

Leadership

Competition Rules Board May Meeting Minutes

May 10, 2022

The NSDA Competition Rules Board members held their virtual meeting May 10, 2022. In attendance were President Pam Cady Wycoff, Vice President Dr. Tommie Lindsey, Jr., 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

Cumulative Districts Sweepstake Award

The Competition Rules Board discussed the challenges associated with calculating the Cumulative District Sweepstakes Award across multiple weekends and often multiple pieces of software. Therefore, to ensure accuracy, the award will continue to be calculated solely by the national office and awarded in August of the year following the district tournament.

District Speech Elimination Rules Evaluation

Moved by Rye, seconded by Huston:

“Discontinue the multiplying of elimination round ranks by two in speech events at the district tournament.”

Passed: 4-2-1

Aye: Huston, Jacobi, Motter, Rye

No: Wycoff, Lindsey

Abstain: Jerome

In current elimination rounds of the district tournament, competitors advance from elims and qualify based on

prelim ranks dropping the worst score and elimination and final round ranks multiplied by two. Beginning in the 2022-2023 district tournament season, elimination and final round ranks will no longer be multiplied by two. The rationale for discontinuing rank doubling is to bring the practice into alignment with National Tournament practices. Districts may calibrate the weight of their preliminary round and elimination round judging by running more rounds or using more judges in those rounds.

District Debate Rules Evaluation

Moved by Huston, seconded by Rye:

“Approve the Executive Director and Director of Competition’s recommended changes to the district tournament debate pairing priorities which deprioritize the drawing of the bye to avoid repeat debates, avoid same school debates, and to maximize side equalization.”

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

The district debate rules use the following pairing priorities in preliminary rounds: 1) Avoid repeat hits, 2) Avoid same-school hits, 3) Side equalization, 4) Bracket integrity. Beginning in 2022-2023, the bye will no longer be assigned first in powermatched preliminary rounds. Instead, it should be assigned in a way that creates the best pairing according to these priorities. The bye must go to an entry that cannot advance to elimination rounds and must not go to an entry that has already received a bye. If possible, the bye should not go to a school that has already received a bye.

Assessment of Scholarship Opportunities at Nationals

Competition Rules Board members reviewed the current scholarship opportunities available for National Tournament participants and recommended that the External Affairs Committee do further assessment in 2022-2023.

Rule Change Submission Form Prioritization

The Competition Rules Board reviewed rule change submission proposals remaining from 2021-2022, prioritized items for consideration at the next meeting to be held in July, and established an overall timeline for completion and/or necessary follow-up with authors of the proposals.

Equity Pause

The Competition Rules Board used the [NSDA Equity Lens](#) to reflect on the nature of their meeting deliberations and whether their decisions and decision-making processes are transparent, accountable, and reflect the organization's core value of equity.

Moved by Motter, seconded by Lindsey:

“Adjourn.”

Passed: 6-0 (Wycoff, Lindsey, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter)

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. Tuesday. 

QUESTIONS? CONCERNS? IDEAS?

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