

Leadership

Competition Rules Board July Meeting Minutes

July 19, 2022

The NSDA Competition Rules Board members held their virtual meeting July 19, 2022. In attendance were President Pam Cady Wycoff, Dr. Tommie Lindsey, Jr., Bryon Arthur, David Huston, Adam Jacobi, Jennifer Jerome, Renee Motter, and Jay Rye.

President Wycoff called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

COMPETITION RULES

2022 National Tournament Competition Assessment

The Director of Competition and Events shared an initial assessment of the competition aspects of the 2022 National Tournament. The Competition Rules Board discussed the successes and room for improvement regarding the new competition rules and procedures put in place for the 2022 National Tournament, such as the new goals and rules surrounding selection and diversification of final round judging panels, utilization of a World Schools Chief Adjudication Panel, and powermatching in debate.

Online District Tournaments

Moved by Jacobi, seconded by Huston:

“Continue to allow districts to determine whether their district tournament series will be held online or in person on a per-event basis. At least three-fourths of schools that want to attend that portion of the tournament must agree whether to hold the tournament online or in person.”

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

Districts will continue to have the autonomy to determine whether their district competition is conducted online or in person. Districts may choose the method for participation on a per-event basis. For example, a district may hold Congressional Debate online and other events in person as long as three-fourths of schools intending to attend those events agree.

Minimum Requirements in District Senate

Moved by Motter, seconded by Arthur:

“Change the school and student requirements for the Senate at the district tournament to require a minimum of six schools and 10 entries to hold the event.”

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

The previous rules stated that in order to seat a Senate, a district must have competitors from eight schools. There was no minimum entry requirement. In 2021-2022, approximately 25 districts were unable to seat a Senate within these parameters. The goal of this reduction in the minimum schools required is to create additional access to Congressional Debate at the district and national level. The addition of a minimum entry requirement is intended to ensure there are enough competitors in the chamber to hold a meaningful event.

Creation of New District

Moved by Huston, seconded by Rye:

“Accept the proposal to create a new online district for secondary school institutions that are structurally unable to allow students to participate in competitions held on Fridays and Saturdays.”

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

A proposal was reviewed and accepted to create a new, online district in 2022-2023. This proposal was submitted by a group of religious schools who prohibit students from participating in competition on Fridays and Saturdays when most district tournaments are held. The district’s competition will be online, and the district is open to any school that can demonstrate that their school’s students are structurally unable to participate in competitions on Fridays and Saturdays.

District Allotment

Currently, the number of entries a school is permitted to enter in the district tournament is based upon the number of members and degrees on record (strength). The Competition Rules Board began a discussion of the merits of a strength-based qualification system. This discussion will continue as part of a holistic analysis of the organization’s business model.

Single Source Rule in Supplemental Poetry

Moved by Rye, seconded by Jerome:

“Remove the requirement that supplemental Poetry selections must be cuttings from a single source.”

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

In 2021-2022, the supplemental Poetry rule stated that selections must be cuttings from a single source, and if an anthology collection of poems is used as the single source, the cutting may incorporate multiple poems by an author or a variety of authors. Beginning in 2022-2023, a Poetry piece may consist of one entire poem, a cutting of a single longer poem, or a collection of short poems or cuttings from one source or several sources arranged in a program.

Equity Pause

The Competition Rules Board used the [NSDA Equity Lens](#) to reflect on the nature of their meeting deliberations and whether their decisions and decision-making processes are transparent, accountable, and reflect the organization’s core value of equity.

Moved by Huston, seconded by Lindsey:

“Adjourn.”

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m. Tuesday. 

QUESTIONS? CONCERNS? IDEAS?

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