Competition and Rules Leadership Committee Meeting, November 11, 2026

Location and Time: Online, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. CT

Call to Order/Welcome

On November 11, 2026, the second Competition and Rules Leadership Committee (CRLC) meeting of the 2026-2027 school year will be held.

National Tournament Security and Entry Fees

The Association implemented comprehensive security screening at the 2026 National Tournament. The committee will review participant feedback and consider options for security at future National Tournaments, including maintaining a similar level of screening or modifying security procedures. The committee will review the costs associated with each option and discuss whether it would support increasing National Tournament entry fees to fund the associated security measures.

National Tournament Growth and Restructuring

As the Association continues its growth plan to add 4,000 new speech and debate programs by 2030, the CRLC will evaluate whether the National Tournament can accommodate more students while maintaining a high-quality competitive experience. Previous discussions about managing tournament size have focused on reallocating or reducing the number of qualifiers from each district, but committee members have expressed concerns about limiting qualification opportunities. As an alternative, the Competition and Rules Leadership Committee will explore whether expanding the size of the National Tournament is desirable and whether more significant changes to its structure could make that growth possible.

Potential approaches include reimagining Nationals as a broader festival of speech and debate, where students receive ratings rather than rankings and there are no overall winners. With fewer rounds of competition, this model could allow more students to participate within a shorter timeframe. Another possibility is to separate large-school and small-school National Tournaments into different weeks, creating shorter, more affordable tournament experiences while giving smaller schools the opportunity to compete against schools with similar resources and program sizes. Additional possibilities may be discussed. The committee will discuss which, if any, of these approaches warrant further exploration and consider other opportunities to support National Tournament growth.

Member-Submitted Rule Change Proposals

The Competition and Rules Leadership Committee will assess four member-submitted rule change proposals, as time permits.

- **Two-Month Spring Public Forum Topic Cycles**
    - The committee will consider a proposal to move to two-month topic cycles for Public Forum Debate during the spring semester, similar to the current topic schedule for Lincoln-Douglas Debate.
- **Ban Kritiks in Public Forum Debate**
    - The committee will consider a proposal to restrict arguments in Public Forum Debate to advocacy related to the resolution, limiting the use of kritiks that challenge assumptions or structures outside the resolution itself.
- **Prohibit Students from Suspending Rules in Congressional Debate**
    - The committee will consider a proposal to prohibit students from suspending procedural rules in Congressional Debate, including exceptions currently used to allow extended questioning periods or open chambers.
- **Clarify Prop Use in Interpretation Events**
    - The committee will review a proposal to clarify the rules governing the use of props in Interpretation events, particularly the distinction between a competitor's use of their own body and the use of external objects as props.

Equity Pause

At the end of deliberations, the Competition and Rules Leadership Committee 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