

Guidelines for Speech Penalty Re-Ranking

Guidelines for Re-Ranking in Speech Events

1. Final rankings will start at one (1) and go down to the total number of competitors in the room.
2. If a competitor receives a penalty, his/her final rank must reflect that penalty.
 - a. To be clear, if a competitor has earned a penalty, their final rank cannot be better than their “re-rank.”
 - b. Exception to this guideline: No competitor may have a final rank that is less than the total number of competitors in the room.
3. In the event of a tie in the reranking column, the competitor with fewer penalty points wins the tie.

Key Concepts Related to Re-Ranking

- The purposes of the penalties in Stoa speech events are twofold:
 - a. To positively affect the competitors’ decisions when delivering their speeches
 - b. To help ensure equity and a level playing field in each competition room
- A penalty earned by a competitor must have a real and direct impact on the outcome of the competition, or else it is of no effect for that competitor and does not reinforce the expectations of the league as represented in the rules for that speech event.
- Who makes ranking decisions?
 - a. The judge decides the “Original Rank.”
When it comes to ranking competitors in a speech round, the only decision that the judge makes is how the students are ranked in the “Original Rank” column, and this decision must be made without regard to any penalties the competitor(s) may have earned. The original rank must reflect the judge’s assessment of the quality of each performance as if no penalties had been earned at all.
 - b. The competitors make the decisions that result in “Penalties in Rank.”
It is the competitors who make the decisions affecting the “Penalties in Rank” column, not the judges. If a student chooses to go 15 second or more overtime, they have earned a one-rank penalty. Likewise, with the use of a script or a failure to state the author and title of a piece, it is the competitors who make those decisions, not the judges. The job of the judges is to simply record the penalties earned by the competitors as a point of fact.
 - c. There are no decisions to be made in the “Re-Ranking” and “Final Rank” columns since these are simply mathematical calculations.