Adapted Team Policy Debate – 3 or 4 Person Teams

*Each debate will have 2 Openings, 2 Rebuttal Rounds and 1 Conclusion Round.*

**Important:** More than 1 person CAN speak during each round. You may take turns if you wish.

*4 Minutes*

**First Affirmative Opening**: This speech is almost fully prepared before the debate starts. The First Affirmative opening speech is expected to defend the resolution in the most compelling way possible. The task of the Affirmative Opening is to explain the resolution and provide arguments defending the resolution. The format is flexible, but most good openings will defend an interpretation of the resolution and then establish 3 arguments in favor of the resolution. Each argument should independently prove that the resolution is valid or true. Each argument should also link itself directly to the wording of the resolution. Most importantly, each argument should have evidence to back it up—quotations from experts, statistics, narratives, other reasoning, etc.

*4 Minutes*

**First Negative Opening**: The task of this speech is to refute all the arguments presented by the first affirmative Opening AND to provide 2 additional reasons why the resolution is flawed and should be rejected. This speech is also expected to provide some additional objections to the proposition that are directly responsive to the Opening of the Affirmative side. In general, the need for a rejection of the resolution can be demonstrated in two ways: by refuting the affirmative’s arguments in defense of the topic; and, secondly, by introducing additional arguments against the resolution itself.

*5 Minutes*

**First Affirmative Rebuttal.** This speech requires the affirmative speaker to extend the initial defenses of the resolution (by refuting the negative’s arguments and re-explaining the original positions) AND to refute the new arguments that the negative has raised concerning the resolution.

*5 Minutes*

**First Negative Rebuttal**. This speech responds to a portion of the affirmative’s arguments. It also should elaborate on the negative’s strongest argument/s and refute the statements made by the affirmative. The idea is to refute a percentage of the affirmative’s arguments and extend a portion of your own. You can introduce new evidence in this speech.

*5 Minutes*

**Second Affirmative Rebuttal**. This speech should refute all the remaining negative arguments against the resolution, extend the reasons advanced in favor of the resolution, AND sum up the arguments defending the resolution. Perhaps the most difficult speech in the debate. You are expected to respond to everything said in the previous speeches.

*5 Minutes*

**Second Negative Rebuttal**. This rebuttal is designed to respond to previous affirmative arguments made. This speech should refute all the remaining affirmative arguments for the resolution, extend the reasons advanced against the resolution, AND sum up the arguments against the resolution.

*3 Minutes*

**Negative Conclusions**. This is the final negative speech. The negative needs to respond to all the arguments made in by the affirmative by setting up a series of reasons why the resolution should not be adopted. What are the most compelling and major reasons the negative has won the debate? Why is the resolution false? “Issue selection”—choose what issues are most important and how you can win those arguments. No new arguments can be put forth.

*3 Minutes*

**Affirmative Conclusions.** This is the last speech of the debate—designed to give the affirmative the chance to extend arguments in favor of the resolution and respond to any remaining negative arguments against the resolution. This speech must respond to everything from the negative and emphasize the reasons why the resolution is a good idea. No new arguments can be put forth.