



## Competition Rules Board Meeting, May 9, 2023

Location and Time: Online, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. CT

### Call to Order/Welcome/Record of Approved Competition Rules Board Minutes

On May 9, 2023, Competition Rules Board meeting minutes will be read into the record. Minutes are available for discussion, as requested by Competition Rules Board members.

### Novice Lincoln-Douglas Topic

The novice Lincoln-Douglas topic is an optional topic that coaches and tournaments may choose to use each year in September/October. In the past, the same resolution was 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*, is 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 of Directors 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 has been recommended, *Resolved: In the United States, national service ought to be mandatory*. The CR Board will review the topic and stakeholder feedback and determine whether this topic will be the trial novice Lincoln-Douglas topic in 2023-2024. If approved, the resolution will be evaluated after 2023-2024 to determine its future use.

### Assessment of the World Schools Debate Invitational

The Competition Rules Board will continue their assessment of the World Schools Debate Invitational that is held alongside the National Tournament each summer. The group will review coach feedback from the post-district tournament survey and determine whether to keep the current district-based qualification system or to pilot a new requirement that requires at least one of a district's two World Schools teams to be composed of students from one school. This new requirement would still give districts the autonomy to determine how World Schools teams are selected, and school-based and hybrid teams would compete in the same division at the tournament. The goal of this trial would 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 will review and discuss responsibilities and procedures related to adjudication of protests at the 2023 National Tournament. The CR Board will review the range of penalties for rule violations, analyze previous National Tournament protests, and discuss potential adjudication scenarios for the 2023 National Tournament.

**Equity Pause**

At the end of deliberations, the Competition Rules Board will utilize the [NSDA Equity Lens](#) to consider, reflect on, and address whether their decisions and decision-making processes are transparent, accountable, and reflect the organization's core value of equity.

**Adjourn**