



NYPDL Code of Conduct 2020-21

Equity complaints may be submitted via Google form: <https://forms.gle/EtC3DpWK4u8N8tfWA>

Our Equity Officers can be reached at:

- Ben: benjamin.binday22@trinityschoolnyc.org or 914-844-4821.
- Nan: nancy.dickerson22@trinityschoolnyc.org or 202-805-5487.
- Myra: myra_malik@horacemann.org or 917-946-4759.

Our Mission

The NY Parliamentary Debate League seeks to provide a safe and educational environment for interested students to debate topics that are relevant, enjoyable and informative. We do not tolerate harassment on the basis of gender, race, sexual orientation, disability, or any other factor from students, judges, or teachers. We are committed to making tournaments as safe as possible in order to ensure that every member of our community feels welcome at NYPDL tournaments. While we take many precautions to avoid equity violations, we must be prepared for when issues do arise at our tournaments. Our equity officers impartially listen to testimonies when potential equity violations occur and assess and resolve these issues. Punishments for these violations can include, but are not limited to, an official warning, a loss in a round, removal from the tournament, or -- in the case of repeated offenses -- a ban from attending future NYPDL tournaments.

What Qualifies as an Equity Violation?

- We do not tolerate any remarks that could reasonably be construed as targeting one's identity through attacks on a person's protected characteristics.

- This includes arguments that could potentially be viewed as racist, sexist, homophobic, transphobic, classist, or ableist.
- During rounds of debate, please refrain from any ad hominem attacks. Arguments in a round should be solely focused on the subject matter of the topic at hand rather than a person's identity.
- Any usage of generalizations or stereotypes about groups of people is unacceptable at our tournaments and will be viewed as a major equity violation.
 - Debaters should not attempt to vilify or create an atmosphere of condemnation against a certain group or person.
 - Debaters should not assume that certain demographic groups have intrinsic characteristics.
 - Debaters should not assume or standardize the amount of pain a certain action against any marginalized group causes.
- Debaters should not knowingly create a condition that unnecessarily endangers the health or safety of other persons, i.e. by revealing sensitive information about them or their history.
- While making an argument about a marginalized group, we encourage all debaters to operate as if a member of that group was present and listening to the argument
- Any debater or judge that believes an equity violation has taken place, even if they are not included in the points outlined above, should bring it to the attention of an equity officer.

What do I do if I witness an equity violation?

- If a violation occurs during a round, the judge maintains the ability to pause the round and speak to the debaters to determine whether the violation was minor or major.
 - In the case of a minor violation, or one that seems unintentional, judges are encouraged to immediately stop time and instruct the debaters about why a statement is unacceptable. If there are no further issues, the round can be resumed and there is no need to escalate the violation.

- In the case of a major violation, the judge has the option to stop the round, award the win to the other team, and give the team committing the violation zero speaker points. Regardless of whether the round is stopped early, the judge is encouraged to report this violation to an equity officer in order to allow for a more in-depth assessment of the circumstances surrounding it.
- If a debater witnesses a potential equity violation during a round, they are encouraged to call a point of order and the judge will review the possible violation.
 - If a debater witnesses a potential equity violation from a judge, they should feel comfortable speaking out, stopping the round, and reporting it to equity officers.
- When violations occur outside of a debate setting, we encourage any witnesses to promptly report the violation to one of our equity officers.

How do we Report Equity Violations?

- If you believe that you have seen an equity violation during a tournament, regardless of whether they are included within the points outlined above, we encourage you to reach out to one of the equity officers present at the tournament to review the issue.
 - At the top of this document, a link to a Google form is provided in which you can list important details about the violation.
 - Additionally, the contact information of our three equity officers is provided at the top of this document if you would prefer to contact them directly.

The League greatly appreciates feedback on our tournaments and training materials, and we especially welcome any thoughts or suggestions for our Code of Conduct. If you feel that the Code is missing a necessary section, or that any part of it could be better phrased, please do not hesitate to contact one of our equity officers.