

**US Universities Debating Championships | Stanford 2018**  
**Policy on English as a Second Language, Community College, and Novice Status**

**Context**

At the 2017 US Universities Debate Association (USUDA) annual meeting in Denver, voting resulted in the creation of speaker awards for the top English as a Second Language (ESL) and community college debaters at USUDC. The obligation to award these speaker awards is not binding for Stanford USUDC 2018, and becomes binding for the host of USUDC 2019. However, in the interest of promoting diversity in debate, Stanford 2018 has committed to awarding these speaker awards. In addition, depending on the size of the entry pool and attendant to the definitions and procedures below, Stanford USUDC may run semi-finals and finals for the ESL and community college divisions of the tournament.

**Definitions**

1. Definition of English as a Second Language (ESL) status
  - a. The definition of ESL status is adapted<sup>1</sup> from WUDC Constitution Article 31 and is as follows:
    - i. The Status Officer(s) shall evaluate the inevitable burden of a speaker both with regard to the amount of previous exposure to spoken English, as well as the level of complexity of said exposure.
    - ii. Speakers are expected not to be suffering a sufficiently significant disadvantage to qualify as ESL when they:
      1. Have spoken English for more than five years as a primary language in their home or social circle, or
      2. Have spent more than five years when of school age or above in a country where English is the primary medium of exchange, or
      3. Have spent more than five years enrolled in an educational program where English is the effective medium of instruction in a non-native English environment, or the English language is the subject of instruction, or
      4. Have worked for more than five years in a workplace where English is the effective medium of exchange.

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<sup>1</sup> The WUDC definition also includes the line "time shall be halved for education in a native English environment," but we remove this provision to make the definition more lenient for USUDC. We also make some small changes to numbering, change "Language Officer" to "Status Officer", and excluded the part of the WUDC definition relating to EFL status.

- iii. The cumulative period of time under which at least one of conditions (iii.1) to (iii.4) is fulfilled may not exceed five years.
  - b. An “ESL team” is defined as a team composed of two speakers who have each individually received ESL status.
- 2. Definition of Community College (CC) status
  - a. To qualify for community college status, a speaker must be attending USUDC as a student of a community college. A community college is defined as any institution that does not offer a Bachelor's degree, but instead some other certification.
    - i. A debater cannot claim community college status if they previously attended a community college, but transferred to and currently attend an accredited university
  - b. A “CC team” is defined as a team composed of two speakers who have each individually received CC status.
- 3. Definition of Novice status
  - a. Novices are debaters who are in their first year of competitive college debate, regardless of format.
    - i. The “first year” begins on the first day of the first college-level tournament that debater competed in
  - b. A “novice team” is defined as a team composed of two speakers who have each individually received novice status.

## Verification

- 4. ESL verification
  - a. If speakers wish to be considered for ESL status, they can **complete the ESL verification questionnaire**. The ESL verification questionnaire asks questions about the requirements outlined in item (1). This questionnaire will be available at the time of individual registration, when we hope most people will complete it. However, we will allow speakers to submit ESL status requests until the beginning of round 2 (the last round on Friday night).
  - b. The Status Officer(s) will then review submitted questionnaires, compile a list of speakers for whom ESL status has been approved, and publish it by the beginning of round 3 (the first round on Saturday morning).
  - c. Speakers who want to contest the Status Officer(s)' decision on their ESL status can approach the status desk before the beginning of round 5. The outcome of this discussion is final with no further appeals.
- 5. Community College verification
  - a. If speakers are a) students at a community college and b) would like community college status for the tournament, they can indicate this at the time of individual

registration. (If a debater is from a community college but declares that they would not like to be assigned community college status at the time of registration, they will not be assigned community college status for the tournament). We hope most speakers will indicate their community college status at the time of individual registration, however we will allow speakers to submit CC status requests until the beginning of round 2 (the last round on Friday night).

- b. The Status Officer(s) will review community college declarations from the registration data, and post community college status assignments at the same time as ESL assignments, by the beginning of round 3.
  - c. Speakers who want to contest the Status Officer(s)' decision on their community college status can approach the status desk before the beginning of round 5. The outcome of this discussion is final with no further appeals, and must be settled by the beginning of round 5.
6. Novice verification
- a. Speakers and teams can indicate novice status at the time of registration, or by approaching the status desk any time before the beginning of round 5.
  - b. The status desk will publicly post the current list of debaters with novice status and update it as frequently as practicable.
  - c. There is no formal verification process for novice status; we will take your word for it. If a novice status declaration is blatantly and obviously false, the Status Officers can deny it.

## **Awards and Outrounds**

7. Speaker awards
- a. Winning a speaker award in any given category does not disqualify a speaker from winning a speaker award in any other category. (I.e., receiving a speaker award in the open category does not disqualify a speaker from winning an award in the ESL category; winning a community college speaker award doesn't disqualify you from getting an ESL or novice speaker award, etc.)
8. Elimination rounds
- a. As detailed in sections 9, 10, and 11, if a team breaks in the open division, they will compete in the open break and cannot participate in the ESL, CC, or novice breaks.
  - b. If a team does not qualify for the open break but qualifies for both ESL and CC break rounds, teams can compete in both the ESL and CC break, to the extent these rounds exist.
    - i. ESL and CC break rounds will be staggered so that teams can compete in both sets of elimination rounds if they qualify for them
  - c. To compete in ESL break rounds, both members of a team must have ESL status. To compete in CC break rounds, both members of a team must have CC

status. To compete in novice break rounds, both members of a team must have novice status.

- d. If a team breaks to any of the ESL, CC or open outrounds, they cannot participate in the novice break.

#### 9. ESL division

- a. There will be speaker awards for the ESL division.
- b. Depending on the number of ESL teams, there may be ESL semi-finals and/or finals.
- c. The number of ESL break rounds and speaker awards are ultimately at the discretion of the convenor and the organizing committee, but the tournament will attempt to adhere to this guideline as closely as possible:
  - i. < 10 ESL teams: speaker award for the top ESL speaker, no ESL specific rounds
  - ii. 10-15 ESL teams: speaker awards for the top 5 ESL speakers, no ESL specific rounds
  - iii. 16-31 ESL teams: speaker recognition for the top 5 ESL speakers, ESL final. The ESL final will feature the four highest-ranked ESL teams that are not in the open break.
  - iv. 32+ ESL teams: speaker recognition for the top 10 ESL speakers, ESL semi-finals and finals. The ESL semi-finals will feature the eight highest-ranked ESL teams that are not in the open break.

#### 10. Community College division

- a. The CC division will have identical thresholds for speaker awards and break rounds to ESL division, as defined in (9). Like ESL awards and break rounds, the number of CC break rounds and awards are ultimately at the discretion of the convenor and the organizing committee, but the tournament will attempt to adhere to the guideline as closely as possible.

#### 11. Novice division

- a. The novice division will have identical thresholds for speaker awards and break rounds to ESL division, as defined in (9), except that the words “open break” are replaced by “open, community college, or ESL break”. Like ESL awards and break rounds, the number of novice break rounds and awards are ultimately at the discretion of the convenor and the organizing committee, but the tournament will attempt to adhere to the guideline as closely as possible.

### **The Status Team at USUDC 2018**

#### 12. Stanford 2018 Status team

- a. The Status Officer is Andrew Chizewer.

- b. Assistant Status Officers, who may help with initial processing and assignment, are Jackie Li and Sierra Maciorowski.
- c. A challenge to status assignment will be reviewed by the Status Officer and at least one of the Assistant Status Officers. The convenor may also request that a tournament Equity Officer review the challenge.

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*Amended February 4, 2018 at 7:05pm PST, to clarify that community college status is requested and assigned on an individual, not institutional, basis.*

*Amended February 17, 2018 at 3:40pm PST to fix a typo in section 5(a).*