



Competition and Rules Leadership Committee Meeting, April 15, 2025

Location and Time: Online, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. CT

Call to Order/Welcome

On April 15, 2025, the Competition and Rules Leadership Committee meeting minutes will be read into the record. Minutes are available for discussion, as requested by Competition and Rules Leadership Committee members.

New Coach Development and Recruitment Subcommittee Report

A Competition and Rules Leadership subcommittee has met to discuss potential strategies for recruiting and developing new coaches. The subcommittee considered different approaches to coach support, including local and national mentorship programs, direct coach support by NSDA staff, and creating clear pathways for coaches to access resources. The group also discussed strategies for approaching new schools to create and support speech and debate programs. Finally, the subcommittee considered ways in which the Association can help improve the sustainability of coaching as a profession. Subcommittee members will present their recommendations to the full Competition and Rules Leadership Committee for further discussion.

Middle School and Novice Opportunities Subcommittee Report

A Competition and Rules Leadership subcommittee was formed to discuss strategies for maximizing opportunities for novice and middle school competitors. The subcommittee discussed barriers to middle school speech and debate expansion, including a lack of local infrastructure and national networking opportunities. The group also considered whether the Association can play a role in making it easier for local leagues to host short, low-pressure events after school to encourage novice participation. Subcommittee members will present their recommendations to the full Competition and Rules Leadership Committee for further discussion.

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