SCORING CONGRESS

Congress is intended to emulate the U.S. Congress. In theory, the contest combines the best aspects of debate, oratory, and extemporaneous speaking within the structure of parliamentary procedure.

The parliamentarian remains the same throughout Session I and II. Individual scorers, however, will consider the results of <u>each individual chamber session</u> they are assigned to score.

Important: The parliamentarian and scorers will submit scores/rankings on electronic ballots via *SpeechWire***, a web-based tournament management system.** You will need a laptop in the chamber and are required to register as a judge in advance of the tournament at *speechwire.com.* Instructional videos can be located there, if you have questions on how to register.

SCORING

A ballot should be completed for all members of Congress whether they spoke during the session or not. Scorers shall not confer with others about their selection or reasons for ranking before submitting their decisions.

POINT ASSIGNMENT

- ❖ Competitors may have **5 scored speeches** per session. They might speak more than 5 times during the session, but only their first 5 speeches should be scored. Consult the **Congressional Debate Rubric: Speaking** for criteria. NOTE: Despite the fact that *SpeechWire* will allow you to input more than 5 speech scores, you will only score the first 5. You can take the other speeches into consideration when ranking the competitors.

- ❖ Amendment speeches are scored.

- ❖ Speakers may receive up to **six points per speech**. Complete a **Speech Evaluation** form (ballot*) for each individual student.

- ❖ The presiding officer may receive up to six points per clock hour based on his/her ability in that capacity. Use the **Presiding Office Evaluation** form (ballot*).

- ❖ Rank the students at the end of each session, unless instructed otherwise by the Clerk. Use the **Master Ballot** for the overall ranking of legislators.

- ❖ There can be no ties for placement.

- ❖ Provide as much constructive criticism as possible for each of the student's speeches.

Scorers will rank the highest scoring participants 1 through 8 (one being the best) at the end of each session. At the end of the second session, ties in the individual rounds will be broken by the Parliamentarian preference. *Don't forget to consider ranking the presiding officer, if he or she warrants.*

*Electronic ballots will not look like traditional UIL ballots.