III. MORE DEBATE BASICS

A. Points of Information: a question or statement directed to the speaker holding the floor by a member of the opposing team.

1. Rise and say ‘point of information’
   a. the speaker has absolute discretion over whether or not to accept
2. Should not be more than 15 seconds
   a. time will count against speaker holding the floor
3. Only accepted between the 1st & last minutes of 4 constructive speeches
   a. prohibited during rebuttals
4. Accepting or asking for points of order can raise a speakers points
   a. try not to be excessive about it
5. Useful for several purposes:
   a. to ask for clarification when opponents are vague or unclear
   b. to point out a contradiction in the opposing team’s argument
      i. partners sometimes contradict each other (flow to see this)
   c. to respond to an argument made by the opposing team
      i. directly challenge an argument that relies on emotion
   d. to point out a fact missed or misstated by the other team
      i. pointing out an obvious factual inaccuracy weakens their case
   e. to preview an upcoming speech
      i. set the stage for a major point you plan to bring up
   f. to inject some humor into the round
      i. can catch your opponent off guard...keep it short

B. Points of Order: an objection to a breach of the rules of debate which is raised by a debater while one of the members of the other team is speaking.

1. Rise and say ‘point of order’
   a. speaker should remain silent until the point is stated & the Speaker (judge) has ruled it well taken or not well taken
2. The speaker holding the floor has no right to respond
3. Circumstances when they should be used:
   a. new argument in rebuttal
      i. judge can order the new argument dismissed
   b. case shift in rebuttal
      i. if the govt. attempts to shift or change its case in the PMR
   c. a speaker exceeding time limits
      i. each speaker will be allowed a 30 second grace period

C. Points of Personal Privilege: if a debater feels a member of the opposing team has seriously misrepresented, misquoted or insulted him/her, he/she may rise on a point of personal privilege.