

**NATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ASSOCIATION  
BUSINESS MEETING  
Thursday, November 20, 2014  
8am to 9:15am  
Palmer House Hilton – Salon 6 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

**AGENDA**

**I. Call to Order**

**II. Approval of Minutes (Spring 2014)**

**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

i. Finance Committee

ii. Site Committee

iii. Additional Committees as Needed

C. Tournament Director

D. Other reports: Ad Hoc Committee on NPDA Growth/Stability; NPDA Journal

**IV. Action Items**

**A. Action Item 1 - Novice Definition Change - Skip Rutledge, Pt. Loma Nazarene University**

1. Proposal: I would like to propose that high school experience be counted as equal to but not greater than College experience when determining NPDA Novice eligibility, by deleting and replacing Section VI, Article 4. subsection 1. as shown below (removing first area and replacing it with the section in italics).

2. Rationale: Current interpretations of Novice definitions disqualify beginning debaters that have had even one round of high school tournament experience in any form of debate including Public Forum format from counting as novices per NPDA, but allows up to two full semesters of college experience for beginners that start in college. This penalty discourages beginners that have extremely limited high school experience, and causes many to quit rather than be forced into Junior or Open divisions at tournaments

3. Current Text

D. Novice

1. For purposes of the NPDA Championship Tournament, a novice shall be defined as an undergraduate student who is in his or her first year of

participation in intercollegiate competitive debate and meets the criteria below:

- a. Students with *more than two semesters of* previous competitive experience in high school or intercollegiate debate formats would be ineligible for novice status.
- b. High school debate formats include, but are not limited to, Cross Examination (CX) Debate and Lincoln-Douglas (LD) Debate.
- c. Intercollegiate debate formats include, but are not limited to, Parliamentary Debate (such as NPDA, APDA, CUSID), CEDA/NDT, NFA-LD, NEDA and ADA.

#### 4. PROPOSED BYLAWS CHANGE

##### *Student Eligibility Standards*

*4. For tournament directors who desire definitions of novice and junior, the NPDA suggests the following guidelines:*

- a. To be classified as a novice:*
- b. The student should have no more than ~~one~~ two semesters of high school debate experience.*
- c. The student should be in the first two semesters of collegiate debate.*
- d. Once the student has advanced to elimination rounds more than 3 times, the student should be advanced to the junior or open division.*

#### **B. Action Item 2 - Proposal to require judges to disclose to willing debaters. - Rob Layne, University of Utah**

Rationale: The section would require that disclosure of the decision would take place after the ballot had been submitted, thus providing debaters with immediate feedback of their performance within the debate. This also aligns the current practice of requiring disclosures after elimination rounds, which may be technically discouraged under the current reading of this section.

##### 1. Current section in “NPDA Rules of Debating”

- a. 5B. A running update of all teams’ records will be publicly posted in a “warm room” or common area accessible to all tournament participants. After returning the ballot, the judge may, at his or her discretion, give brief constructive comments to the debaters. Such conversations should, if possible, take place in the established “warm room” area if one is designated by the tournament. No one may be required to enter the “warm room” or participate in discussions. Judges should refrain from checking the records of teams they are about to judge should such information be available.
- b. Strike “After returning the ballot, the judge may, at his or her discretion, give brief constructive comments to the debaters.” And replace with “After submitting the ballot,

the judge must announce the decision of the debate and give brief constructive comments to debaters wishing to receive the decision and/or receive constructive comments.”

- c. Add: In the section stating, “No one may be required to enter the “warm room” or participate in discussions.” Strike “one” and replace with “debater.”

2. The new section would read:

*1. 5B. A running update of all teams’ records will be publicly posted in a “warm room” or common area accessible to all tournament participants. After submitting the ballot, the judge should be strongly encouraged to announce the decision of the debate in open division. Such conversations should, if possible, take place in the established “warm room” area if one is designated by the tournament. No debater may be required to enter the “warm room” or participate in discussions. Judges should refrain from checking the records of teams they are about to judge should such information be available.*

**C. Action Item: Proposal to allow mid-year graduate/otherwise half-ineligible teams to accrue half-points for their squad for season long sweepstakes.**

Rationale: Current by laws do not contain any provision for teams containing mid-year graduates/ineligible members earning partial points. Past & current practice has been to not count them at all since bylaws say they do not earn points.

**VI. Student Eligibility Standard**

1. 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.
2. Addition:
  - a. *In the event that a school has a team that is composed of one member that is mid-year graduate and one that is not, the team shall be considered as a hybrid for season-long sweepstakes points*
  - b. *In the event that a school has a team that is composed of one member that is considered ineligible and one that is not, the team shall be considered as a hybrid for season-long sweepstakes points*

**V. New Business**  
**VI. Adjournment**