

**NATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ASSOCIATION
BUSINESS MEETING
Friday, March 18, 2016 7:30pm
Chrystal Ballroom, Best Western Golden Sails (Long Beach, CA)**

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of Minutes (Fall 2015)

III. Reports (See reports online, where applicable. Short reports, as needed, will be presented orally at the meeting. Executive Reports and Committee Reports, **where possible** will be posted on the NPDA website 10 days before the meeting.)

A. Executive Council

B. Committees

1. Finance Committee
2. Site Committee
3. Bylaw Review Committee
4. Accessibility Committee
5. Additional Committees as Needed

C. Tournament Director

D. Other reports.

IV. Action Items

A. No action items.

IV. New Business

A. Membership & Sexual Harassment/Violence Awareness & Prevention Training

1. Rationale - Participating in efforts to prevent sexual harassment and violence should be a primary concern for NPDA. Currently, we have a policy aimed at ensuring that protections and recourse exist in the event of an instance of sexual harassment. This addition to the bylaws couples that policy with an affirmative effort to prevent such incidents between and within member programs, as well as at the national tournament.

2. Current Bylaw versus Proposed Change

a. Current Bylaw

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.

b. Proposed Bylaw Change:

Membership Dues & Requirements:

1. 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.

[ADDITION]

2. *Each regular member of the NPDA must also provide documentation annually verifying that students, coaches, and judges representing their institution/program have participated in sexual harassment/violence awareness and prevention training. Typically, universities and colleges make such training available through their campus Title IX office, or its equivalent. If this is the case, documentation submitted by members should include a letter from that office on their campus providing a brief description of the training provided. In the event such resources are not available to a particular member program, NPDA will furnish online training at no cost to the member program.*

In either case, documentation that such training has been completed shall be provided no later than September 30th of each competition season. In addition, all representatives of member programs must receive such training prior to being eligible for participation in the national tournament.

3. *Member programs that fail to complete the requirements outlined in Item B above will not be eligible to receive sanctioning for any tournaments they host, to receive season-long sweepstakes points, and/or to attend the national tournament until the requirements outlined in Item B are fulfilled.*

B. Season Sweepstakes Awards

1. Rationale - NPDA currently offers only “guidelines” about divisions of competition for regular season tournaments. This creates substantial ambiguity in terms of what qualifies or disqualifies a team from participating in a novice and/or junior division at any given tournament. As a consequence, programs have a competitive incentive to stretch the eligibility of their competitive teams at various divisions below open to achieve higher season long rankings. This practice both undermines the pedagogical value of novice and junior divisions and damages the integrity of the season-long ranking

system used by NPDA. The proposed change creates a competitive disincentive for maintaining teams at a lower division beyond the period of time when their learning can best be supported in that environment. Additionally, a competitive disincentive is a more reasonable method of addressing this issue than changing divisional “guidelines” into “requirements,” which would create an extraordinary burden for the Executive Secretary who would be charged with determining the divisional eligibility of hundreds of teams.

2. Current Bylaw (III.B.1-2) versus Proposed Bylaw (III.B.1-2):

A. Current Bylaw

1. 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 all 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.

B. Proposed Bylaw (III.B.1-2):

1. 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 all elimination rounds that meet NPDA sweepstakes specifications. *Once these points are calculated, the following multiplier will be applied based on the division of competition in which each team participated: Novice = .50, Junior = .75, Open = 1.0.*
 2. *Regardless of division,* 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.

VI. Adjournment