

Leadership

Competition Rules Board March Meeting Minutes

Mar. 22, 2022

The NSDA Competition Rules Board members held their virtual meeting March 22, 2022. In attendance were President Pam Cady Wycoff, 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

Double Entry in Public Forum and Policy at Districts

Moved by Huston, seconded by Arthur:

“Allow students to enter in up to two partner events (Public Forum, Policy, and Duo Interpretation) at the district tournament beginning in 2022-2023 at the discretion of the District Committee.”

Passed: 6-1

Aye: Wycoff, Arthur, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Rye

No: Motter

Currently, students are not permitted to double enter in Policy and Public Forum at the district tournament. This change will allow students to double enter in Policy and PF, Policy and Duo, or Duo and PF at the district tournament in 2022-2023. District Committees have autonomy over their double entry policy and may choose what is permitted at the district level, but double entry in Policy and Public Forum will no longer be prohibited by the national office beginning in 2022-2023. Consistent with existing rules, if a student were to

enter two partnership events on the same date, they must compete with the same partner. If a student were to enter two partner events on different dates, they may compete with a different partner if they vacate their qualification and alternate status in the first partnership event prior to the second event.

Partnership National Tournament Qualification

Moved by Rye, seconded by Jerome:

“Beginning in 2022-2023, if a partnership officially vacates their National Tournament qualification or alternate slot in a partner event, individuals in that partnership are eligible to enter and qualify in an individual event on a different date.”

Passed: 7-0 (Wycoff, Arthur, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Rye)

Currently, students who qualify in a partner event may only qualify to the National Tournament in an individual event if their partner also qualifies in an individual event and both partners prefer their individual event on their single entry letter of intent form. If one partner becomes unable to attend the National Tournament after qualifying in a partner event, the other partner is not permitted to qualify in an individual event unless these conditions are met. This change will allow a partnership to vacate their qualification or alternate status in a partnership event prior to the competition date of the individual events tournament and allow that individual to compete to qualify in an individual event.

Chief Adjudication Panel for World Schools

Moved by Huston, seconded by Motter:

“Create a Chief Adjudication Panel for World Schools Debate at the National Tournament beginning in 2022. The Chief Adjudication Panel will assist with rules and motion clarifications, protest adjudication, and the training, assessment, and selection of judges.”

Passed: 7-0 (Wycoff, Arthur, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Rye)

The Chief Adjudication Panel (CAP) is selected by the National Tournament Director and will consist of three individuals who are knowledgeable of the format and unaffiliated with competing teams. World Schools is an event with unique rules and norms, and many judges and competitors are new to the format at the National Tournament. The CAP will assist to ensure participants are knowledgeable about the format and the competition runs smoothly.

Main Event Debate Pairing Procedures at the National Tournament

Moved by Motter, seconded by Jacobi:

“Preliminary rounds three through six in Lincoln-Douglas, Policy, and Public Forum will be powermatched at the 2022 National Tournament.”

Passed: 7-0 (Wycoff, Arthur, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Rye)

At the 2022 National Tournament, all main debate events will feature two preset preliminary rounds followed by four powermatched preliminary rounds. Powermatched rounds will ensure that competitors with similar ballot counts are paired to debate. This helps to create a better competition experience for students and will bring the number of entries clearing closer to the percentage that clear in main speech events. Judges and students will learn their rounds one and two assignments on Sunday evening. For each subsequent round, judges and students will know their assignments up to 30 minutes before each debate begins.

National Tournament Main Speech Procedures

Moved by Huston, seconded by Jerome:

“Endorse the following procedures as presented by the Director of Competition and Events:

1. Perform targeted audit recordings of semifinal rounds in Interpretation, Original Oratory, and Informative Speaking at the National Tournament.
2. Continue the process in which Extemporaneous Speaking competitors receive three unique questions per speaker position at the National Tournament.”

Passed: 7-0 (Wycoff, Arthur, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Rye)

As we consider lessons learned from two years of an online National Tournament, we intend to continue these procedures that have helped us to streamline tournament operations. Now that competitors are uploading all of their script materials online during the registration process, we will target audits of semifinal rounds to those in which there are potential rules issues. Extemp will continue to have every semifinal round audited. Distributing three unique questions per speaker in Extemp will simplify the draw procedure and provide all speakers with unique questions to avoid the use of discarded questions as the remaining options for final speakers.

Districts and Nationals Tiebreaker Updates

Moved by Jacobi, seconded by Rye:

“Accept the following tiebreaker recommendations as presented by the Director of Competition and Events:

1. Remove the second tiebreaker (highest total reciprocal of all ranks, dropping the worst prelim rank, and multiplying elimination and final reciprocals by 2) in the district speech rules that determine national qualifiers to ensure the computer can break ties accordingly, effective immediately.
2. Add a tie breaking procedure for a three-way tie in a district debate round robin. Tied entries will run a series of run-off rounds. The top-seeded tied entry

will receive a bye in the first run-off round, effective immediately.

3. Add the proposed tie breaking procedures for online supplemental events at the 2022 National Tournament.”

Passed: 7-0 (Wycoff, Arthur, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Rye)

For district speech events that hold a final round and have ties on the first tiebreaker to determine national qualifiers, this process for rounding scores could result in error. Removal of this second tiebreaker ensures all ties are broken correctly. No results that have been audited and announced will be adjusted retroactively due to this issue. Additionally, because the *District Tournament Operations Manual* did not offer a procedure regarding how to break three-way ties in a debate round robin, this process has been outlined. The *National Tournament Operations Manual* did not outline tiebreaking procedures for the 2022 National Tournament’s online supplemental events. All new tiebreakers can be found in the *High School Unified Manual*.

Equity Pause

The Competition Rules Board used the NSDA Equity Lens (<https://tinyurl.com/5bz3akxj>) to consider how their decisions and decision-making processes are transparent, accountable, and reflect the organization’s core value of equity.

Moved by Jacobi, seconded by Motter:

“Adjourn.”

Passed: 7-0 (Wycoff, Arthur, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Rye)

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m. Tuesday. 

QUESTIONS? CONCERNS? IDEAS?

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