

MSHSAA RULES FOR LAPTOP USE IN DEBATE

MSHSAA Guidelines for Laptop & Internet Use

- A. Computers, electronic storage and retrieval devices shall be permitted in all Debate rounds, the preparation room for Extemporaneous Speaking, and radio Speaking. Furthermore, tablets and E-readers may be used for Poetry and Prose.
- B. The use of the internet is permitted in all Debate rounds and the preparation room for Extemporaneous Speaking.
- C. Wired connections (Ethernet or phone) during rounds of competition are not permitted.
- D. Computers or other electronic devices may not be used to receive information from any person (coaches or assistants included) inside or outside of the room in which the competition occurs, the only exception being a competitor's partner in Policy or Public Forum. Use of e-mail, instant messaging, or other means of receiving information from sources inside or outside of the competition room are prohibited. (This does not prohibit non-electronic communication between debate partners during prep time.)
- E. Internet usage at regular season events is at the discretion of the tournament host, and should be clearly communicated in the invitation. Tournament hosts are not responsible for guaranteeing access to or quality of the internet.
- F. **Availability of Evidence:** Contestants electing to use computers have the responsibility to promptly provide a copy of any evidence read in a speech for inspection by the judge or opponent. Printers may be used. Evidence may be printed in the round or produced electronically, but must be provided in a format readable by the opposing team and the judge.
- G. Contestants electing to use computers are responsible for providing their own computers, batteries, extension cords, and all other necessary accessories. Tournament hosts will not be responsible for providing computers, printers, software, paper, or extension cords for contestants.
- H. Because public speaking decorum remains an important element of debate, all debaters are expected to stand at the front of the room facing the judge while speaking.
- I. Contestants choosing to use laptop computers and related equipment accept the risk of equipment failure. Judges and/or contest directors will give no special consideration or accommodation, including no additional speech time or prep time, should equipment failure occur.
- J. By choosing to use laptop computers in the round, debaters are consenting to give Tournament officials the right to search their files. Debaters who do not wish to consent should not use computers in the round.
- K. **VIOLATIONS: A violation of any rule/regulation for an event will result in disqualification from the event. Any official protest of a disqualification shall be directed to and ruled upon by the Tournament grievance committee who has the authority to overturn a disqualification.**