

**Proposed Amendment to the
University Interscholastic League Constitution and Contest Rules**

A. Brief Explanation of Proposed Amendment

This amendment to the UIL Guidelines: Electronic Retrieval Devices in CX and LD Debate would allow the use of the Internet during Cross-Examination Debate and Lincoln Douglas Debate competition rounds within the parameters set forth in the guidelines.

B. Factual and Policy Justifications

Currently, guidelines prohibit the use of the Internet for any reason. This amendment would allow Internet connectivity during a competition round for evidence retrieval and sharing with opponents and judges participating in the round, but continue to prohibit any communication outside the round or with audience members. Internet connectivity would be the responsibility of the competitor and not the host site.

C. Proposed Amendment

The UIL Guidelines: Electronic Retrieval Devices in CX and LD Debate document in the handbooks would be amended as follows, pending approval by the Commissioner of Education:

ELECTRONIC RETRIEVAL DEVICES ARE DEFINED AS LAPTOP AND TABLE COMPUTERS, NETBOOK COMPUTERS, OTHER PORTABLE ELECTRONIC RETRIEVAL DEVICES AND SECONDARY DEVICES SUCH AS FLASH DRIVE AND EXTERNAL HARD DRIVES.

The use of ~~laptop and tablet computers and other~~ electronic retrieval devices 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.~~ UNDER THE CONDITIONS SPECIFIED BELOW.

- A. ~~Computers may be used only if the wireless capability is disabled. It is the responsibility of the contestant to disable the equipment.~~ INTERNET ACCESS MAY BE USED TO RETRIEVE FILES, EXCHANGE EVIDENCE AND/OR ARGUMENTS WITH THE OPPOSING TEAM AND JUDGE, OR RESEARCH ARGUMENTS.
- E. Contestants electing to use computers are responsible for providing their own computers, INTERNET CONNECTION, batteries, extension cords and all other necessary accessories. Tournament hosts shall not be responsible for providing WIFI CONNECTION, computers, printers, software, paper, or extension cords for contestants. DEBATERS PLANNING TO USE AN INTERNET CONNECTION SHOULD MAKE PROVISION FOR THEIR OWN INTERNET CONNECTION IN THE EVENT THAT TOURNAMENT-BASED WIFI IS UNAVAILABLE.

D. Potential Fiscal Impact of the Proposed Rule to Member Schools

This proposed amendment should have minimal fiscal impact on member schools as laptops have been in use in debate rounds for many years and guidelines do not require host sites to provide access to the Internet.

E. Legislative Council Consideration; Effective Date

If approved by the Legislative Council and the Commissioner of Education, this amendment shall be effective August 1, 2022.