

Leadership

Competition Rules Board September Meeting Minutes

Sept. 21, 2021

The NSDA Competition Rules Board members held their virtual meeting September 21, 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 6:00 p.m.

COMPETITION RULES

Future of the Two New Supplemental Events

Moved by Rye, seconded by Arthur:

“Continue to pilot Pro Con Challenge and Original Spoken Word Poetry as supplemental events at the high school 2022 National Tournament and as main events at the 2022 Middle School National Tournament.”

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

Pro Con Challenge was the most popular event at the Middle School Speech Challenge the past two years, and it was the third most popular supplemental speech event at the 2021 National Tournament. Pro Con Challenge is popular as an opportunity for speech students to work on their argumentation skills and for debate students to try out a speech event. Original Spoken Word Poetry was offered at the 2021 National Tournament and Middle School Speech Challenge, and it provides a unique space for students to share their own stories through poetry. The events will continue to be piloted at the 2022 high school and middle school events.

Non-Qualifier Participation in Nationals Supplemental Events

Moved by Jerome, seconded by Motter:

“Each school that attends the district tournament may enter up to two non-qualifying students who competed at the district tournament into supplemental events at the 2022 National Tournament. Supplemental events will include some online competition opportunities.”

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

The 2021 policy that each school can enter up to two non-qualifying students who competed at the district tournament into supplemental events at the National Tournament will be continued in 2022. Additionally, some supplemental events will be offered as fully online, asynchronous opportunities to create opportunities for non-qualifying students who do not travel to Louisville, Kentucky. Any competitor, non-qualifier or qualifier, may enter the online supplemental events. Additional supplemental events will be offered in-person for any non-qualifier or qualifier who travels to the 2022 National Tournament site.

New Spring Competition Opportunity

Moved by Huston, seconded by Jacobi:

“Create an online last-chance 2022 National Tournament qualifying tournament opportunity in the spring.”

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

The National Speech & Debate Association will host a free, last-chance National Tournament qualifying opportunity in the spring. Top-placing entries in each

main event will qualify to compete in that event at the 2022 National Tournament. There are no entry fees to attend. Participating schools must have attended their district tournament to be permitted to enter students in the last-chance qualifier. Participating students must be districts-eligible and must not have qualified in any event at their district tournament. More details will be announced by December.

Changes to Middle School Nationals

Moved by Jacobi, seconded by Jerome:

“Hold the 2022 Middle School National Tournament fully online the week prior to the high school 2022 National Tournament.”

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

Given uncertainty about travel safety for middle school-aged competitors, the 2022 Middle School National Tournament will be held fully online as a one-year pilot. It will offer live debate, live speech, and asynchronous speech events. The tournament will take place the week prior to the high school National Tournament. Elimination rounds will be held, and middle school national champions will be named.

Elimination Round Judge Selection Protocols and/or Standards

Moved by Huston, seconded by Jacobi:

“Create a Board subcommittee to assess current National Tournament judge selection procedures for semifinal and final rounds and draft potential revisions to the protocols,

standards, and/or diversity-enhancing judge recruitment efforts for Board review by December 1. The procedural timeline and process includes review of potential revisions by an Elimination Round Judge Selection Working Group of diverse stakeholders, including coach representatives, for feedback before final consideration at the January Competition Rules Board meeting.”

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

A Board subcommittee will meet in October to assess and suggest potential changes to goals for representation, diversity, and experience on NSDA National Tournament semifinal and final round panels. The subcommittee will also discuss strategies for increasing the diversity and expertise of the Nationals judging pool. Board subcommittee recommendations will be reviewed by a working group in November. The process will include further Board revision, review, and feedback, as needed, with a goal of completion by January 2022. These groups will also review the current National Tournament practice of prohibiting adjudicators from judging students from their state in semifinal and final rounds; however, prohibition of same-district judging would still apply.

Moved by Lindsey, seconded by Rye:

“Adjourn.”

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m. on Tuesday. 

QUESTIONS? CONCERNS? IDEAS?

We want to hear from you! Send your feedback to board@speechanddebate.org.