UIL Guidelines: Computers in CX and LD Debate

The use of laptop computers by competitors in UIL cross-examination and Lincoln-Douglas debate rounds is permissible for flowing or evidence retrieval so long as wire or wireless connections are disabled and remain disabled while the debate is in progress.

A. Computers equipped with removable wireless cards must have the cards removed before the beginning of any round of competition. It is the responsibility of the contestant to disengage equipment.
B. Computers with built-in wireless capability may be used only if the wireless capability is disabled. It is the responsibility of the contestant to disable the equipment.
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 sources (coaches or assistants included) inside or outside the room in which the competition occurs. Internet access, use of e-mail, instant messaging, or other means of receiving information from sources inside or outside the competition room are prohibited. (This does not prohibit non-electronic communication between debate partners during prep time and is not intended to supersede paragraph F, requiring that evidence be made available upon request.)
E. Sanction: Contestants found to have violated provisions A – C above shall forfeit the round of competition and receive zero points. Contestants found to have violated provision D above shall be disqualified from the tournament and shall forfeit all rounds. Contest Directors shall be empowered with the final decision concerning disqualification.
F. Availability of Evidence: Contestants electing to use computers shall 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 in electronic form, but must be provided in a format readable and easily accessible 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 shall not be responsible for providing computers, printers, software, paper, or extension cords for contestants.

Because public speaking decorum remains an important element of debate, debaters are expected to stand at the front of the room facing the judge while speaking.

Contestants choosing to use laptop computers accept the risk of equipment failure. No special consideration or accommodations, including no additional prep time or speech time, will be given by judges, contest directors or tournament hosts should equipment failure occur.

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.

For further clarification, access *Frequently Asked Questions Concerning the use of Computers in Texas UIL Debate* at: *www.uiltexas.org/files/academics/speech/computers-debate-faq.pdf*