

**NATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ASSOCIATION
BUSINESS MEETING
Wednesday, March 16
7:30-10:00 PM
Colorado Springs, CO
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Salon DE
AGENDA**

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of Minutes (Fall 2010)

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. Additional Committees as Needed
- C. Tournament Director
- D. Other reports

IV. Action Items

- 1. Disclosure of rules violations- Michael Dreher (Bethel)

V. Discussion Items

- 1. Amendment of "novice" designation- Joey Mavity (Azusa Pacific)
- 2. Amendment of tab room disclosure rules- Joe Gantt (Texas Tech)
- 3. Amendment to student eligibility standards- Charles Walts (Texas-Tyler)
- 4. Amendment to elimination points for sweepstakes- Konrad Hack (Concordia-Irvine)
- 5. Amendment to standards for tournament sanctioning- Konrad Hack (Concordia-Irvine)

Disclosure of rules violations (Michael Dreher)

CURRENT: Tournament Operating Procedures, I. 2. In addition to enforcing Section 4 of the NPDA Tournament Rules, the judge (or in the case of multiple judge panels, the Speaker of the House) shall be responsible for declaring a forfeiture to a team not showing for a debate. After the expiration of the allotted time between announcement of the topic and the beginning of the debate, a judge shall report violations via the ballot.

CHANGE TO: Add the following text at the end of this section "...via the ballot and to the debaters involved."

RATIONALE: Under the current system, debaters are not informed as to whether or not they were in violation. This creates inequity in the system when some teams are notified that they have been forfeited and other teams have not. This also leads to a denial of the ability to appeal such a decision, since the decision is not ultimately revealed until the cume sheets and/or ballots have been received. In all other cases of tournament infractions, the ability to appeal is given at the time of the debate. Given the wording, and what has happened to a variety of teams in the past, the ability to appeal this decision is uniquely denied.

Amendment of "novice" designation (Joey Mavity)

CURRENT: Bylaws VI.D.1.a. The student should have no high school debate experience.

CHANGE TO: The student should not have more than one semester of interscholastic high school debate experience.

RATIONALE: The current language allows a college student in their second semester of debate instruction and with potentially half a dozen competitions to qualify as a lower experience level than a student that competed in a single debate tournament in high school. This restriction has a propensity to punish a student that encountered debate late in their high school career. Additionally, the "experience" term is unnecessarily ambiguous.

The proposed change rectifies both of these flaws. "Experience" is narrowed to "interscholastic high school debate". More importantly, it allows for competition at the high school level without being over-broad. Allowing two semesters of high school debate experience functionally allows a debater at the end of their second year of competition to qualify in the "novice" category. Instead, allowing for a single semester of high school debate means that some exposure does not preclude access to the novice category while at the same time prevents over-experienced debaters from participation in that category ("sand-bagging").

Amendment of Tab Room Disclosure (Joe Gantt)

CURRENT: Tournament Operating Procedures, G. 4.

After tabulating the results of each preliminary round 1-7 and releasing the pairings for the subsequent round, the tabulation staff will post the results of the previous round by highlighting the team that won in a common area accessible to all tournament participants. Only results of rounds may be posted online during the tournament.

CHANGE TO: After tabulating the results of each preliminary round 1-7 and releasing the pairings for the subsequent round, the tabulation staff will post the results of the previous round by highlighting the team that won in a common area accessible to all tournament participants. ~~Only results of rounds may be posted online during the tournament.~~

RATIONALE: Recently, technology has advanced to the point where electronic balloting might be available as part of the tab software used at the national tournament, with the possibility of increasing the efficiency of the tournament. This change allows for the utilization of that technology if the tournament director chooses to do so. Furthermore, having online pairings available during the tournament and prior to the round may aid debaters in ensuring that they make it to their rounds on time and avoid disqualification.

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.

Amendment to elimination points for sweepstakes- Konrad Hack (Concordia)

CURRENT: Bylaws, III. B. 1. Teams will accrue two points for a win for the first two elimination rounds that meet NPDA sweepstakes specifications.

CHANGE TO: Teams will accrue two points for a win for all elimination rounds that meet NPDA sweepstakes specifications.

RATIONALE: Quite simply, elimination rounds matter, and as the tournament progresses, later elimination round matter even more. The NPDA Season Sweepstakes system should reflect the entire tournament, not just a part of the tournament.

Amendment to standards for tournament sanctioning- Konrad Hack (Concordia)

CURRENT: Bylaws III.L. 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.

CHANGE TO: 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 that compete in at least four preliminary rounds of competition.

RATIONALE: Currently, a tournament may offer a single preliminary round debate. Such a tournament would quite literally earn 5 points for half of the teams competing. By requiring a minimum of four rounds, a “legitimate” tournament can still take place in a single day, while preventing Concordia, Irvine Valley, UC Irvine and Vanguard (who are within 10 minutes of each other) from meeting once a week for a 1-prelim, 2-Elim tournament.