LFA Virtual Debate Tournament FAQ's

1. Technical Requirements.

Students/judges will need to have an individual laptop or desktop computer with a camera and microphone to compete. It is also suggested that a high source of bandwidth be used to stream each round. A low bandwidth source may cause a student's screen to freeze in the middle of a round and/or lose connection entirely. Ability to access Google drive is required. A google sheet will need to be readily available at the start of each round.

2. How do students introduce themselves to the judge?

Students will need to do an audio/video check 10 minutes prior to the round starting. At this time students will take turns introducing themselves. They will provide their first and last names, what school they represent, and their speaker position.

3. How do Affirmative students share their 1AC with the Negative team?

The 1AC will be shared via a Google doc and will need to be removed by the student (owner), at the end of the round by removing access for anyone authorized during that round.
The document should also be set to "View Only".

At the beginning of the round the students will log into the chat room. They will provide their name, email address and speaker position. This way the email addresses are there, ready to share. The 1AC should be shared right before the round begins.

Whoever is sharing the doc. (owner) will be the one to remove access after the round has finished. It would be best for students to practice sending over a 1AC via a Google doc. and removing access. This can be done with partners so that they will know how to send to the other team and then remove the access. Normally in an in-person tournament they would hand a copy over to their opponent to view, but since we have to go the virtual route, this is the only way it can be accomplished.

Reminder:
We are competing with Christian character in mind. Copying, downloading, printing of any opponent's 1AC is strictly prohibited.

4. How do teams provide proof of evidence?

At the beginning of the round the students will log into the chat room provide their name, email address and speaker position. The email addresses will then be readily available for document sharing. The judge may enter his or her email as well, in the event he or she requests to see evidence. The judge may view evidence only at the end of the round. Competitors should only share evidence with the judge if it has been requested by the judge. They may of course delete access for their opponents as soon as the round is completed.

Please Note:
Evidence read during a round must be on a hard copy. Evidence should only be
copied and pasted onto a Google doc. if requested. It must still follow the standard evidence
practices of an in-person debate.

Whoever is sharing the doc. (owner) will be the one responsible for removing access after the round has finished. It would be best for students to practice sending over evidence via a Google doc. and removing access. This can be done with partners so they know how to send to the other team/judge without leaving their evidence behind. Normally in an in-person tournament students would hand a copy over to their opponent to view, but since we are debating virtually this is the only way it can be accomplished. Any shared document(s) should be shared in a "View Only" mode and will be the responsibility of the student (owner) to manage the access.

Reminder:
We are competing with Christian character in mind. Copying, downloading, printing of any opponent's evidence is strictly prohibited.

Please see the instructions below for the management of Google documents.

Sharing a Google Document:

1. On a computer, go to Google Drive, Docs, Sheets, or Slides.

2. Click the file you want to share.

3. Click **Share or Share** .

4. Enter the email addresses with those you wish to share with.

5. Click **Done**.

Disabling download, print, and copy:

1. Select one or more files you want to limit.

2. Click **Share or Share** ⁺⚬.

3. In the bottom right, click **Advanced**.

4. Check the box next to "**Disable options to download, print, and copy for commenters and viewers."**

5. Click **Save changes**.

6. Click **Done**.

Disabling Share Access:

1. Open the home screen for Google Drive, Google Docs, Google Sheets, or Google Slides.

2. Select a **File**.

3. Click **Share**.

4. Find the person you want to stop sharing with.

5. To the right of their name, click the **Down Arrow.** Then click **Remove**.

6. To save changes, click **Save.**

5. How do students handle prep time/debate timing in a virtual tournament?

Students will request prep time when it is their turn to do so. They must turn off their audio, but remain in video. If not competing from the same room, students may only use their cell phones to call, text or IM during prep time, before and after the round. Students should get used to self-timing with an oven timer in order to keep track of their prep/speech time and that of their opponents. We will try to have judges who either know how to time or provide an additional virtual timer. In the event that one is not available students will need to time themselves. So it would be beneficial for all students to get in the practice of self-timing.

6. How do judges register for a tournament?

Judges can register on the Flowpad tournament site. https://lfavirtualfo.homeschooldebate.net/

Please Note:
The judge orientation will be prerecorded and uploaded to the Flowpad's tournament site. The link will be on the main page. It should only be about 30 minutes and can be watched as many times as needed. The virtual judge orientation is required for any judge in the LFA.

Judges will also need to make sure that they mark their choice of ballot form.
We will be using electronic ballots for the virtual tournaments and will need to know what spreadsheet application a judge will have access to such as; **Excel or Numbers. If neither is available an alternative ballot form will be used**. Judges will need to provide an email address and a contact number in the event of a disconnection. This will be done during the registration process. Judges will also be provided with a list of contact numbers for the Tech. /Tab Room should they encounter any technical issues.

7. Can parents log in to watch their student's round?

Yes, parents can log in. Spectators will only have the first 10 minutes to request admission. The room will close after 10 minutes. This is to avoid any unnecessary distractions. Spectators will also have to have their **audio and video turned off**. Any unnecessary sounds such dogs barking, babies crying, and side conversations would be cause for stopping the round and for removal from the room by the room proctor. Students need to be able to focus on the arguments at hand without interruption.

8. Will there be someone overseeing each of the virtual debate rooms?

There will be a room proctor monitoring the rooms for any outside distractions, as well as addressing any technical issues and any misconduct issues.

9. What happens if I lose connection?

If at any part of the debate a competitor or judge loses connection they should contact the room proctor immediately so that the round can be stopped for tech. time. Phone numbers & emails will be provided for the Tech./Tab Room on the main tournament page.

In the Event of Technical Difficulty

A. Definition of "**Technical Difficulty**"
   - *Technical problem with equipment, and or internet, resulting in loss of communication.*

B. **If the judge should encounter a technical difficulty the round will be paused at the point in the speech in which communication was lost**. No more than 10 minutes will be allotted for a judge to resolve any technology issues before the round is called. Should the judge be unable to complete the round for any major technical reason, the teams involved in that particular round will receive a *Double Win* and speaker points for each competitor during that round will be based on the average speaker rank points earned in the remaining preliminary rounds.

C. **If a competitor should encounter a technical difficulty the round will resume at the point in which communication was lost**. Each team will be allotted a total of 10 minutes to handle any technical difficulties. Any time beyond the 10 minute marker will result in a **forfeit** for the team that is unable to fully reconnect. The competitor who is unable to reconnect will receive the last speaker rank and the other speaker ranks will be determined based on the average speaker rank points earned in the remaining preliminary rounds.

10. Will virtual tournaments be scored the same as in-person tournaments?

The LFA Virtual Tournaments will be scored on the same criteria as the LFA in-person tournaments, the only addition to the rules will be that judges should not use minor technical issues as a means to score a round negatively. Negative scoring/forfeit should only occur in the event of a team or individual team member's complete disconnection or continual extensive technical issues.

We thank you for your cooperation as we enter into this new era of Virtual Debate. We truly appreciate your patience and understanding as we work to fine tune this new form of debate. If you have any questions that were not answered in the FAQ'S above, please feel free to contact the LFA office at (209)575-2005 or via email at; LFA@PrincipleStudies.org.

Thank you from the Logos Forensic Association