

Judge Conflicts For Distribution to Teams

Conflicts are defined as situations where debaters are perceived to have an unfair favorable advantage with a judge, usually due to previous working or personal relationships. Situations where you feel a judge is prejudiced against any of your students, for any reason, should be handled by strikes and preferencing, and not by conflicts.

A judge conflict exists with a student:

- whose high school the judge attended in recent years;
- to whom the judge is related;
- who attends a school with whom the judge has had a coaching or judging relationship, paid or unpaid, during the past two school years (does not apply if the only relationship to a school was as a hired judge at that school's tournament);
- who attends a school that has offered to hire the judge to coach or judge for the team in the future;
- for whom the judge has ever had primary instructional responsibility as, e.g., a school coach or a personal coach;
- with whom the judge has or has had in the past personal friendships or romantic relationships, or with whom the judges socializes in non-debate settings;
- who personally has provided a judge's transportation or housing at this tournament, or who attends a school that has provided the judge's transportation or housing at this tournament;
- who has been hired by, or who has an outstanding explicit or implicit offer from, a debate business (e.g., workshop or brief company) to which the judge has financial ties;
- if the judge's current, or in the past two years, coach of record is currently coaching the student;
- If the judge coaches or debates for a college/university, any student that is debating for the judge's program next year or whom the judge's school is still actively recruiting;
- with whose coach(es) the judge has or had in the past had romantic relationships;
- to whom the judge bears any other relationship that might reasonably be thought to compromise the judge's impartiality as a judge. To determine whether a relationship meets this test, the judge might ask, "If I were a competing student and knew nothing about my judge except that he or she bore the relationship in question to my competitor or my competitor's coach, would I have any doubts about his or her impartiality?" If the answer is "yes," that is a conflict.

A list of judges will be posted online prior to the tournament, and conflicts must be reported by the closing of prefs/ratings/conflicts. Failure to report conflicts or misrepresenting conflicts will result in penalties ranging from a team losing all its prefs up to and including disqualification and removal from the tournament of a team's entire school, at the discretion of the tournament director.