

Paperless Debate Guidelines

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MIFA recently adopted the following regulations about paperless debate practices, and while we would love to let the "marketplace" decide best practice, we do have a few guidelines we encourage MIFA Judges and teams to bear in mind. They are outlined below.

PAPERLESS DEBATE REGULATIONS

1. Computers or other electronic devices may not be used to receive information from any source (coaches or assistants included) inside or outside of the room of competition. Internet access, use of email, instant messaging or other means of receiving information from sources are prohibited during the round. By choosing to use computers in the round, debaters are consenting to give tournament officials the right to check contestant computers to determine outside consultation. Debaters who do not wish to consent should not use computers in the round.
2. Evidence may be printed in the round or produced electronically, but must be provided, upon request, in a format readable by the opposing team and/or the judge.
3. All exchanges of evidence should take place within current speech or prep time parameters.
4. Contestants choosing to use computers and related equipment accept the risk of equipment failure. Judges and/or contest directors will give no additional consideration (beyond that provided to debaters using paper files).
5. Contestants electing to use computers are responsible for providing their own computers, batteries, extension cords and all other necessary accessories. Tournament hosts will not be responsible for providing computers, printers, software, paper, or extension cords for contestants.
6. Contestants found to have violated the paperless debate rules will be sanctioned by the tournament director based on the severity of the violation. Penalties range from forfeiting rounds to being disqualified from the tournament.