and timing. Materials may be stored on the computer or retrieved from an attached drive or online. Devices **must** run on battery during rounds/sessions and **must** be silenced.
- Internet connectivity for evidence retrieval (via school network or hotspot) is permitted during rounds, but communication with any person outside the room is **prohibited**. Recording of any kind is **prohibited**. Violation of this rule may result in disqualification from the tournament.
- Electronic devices **may not** be used to display visual aids in competition.

EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING

- Electronic storage and retrieval devices (laptops, tablets, etc.) are permitted in Extemp Prep for evidence retrieval and timing **only**. Devices **must** run on battery and **may not** be connected to power in the prep room. Devices **must** be silenced.
- Materials may be files stored on the computer or retrieved from an attached drive or online. Materials must conform to NCFL rules governing evidence in Extemporaneous Speaking (*NCFL Bylaws* § II.C.1.c.8). Prewritten speeches are **prohibited**. Generative AI services such as ChatGPT and Copilot are permitted, but if their product is used in a speech, they must be cited appropriately.
- Internet connectivity for evidence retrieval (via school network or hotspot) is permitted in Extemp Prep, but communication or collaboration with any person is **prohibited**. Recording of any kind is **prohibited**. Violation of this rule may result in disqualification from the tournament.
- Students **MUST NOT** use their electronic devices to organize, outline, or write speeches. Any student-produced documents not containing a verifiable citation are prewritten content.

CAUTIONARY NOTE TO PARTICIPANTS

No guarantee of power or of Internet connectivity should be presumed. There should be no expectation placed on host schools to provide either of these resources. Students wishing to use digital devices must be responsible for providing these resources and for having an alternative plan if the digital device fails. Participants assume all risk of equipment failure, damage, theft, or loss. Use of electronic devices is subject to the scrutiny of League staff, including Extemp Prep monitors and Parliamentarians.