



Competition Rules Board Meeting, January 11, 2022

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

On January 11, 2022, Competition Rules Board meeting minutes will be read into the record. Minutes are available for discussion, as requested by Competition Rules Board members.

State Constraints in National Tournament Final Rounds

The Competition Rules Board will review and assess feedback received from a working group of diverse stakeholders and coach representatives about whether judges should be able to adjudicate students from their state in the final round of the National Tournament. Judges would continue to be prohibited from adjudicating students from their district in finals. Judges would also be offered the option of recusal, if necessary. State constraints would remain in place through semifinals but be removed from the final round to increase the pool of available experienced and diversity-enhancing judges.

Preset Randomized Recency in Congressional Debate

The Competition Rules Board will discuss whether randomized recency numbers should be assigned to competitors in Congressional Debate at the 2022 National Tournament and district tournaments beginning in 2022-2023. This would be a continuation of the 2020 and 2021 National Tournament policies where randomized recency numbers were preset before every round.

Require Written Feedback on National Tournament Ballots

In order to promote the educational value of ballots, the Executive Director will propose a pilot year requirement that all judges must include written feedback on National Tournament ballots regarding the performance or risk loss of judge bond. Judges will be required to meet a minimum word count threshold on the ballot before it is submitted. Reasonable decision times will be implemented so ballots are returned on time.

Proposal to Change PF Topic Cycles

The Competition Rules Board will discuss a member-submitted proposal to adjust the Public Forum topic cycles. The proposed topic cycles are: September topic, October-November topic, December-January topic, February, March, April, Nationals.

Required Judge Training at Nationals

This proposal is a response to the CR Board choosing to prioritize the advancement of required judge training for all National Tournament judges. The Executive Director will propose action

items to be completed in 2022 as a first step toward this goal and seek Board endorsement. The 2022 action items will include requiring the online Cultural Competency Judge Training course be taken prior to the tournament, creating and enforcing the training requirement through a new badging system in Tabroom.com, offering additional badging for optional courses, and requiring a separate in-person World Schools judge training. Event category specific training will then be prioritized for 2023.

Districts and Nationals Eligibility

The Executive Director will propose further clarification to the rules surrounding eligibility for districts and Nationals. Specifically, students who compete for both high school and college programs at the same time are ineligible to compete at the district and National Tournament.

School Award Points

The Executive Director will propose a slight adjustment to the allocation of school award points to be implemented at the 2022 National Tournament and seek Board endorsement. This purpose of this adjustment will be to equally reward success in speech, debate, and Congress while making it easy for the software to return accurate, auditable school award results. This adjustment is necessary given that extra elimination rounds were held in speech and debate at the online 2021 National Tournament.

Review Membership Correspondence

In accordance with our goal of increased membership engagement, letters submitted to the Board will be included in our meeting materials to inform the Board of ideas, requests, and concerns that have been submitted for consideration.

Adjournment