

PROPAGANDA Tournament Rules 2026-27

[AGLOA PROPAGANDA Playing Forms are available on the agloa.org website.]

Bold and yellow highlighted entries mark changes/additions from 2025-26.

- PT1** All AGLOA competitors are expected to preserve the integrity of the competition by conducting themselves in a fair and ethical manner. In cases of unfair play, unsportsmanlike conduct, or clear violations of tournament rules, the Penalties Policy in the AGLOA National Tournament Administration Manual should be consulted.
- PT2** *Propaganda: The Definitive Guide* will be used to determine all definitions. The current edition of the *Guide* may be downloaded from the AGLOA website.
- PT3** Players will be seated in three-player groupings. A four-player grouping will be used only when a threesome cannot be formed.
- PT4** Nine examples will be read in each round in each Division. Each round covers one section of Propaganda techniques. The sections for **2026-27** are **A, C, D, and E**.
- PT5** The central reader will read each example twice with a slight pause in between. Players may NOT circle their answers until AFTER the reader has completed the second reading of the example. Players will then have 30 seconds to mark their answer on the line of the answer sheet that corresponds to the number of the example. A ten-second warning is given by the reader before telling players to reveal answers. Time will be kept by the reader or by someone else that the tournament director designates.
- PT6** Players must use a non-erasable pen to mark answers and BOLD or CAUTIOUS after the second reading of the example. Players may not change an answer or BOLD/CAUTIOUS once it has been marked. An erasure or scratch out of an answer makes any answer for that example automatically wrong. An erasure or scratch out of BOLD/CAUTIOUS will be treated as not marking either one. See rule **PT9** below.
- PT7** Players have thirty (30) seconds from the end of the second reading to make their decisions and mark the answer and BOLD/CAUTIOUS on the correct line for the number of the example that was read. The reader should give a ten-second warning before telling players to exchange answer sheets and announcing the answer. The penalty for failing to mark an answer within the time limit is minus two (-2) points, and that player will not be allowed to offer an answer for that example.
- PT8** After all players have answered and revealed, the reader states the panel's answer and players check each other's Answer Sheets to determine each player's score.
- PT9** After hearing the example, each player writes her/his answer in one of two columns:
- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------|--------------|----------------|
| BOLD Answer | earns | Correct = +4 | Incorrect = -2 |
| CAUTIOUS Answer | earns | Correct = +2 | Incorrect = 0 |
| Failure to circle BOLD or CAUTIOUS | | Correct = +2 | Incorrect = -2 |
- If a player is not at the table to answer an example, the player scores -4.
- PT10** A round ends when all examples have been read.
- PT11** In Junior and Senior Divisions only:
- Some of the examples will be visual, taken from magazines, newspapers, or other print material. On the visuals, some words will usually appear. The central reader will read only the words from the visual that should be considered in trying to determine the technique being used.
 - At most two examples, visual or oral, may contain more than one technique from the section being played. Players may provide both techniques in either order on their answer sheets. For instance, if example 6 calls for two answers, then one answer must

be marked on answer line 6 (along with BOLD/CAUTIOUS on that line) and the other answer must be marked on line 7 (with BOLD/CAUTIOUS).

- c. A Junior/Senior example may be read (or shown) in two different rounds because it contains two techniques, one from each of the two sections.
- d. The Non Sequitur technique of Section E is expanded to include recognizing four forms of reasoning as listed and explained in *Propaganda: The Definitive Guide*, the latest version of which is available for download on ag1oa.org.
- e. At the National Tournament, one or two examples may be videos.

PT12 All Divisions play four sections each year as follows.

2026-27	A C D E	2030-31	A B C E
2027-28	A B C F	2031-32	B C D F
2028-29	B C D E	2032-33	A B D E
2029-30	A B D F	2033-34	B C D F

PT13 Certain forms of behavior interfere with play and annoy or intimidate opponents. If a player is guilty of such conduct, a monitor will warn the player to discontinue the offensive behavior. Thereafter during that round or subsequent rounds, if the player again behaves in an offensive manner, the player may be penalized one point for each violation after the warning. Flagrant misconduct or continued misbehavior may cause the player's disqualification for that round or all subsequent rounds.

PT14 Certain infractions that give a player an unfair advantage or completely disrupt the reader may draw a -1 penalty immediately without a warning provided at least two monitors agree on the penalty. Examples include announcing an answer to other players before the correct answer is revealed or consulting notes that were written before the match began. A pair of monitors may also issue a -1 penalty or even expel a player from a match for other egregious actions such as continually making hand signals or other gestures to another player during the reading of a clue, knocking materials off the table, intimidating an opponent verbally or with threatening gestures or body language, refusing to continue play when told to do so by a monitor, and so on. This rule also applies to use of any electronic device (smart watch, phone, tablet, etc.), constant talking, tapping on the table, humming or singing, loud or rude language, writing an answer on the wrong line two or more times in a round, and so on.

PT15 Any time a player marks an answer on the wrong line in a round, a monitor must renumber the answers on the player's sheet and initial the correction with a red pen. There is no penalty the first time this occurs in the round. However, any other answers marked on the wrong line by that player the remainder of the round incur a one-point penalty that must be initialed by a monitor with a red pen.

PT16 In Junior and Senior Divisions only, players should mark both answers and BOLD/CAUTIOUS for a two-answer example on separate lines. Before reading the example, the central reader will explain to players how answers should be marked. When players mark each answer on separate lines, use rule PT9 to score each answer separately. When a player incorrectly marks both of their answers for a two-answer example on the same answer line, regardless of whether they circled BOLD/CAUTIOUS on the same line or different lines, scoring for the two-answer example is determined as follows:

2 BOLD Answers	earn	Correct = +4, +4	Incorrect = -2, -2
2 CAUTIOUS Answers	earn	Correct = +2, +2	Incorrect = 0, 0
1 BOLD and 1 CAUTIOUS Answer (both Correct)	earn	Correct = +4, +2	
1 BOLD and 1 CAUTIOUS Answer (only 1 Correct)	earn	Correct = +2, Incorrect = -2	

1 BOLD and 1 CAUTIOUS Answer (both Incorrect) earn Incorrect = -2, -2

In all the cases mentioned above, the player receives a warning if this is the first mis-marking in the round or a -1 if it is not the first mis-marking.

- PT17** A monitor may be called over at any time if a player is missing materials, feels another player is competing unfairly, or has an emergency that should not wait. However, during the reading of an example, no player may call over a monitor in an attempt to fix a mistake on an answer sheet or score sheet. Any issues dealing with writing on the wrong line, changing or marking out an answer, or marking a player's score incorrectly must be dealt with *after the answer is revealed but before the next clue/question/example is read*.
- PT18** If a checker circles YES or NO incorrectly or marks the score wrong, a monitor must initial the correction using a red pen. In like manner, any corrections on the group's scoresheet must be initialed by a monitor.
- PT19** The Tournament Director will appoint a chief monitor for each room to help resolve any issues involving rules, including penalties and behavior. Any behavior penalties must be agreed upon by two monitors — one being the chief monitor — to ensure consistency.
- PT20** When a round ends, each player must sign (or initial) the scoresheet and the winner (or one of those tied for first) turns it in. If a player signs or initials a scoresheet on which his score is listed incorrectly and the error was a simple oversight, then, with the agreement of all players, correct the scores. However, if there is evidence of intent to deceive and the error was not a simple oversight, do the following.
1. If the error gives the player a lower score, he receives the lower score.
 2. If the error gives the player a higher score, he receives 0 for that round.