



## **Debate Rules Executive Summary, 2021-2022**

The following is an executive summary of revisions made to the Stoa debate rules for the 2021-2022 debate season. This summary is intended to help coaches and students note where revisions have been made.

Review of this document should not be used in place of reading the updated rules and becoming familiar with their actual language.

### **Universal**

- All references to, “Tournament Director,” have been changed to, “Tournament Leadership,” to better reflect the diversity of legitimate tournament leadership structures operating within the StoaUSA environment.
- Added a section on Enforcement to clarify the chain of command on rules enforcement and to provide better guidance to tournament leadership on disciplinary matters.
- Added a statement that, “Ignorance of the rules does not constitute a valid excuse.”

### **Team-Policy Debate:**

- Section III.F.2: For Preparation Time rules, clarified the language to state, “If preparation time is to be taken, it begins after completion of a speech or cross examination.” This ensures that Preparation Time is taken equitably in the course of debate rounds.
- Section III.I: Made multiple edits to clarify the role of judges and tournament leadership in administering adjudications and StoaUSA’s ethical standards:
  - o III.I.1, 2: Switched the location of bullet points 1 and 2 to emphasize the central role of the judge in administering debate rounds.
  - o III.I.3: Moved language about tournament leadership’s discretionary authority over adjudications to the universal Enforcement paragraph.

- o III.I.4: Modified language regarding breaches of evidence rules to include, “Gross Negligence.”
- o III.G.I: Added, “Ignorance of the rules does not constitute a valid excuse.”
- Section III.J: Added the universal Enforcement paragraph.

### **Lincoln Douglas Debate:**

- Section III.E.2: For Preparation Time rules, clarified the language to state, “If preparation time is to be taken, it begins after completion of a speech or cross examination.” This ensures that Preparation Time is taken equitably in the course of debate rounds.
- Section III.G: Made multiple edits to clarify the role of judges and tournament leadership in administering adjudications and StoaUSA’s ethical standards:
  - o III.G.1, 2: Switched the location of bullet points 1 and 2 to emphasize the central role of the judge in administering debate rounds.
  - o III.G.3: Moved language about tournament leadership’s discretionary authority over adjudications to the universal Enforcement paragraph.
  - o III.G.4: Modified language regarding breaches of evidence rules to include, “Gross Negligence.”
  - o III.G.5: Added, “Ignorance of the rules does not constitute a valid excuse.”
- Section III.H: Added the universal Enforcement paragraph.

### **Parliamentary Debate:**

- Section IV.E: Added the phrase, “Unless otherwise indicated by tournament leadership,” to the end of the bullet point to allow tournament leadership greater control over the parameters of their Parliamentary debate rounds.
- Section V.C.7: Added a bullet point defining and prohibiting the use of props within a Parliamentary debate round.
- Section V.G: Made multiple edits to clarify the role of judges and tournament leadership in administering adjudications and StoaUSA’s ethical standards:
  - o V.G.1, 2: Switched the location of bullet points 1 and 2 to emphasize the central role of the judge in administering debate rounds.
  - o V.G.3: Moved language about tournament leadership’s discretionary authority over adjudications to the universal Enforcement paragraph.

- o V.G.4: Modified language regarding breaches of evidence rules to include, “Gross Negligence.”
  - o V.G.5: Added, “Ignorance of the rules does not constitute a valid excuse.”
- Section V.H: Added the universal Enforcement paragraph.