

**I. Membership Dues:**

Annual dues in the National Parliamentary Debate Association for the year September 1 to August 31 will be \$50 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. The Fall semester shall be composed of tournaments that take place between the beginning of the season and December 25; The Spring semester shall be composed of tournaments that take place between December 25 and the end of the season.

**III. Season Sweepstakes Awards:**

- A. The National Parliamentary Debate Association will confer sweepstakes awards on teams officially representing their schools that participate in sanctioned tournaments during the season.
- B. Points will be accumulated for sweepstakes according to the following formula:
  - 1. Teams will receive a preliminary round point total equal to the decimal percentage of preliminary rounds won, multiplied by five. Preliminary round point totals will be calculated to two decimal points. Teams will accrue two points for a win for the first two elimination rounds that meet NPDA sweepstakes specifications.
  - 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.
- 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 from the school or tournament host 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. Unless hosted by a national or regional organization, the host of an NPDA sanctioned tournament must be a regular or affiliate dues paying 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 regular institutional 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. Sanctioned Tournaments:
  1. May release topic areas including general or specific ones before the tournament but may not release the actual resolutions.

2. Must have two person versus two person debates (except if a few teams are "mavericks" or three person teams where only two people debate at one time).
  3. Must not use quoted evidence as the basis for argument in debates.
  4. Must not allow the use of written, drawn, or recorded materials in a debate unless they were written, drawn, or recorded during the preparation time for the debate by the debaters who are debating.
  5. Must have debates that result in a win or loss.
- E. Tournaments must use debate guidelines which conform to Section D to be sanctioned and must clearly note in the tournament invitation any alterations to the NPDA "Rules of Debating and Judging" in By-Law XII.
- F. The tournament must be attended by at least six teams from a minimum of three NPDA member schools.
- G. 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.
- H. If the Executive Secretary (or other person designated to count sweepstakes points) fails to receive tournament results during the time period mentioned in item F 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.
- I. 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.
- J. If a tournament fails to submit results in a timely basis then the tournament shall no longer be sanctioned.
- K. The sanctioning penalties in points, H, I and J above may be lifted if a new program director is in place or a successful appeal to the Executive Council is made.

- L. Appeals of sanctioning decisions may be made to the Executive Council. A 2/3 decision of the council is required to reverse a decision.

**VI. 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 following criteria:
  - 1. A student must represent a recognized degree granting institution and participate with the full knowledge and approval of that institution, its officials, and any existing NPDA affiliated organizations operating within that institution.
  - 2. 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.
  - 3. Possession of one of the aforementioned degrees precludes further competition for those respective honors at the national tournament.
  - 4. "Good standing" and definition of degree pursuit are defined by the institution the student is representing.
  - 5. 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 graduate 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 junior varsity:
    - 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.
  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.
  - c. The intent of this standard is to prohibit 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.

## **VII. Sexual Harassment Policy:**

### **A. Introduction**

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, qualified members should have access to debate activities without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, sexual or affectional preference, or disability. These principles should guide the behavior and conduct of all members and participants of the organization.

While the policy at hand is largely 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 which 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.

Further, this policy does not replace other institutional policies or laws to which the parties are subject.

#### **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 harassment. Any participant who suffers discrimination or harassment as part of the activity is denied an equal opportunity to work, learn and grow in the arena of academic debate.

#### **2. Sexual Harassment**



Sexual harassment is a form of discrimination and consists of unwelcome verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature 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 person" 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 . Other Forms of Harassment

Like sexual harassment, harassment because of a person's race, color, religion, age, national origin, sexual, affectional preference, or disability will not be tolerated. In general, slurs, jokes and other verbal or physical conduct relating to a person's race, color, religion, age, national origin or disability constitute harassment when they unreasonably interfere with the person's performance or create an intimidating environment.

B. Addressing and reporting harassment

1. The NPDA harassment policy shall apply to discrimination and harassment complaints that arise during the NPDA Championship Tournament or from actions taken by officials or employees of NPDA acting at any time in their official capacities.
2. Individuals who believe that they are being discriminated against or harassed and cannot or do not wish to resolve the matter informally should promptly report the complaint to the Sexual Harassment Officer (SHO), who shall be appointed annually by the President of the National Parliamentary Debate Association. The name and contact information for the SHO may be found, among other places, on the Association's web site.
3. If reporting the matter to the SHO would prove to be uncomfortable or if the individual is not satisfied with the SHO's handling of the complaint, the individual must promptly bring the

matter to the attention of the chair of the National Tournament Ombudsperson.

4. The SHO and/or the National Championship Ombudsperson (in cases where the party advancing the complaint is uncomfortable reporting to the SHO, or the SHO has a conflict of interest) promptly investigates all allegations of discrimination and/or harassment in as confidential a manner as possible.
  5. In consultation with the SHO, or the National Championship Ombudsperson (if appropriate), the President shall determine what, if any, remedial action should be taken. Depending on the factual basis of the incident(s), possible sanctions may include, but not be limited to, any of the following: 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 National Tournament (either competing or judging); removal of NPDA points; or suspension of membership in NPDA.
  6. All sexual harassment claims will be afforded full due process. For instances of sexual harassment claims lodged against opposing teams, based on behaviors taking place in a particular round, reasonable attempts shall be made to preserve all possible remedies before the next debate round. However, the forward movement of the tournament schedule shall not necessarily be impeded based solely on a pending harassment complaint.
  7. Appeals of Presidential decisions regarding sexual harassment complaints are limited to questions of proper process. Such appeals shall be directed in writing to the full Executive Council. Such appeals are not automatic.
  8. Under no circumstances will an officer, agent, employee or member of the Association be allowed to threaten or retaliate against anyone who in good faith alleges unlawful harassment or discrimination or who participates in the investigation of such a complaint.
- 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.

### **VIII. NPDA All-American Award**

- A. This award is designed to honor senior students for outstanding achievement in forensics, scholarship and service.
- B. Nominees should demonstrate personal qualities that show their understanding of the role of intercollegiate forensic competition in a liberal education. They should have a record of forensic success and good conduct, excellent grades in a wide range of study, and a commitment to the betterment of their community.
- 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 his or her college coursework. The nomination must include an unofficial copy of the nominee's grades.
  - 4. The nomination 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 nomination must provide documentation of the nominee's 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 Representative. District Representatives will inform member schools of deadlines for submission. Each District Representative will convene a committee to 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 Award Selection Committee no later than March 1.

E. All-American Award Selection

1. The district representatives and NPDA Vice-President will constitute the national selection committee. The NPDA Vice-President will serve as chair.
2. District representatives shall submit nominations to the chair of the selection committee.
3. The chair shall set timely annual deadlines for the selection process so that the awards can be presented at the National Championship Tournament.
4. The committee shall designate at least one recipient from each of the NPDA districts. The committee may also choose at-large recipients who come from any district.