

Leadership

Board of Directors Fall Minutes

September 18-20, 2020

The NSDA Board of Directors held its virtual Fall meeting September 18-20, 2020. In attendance were President Pam Cady Wycoff, Vice President Dr. Tommie Lindsey, Jr., Byron Arthur, Alan Coverstone, Dr. Mike Edmonds, David Huston, Adam Jacobi, Jennifer Jerome, Renee Motter, Tom Rollins, Robert Runcie, and Jay Rye.

President Wycoff called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

The previously approved minutes from the Spring meeting were officially entered into the historical records by unanimous consent.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Moved by Rollins, seconded by Coverstone:

“To suspend the rules and relinquish the chair to Dr. Edmonds for the purpose of running the Board election.”

Passed: 12-0 (Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Coverstone, Edmonds, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Rollins, Runcie, Rye)

In even-numbered years, the Board elects its President and Vice President to two-year terms. Any elected member may run for a leadership position, if they have served on the Board for a minimum of two years. Pam Wycoff was reelected for a two-year term as President. Dr. Tommie Lindsey was reelected for a two-year term as Vice President.

MISSION MOMENT

President Wycoff and the staff shared a “mission moment” to set the tone for the meeting. The segment highlighted historical milestones of the organization from its founding in 1925 to present day. Afterward, Board members discussed their takeaways from those events through the lens of equity and inclusion as they related to the organization’s core mission, vision, and values.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Governance Committee Targeted Goals

Moved by Edmonds, seconded by Lindsey:

“Approve the Governance Committee targeted goals for 2020-2021.”

Passed: 12-0 (Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Coverstone, Edmonds, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Rollins, Runcie, Rye)

Annually, the Governance Committee, along with all other standing committees, establish targeted goals for the year. Primary goals include: 1) Advancement of purposeful equity strategies as a core value and key element of the strategic plan; 2) Review and assess quarterly Strategic Plan reports related to the goals of the committee; 3) Evaluate and assess the performance of the Executive Director; 4) Review and update the NSDA Board of Directors Handbook to include current best practices, as well as new committee revisions and Board communication protocols; 5) Research, recruit, and recommend potential Board candidates to fill vacancies; and 6) Prepare, conduct, and assess the annual Board evaluation and review, assess, and report on the Board’s priorities and goals.

(continued on next page)

Executive Director Review

Moved by Rollins, seconded by Jacobi:

“Enter into executive session.”

Passed: 12-0 (Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Coverstone, Edmonds, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Rollins, Runcie, Rye)

Moved by Jacobi, seconded by Coverstone:

“Leave executive session.”

Passed: 12-0 (Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Coverstone, Edmonds, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Rollins, Runcie, Rye)

The Board conducted its annual review of the Executive Director. The Executive Director assessment includes eight areas of evaluation: 1) Strategic Leadership and Planning, 2) Program and Services Management, 3) Operations Management, 4) Fiscal Management, 5) Effectiveness of Fundraising/Resource Development, 6) Organizational and People Management, 7) External Liaisons and Public Image, and 8) Board/Staff Relationship. Results are evaluated annually in conjunction with an Executive Director's Self-Evaluation to establish goals for the year.

Board Self-Evaluation Review

Moved by Arthur, seconded by Jacobi:

“Enter into executive session.”

Passed: 12-0 (Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Coverstone, Edmonds, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Rollins, Runcie, Rye)

Moved by Jacobi, seconded by Rollins:

“Leave executive session.”

Passed: 12-0 (Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Coverstone, Edmonds, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Rollins, Runcie, Rye)

The Board reviewed the results of their annual Self Evaluation. This includes nine areas of assessment: 1) Mission and Vision, 2) Strategy, 3) Board Composition, 4) Board Structure, 5) Chief Executive Oversight, 6) Financial Oversight, 7) Program Oversight, 8) Public Image and Advocacy, and 9) Meetings. These results serve as the basis for establishing Board Priorities which strive to meet the highest standards for governing non-profit organizations and, in turn, best meet the needs of our membership.

Succession Planning

The Governance Committee presented draft materials regarding an Executive Director Succession Plan. Having a plan in place is considered a best practice requirement for nonprofit organizations. Over the course of FY21, a plan will be refined and finalized to ensure that the Board is meeting its governance responsibilities in this area.

NSDA Board of Directors Handbook

Moved by Lindsey, seconded by Jerome:

“Approve the revised NSDA Board of Directors Handbook.”

Passed: 12-0 (Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Coverstone, Edmonds, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Rollins, Runcie, Rye)

The Board revised its handbook to serve as a guide for both incoming and current members as they fulfill their role in governance of the NSDA. It was updated to reflect the Board's ongoing efforts to further define its roles and responsibilities, guidelines and policies, protocols and procedures, and committees. The Board commended President Wycoff and staff for their efforts to develop this guidebook and resource. Access the handbook online at www.speechanddebate.org/nsda-board-handbook.

NSDA Revised Bylaws

Moved by Jacobi, seconded by Arthur:

“Ratify the new NSDA Bylaws as presented by the Governance Committee.”

Passed: 12-0 (Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Coverstone, Edmonds, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Rollins, Runcie, Rye)

A working group was formed by the Executive Director in Spring of 2020 to recommend updates and revisions to NSDA governing bylaws to accurately reflect procedures and meet current nonprofit standards. These recommendations were first vetted through the governance committee and legal counsel, and then presented to the Board as amended for final review and approval. Access the bylaws online at www.speechanddebate.org/bylaws.

Moved by Rollins, seconded by Rye:

“Commend the working committee for their work on revising the NSDA Bylaws.”

Passed: 10-0-2

Aye: Wycoff, Lindsey, Coverstone, Edmonds, Huston, Jerome, Motter, Rollins, Runcie, Rye

Abstain: Arthur, Jacobi

The Board appreciates the work of former Board member Pam McComas, current Board members Byron Arthur and Adam Jacobi, Executive Director Wunn, and staff for their contributions.

Appointed Board Seat and Proposed Timeline

The Board was provided an update on the current status of appointed seats and the Governance Committee's intent to vet and consider additional members for

current and upcoming vacancies. Over the course of the next few months, the committee will continue its search for potential candidates and will revisit the matter at the December meeting.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION UPDATE

For the past few years the office of the Executive Director has designed and implemented equity and inclusion commitments. These commitments are presented annually to the public. In addition, reports from the summer coaches' caucuses are annually presented for Board review. In conjunction with these efforts, the staff offered their suggestions regarding next year's priorities for final feedback and finalized the 2020-2021 Equity Commitments (www.speechanddebate.org/2020-21-equity-commitments) as part of the organization's overall Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion efforts (www.speechanddebate.org/inclusion).

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Moved by Rye, seconded by Arthur:

"Accept the FY20 Strategic Plan end of the year report."

Passed: 11-0 (Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Coverstone, Edmonds, Huston, Jerome, Motter, Rollins, Runcie, Rye)

Assistant Executive Director Amy Seidelman, with the endorsement and support of the Governance Committee, presented the end of year FY20 Strategic Plan Report. The Executive Director and Assistant Executive Director answered questions about various elements of the report. The Board commended the Executive Director, Assistant Executive Director, and staff for their development and execution of the FY20 plan.

Moved by Coverstone, seconded by Jerome:

"Endorse the FY21 Strategic Narrative."

Passed: 11-0 (Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Coverstone, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Rollins, Runcie, Rye)

Assistant Executive Director Amy Seidelman presented an FY21 Strategic Narrative that reaffirmed the goals of the plan in the wake of the FY20 end of year report and also suggested some considerations for operational prioritizations, outcomes and objectives in the future. As we enter year three of a five-year plan, the organization remains committed to the same five strategic priorities (the overall directional areas the organization will pursue to achieve its mission) of supporting more schools, reaching more students, driving inclusive participation, earning loyalty, and striving for stability.

In addition to striving to meet objectives in each of those five priority areas, we are also focused on what is most important, right now. Staff shared that this focus

is to support and maintain equitable speech and debate activities (largely online) in the face of the pandemic. Therefore, the organization has shifted some internal priorities and job responsibilities this year to help support NSDA Campus and other digital resources, as well as provide guidance for the community regarding online competition, planning for the potential of online districts, and another possible online National Tournament.

2021 DES MOINES NATIONALS UPDATE

Catch Des Moines President Greg Edwards and Vice President of Sales Trina Flack discussed the current state of travel and tourism in the greater Des Moines area as well as a projected outlook for the next several months. The Executive Director and Catch Des Moines team fielded questions concerning the planned 2021 Des Moines National Speech & Debate Tournament.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Legal Consultation

Moved by Jacobi, seconded by Lindsey:

"Enter into executive session."

Passed: 12-0 (Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Coverstone, Edmonds, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Rollins, Runcie, Rye)

Moved by Jacobi, seconded by Lindsey:

"Leave executive session."

Passed: 12-0 (Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Coverstone, Edmonds, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Rollins, Runcie, Rye)

The NSDA's legal firm provided relevant counsel and updates.

Internal Affairs Committee Targeted Goals

Moved by Arthur, seconded by Rollins:

"Approve the Internal Affairs Committee targeted goals."

Passed: 11-0 (Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Coverstone, Edmonds, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Rollins, Rye)

Annually, the Internal Affairs Committee, along with all other standing committees, establish targeted goals for the year. Primary goals include: 1) Advancement of purposeful equity strategies as a core value and key element of the strategic plan; 2) Advise and assess steps to provide and maintain financial stability, including continued reduction of expenses to levels no greater than income through goods and services, adding \$150,000 per year to the Association's restricted financial reserves to achieve the goal of \$750,000 by the end of FY23 to secure the viability of the organization when confronted

with adversity or special needs, and development of a multi-year operating budget that integrates strategic plan objectives and initiatives to responsibly plan for and manage the organization's finances; 3) Assessment of quarterly financial reports; 4) Completion of the annual financial audit and tax return in an appropriate and timely manner; 5) Provide financial reports to both the Governance and External Affairs committees upon request to collectively strive toward meeting strategic plan goals; 6) Continue to utilize expertise and resources available to increase Board member financial literacy; and 7) Review available organizational human resource materials to increase awareness of and need to explore any potential revisions.

Fiscal Report

Moved by Rollins, seconded by Edmonds:

"Approve the FY20 end of year report."

Passed: 11-0 (Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Coverstone, Edmonds, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Rollins, Rye)

Director of Business and Finance Laura Stein, with endorsement and support of the Board Internal Affairs Committee, presented the end of year FY20 Finance Report for final approval. The Executive Director and Director of Business and Finance answered questions about various elements of the report. The Board commended the Executive Director, Director of Business and Finance, Assistant Executive Director, and staff for not only meeting expectations of the FY20 budget and reporting, but for accomplishing this during a year of unprecedented economic challenges.

FY21 Budget

Moved by Lindsey, seconded by Motter:

"Approve the FY21 budget as amended."

Passed: 11-0 (Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Coverstone, Edmonds, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Rollins, Rye)

At its Spring meeting, the Board approved the preliminary FY21 Budget. At its Fall meeting, the Board reaffirmed approval of the FY21 budget with recommended amendments from the Internal Affairs Committee, Director of Business and Finance, Executive Director, and Assistant Executive Director in light of the FY20 end of year budget report and finalized FY21 strategic operating goals. This team of individuals was commended by the Board for its conservative approach to the budget in light of the uncertainty of FY20 and the ongoing challenges of FY21.

The Board recessed for the evening at 5:00 p.m. on Friday.

The Board reconvened at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday.

To open day two of the Board meeting, President Wycoff asked the members of the Board and staff present to join her in recognizing and honoring the life and career of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg with a moment of silence. Justice Ginsburg lost her battle with cancer on Friday, September 18, during day one of the Board's deliberations.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

External Affairs Committee Targeted Goals

Moved by Rye, seconded by Jacobi:

"Approve the External Affairs Committee targeted goals for 2021."

Passed: 12-0 (Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Coverstone, Edmonds, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Rollins, Runcie, Rye)

Annually, the External Affairs Committee, along with all other standing committees, establish targeted goals for the year. Primary goals include: 1) Advancement of purposeful equity strategies as a core value and key element of the strategic plan; 2) Review and assess quarterly Strategic Planning reports related to goals of this committee with a focus on reviewing and assessing key marketing, publications, and public relations efforts; 3) Review and assess goals and measurements established by the Executive Director and the Director of Development and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, focusing on development funding raised for mission support; 4) Review and assess quarterly reports of financial goals, including review of key sponsorship agreements as directed by the chair; 5) Ensure 100% Board participation in annual giving and prospecting for development efforts during the 2020-2021 school year.

Development Reports

Moved by Rye, seconded by Runcie:

"Accept the FY20 Development reports."

Passed: 12-0 (Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Coverstone, Edmonds, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Rollins, Runcie, Rye)

Director of Development and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Nicole Wanzer-Serrano presented a thorough report and assessment of organizational fundraising and answered questions. The Board commended the Director of Development and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and staff for their achievements in maintaining key development funding streams during FY20, especially noting equity funding for the National Tournament and new Fall activities.

Naming Proposals

Moved by Rye, seconded by Jacobi:

“Enter into executive session.”

Passed: 12-0 (Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Coverstone, Edmonds, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Rollins, Runcie, Rye)

Moved by Rye, seconded by Jacobi:

“Leave executive session.”

Passed: 12-0 (Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Coverstone, Edmonds, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Rollins, Runcie, Rye)

The External Affairs Committee is responsible for proposing the naming of NSDA awards or contests. In executive session, the Board discussed several recommendations from the committee for full Board support and approval. Namings approved will be announced at an appropriate date prior to or during the National Tournament.

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Director of Technology Aaron Hardy provided a thorough update and assessment of advancement in technology, including his vision for the planning and execution of Tabroom.com 2.0 development and other top technology priorities including NSDA Campus and its implementation. Over the course of the next two to three years, Tabroom.com will undergo a substantial rewrite to allow it to meet the needs of the community moving forward. NSDA Campus will serve as a significant virtual platform option for the community moving forward as well. Board commended the Director of Technology, Developer Chris Palmer, and staff for their preparedness in addressing and accommodating the increasing tech demands of virtual competition.

COPYRIGHT UPDATE

Per the Board's request from the Spring meeting, the Executive Director requested and received from legal counsel a more formal recommendation concerning copyright as it pertains to NSDA interpretation events. The Board discussed the memorandum and a timeline and/or potential next steps based on recommendations. The Board requested additional information for its December meeting regarding competition procedures and performances.

NATIONAL TOURNAMENT REVIEW

The Executive Director provided results from the National Speech & Debate Tournament post-tournament survey as

well as an Online Tournament Guide (www.speechanddebate.org/online-tournaments) which comprehensively outlines the lessons learned from the 2020 online National Tournament. Following questions and discussion, the Board commended the Executive Director, Assistant Executive Director, and the entire staff, tournament officials, and hundreds of volunteers for their efforts in executing the 2020 online National Speech & Debate Tournament.

FUTURE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Moved by Motter, seconded by Coverstone:

“Hold an online leadership conference in the summer of 2021.”

Passed: 11-0 (Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Coverstone, Edmonds, Huston, Jacobi, Motter, Rollins, Runcie, Rye)

Upon recommendation of the Executive Director, the Board agreed to hold an Online Leadership Conference in the summer of 2021. This conference will concentrate on how our vast community of leaders in the speech and debate community can come together with a like-minded vision to support and inspire speech and debate activities guided by and grounded in the core values of equity, respect, integrity, leadership, and service.

MEMBERSHIP CORRESPONDENCE

In accordance with the Board's goal of increased membership engagement, letters submitted with ideas, requests, and concerns were included in meeting materials for consideration. The correspondence was addressed by the Board.

Appointed Board members left the meeting at 11:55 a.m. on Saturday.

RULES REVISION AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE

Rules Revision and Evaluation Committee

Targeted Goals

Moved by Motter, seconded by Jacobi:

“Approve the Rules Revision and Evaluation Committee targeted goals for 2020-2021.”

Passed: 8-0 (Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Rye)

Annually, the Rules Revision and Evaluation Committee, along with all other standing committees, establish targeted goals for the year. Primary goals include: 1) Advancement of purposeful equity strategies as a core value and key element of the strategic plan; 2) Establishment of a timeline and strategy to complete last year's work with the Oral

Interpretation Ad Hoc Committee and the Unified Manual Simplification Working Group; 3) Creation of a judge accreditation process in collaboration with staff and several key stakeholders; and 4) Creation of a plan to address key ongoing rules issues such as artistic plagiarism, evidence protest rules and procedures, and ongoing rule change submissions from the community via the rule change submission form system.

Online School Participation and Access to Districts

Moved by Huston, seconded by Motter:

“For the 2020-2021 school year, create a pilot non-regional Level 1 NSDA district composed of educational institutions in the U.S. that offer 100% online instruction and are not temporary online brick and mortar schools.”

Passed: 8-0 (Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Rye)

The NSDA will create and offer a pilot district consisting of online schools in the United States. These online schools must be members that are 100% online educational institutions. This does not include schools that are virtual in 2020-2021 only due to COVID-19; it only applies to schools that have no physical school element. An online school that is part of a current NSDA district would be allowed to move to the pilot online district for the purposes of the pilot year, but they would not be forced to do so. The national office will help facilitate a Level 1 online district qualifying event using NSDA Campus.

Accredited, degree-granting secondary schools that are held 100% online are already permitted to gain membership, but currently, their students must compete at in-person district tournaments. Having a district made up of online schools that competes online is a way to accommodate requests from online institutions, encourage membership, and expand Honor Society and National Tournament qualification opportunities to a new group of students. This would have little to no impact on in-person districts' numbers, since very few online students are currently part of in-person districts.

2020-2021 District Tournaments: Internet and Qualification Rules

Moved by Jacobi, seconded by Lindsey:

“Implement pilot internet rules for Policy Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Public Forum Debate, Congressional Debate, and Extemporaneous Speaking at all online district tournaments, and future in-person district tournaments as determined by District Committee autonomy. The pilot internet rules also will be implemented for the National Tournament, indefinitely.”

Passed: 8-0 (Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Rye)

All online district tournaments must use the pilot internet rules. Given that students must be able to access the internet for online competition, traditional rules that do not allow internet access during competition can no longer apply. If it is determined that district tournaments are permitted to be held in person in 2021, District Committees may choose whether those in-person events will use the pilot internet rules. In future years when district tournaments are held in person, District Committees will retain the autonomy to choose whether to use the pilot internet rules. However, whether held in-person or online, the National Tournament will utilize the internet rules.

Moved by Motter, seconded by Jacobi:

“Implement the amended pilot district qualification rules for Congress permanently as the sole set of rules governing district tournaments beginning in 2020-2021.”

Passed: 8-0 (Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Rye)

The pilot Congress rules are different from the traditional rules in two main ways: first, districts must hold a final round if they have more than one chamber. Second, each session must be scheduled for a total time of 10 minutes multiplied by the number of students in the chamber. This scheduling requirement offers each student an equal opportunity to speak, and the final round requirement allows for the highest possible level of competition to determine qualification. Additionally, the rules have been amended to give districts autonomy over the size of their chambers within a stipulated range. There is a smaller range required for online district tournaments to ensure chambers are manageable and video conferencing platforms can maintain quality audio and video. The current Unified Manual for the 2020-2021 competition season will be updated at www.speechanddebate.org/high-school-unified-manual.

Future District Tournament Qualification Procedures

Moved by Lindsey, seconded by Jacobi:

“Implement amended pilot district qualification rules for speech and debate permanently as the sole set of rules governing district tournaments beginning in 2021-2022.”

Passed: 6-2

Aye: Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome

No: Motter, Rye

By modeling the rules, pairing methods, and tiebreaks of tested practices, the NSDA hopes to make qualification processes more consistent with community consensus, lower the barrier of entry for coaches and programs, create predictability in scheduling, and increase both

transparency and accuracy of the qualification process, resulting in a more worthwhile experience for all competitors and coaches. Additionally, given there is no outside tabulation software that can support the traditional up/down rules or California Plan in 2021-2022, streamlining our rules at this time and working to make NSDA software and district support as efficient and cost-effective as possible is the best way to support our community. Focusing on one uniform system better provides an economically sustainable system that enhances both viability of the technology and service of this program for our membership.

Judge Adjudication/Certification

Moved by Huston, seconded by Jerome:

“Establish a working group to determine process, content, and assessment for judge training and accreditation, including youth protection, cultural competency, and constructive criticism rooted in pedagogical outcomes.”

Passed: 8-0 (Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Rye)

The Board discussed goals associated with the previously announced judge adjudication and certification project and shared individual thoughts on the future efforts of this upcoming working group. Given the expansiveness of the project, work will span over two years, but within that timeline, elements of the project will be made available to the membership upon completion.

Equity Officer Working Group

Moved by Motter, seconded by Lindsey:

“Establish a working group for recommending equity officers at district tournaments, as well as determining practices invitational tournaments may utilize.”

Passed: 8-0 (Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Rye)

The Board discussed goals associated with the newly announced Equity Officer Working Group and shared individual thoughts on the project. As with NSDA materials that have been made available to invitational tournaments in 2019 to address equity, this working group will offer specific guidelines and materials to further address equity concerns as well as procedures to effectively implement the use of equity officers.

The Board recessed for the evening at 4:10 p.m. on Saturday.

The Board reconvened at 9:03 a.m. on Sunday.

Merit Points for Asynchronous Contests

Moved by Jacobi, seconded by Jerome:

“In 2020-2021, students may earn points for up to one online asynchronous competition per day.”

Passed: 8-0 (Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Rye)

Students may earn NSDA merit points for asynchronous, recorded competition, but may only earn these points for one asynchronous tournament per event per day. If a student submits recordings to multiple tournaments in a day, the coach should only enter or approve auto-posted points from one competition that day per event. It is important that students still earn merit points for their hard work of putting together a performance and using it to compete in a tournament. However, given the nature of recorded performances, student merit points for asynchronous competition should be limited to one tournament per day. In terms of fairness and equity, this maintains a reasonable balance within the current system while also leveling the playing field for those who do not have the funding to pay entry fees for two or more tournaments each weekend. Tabulation software and the NSDA website will not regulate this; it will be the affirmative duty of coaches to ensure the merit points posted are in line with this rule. (Note: Students may compete in both synchronous and asynchronous tournaments on the same day or more than one asynchronous tournament on the same day. This is only a limit on recording asynchronous points.)

Tabroom.com and Student-Run Events

Moved by Jerome, seconded by Huston:

“To provide youth protection and security, the NSDA prohibits usage of NSDA-owned tournament software and services (Tabroom.com and NSDA Campus) and awarding of merit points in association with student-run/facilitated events without supervision of an adult who is affiliated with an established, educational institution/organization.”

Passed: 8-0 (Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Rye)

Coaches representing their school, adults representing summer institutes, and officials representing leagues may still use Tabroom.com to run their events. Entirely student-run tournaments will not be permitted to use Tabroom.com or NSDA Campus; however, students are welcome to participate in logistics and tabulation of tournaments held on Tabroom.com or NSDA Campus as long as an adult representing an educational institution is the primary responsible party. For youth protection and security, especially as we enter a year of online tournaments, it is important that coaches have assurance that events being held on NSDA-owned software requires an adult to be responsible for tournament operations.

Oral Interpretation Script Adaptation Rules

Moved by Motter, seconded by Lindsey:

“In rules for Interpretation, add the following wording pertaining to adaptation of material: ‘Combining small fractions of sentences or singular words to create humorous or dramatic dialogue, scenes, moments, and/or plot lines not intended in the original literature is prohibited. Transitions only may be used to clarify the logical sequence of ideas.’”

Passed: 8-0 (Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Rye)

This rule offers further clarification to the current adaptation rules, which the Oral Interpretation Ad Hoc Committee agreed would be helpful for both coaches and students. The rule will include the following example for illustration: “For example, it is not permitted to take one word from page 13 (e.g., ‘home’), a phrase from page 211 (e.g., ‘ran away from’), and a name, (e.g., ‘Tyler’) from page 59 to create dialogue between characters or events that do not exist in the script. For example, adding ‘Tyler ran away from home,’ when this did not occur and was not written in the script, is not permitted.”

Moved by Jerome, seconded by Rye:

“In rules for Oral Interpretation, add the following wording pertaining to adaptation of material: ‘The voice/point of view (first, second, or third person) of a script may not be changed.’”

Passed: 8-0 (Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Rye)

This is a clarification to current adaptation rules advocated by the Oral Interpretation Ad Hoc Committee to explicitly preserve the point of view of the written material. Additionally, the following illustration will be included for clarification: “For example, changing ‘She moved to California when she was 13’ to ‘I moved to California when I was 13’ is not permitted.”

Moved by Motter, seconded by Jacobi:

“Remove from the rules for Interpretation: ‘The gender stated by the author must be honored. However, a female contestant may play a male role, and a male contestant may play a female role.’”

Passed: 8-0 (Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Rye)

The Oral Interpretation Ad Hoc Committee and the LGBTQ+ Coaches’ Caucus recommended that this rule should be changed because it uses language that enforces the gender binary, gender stereotypes, and may be harmful for transgender and nonbinary students. Any student may portray any character, but our rules no longer reinforce binary perceptions and portrayal of gender.

Policy Debate Preparation Time

Moved by Huston, seconded by Jacobi:

“Expand preparation time for each team in Policy Debate to eight minutes.”

Passed: 8-0 (Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Rye)

At the online 2020 National Tournament, Policy Debate preparation time was increased from five minutes to eight minutes. The change was well-received and gives students additional time to further prepare for and enhance the quality of debates. Additionally, this adjustment creates consistency with other tournament experiences throughout the year, which reduces confusion and adaptation for both students and judges.

Interp Source Material Publication Rules

Moved by Jerome, seconded by Lindsey:

“Rules for source material publication in Interpretation will be replaced with pilot rules recommended by the Rules Revision and Evaluation Committee in consultation with the Interpretation Ad Hoc Committee and based upon recommendations from the Coaches’ Caucuses.”

Passed: 8-0 (Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Rye)

To further align with our core value of equity, the NSDA will pilot new rules regarding what sources for material may be used in Interpretation events, including removal of the requirement that digital sources must be found on the Approved Websites List.

Several of these changes are due to strong recommendations from the Oral Interpretation Ad Hoc Committee, the LGBTQ+ Coaches’ Caucus, the Hispanic/Latinx Coaches’ Caucus, and the Black/African American Coaches’ Caucus. All groups agreed that the Approved Websites List makes it difficult for students to find literature that is accessible and relatable, especially for students from traditionally marginalized and disenfranchised communities. Strict vetting requirements reflect larger structural barriers to publication where literature written by LGBTQ+ or authors of color is often not deemed “acceptable” because it does not conform to traditional publication standards and/or qualify to make it onto previously approved sites. Work completed by the Pedagogical Outcomes Ad Hoc Committee confirmed educational outcomes from Interpretation events are not dependent on restrictive standards surrounding what material is performed. Judges, not prescribed

sources, can be determinants of what constitutes a high quality performance including suitability of material as cut and performed. This change further affords students the opportunity to select literature that represents their identity and experiences within the new expanded publication rules.

Any source material is permitted as long as it meets standards outlined below:

1. Original source material must not be written by the competitor who is performing it.
2. Original source material must be publicly accessible throughout the duration of the tournament. Digital printed publications such as web pages and PDFs retrieved or purchased from web pages are permitted as long as the web page is publicly accessible throughout the duration of the tournament. Digital unprinted publications such as videos, audio files, and films are permitted as long as the original source is publicly accessible throughout the duration of the tournament and the competitor can obtain an official transcript of the original source. (See 2d. for official transcript details.)
 - a. For print publications such as novels, short stories, plays, or poetry, the original source is the physical book or e-book. Photocopies of original literature are not acceptable. Presenting the physical book or e-book is sufficient to prove that a printed publication is publicly accessible.
 - b. For digital printed publications such as web pages, original source material is no longer required to come from online publishing sources listed on the NSDA Approved Websites List. The original source must be publicly accessible for viewing or purchase by a simple internet search or by a URL not requiring passwords or access codes. Competitors must also present a printed manuscript to be used in the case of a protest, but presenting a printed copy of a website is not alone sufficient to prove that a digital printed publication is publicly accessible.
 - c. PDFs are permitted as long as the website from which the PDF is retrieved or purchased is publicly accessible for viewing or purchase by a simple internet search or by a URL not requiring passwords or access codes. Competitors must also present a printed copy of the PDF to be used in the case of a protest, but presenting a printed copy of the PDF is not alone sufficient to prove that a PDF is publicly accessible.

- d. For digital unprinted publications such as videos, audio files, and films, the original source must be publicly accessible for viewing or purchase by a simple internet search or by a URL not requiring passwords or access codes. Competitors must also present a printed official transcript of the original source to be used in the case of a protest, but presenting an official transcript is not alone sufficient to prove that the original source is publicly accessible. An official transcript is one approved by the original source's producer, licensing agent, or copyright holder. As long as approval has been granted, an official transcript may be obtained through the aforementioned parties or through an official transcription service such as TranscribeMe, Scribie, or iScribed, which use non-automated, manual transcription.

Note: Additional clarifications will appear in the 2020-2021 Unified Manual and in upcoming issues of *Rostrum*. As part of the pilot, the membership will have the opportunity to offer feedback for potential revisions or additions in an effort to finalize rules that best meet the needs of our community.

Moved by Motter, seconded by Lindsey:

“Maintain a list of websites of literature resources, with expansion to include traditionally underrepresented identities.”

Passed: 8-0 (Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Rye)

The NSDA will maintain a list of websites as a resource for assisting coaches and students with finding materials for use in competition. Students will no longer be required to use only digital sources found on this list. Additionally, one of the key goals of this list will be to provide a more expansive offering of materials for traditionally underrepresented identities.

Moved by Jacobi, seconded by Jerome:

“Adjourn.”

Passed: 8-0 (Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Rye)

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m. on Sunday. 

QUESTIONS? CONCERNS? IDEAS?

We want to hear from you! Send your feedback to board@speechanddebate.org.