

PBCFL VIRTUAL CONGRESS RULES

- **SMALLER CHAMBERS:** Congress rooms will have a maximum of 13 competitors in a chamber, plus two judges.
- **TEST THE SYSTEM:** Competitors and judges are encouraged to go into their online chambers early to verify that audio/visual equipment is functioning. This is also a good time to discuss who will preside over a session and what docket to use.
- **NO, SERIOUSLY - TEST THE SYSTEM:** We implore all interested Congress students to get acclimated to the platform before going into chamber for the first time. That way, you don't need to find things out on the fly. Please be patient.
- **SET YOUR NAME CORRECTLY:** Tournament rules require you to keep your camera on and include your first and last name.
- **BE NATURAL:** Be mindful of the background.
- **FIND A QUIET PLACE:** We recommend finding as quiet of a room as possible when competing.
- **THINGS HAPPEN:** Expect technical blunders to occur regardless of prior checks. Judges and tournament staff will work sedulously to help resolve such issues. Technical issues occur the most when multiple students are interacting at once.
- **MORE THINGS HAPPEN:** Be cognizant of scheduling delays. Hosting hundreds of students into online sessions is cumbersome. It is entirely possible (especially given the novel situation we find ourselves in) that tournament start times will be delayed due to technical bugs and lag.
- **MUTE THE MIC:** Remember to mute your microphone when others are giving their speeches. Nothing is more irksome than hearing background noise while others are speaking. Judges may reflect their ire in their rankings.
- **SPEAK CLEARLY:** Not all audio mics are made equally, so remember to speak as clearly as possible.
- **NO MORE GAVELING:** Gavel taps are no more. Expect time signals (like in speech rounds) and remember to pin the PO who will be giving them to your screen, so you can see him/her while you speak and don't end up going over time.
- **PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES:** Create and use placards in place of standing up to vote for procedures, legislation, interest in asking questions, etc. We noticed Presiding Officers having difficulties occasionally noticing all potential speakers, questioners, and students looking to make motions.
- **PIN THE JUDGES:** Along with pinning the PO to the screen, competitors may want to pin their judges to the screen to ensure they're actually ready for them to begin speaking. Judges may want to audibly announce their readiness to the chamber, since video can be laggy at times.
- **RECESS:** Each chamber will be allowed to have a 5-10 minute recess midway through the session.