

# Leadership

## Competition Rules Board February Meeting Minutes

Feb. 13, 2024

The NSDA Competition Rules Board members held their virtual meeting February 13, 2024. 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 for consideration during the Board's decision-making process. The Board welcomes membership feedback.

#### District Levels

##### Moved by Motter, seconded by Jerome:

"Accept the Executive Director's recommendation for a one-year 'study and development' extension on current NSDA district qualification levels for those districts who qualify by meeting certain performance percentages on one or multiple of the existing standards."

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

To allow time for the national office to work directly with NSDA district leaders in developing the best system for growth and development of NSDA membership and participation, the Competition Rules Board has agreed to a one-year study and development program designed

by the Competition Events and Membership departments and the Office of the Executive Director. This program will allow the Office of the Executive Director to issue one-year district level extensions based on past performance across various standards rather than relying on one standard as the marker for a district to maintain their current level. During this extension period, the national office will work with the leadership of these districts on a development plan to build stronger and healthier NSDA participation in the region.

#### Middle School Recognition

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

"Develop a system that aligns middle school points with the high school system for recognition."

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

As part of the Association's continued work to review and modernize the Honor Society as part of the strategic realignment process, a strategy will be developed to align the points earned by middle school and high school students and coaches. This alignment will create greater continuity within the system, simplify the way points are earned, honor middle school coaches for their commitment, and further promote middle school speech and debate participation. This change will not impact points earned in the 2023-2024 school year.

#### Daily Point Limit in Congressional Debate

##### Moved by Rye, seconded by Jacobi:

"Beginning in 2024-2025, students in Congressional Debate may earn up to 36 points per day."

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

Currently, students in Congressional Debate may earn a maximum of 24 points per day. To create parity with other speech and debate events, this per-day maximum will be raised to 36 points per day beginning in the 2024-2025 school year.

### ***National Tournament Update***

The Director of Competition and Events and National Tournament Director shared an update regarding 2024 National Tournament preparation. The Competition Rules Board assessed progress related to late elimination round paneling goals, reviewed the updated main event final round schedule, and began a discussion about the purpose and function of NSDA identification ribbons.

### ***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.

### ***Adjourn***

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

“Adjourn.”

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

*The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m. Tuesday.* 

**QUESTIONS? CONCERNS? IDEAS?**

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