

Amendment of Student Eligibility Standards- Charles Walts

CURRENT: Bylaws, VI. 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b. The number of semesters in which a student competes is superseded by the number of national tournament years in which the student competes.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.

CHANGE TO: 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 **ten** semesters of eligibility.

a. A semester is considered "used" when a student competes in **two** 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b. The number of semesters in which a student competes is superseded by the number of national tournament years in which the student competes.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 **five** 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 **five** years. During their **five** 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.

Rationale: We currently operate under two sets of eligibility rules, those of the NPDA and the NPTE. This creates confusion because, in the case of a fifth-year senior, a student could be eligible to compete at NPTE but not at NPDA. It is silly to have two systems, let us equalize the two and operate under one rule shared by two organizations. The five-year (ten semesters), four national tournament also reflects a realistic picture of modern education degree plans and student decision making.