

# Leadership

## Competition Rules Board September Meeting Minutes

Sept. 20, 2022

**T**he NSDA Competition Rules Board members held their virtual meeting September 20, 2022. In attendance were President Pam Cady Wycoff, Dr. Tommie Lindsey, Jr., Bryon Arthur, David Huston, Adam Jacobi, Jennifer Jerome, and Renee Motter.

*President Wycoff called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.*

### COMPETITION RULES

#### 2023 Last-Chance Qualifier

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

“Offer a Last-Chance Qualifier tournament to allow students from schools that attended their district tournament the opportunity to qualify to the 2023 National Tournament in main events.”

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

The Competition Rules Board of Directors determined that the Last-Chance Qualifier will be offered again in 2023 with the same eligibility requirements. Schools must have attended the district tournament to be eligible to participate, but students are not required to have attended the district tournament. Top-performing entries in each main event will qualify to the National Tournament. An additional layer of qualification will be available to entries from participating schools that have no qualifiers to the 2023 National Tournament. In each event, a limited number of top-performing entries from

these schools will qualify. More information about the Last-Chance Qualifier will be released by January.

#### 2023 In-Person Middle School National Tournament

The 2023 Middle School National Tournament will be held in-person in Phoenix/Mesa on June 13-16. To inform their discussion, the Competition Rules Board compared participation numbers from past in-person and online middle school culminating events, as well as survey results and feedback from middle school member coaches. The Association’s goal is to expand opportunities for learning, networking, and building community through middle school participation in the in-person National Tournament. Outreach to middle school programs about free, online competition opportunities through the Springboard Series will continue throughout the year.

#### National Tournament Online Supplemental Events

The Competition Rules Board of Directors determined that online divisions of National Tournament supplemental events will not be offered in 2023 due to low participation and interest in 2022. We will focus on increased engagement for other free, NSDA online tournament opportunities, and we will continue to consider and develop opportunities to make the in-person National Tournament more accessible and feasible for schools and students.

### **2023 National Tournament In-Person Supplemental Events**

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

“Allow each member school to enter up to two member students that did not qualify for the National Tournament in supplemental events at the 2023 National Tournament.”

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

In 2021 and 2022, each school had the opportunity to enter up to two students who competed at the district tournament but did not qualify into supplemental events at the National Tournament. In 2023, this opportunity will expand to all member students. It is no longer a requirement that schools or students must have attended the district tournament to take advantage of this opportunity.

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

“In supplemental speech events at the 2023 National Tournament, allow students to re-register in one event per pattern (up to two total events).”

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

At the 2022 National Tournament, there were unprecedented re-registration rates among students who did not advance in their main event, and an additional 530 non-qualifying students attended the National Tournament in supplemental events only. Because students had the ability to re-register for three speech events, supplemental speech events were both patterned and flighted, causing issues with remaining on schedule and logistical confusion for participants. Limiting supplemental speech participants to two events (one per pattern) will allow for patterning alone, which will increase the quality of the competition for judges and students.

### **Chair Use in Storytelling**

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

“Table the discussion about the use of a chair in Storytelling until a future meeting.”

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

At a future meeting, the Competition Rules Board will discuss the use of a chair in Storytelling. If needed, the group will clarify the latitude of use permissible for a chair within the rules of Storytelling.

### **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.

*The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m. Tuesday.* 

## **QUESTIONS? CONCERNS? IDEAS?**

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