



Competition Rules Board Meeting, March 28, 2023

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

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

On March 28, 2023, Competition Rules Board meeting minutes will be read into the record. Minutes are available for discussion, as requested by Competition Rules Board members.

Strategic Planning

The Director of Competition and Events will provide an update on progress related to competition rules strategic plan objectives. This update will serve as a primer discussion on objectives including work on judge accreditation, National Tournament judge obligations, the Last-Chance Qualifier and supplemental event opportunities for non-National Tournament qualifiers, free online competition through the Springboard Series, and updates to Tabroom.com. The Competition Rules Board will review, analyze, and share feedback regarding progress with these objectives.

National Tournament Assessment

The Competition Rules Board will assess the three following rules that were used for the first time at the 2022 National Tournament: All judges are required to write feedback on their ballots. Judges are permitted to adjudicate students from their state, but not their district, in final rounds. Rounds 3-6 in main debate events will be powermatched. The CR Board will review these changes, and if needed, discuss potential revisions.

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 CR Board will determine the main purpose of the event, discuss whether current eligibility standards and the district qualification method serve that purpose, and consider whether adjustments are warranted. The group will discuss the advantages and disadvantages of four different pathways forward for World Schools at Nationals: 1) Keep the current district-based qualification system, 2) Move to a fully school-based qualification system where no hybrid district teams may compete, 3) Allow each district to send one hybrid district-based team and one school-based team to compete in the same division at Nationals, or 4) Create two divisions of World Schools at Nationals: one school-based division and one hybrid division. The hybrid division would function as a completely separate invitational; students in this invitational would not compete in supplemental events or be eligible for the Four Time Competitor award.

Ruling on the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence at the National Tournament

The Competition Rules Board will discuss the implications of the use of ChatGPT and other generative artificial intelligence technologies during debate rounds, preparation time in limited prep events, and as a tool for writing speeches. The discussion will include an analysis of the national office's rulings regarding use of ChatGPT at the district tournament series in 2022-2023. Additionally, resources regarding the potential pros and cons of generative AI as a resource for speech and debate activities will be shared and reviewed in advance for evaluation during the meeting. The CR Board will determine what will be permitted or prohibited at the 2023 National Tournament. Further discussion on this issue and its implications for the upcoming school year will continue with additional stakeholders in the summer and/or the fall as needed given this evolving technology.

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