

Leadership

Competition Rules Board May Meeting Minutes

May 9, 2023

The NSDA Competition Rules Board members held their virtual meeting May 9, 2023. 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

Membership Correspondence

In accordance with our goal of increased membership engagement, any letters submitted to the Competition Rules Board prior to the meeting were included in meeting materials to inform the Board of ideas, requests, and concerns during the Board's decision-making process. Thank you to the individuals who took the time to share their feedback.

Novice Lincoln-Douglas Topic

Moved by Huston, seconded by Arthur:

"Beginning in 2023-2024, replace the novice Lincoln-Douglas topic with, *Resolved: In the United States, national service ought to be mandatory.*"

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

The novice Lincoln-Douglas topic is an optional topic that coaches and tournaments may choose to use each year in September/October. The same resolution is available for use each year, and it was created to be accessible to new debaters so that coaches can have a consistent, beginner-friendly topic to guide their novice LD curriculum using educational materials

provided by the NSDA. The Competition Rules Board received feedback from the Black/African-American Coaches' Caucus that the previous novice LD topic, *Resolved: Civil disobedience in a democracy is morally justified*, was putting new students in a position to argue or listen to arguments that are not aligned with their own beliefs about issues of social equity and justice, especially in the context of protests against racism and police brutality that have occurred across the world in recent years. At the January Competition Rules Board meeting, the group voted to replace the novice Lincoln-Douglas topic and resources by 2023-2024. A working group created a set of potential replacement topics, feedback was sought out from a number of relevant stakeholders including the Lincoln-Douglas Wording Committee members, and a final replacement topic was recommended, *Resolved: In the United States, national service ought to be mandatory*. The Competition Rules Board reviewed the topic and stakeholder feedback and determined this topic will be the trial novice Lincoln-Douglas topic in 2023-2024. The resolution will be evaluated after 2023-2024 to determine its future use.

Assessment of the World Schools Debate Invitational

Moved by Arthur, seconded by Jerome:

"Beginning in 2023-2024, pilot a requirement that at least one of a district's World Schools teams be composed of students from the same school."

Passed: 5-3

Aye: Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Jacobi, Jerome

No: Huston, Motter, Rye

The Competition Rules Board continued their assessment of the World Schools Debate Invitational that is held alongside the National Tournament each summer. The

group reviewed coach feedback from the post-district tournament survey and voted to pilot a new standard that requires at least one of a district's two World Schools teams to be composed of students from one school beginning in 2023-2024. Districts will retain the autonomy to determine how World Schools teams are selected. Districts may use an application process, invite alternates, or run a tournament to determine which students are selected for their teams. School-based and hybrid teams will compete in the same division at the tournament. A district may bring one school-based and one hybrid team or two school-based teams. If a district only brings one team, that team can be either school-based or hybrid. The goal of this trial will be to begin an assessment of how a move toward a school-based World Schools Debate format impacts participation, competitive success, and growth of World Schools as a format.

Adjudication Panels at the National Tournament

In preparation for the 2023 National Tournament, the Competition Rules Board reviewed and discussed responsibilities and procedures related to adjudication of protests at the 2023 National Tournament. The Competition Rules Board reviewed the range of penalties for rule violations, analyzed previous National Tournament protests, and discussed potential adjudication scenarios and how best to address them during the 2023 National Tournament.

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 8:05 p.m. Tuesday. 

QUESTIONS? CONCERNS? IDEAS?

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