

Important note of clarification: What had previously been Bylaws IX, XI and XII dealing with the Championship Tournament have been severed from this document and are now in new documents:

- Rules for Debating at the NPDA National Tournament (available in HTML, PDF form on the website) – This document previously was available as a separate document.
- Guidelines for the NPDA National Tournament (available in PDF form on the website)

I. Membership Dues:

Annual dues in the National Parliamentary Debate Association for the year September 1 to August 31 will be \$30 for regular membership, \$20 for affiliate membership (affiliate membership applies to schools that did not enter teams in any NPDA sanctioned or national competition during the previous year), and \$10 for individual membership.

II. The National Parliamentary Debate Association Season:

The National Parliamentary Debate Association season begins September 1 and ends with the NPDA Championship Tournament.

III. Season Sweepstakes Awards:

- A. The National Parliamentary Debate Association will confer sweepstakes awards on outstanding schools that participate in sanctioned tournaments during the season.
- B. Points will be accumulated for sweepstakes according to the following formula:
 - 1. One point for each debate win (including a win for a bye and a win by forfeit) by a team in the final four preliminary rounds of a National Parliamentary Debate Association sanctioned tournament and two points for a win by a team for the first two elimination rounds.
 - 2. Each of the four teams for which a school receives credit toward season long sweepstakes at a sanctioned tournament will receive at least one point, even if they win no debates at all.

For the 2005-2006 season, we still have the following provision. Per the Fall 2005 Business Meeting, this particular provision has been struck, and will not apply for the 2006-2007 season:

- 3. Teams entered in Junior and Novice Divisions will only count for one-half of the points they would earn according to point (a). Only Open division will be counted for full value.

- C. Final sweepstakes awards will be based on the total points accumulated at the four sanctioned tournaments at which each school has gained the most points during the season.
- D. Ties will be resolved by tie-breaker points based on places won at the tournaments at which the school has won the most points, at the rate of five points for a first place, three points for a second place, and one point for a third place (or a tie for third).
- E. When students from two different schools combine to form a team at a sanctioned tournament, the total points earned by such a split team will be divided between their two schools.
- F. Should a school enter more than four teams in a sanctioned tournament, the rounds of only that school's four best teams will be counted toward sweepstakes.
- G. Should two teams from the same school reach a final round in a division of a sanctioned tournament, their school will receive two points for winning the round, even if the debate was not held. The same rule shall apply whenever two teams from the same school meet in other elimination rounds, even if no actual debate occurs. If two teams from the same school meet in a preliminary round, the school will be awarded one point for winning the debate even if no actual debate occurs.
- H. Teams from a host school may enter competition in their own tournament. Wins by those teams will count toward NPDA sweepstakes and those teams may also compete for whatever trophies are awarded in that tournament.
- I. At tournaments in which teams in elimination rounds are given byes, a team receiving a bye shall be awarded two points for a win.
- J. To be counted for sweepstakes points, the National Parliamentary Debate Association division of a tournament must contain at least six teams from a minimum of three schools.
- K. Any errors or omissions in the National Parliamentary Debate Association reports of tournament results and sweepstakes point totals must be brought to the attention of the Executive Secretary no later than fourteen days prior to the commencement of the NPDA Championship Tournament. Any mistakes made on tournaments held within two weeks of the NPDA Championship Tournament must be corrected during the first day of the NPDA Championship Tournament.

- L. Tournaments may hold as many elimination rounds as is desired, but only elimination rounds meeting the following specifications will be counted toward National Parliamentary Debate Association Sweepstakes:
 - 1. For semi-finals, there must be a field of 8 teams in the division;
 - 2. For quarterfinals, there must be a field of 15 teams in the division;
 - 3. For octa-finals, there must be a field of 29 teams in the division;
 - 4. For double-octa-finals, there must be a field of 58 teams in the division;
 - 5. For double-double-octafinals, there must be a field of 115 teams in the division.

- M. A team must be present and must debate in more than half of the preliminary rounds as a team in order to count for the purpose of determining the number of teams in a division as part of the determination of the appropriate number of elimination rounds that earn National Parliamentary Debate Association sweepstakes points.

IV. Institutional Agreement:

Institutional members of the National Parliamentary Debate Association agree, by joining the Association and paying the membership fee, to follow the Constitution and By-Laws of the National Parliamentary Debate Association in their participation in National Parliamentary Debate Association sanctioned activities.

V. Criteria for Sanctioning NPDA Tournaments:

Tournaments meeting the following general criteria will be designated as counting for sweepstakes points:

- A. Sanctioned tournaments are those for which
 - 1. There is prior notification made and received by the Executive Secretary. Notification should be made no less than 30 days in advance of the tournament.
 - 2. There is support for the purposes of the organization both in philosophy and by paying dues.
 - 3. Results are submitted in a timely fashion and formatted as requested by the Executive Secretary.

- B. In accord with A, unless hosted by a national or regional organization, the host of an NPDA sanctioned tournament must be a regular or affiliate member of NPDA.

- C. Unless hosted by a national or regional organization whose rules specify invitation of members only, the tournament shall be open to all members of NPDA and must be included in the NPDA calendar. The NPDA calendar will be prepared no later than June 1 by the Executive Secretary

based on applications submitted from tournament hosts. The Executive Secretary may prepare addenda to the NPDA calendar later in the debate season.

- D. Unless exceptions are clearly noted in the tournament invitation, sanctioned tournaments must follow the NPDA “Rules of Debating and Judging” in By-Law XII.
- E. The tournament must be attended by at least six teams from a minimum of three NPDA member schools.
- F. Copies of the results of the tournament must be sent in a timely manner to the person designated to count sweepstakes points Unless precluded by the date of the tournament, copies of the results of the tournament must be sent to the person designated to count sweepstakes points within 21 days of the conclusion of the tournament. For tournaments that take place within 21 days of the NPDA championship tournament, all results must be in the hands of the person designated to count sweepstakes points no more than three days subsequent to the completion of the sanctioned tournament.
- G. If the Executive Secretary (or other person designated to count sweepstakes points) fails to receive tournament results during the time period mentioned in item 5 above, the tournament shall be placed on a probationary status for the following school year. The tournament would still count toward season sweepstakes, but a notation shall be placed in the tournament calendar to indicate the tournament's status.
- H. If a tournament fails to submit results in a timely basis for two consecutive years, then the tournament will be assessed a \$50 fee (in addition to membership) in the subsequent year in order to be sanctioned. However, if there is a new tournament director, the denial of sanctioning may be lifted.
- I. Appeals of sanctioning decisions may be made to the Executive Council. A 2/3 decision of the council is required to reverse a decision.

VIII. Student Eligibility Standards:

- A. Participation in NPDA is open to officially enrolled undergraduate students in good standing at the college or university they are representing and meeting the criteria below.

1. A student needs to be seeking a baccalaureate degree at the institution they are representing unless competing for a two-year honor, in which case, pursuit of associate's degree or equivalent two-year certification at said institution is sufficient.
 2. Possession of one of one of the aforementioned degrees precludes further competition for those respective honors at the national tournament.
 3. "Good standing" and definition of degree pursuit are defined by the institution the student is representing.
 4. A student is limited to competition in four NPDA National Championship Tournaments.
- B. Midyear graduates may compete in the NPDA National Championship in the spring after graduation at the discretion of the member school. The NPDA will not accept points accrued by midyear graduates at regular season tournaments after their graduation.
- C. In unusual cases, graduate students who possess a baccalaureate degree may petition for one "tournament year" of eligibility. A "tournament year" shall include any year in which the student attends any national speech and/or debate tournament.
1. Graduate students making such a request must have no previous experience in intercollegiate speech and/or debate activities of any kind, and must require involvement in competitive speech and debate for a specific type of degree, certification, or other professional requirement.
 2. Coaches who have a student deserving of consideration must submit a request in writing to the NPDA President prior to entering the student in competition. The request should explain the student's specific degree-related need, certify that the student has no previous experience or provide a detailed description of the student's previous experience, and outline the student's prior academic associations including other schools he/she attended and degree(s) earned. The President, in concert with the Executive Council, will consider each request and issue the "tournament year" of eligibility in writing if satisfied that the request is appropriate.

- D. For tournament directors who desire definitions of novice and junior, the NPDA suggests the following guidelines:
1. To be classified as a novice
 - a. The student should have no high school debate experience.
 - b. The student should be in the first two semesters of collegiate debate.
 - c. Once the student has advanced to elimination rounds more than 3 times, the student should be advanced to the junior or open division.
 2. To be classified as a junior varsity division:
 - a. The student should be in the first four semesters of intercollegiate debate.
 - b. The student should not have advanced to elimination rounds more than 3 times in junior or open division.
 - c. Once the student has advanced to more than three elimination rounds, the student should be advanced to open.
- E. No person shall be allowed to participate in more than four NPDA Championship Tournaments as a contestant.
1. Undergraduate students are limited to no more than eight semesters of eligibility.
 - a. A semester is considered “used” when a student competes in three or more tournaments during the semester.
 - b. The number of semesters in which a student competes is superseded by the number of national tournament years in which the student competes. In other words, a student competing in no more than one or two tournaments during a semester retains eligibility for that semester, providing that he or she does not attend a national tournament during the course of that year. Once a national tournament is attended, that year is “used” regardless of the total number of tournaments in which the student has competed that year.
 2. Contestants are limited to four national tournament years.
 - a. A national tournament year is one in which a student competes in a national tournament sponsored by any national forensic organization including but not limited to: AFA-NIET, NFA-IE Nationals, Novice IE Nationals, NDT, CEDA, NEDA, Phi Rho Pi, Delta Sigma Rho-Tau Kappa Alpha, Pi Kappa Delta, Interstate Oratory, APDA, and any

other nationally recognized organizations and tournaments that may be added to this list.

- b. The number of national tournament years in which a student has competed supersedes the number of semesters in which he or she has competed. Thus, if a student does not compete in the Fall or attends only a limited number of tournaments, he or she has still used a tournament year of eligibility if he or she attends any national tournament in the Spring.
 - c. The intent of this standard is to exclude students from competing in national tournaments for more than four years. During their four national tournament years, students may attend as many national tournaments as they wish or as their programs' budgets allow, but they may not compete in four AFA-NIET nationals or four CEDA nationals, for example, and then move on to compete in four NPDA Championship Tournaments over the course of several more years.
- F. Protests related to eligibility should be directed to the President and the Executive Council of the NPDA. The President will contact the coach(es) of the student(s) in question.
- 1. The responsibility for demonstrating eligibility falls upon the student's program. The Executive Council may require written documentation delineating the student's competitive experiences as well as written statements from past coaches in order to certify that a student is eligible to compete.
 - 2. Coaches are encouraged to keep written records of national tournaments their students attend. Furthermore, coaches may want to obtain a letter from the former coach of any transfer student to ensure that there are records of the student's attendance at previous national tournaments.

IX. Sexual Harassment Policy:**A. Preamble:**

The National Parliamentary Debate Association maintains that parliamentary debate should be a contest of knowledge, wit, and argumentation conducted in a setting of civility and mutual respect. The organization maintains that all eligible members should have access to debate activities without regard to race, creed, age, sex, national origin, sexual or affectional preference, or non-disqualifying handicap. These principles should guide the behavior and conduct of all members and participants of the organization. While the policy at hand is directed at sexual harassment particularly, the principles herein shall be considered a model for dealing with all forms of harassment. The National Parliamentary Debate Association designed this policy in an attempt to eliminate specific behaviors and situations that may arise while participating in the activity and to provide a forum for resolution of conflicts. The organization does not assume that this policy or any other will eliminate all discomfort or intimidation that arises when ideas are in conflict or positions taken are uncomfortable to one or more participants, nor does the organization assume the responsibility of dictating good taste or social posture. The National Parliamentary Debate Association assumes these to be part of the learning and educational process and encourages the open discussion of these concerns as a means to educate.

1. Debate, Free Expression, and Harassment

Academic debate provides a forum for the expression, criticism, and discussion (and for the tolerance) of a wide range of opinions. Participants are encouraged to develop skills in reasoned and supported argument while avoiding the pitfalls of faulty argument. Academic debate does not provide a license for demeaning actions and it does not tolerate sexual harassment. Any participant who suffers discrimination or harassment as part of the activity is denied the guarantee of an equal opportunity to work, learn, and grow in the arena of academic debate and may be harmed in mind, body, and performance.

2. Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is a form of discrimination and consists of verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, imposed on the basis of sex, that has the effect of denying or limiting one's right to participate in the activity, or creates a hostile, intimidating, or offensive environment that places the victim in an untenable situation and/or diminishes the victim's opportunity to participate fairly. Sexual conduct can become discriminatory and harassing

when the nature of the interaction is unwelcome, or when a pattern of behavior that is offensive to a “reasonable woman” (or man, as the case may be) exists. These definitions, which comply with EEOC and other legal definitions, rely strongly on the perceptions of the complainant and it is important to recognize that differences in social position between the complainant and the accused can compound the degree of threat or potential harm perceived in a situation.

3. False Accusations
Deliberate false accusations will not be tolerated.
- B. Options in dealing with harassment
1. General principles in all situations
 - a. Keep a written record of the event, the persons involved, witnesses, and attempts at resolution. Keep this record private or between persons directly involved in the resolution.
 - b. Do not take the matter to the general public through listservs or general discussion until the matter has been dealt with through formal or informal intervention.
 2. Informal Intervention: Direct, private resolution
 - a. If the harassed believes it is possible to resolve the situation one-on-one, participants are encouraged to do so. This approach may clarify situations in which there are misperceptions and can serve to educate and prevent rather than penalize.
 - 1) Indicate to the “harasser” that the comment or activity is unwanted and ask that it not be repeated. If the “problem” ceases, consider the incident resolved.
 - 2) Write a letter or note to the harasser clearly describing behaviors or statements that are seen as harassing or discriminatory. Indicate what actions need to stop and why. Keep a copy. If the “problem” ceases, consider the matter resolved.
 - b. If one-on-one resolution is not possible or feasible, consider the involvement of one other person to serve as a mediator.

- 1) If the event occurs during a debate, raise a point of personal privilege and ask the judge to rule on the issue.
 - 2) Ask another person (a coach, a friend, a trusted colleague, the judge in the round) to accompany you to talk with the person and to help mediate a conflict resolution session. Talk through differences in perception and ideology.
3. Formal Intervention
- a. In the event that informal intervention is not feasible, the following procedures should be followed.
 - b. Structure and membership of the formal intervention system
 - 1) The President of the National Parliamentary Debate Association will appoint a Sexual Harassment Officer (SHO), who will chair the Committee on Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (CDSH). The CDSH will consist of no fewer than five representatives of active NPDA schools including at least two students. The CDSH will be provided with adequate and appropriate training about what constitutes harassment, the policy and implementation of said policy.
 - 2) The CDSH shall facilitate and review an educational program annually, informing members of the NPDA debate community about the definitions and interpretations of discrimination and sexual harassment and about procedures for initiating complaints. The CDSH shall also serve as a resource to coaches and students who wish to conduct intrasquad harassment education.
 - c. Procedures in Cases of Discrimination or Sexual Harassment
 - 1) Complaints may be brought by any member of the NPDA community. Complaints will not be pursued when more than one year has elapsed following the alleged incident.

- 2) At any point during the proceedings, any of the parties involved may choose to be accompanied by an adviser or a member of the CDSH. All parties are free to consult with an attorney, if they choose to do so, but the investigation and hearing procedure is not a legal proceeding and attorneys may not be present or participate.
- 3) At all times throughout the procedures outlined below, confidentiality will be preserved carefully whenever appropriate.
- 4) All written records pertaining to the case shall be kept permanently in a confidential file held by the NPDA President and not released unless required by law.
- 5) Procedures
 - a. The complainant submits a detailed complaint, in writing, to the SHO.
 - b. Once the complaint has been filed and accepted by the SHO, the complainant shall be considered solely as a witness in an investigation by the CDSH.
 - c. As expeditiously as possible, the SHO and CDSH (or appropriate replacements) will investigate, meet with all parties involved, and ensure that the accused has an opportunity to see and respond to all statements made against him or her.
- 6) If the CDSH finds that no discrimination or harassment has taken place, the matter will stop at this point and the immediate parties shall receive notification that the case will go no further. Copies of this report and other relevant information will be kept on file permanently in the office of the NPDA President.
- 7) If the CDSH is convinced that discrimination or harassment has occurred, it will prepare a complete report including its findings, the statements of the accused party as well as the other witnesses, and its

conclusions about the nature and seriousness of the event that has taken place.

- 8) This report shall be submitted to the President, who shall review the evidence and, if necessary, request additional information.
- 9) In consultation with the CDSH, the President shall determine an appropriate sanction. Depending on the severity of the event, this sanction may include any of the following (this should not be viewed as an exhaustive listing of all possible sanctions, just the most likely): oral reprimands; written reprimands to be sent to directors of forensics and/or Deans of Faculty or Students and/or College or University Presidents; removal from future participation at the NPDA Championship Tournament (either competing or judging); removal of NPDA points; or suspension of membership in NPDA.

d. Appeals Procedures

- 1) If the individual(s) found guilty of discrimination or harassment wishes to appeal the President's decision, he/she or they may request that a hearing be held to review the decision. Ordinarily, such an appeal will be possible only if the individual(s) involved can present new evidence not previously considered or evidence of procedural violations during the formal procedures.
- 2) The Appeals Board will consist of those members of the Executive Council, not previously involved in the formal hearing and not having conflicts of interest. Replacements may need to be appointed by the President to produce a board of at least five members.
- 3) The Appeals Board shall review the written evidence in the case, consider new evidence provided to them, interview witnesses as they deem necessary, and shall consider the proposed disciplinary action in relation to the evidence provided.

- 4) The findings and recommendations from the Appeals Board are considered final.
- 5) All reports are to be filed permanently with the Executive Secretary.

e. Protection of Participant's Rights

- 1) Attempts at retaliation, slander, or abuse on the part of any party during or after resolution will be subject to the most strenuous penalties of the policy.
- 2) During intervention proceedings or resolution, participants may negotiate with the President of NPDA (and through him/her with tournament directors), limited or no contact agreements. The organization recognizes that there are certain limitations to these agreements, given the nature of the typical tournament setting. Nonetheless, until resolution is achieved, attempts to preserve no contact agreements should be made.
- 3) All participants will be asked to keep the proceedings confidential during intervention and after resolution.

C. Epilogue:

This document draws heavily from the structure and procedures of the CEDA harassment policy. Thanks to the authors of that policy for their exhaustive work. Resources used in preparing the CEDA document include: *Sexual Harassment in Higher Education: Concepts and Issues*, NEA, 1992; *Sexual Harassment: It's Not Academic*, Dept. of Education, 1984; *Sexual Harassment*, Cornell University, 1990; Statement on Discrimination and Academic Freedom, Carleton College, 1990; and Whitman College Staff Handbook, 1992.

Additional sources used in preparing this document include: *Honor One Another: a Program to Prevent Sexual Harassment and Abuse*, Concordia University Press, 1994; "Assessing Sexual Harassment: A strategy for changing the Climate in higher education," *NASPA Journal*, 1994.

X. NPDA All-American Award

- A. Rationale: This award is designed with the intent to recognize students beyond the area of competition. While achievement in the forensic activity is taken into account, equal weight should be given to scholarship and service. This award should serve as a crowning touch to those seniors who have demonstrated outstanding qualities in all three areas.

- B. General Qualifications for Nomination: Nominees should have demonstrated personal qualities that show their understanding of the role of intercollegiate forensic competition in a liberal education. They should show evidence of success and good conduct in the forensic activity, excellence in their classroom studies as evidenced not only by grade-point average, but also by the range and challenge of study and show a commitment to the betterment of their community through their forensic and non-forensic activities.

- C. Specific Criteria for Nomination:
 - 1. The nominee must be designated as a senior at their four-year institution (or in their last year of competition at a 2-year school) and attending their last NPDA as a competitor.
 - 2. The nominee must be competing at the NPDA during the year they are nominated.
 - 3. The nominee must have a minimum 3.5 cumulative GPA in their college coursework. The nomination must include an unofficial copy of the student's college transcript of grades.
 - 4. The nominee must provide documentation of parliamentary debate success including a resume of awards earned during the nominee's forensic competition. Also, there should be letters of support that convey the value the individual has added to the NPDA community in general such as mentoring, good sportsmanship, etc.
 - 5. The nominee must provide documentation of service work. This can include forensic related service. Service outside of the forensics community will also be a significant criterion. Non-forensic service venues may include the community, civic organizations, the school, etc. The nomination must include a letter of support that addresses the student's work in providing community service to their university and the community at large.

- D. Nomination Process: Nominations must come from a program director/coach and be submitted to the District Chair. District Chairs will inform member schools of deadlines for submission. Each District Committee will select one recipient from their respective district, and forward up to three additional nominations from their district to the Chair of the Selection Committee. A school can submit at most two nominations to their district, but only one nomination from each school can be forwarded to the National Chair of the All-American Team Selection Committee. There will be at least one recipient from each of the NPDA districts and at-large recipients who may come from any district. District chairs must submit all nominations to the Chair of the All-American Team Committee no later than March 1.