



Competition and Rules Leadership Committee Meeting, September 16, 2025

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

Call to Order/Welcome

On September 16, 2025, the first Competition and Rules Leadership Committee (CRLC) meeting of the 2025-2026 school year will be held. Two new student representatives from the Student Leadership Council, Brianna Zhang and Manvitha Narasimhan, will join the committee.

Subcommittee and Rule Change Prioritization

A majority of Competition and Rules Leadership Committee work will take place in subcommittees. The Office of the Executive Director has identified several subcommittee focus areas based on the strategic plan: Coach Support Buildout, Student Support Buildout, Educational Impact, Regional Partnerships, Artificial Intelligence, and School/District Recruitment. Competition and Rules Leadership Committee members will prioritize three of these subcommittees to begin work in 2025-2026. Additionally, CRLC members will review proposals for rule changes that were submitted by members. The committee will prioritize which proposals will be discussed this year.

Big Questions Topic

Two options for the 2025-2026 Big Questions topic were put up for a national vote. The winning topic was announced on August 1: *Resolved: Religious belief is a prerequisite for morality*. The Competition and Rules Leadership Committee will consider feedback regarding the current Big Questions topic and discuss whether adjustments should be explored.

Translation Use

The Competition and Rules Leadership Committee will discuss a team's previous use of live translation during the Middle School National Tournament to determine whether any updates to the rules or guidance are needed to ensure clarity and fairness for all participants in future competitions.

District Qualification Pilot Program

The Competition and Rules Leadership Committee will review applications submitted for the one-year pilot program that allows districts to test alternative qualification methods for the National Tournament. Among the applications are proposals to revisit the "up-down" system, and CRLC members will consider whether such approaches align with the organization's goals.

Tournament Security Discussion

The committee will engage in a forward-looking conversation about potential ways to enhance safety and security at future National Tournaments. Committee members will share perspectives from their communities to help inform the organization's ongoing planning efforts.

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