

# Leadership

## Competition Rules Board July Meeting Minutes

July 20, 2021

The NSDA Competition Rules Board members held their virtual meeting July 20, 2021. In attendance were President Pam Cady Wycoff, Vice President Dr. Tommie Lindsey, Jr., Byron Arthur, David Huston, Adam Jacobi, Jennifer Jerome, Renee Motter, and Jay Rye.

*President Wycoff called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.*

### COMPETITION RULES

#### 2021-2022 District Tournaments

##### **Moved by Rye, seconded by Jerome:**

“In 2021-2022, districts will have the autonomy to determine whether each competition event in their district tournament series will be held online or in person, provided that at least three-fourths of coaches of schools that want to attend that portion of the tournament have agreed to hold the tournament online or in person.”

**Passed: 8-0** (Wycoff, Lindsey, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Rye)

Moving into the 2021-2022 school year, the safety of in-person tournaments varies from district to district. As such, districts will have the autonomy to determine how their tournaments are held on an event-by-event basis to allow for flexibility as the school year progresses. For example, a district may choose to hold their fall weekend online and their spring weekend in person. Alternatively, a district may choose to hold all of their debate events online and their speech events in person. Or, a district may choose to do Policy Debate online and every other event in person on the same weekend. Big Questions and World Schools will follow the same rules. In any scenario, three-fourths of the schools that want to attend that portion of the tournament must agree on the method

which is used to ensure most schools are comfortable with the way the tournament is held.

#### 2021-2022 District Levels

##### **Moved by Motter, seconded by Huston:**

“In 2021-2022, districts that met an 80% or higher threshold in one of the district levels parameters will be granted a COVID-19 relief extension of their July 2020 level.”

**Passed: 8-0** (Wycoff, Lindsey, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Rye)

It was projected that roughly 30% of districts would not meet the 100% qualification standard for their pre-pandemic level. This COVID-19 relief extension intends to acknowledge the challenges of recruitment during the pandemic and incentivize a resurgence of growth in these districts.

#### Pilot Scrimmage Points

##### **Moved by Rye, seconded by Jacobi:**

“Implement the previously piloted rule that states: ‘Students may earn up to 75 merit points for intrasquad and intersquad competitions that do not have the required four schools participating. It is the responsibility of the coach to ensure that no more than 75 points per student are entered for scrimmages.’”

**Passed: 8-0** (Wycoff, Lindsey, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Rye)

This rule was piloted in 2020-2021. The Board voted to keep it in place permanently as a way to incentivize participation and open access to membership, especially in a year where travel and tournament attendance may remain challenging.

### ***Pilot Congress Rule Limiting Time for Debate***

#### **Moved by Jacobi, seconded by Rye:**

“Implement the option to utilize the piloted rule in Congressional Debate allowing districts to limit time for debate per legislation item to no more than one-third of a session’s floor time; however, districts will retain the ability to choose whether this rule is used at their district tournament.”

**Passed: 8-0** (Wycoff, Lindsey, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Rye)

In 2019, the Board voted to pilot this rule. The Board voted to keep this rule as an option for districts to use permanently to force students to prepare for debate on more than one piece of legislation and keep debate fresh to encourage more judges to be interested in adjudicating Congressional Debate. This rule will not be used at the 2022 National Tournament.

### ***District Audit Procedures***

#### **Moved by Huston, seconded by Arthur:**

“The District Committee must develop district tournament audit procedures, register their audit procedures with the national office, and notify all coaches of the audit procedures that will be used. It is also the affirmative duty of coaches to hold the District Committee accountable to publishing and following their audit procedures and checking round results during the tournament.”

**Passed: 8-0** (Wycoff, Lindsey, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Rye)

To support districts in running transparent and fair qualifying tournaments, the NSDA will require District Committees and coaches to take proactive steps to publish and verify district audit procedures and tournament results. District chairs will register their planned district audit procedures on the District Dates Form through Tabroom.com in October and November. For more information, please refer to the *High School Unified Manual*.

### ***Timeline for Competition Rules Items***

Competition Rules Board members discussed preliminary National Tournament feedback, potential rules issues that impact 2021 and beyond, and rule change proposals received from community members via the Rule Change Submission Form. A preliminary timeline for discussion of items was reviewed. The Board will continue to prioritize proposals for consideration and address them accordingly in a manner designed to best assess, study, develop, and address the submissions for 2021-2022.

#### **Moved by Jacobi, seconded by Motter:**

“Adjourn.”

**Passed: 8-0** (Wycoff, Lindsey, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Rye)

*The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m. on Tuesday.* ✨

**QUESTIONS? CONCERNS? IDEAS?**

We want to hear from you! Send your feedback to [board@speechanddebate.org](mailto:board@speechanddebate.org).