

Congress State Championship Tournament  
2025  
Presiding Officer Candidates

- If there are only 2 PO candidates to audition, auditions may be held, or who presides in the morning chamber and who presides in the afternoon chamber of Prelims can be agreed upon without an audition period.
- There will be a Preset Precedence Chart to begin the initial chamber session. Both the PO and the Parliamentarian will be given a copy of the chart.
- Each chamber will be assigned a Clerk, 2 Scorers and a Parliamentarian. The chamber should not officially open and begin business until all officials are present. Clerk then establishes the seating chart and calls Roll.
- Legislation is introduced by the region that submitted it. The authorship speech is first offered to the school that authored the legislation. If no representative from that school is assigned to the chamber, a legislator from the same region may give a sponsorship speech. If no region is designated on the docket, it is open to a sponsorship speech by any school.
- The official Contest Rules state “Times are absolute” so, for example, for 3 minute speeches, the PO should begin to gavel down at 2:50, increasing the volume at 3 minutes.
- During the first Aff and Neg speeches, there shall be 2 minutes of questioning time. The PO may call up to 4 questioners. Each questioner will have a 30-second block of time to ask questions. If questioners do not consume all of their allocated 30 seconds, the remaining time should be absorbed by the chair and they should move on to the next questioner in line.
- All other speeches have a questioning period of 1 minute. The PO may call up to 2 questioners. Each questioner will have a 30-second block of time to ask questions. If the first questioner does not consume all of their allocated 30 seconds, the chair should absorb the time and move on to the second questioner.
- Questioners shall be recognized on Recency.
- During any one session, Precedence/Recency do not reset to ensure all students have an equal opportunity to speak. Precedence/Recency reset when a new session begins. The PO will be given a copy of the new precedence chart.
- If the Presiding Officer wishes to speak on a piece of legislation, they may relinquish the chair temporarily in order to be recognized as a representative. Another representative in the chamber may volunteer to take the chair during this portion of the debate, or the parliamentarian may do so. However, the PO may only reclaim the chair when debate on the legislation has ended and a vote has been taken on the legislation.