

NATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ASSOCIATION
BUSINESS MEETING
Friday, November 17, 2006
6:30 PM- 9:30 PM
San Antonio, TX
Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center, Room 203B

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of Minutes (Spring 2006)
- III. Reports
 - A. Executive Council
 - B. Committees
- IV. Consent Items
 - A. Editorial changes to NPDA Constitution. See Addenda 9 (p. 13)
 - B. Editorial changes to NPDA Bylaws. See Addenda 10 (p. 37)
- V. Action Items
 - A. Revision to Sexual Harassment Policy (Lisa Ashby, Concordia College).
See Addenda 1 (p. 2)
- VI. Discussion Items
 - A. Sanctioning Penalties (Renea Gernant, Concordia University).
See Addenda 2 (p. 5)
 - B. Definition of Semesters (Joe Gantt, Texas Tech University)
See Addenda 3 (p. 6)
 - C. Change in Tabulation of Sweepstakes Points (Joe Gantt, Texas Tech University).
See Addenda 4 (p. 7)
 - D. Clarification of Eligibility Standards (Joe Gantt, Texas Tech University).
See Addenda 5 (p. 9)
 - E. Change in Tabulation of Championship Tournament Sweepstakes (Joe Gantt,
Texas Tech University).
See Addenda 6 (p. 10)
 - F. Statute of Limitations (Joe Gantt, Texas Tech University).
See Addenda 7 (p. 11)
 - G. Clarification of Preparation Materials Rule (Joe Gantt, Texas Tech University).
See Addenda 8 (p. 12)

Addenda 1

NPDA Harassment Policy (to replace by-law IX in its entirety)

A Policy Against Harassment

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.

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 Rules and Standards Tournament Sub-Committee.
- 4) The SHO and/or Rules and Standards Tournament Sub-Committee promptly investigates all allegations of discrimination and/or harassment in as confidential a manner as possible.
- 5) In consultation with the SHO, 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.

5) 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.

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Other areas that would be affected by this policy change:

1. Eliminate the standing Committee on Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (CDSH). Constitution, Article VII. Sec. B.

Reason: With the policy change, the enforcement of the harassment policy will be moved to the Rules and Standards Tournament Sub-Committee and the SHO. In a previous revision of the constitution, the education objective of the policy was moved to the Professional Development standing committee. It would be redundant and contradictory to keep the CDSH, given that its duties are provided for elsewhere.

2. Eliminate Article V, Sec. B.4.a. The SHO shall chair the CDSH.

Reason: eliminating the CDSH also eliminates the need for a chair.

3. Change Article VII, Sec. F.7.d. Membership: include the SHO as a member of this committee.

Reason: The SHO is listed in his/her "duties" as an appointed officer and in the harassment policy as being a member of this committee, but is not listed in the membership at this point in the constitution. It was probably just an oversight in the previous constitutional revision and is primarily an editorial change.

Addenda 2

An amendment to strengthen penalties for failure to comply with sanctioning policies.

Add to NPDA Bylaws, Article V, I & J (old I becomes K)

- I. If a tournament fails to submit results in a timely basis for three consecutive years, then the tournament shall no longer be sanctioned.**
- J. The sanctioning penalties in points, G, H and I above may be lifted if a new program director is in place and an appeal is made.**

Justification: This addition to the sanctioning rules ensures that tournaments who wish to be sanctioned by NPDA turn in results by the dates specified in the governing documents. This allows the Executive Secretary to compile sweepstakes results in a reasonable time. However, it maintains a level of grace in case there is a new tournament director in place.

Addenda 3

A bylaw amendment to define semesters for eligibility purposes.

Add to NPDA Bylaws, Article II (addition bolded):

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.**

Justification: This addition to the bylaws defines the terms "Fall semester" and "Spring semester" for clarity. Other portions of the bylaws, specifically those concerning eligibility, utilize these terms. However, without definition, the terms are confusing and leave little room for enforcement. This change will provide the needed clarity.

Addenda 4

A bylaw amendment to remedy sweepstakes inequities concerning the “final four preliminary rounds” of competition.

Remove from NPDA Bylaws, Article III, B, 1:

(B added for context)

B. Points will be accumulated for sweepstakes according to the following formula:

~~1. One point for each debate win (including a win for a bye and a win by forfeit) by a team in the final four preliminary rounds of a National Parliamentary Debate Association sanctioned tournament and two points for a win by a team for the first two elimination rounds.~~

Replace with:

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.

Justification: Currently, the NPDA sweepstakes system counts the only the final four preliminary rounds toward sweepstakes totals. While the goal of this modification was to ensure that smaller tournaments were not marginalized in sweepstakes results, the effect of the change has led to some very strange results. Take, for instance, this result from a 7 round tournament:

Team A: WWLWLL, loss in double-octos = 1 point

Team B: LLLLLL = 1 point (see bylaw which states that each team entered receives one point even if they win no debates at all)

Under the present system, both teams receive identical sweepstakes points, despite the fact that one team won more than 50% of their rounds and advanced to elimination rounds, while the other team won no debates at all. This inequity is magnified by the fact that teams who win early preliminary rounds generally face a dramatically more difficult schedule during those final four preliminary rounds than do teams that lost early preliminary rounds, due to power matching.

This amendment would provide this result in the above case:

Team A: WWLWLL, loss in double-octos = 2.86 points

Team B: LLLLLLL = 1 point

This is a more just reflection of what occurred during preliminary rounds. Furthermore, this result is achieved while still allowing tournaments with fewer preliminary rounds to achieve the same point totals as those tournaments with a greater number of prelim rounds.

Furthermore, this amendment will ease the process of submitting results to the Executive Secretary. Currently, a compilation of preliminary records and elim results is not sufficient, as there is no way for the Executive Secretary to determine how a team performed in the last four rounds of a six round tournament. Finally, the addition of decimal places will lessen the possibility of ties.

Addenda 5

A bylaw amendment to clarify student eligibility standards.

Remove from NPDA Bylaws, Article IV, E, 1, b & Article IV, E, 2, b:

~~b. The number of semesters in which a student competes is superseded by the number of national tournament years in which the student competes. In other words, a student competing in no more than one or two tournaments during a semester retains eligibility for that semester, providing that he or she does not attend a national tournament during the course of that year. Once a national tournament is attended, that year is "used" regardless of the total number of tournaments in which the student has competed that year.~~

~~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. Thus, if a student does not compete in the Fall or attends only a limited number of tournaments, he or she has still used a tournament year of eligibility if he or she attends any national tournament in the Spring.~~

Justification: The intent of the two eligibility standards (eight semesters, four national tournament years) was to keep students from competing into perpetuity; however, the language above is confusing and may conflate the two standards. A student who has competed in less than eight semesters and less than four national tournament years should still be eligible to compete, regardless of when those semesters and national tournament years occurred. This puts our eligibility policies more closely in line with those of other forensics organizations as well.

Addenda 6

An amendment to the Championship Tournament Operating Procedures concerning sweepstakes.

Remove and replace, NPDA Championship Tournament Operating Procedures, J, 5, a, 3:

Sweepstakes points will be accumulated from a combination of preliminary and elimination round records from the top four teams from a school during the competition. Ordinarily, the records of the four teams from each school with the highest number of preliminary round wins will be awarded two points for each preliminary round. An additional two points will be awarded per team per elimination round ~~advanced (win, lost or bye)~~ **won (including advancement by a bye)** by the four teams accumulating the most elimination round points. These may not necessarily be the same four teams that accumulated the most points in preliminary rounds. The National Champion will receive an additional two points for its school **in addition to any elimination round points earned.**

Justification: This brings the championship tournament procedures further in line with existing NPDA sweepstakes procedures. Season-long sweepstakes only counts elim wins or byes, not points earned by the appearance in the rounds themselves. Furthermore, this eliminates a possible inequity that might exist in a 4-3 vs 4-3 preliminary round; according to the language above, that preliminary round would be worth four points, which is equal to the number of points earned in the national championship final round.

The second modification clarifies the fact that the National Champion earns two additional points in addition to the two points earned by winning the final round. While the original language seemed to indicate such, this language makes it more clear.

Addenda 7

An amendment to the Championship Tournament Operating Procedures creating a statute of limitations for challenges to awards presented at the Championship tournament.

Add, NPDA Championship Tournament Operating Procedures, J, 7.

All appeals of awards presented at the Championship Tournament (including season-long sweepstakes), such as appeals based on tabulation error, debater eligibility or inconsistency with governing documents, must be made within 30 days of the conclusion of the Championship Tournament. Results become final on the 31st days following the conclusion of the Championship Tournament.

Justification: At some point, results must become final. This standard allows a fair amount of time for appeals to be made, but finalizes awards once that time has expired.

Addenda 8

An amendment to clarify rules as to what can and what cannot be brought into the debating chambers during the debate.

Remove from NPDA Rules of Debating and Judging:

~~4. During the debate~~

~~A. Any published information (dictionaries, magazines, etc.), which may have been consulted before the debate, cannot be brought into the debating chambers for use during the debate. Except for notes that the debaters themselves have prepared during preparation time and a copy of the NPDA "Rules of Debating and Judging," no published materials, prepared arguments, or resources for the debaters' use in the debate may be brought into the debating chambers.~~

Replace with:

4. During the debate

A. While debaters may consult outside material during preparation time, they may only take the following into the debating chambers for use during the debate: notes that they physically constructed during the preparation time, and a copy of the NPDA "Rules of Debating and Judging." Other resources, such as published materials, notes or flows from previous debates, briefs prepared prior to the debate, information copied electronically from pre-existing or online files, or notes prepared by teammates, coaches, or colleagues (except those prepared by a debater's partner) may not be brought into the debating chambers.

Justification: This rule change clarifies what may or may not be brought into the debating chambers. The old standard was vague in certain areas, and was outdated a bit due to technological advances.

Addenda 9- NPDA Constitution Editorial Changes

Note: Consent items in blue and strikethrough; Highlighted items go to the membership as discussion/action items.

Article I: The Organization

This organization shall be known as the National Parliamentary Debate Association (NPDA).

Article II: Purpose of the Association

Section A: The purpose of the NPDA is to provide collegiate student debaters with opportunities to debate various topics of current importance. The association will promote competitive practices ~~that~~ ensure long-term growth and survival of intercollegiate academic and public debate by promoting forms of limited preparation debate that ~~include points of information and that~~ combine an emphasis on both content (analysis, refutation, context) and delivery.

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Section B: The organization shall further this purpose by training and encouraging students, educators and scholars to work in community, fostering principles of theory, practice, and presentation.

Article III: Membership

Section A: Institutional membership in the National Parliamentary Debate Association is open to any college, ~~u~~iversity, community college, secondary school, or other academic institution that, acting through its Director of Forensics, association President, or other appropriate authority wishes to join and is willing to support the purposes of the organization.

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Two types of institutional membership are available in the National Parliamentary Debate Association:

1. Regular Institutional Members pay annual dues and are eligible to participate in all functions of the organization.
2. Affiliate Institutional Members pay reduced annual dues, complete membership information, and sanctioning forms, but do not have voting privileges in the organization. Affiliate membership applies to schools that do not enter teams in any NPDA sanctioned or national tournament.

Section B: Individual membership is designed to allow individuals without an institutional affiliation the opportunity to be a part of the organization. Individual membership is open to any interested person, without regard to sex, race, creed, age, or other consideration, who is willing to support the purposes of the organization.

Section C: Membership application shall be made annually to the NPDA treasurer.

Section D: Should an individual or group of individuals deliberately and maliciously act to manipulate the outcome of the National Championship Tournament or endanger the lives of fellow competitors, the individual(s) will be sanctioned by the organization through the joint action of the National Championship Tournament Committee and its Rules and Standards Sub-Committee. The individual(s) should anticipate that they will be barred immediately from membership or participation in the National Parliamentary Debate Association. The duration of exclusion from membership and participation may extend up to and include the individual's lifetime. Any wins or sweepstakes points earned up to that point in the season and the tournament by that unit will be disqualified. Appeals of such decisions shall be made to the Executive Council.

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Article IV: Officers -- Elected

Section A: Election

1. The officers of this Association shall be a President, a Vice President, an Executive Secretary, a Treasurer, and a National Student Representative. The President, Vice President, Executive Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected on staggered, two-year terms with the offices of President and Vice-President running concurrently and with the offices of Executive Secretary and Treasurer running concurrently. The National Student Representative shall be elected for a one-year term. These officers shall constitute the Executive Council.

2. Nominations for offices except for the National Student Representative shall be submitted for presentation at the first business meeting of the academic year, at which time additional nominations for any office may be submitted by any members present.

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3. The National Student Representative shall be selected each year at the student business meeting held during the championship

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tournament. For the purposes of this election, each member school shall have one vote.

4. Any elected officer can be removed for mis, mal- or non-feasance by petition of 2/3 of the membership of the organization or by a 2/3 vote of members present at any business meeting.

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Section B: Duties

1. The Executive Council shall lead the Association between Business Meetings; shall provide interpretation of any article of the Constitution or its By-Laws; shall perform the functions outlined for them in the By-Laws and shall be consulted when any action not clearly specified in this Constitution or in the By-Laws is to be taken.

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2. The President's duties are:

- a. To establish the agenda and to chair the annual Business Meeting of the Association;
- b. To be responsible for upholding this Constitution and its By-Laws and all other decisions of the annual Business meetings of the association;
- c. To chair and be a voting member of the Executive Council;
- d. To serve as representative of the Association to other organizational meetings;
- e. To make official appointments and to appoint members to standing committees as specified in Articles V and VII of the Constitution;
- f. To appoint, with the approval of the Executive Council, a Tournament Director for the annual NPDA Championship Tournament;
- g. To appoint from time to time, such committees as deemed suitable or as requested by the annual Business Meetings;
- h. To fill by appointment, any offices that become vacant for any reason, such as an appointment to be for the unexpired term of the individual who has been replaced;
- i. To assist as needed in the administration of the annual Championship Tournament;

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l. To serve as an ex-officio member of the Championship Tournament Committee.

Comment: These roles are specified elsewhere in the documents.

k. To serve on the Topic Sub-Committee of the Championship Tournament Committee.

l. To prepare and present bi-annual reports to the membership on the state of the organization at each Business Meeting.

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m. To maintain records appropriate to her or his activities and to

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submit those to her or his successor at the close of her or his term.

3. The Vice President's duties are:

- a. To conduct elections for officers of the Association, for amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws, and for other issues as directed by the Executive Council;
- b. To chair the Championship Tournament Committee;
- c. To chair the Nomination Committee;
- d. To serve as a voting member of the Executive Council;
- e. To assist as needed in the administration of the annual Championship Tournament;
- f. To assume the office of President at the conclusion of the term of Vice President, or upon vacancy in the office of the President.
- g. To prepare and present bi-annual reports to the membership on the state of the organization at each Business Meeting.
- h. To serve as a member of the Topic Sub-Committee of the National Championship Tournament Committee.
- i. To serve as an ex-officio member of the Site Sub-Committee ~~and the Research and Assessment Sub-Committees~~ of the National Championship Tournament Committee.
- j. To chair the All-American Award committee and collect nominations from District Representatives.
- ~~k. To maintain records appropriate to her or his activities and to submit those to her or his successor at the close of her or his term.~~

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4. The Executive Secretary's duties are:

- a. To oversee tournament sanctioning and sweepstakes competition as specified in By-Laws II and V and to maintain official records of the current standings of schools in National Parliamentary Debate Association sweepstakes competition and periodically to communicate this information to the membership of the Association.
- b. To record and disseminate to the membership the minutes of the Business Meetings and proposed amendments and ballots as outlined in Article IX of the Constitution.
- c. To serve as a voting member of the Executive Council;
- d. To maintain an updated version of the Constitution and By-Laws and to disseminate these to the membership periodically.
- e. To serve on the Publications Committee.
- f. To create and maintain the NPDA tournament calendar.

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- g. To assist as needed in the administration of the annual National Tournament.
- h. To serve on the Rules and Standards Subcommittee of the Championship Tournament.
- i. To serve as an ex-officio member of the Outreach Committee.
- j. To serve as an ex-officio member of the Research and Assessment Sub-Committee of the National Championship Tournament Committee.
- j. To maintain records appropriate to her or his activities and to submit those to her or his successor at the close of her or his term.

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5. The Treasurer's duties are:

- a. To receive all membership dues and other payments to the Association and to pay all expenses of the Association that are authorized by the Finance Committee and approved by the Executive Council and membership;
- b. To prepare with the assistance of the Finance Committee, an annual budget that is voted on at the spring business meeting.
- c. During the school year, the Treasurer will file monthly cash disbursement reviews with the finance committee chair, enclosing month-end bank statements and itemizing all income and expenses and providing copies of invoices to justify each transaction. At the close of the fiscal year (June 30) the Treasurer will prepare and distribute to the membership an accounting of the financial state of the Association and will assemble the cash disbursement reports into a year-end cash disbursement report to be available to the Finance Committee and the officers – and brought to the NCA business meeting for inspection by members.
- d. To accept membership applications to the Association;
- e. To serve as a member of the Championship Tournament Site Committee;
- f. To serve as an ex-officio member of the Finance Committee;
- g. To serve as a voting member of the Executive Council;
- h. To file needed tax documents on behalf of the Association and maintain related records;
- i. To assist as needed in the administration of the annual Championship Tournament.
- j. To maintain an up-to-date, accurate mailing list for all schools that are members of the National Parliamentary Debate Association;

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k. To prepare and give a report on National Parliamentary Debate Association Membership to each Business Meeting of the Association;

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l. To oversee and provide for a visual recording of the final round of the National Championship Tournament.

m. To serve as an ex-officio member of the Professional Development Committee and its sub-committees.

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n. To maintain records appropriate to her or his activities and to submit those to her or his successor at the close of her or his term.

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6. The National Student Representative's duties are:
- a. To interface with NPDA students and to bring their concerns to the attention of the officers of the organization;
 - b. To represent NPDA at annual meetings of other parliamentary debate organizations (national and international) that are solely student run. If unable to attend, the National Student Representative can designate another student to serve in his/her place;
 - c. To prepare and give a report concerning his or her area of responsibility to each Business Meeting of the Association, and to serve on such committees to which he or she shall be elected or appointed;
 - 1) Funding for the student representative's travel to such meetings will normally be in conjunction with the student's travel to compete in the championship competitions held at the same time. Such costs will normally be covered by the institution that the student attends.
 - 2) The National Student Representative may submit a budget request to have a substantial amount of their expenses paid to attend the Business Meeting held in conjunction with the National Communication Association convention.
 - d. To serve as a voting member of the Executive Council except as provided elsewhere in the Constitution or By-Laws.

Article V: Official Appointments

Section A: Appointment: The president shall appoint the following officers to serve as advisors to the Executive Council: The Webmaster, Editor of Parliamentary Debate, Parliamentarian, the Sexual Harassment Officer and National Championship Tournament Director. These officers shall report as needed to the Executive Council and the body, and shall serve at the pleasure of the President.

Section B: Duties

1. The Journal Editor's duties are:
 - a. To select an editorial staff in consultation with the Executive Council;
 - b. To be responsible for all aspects of preparation and printing of the journal, including adherence to a timely publication schedule;
 - c. To provide a budget proposal to the Finance Committee for approval at least three months prior to expenditure. The NPDA is responsible for all the costs of journal publication;
 - d. To coordinate, in conjunction with the Webmaster, the posting of the NPDA Journal online;
 - e. To serve as an advisor to the Executive Council;
 - ~~f. To be the program planner for NPDA at the National Communication Association convention;~~
 - ~~g. To encourage the associate editorial staff to be program planners for the various regional conventions;~~
 - f. To receive and publish results of the assessment survey administered by the Research and Assessment sub-committee of the National Championship Tournament.
 - g. To serve as a member of the publications committee.
 - h. To solicit papers, especially those presented and evaluated at NPDA sponsored regional panels, for submission to the journal.
 - i. To serve for a three-year renewable term.

2. The Webmaster's duties are:
 - a. To create and maintain the NPDA website;
 - b. To select appropriate staff in consultation with the Executive Council and/or to consult with IDEA and other forensics organizations in order to coordinate and improve the quality of the webpage;
 - c. To report year-long honor awards tabulation in coordination with the Executive Secretary;
 - d. To archive records for year-long tournament sweepstakes for a six-year period;
 - e. To maintain the on-line history and long-term archives of the organization;
 - f. To serve on the publications committee.
 - ~~g. To provide a budget proposal to the Finance Committee for approval at least three months prior to the expenditure. The NPDA is responsible for all the costs of website and records maintenance;~~

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- ~~h.~~ To serve as an advisor to the Executive Council;
- ~~i.~~ To assist the Executive Secretary with the publication and maintenance of the NPDA Tournament Calendar;
- j. To serve a three year renewable term.

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3. The Parliamentarian's duties are:
- a. To serve as an advisor to the executive council
 - b. To provide interpretations of the bylaws, constitution, rules of order as needed. The president, however, shall have the ultimate power to rule on matters of procedure as they should arise.
 - c. To chair the Rules and Standards Sub-Committee of the National Championship Tournament Committee.

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Comment: Proposed deletion with changes to the Sexual Harassment Policy.

4. The Sexual Harassment Officer's duties are:
- ~~a.~~ ~~To chair the Committee on Discrimination and Sexual Harassment.~~
 - a. To be known and available to consult with complainants and accused as outlined in the sexual harassment policy;
 - b. To serve as a resource to coaches and students on issues of discrimination and harassment;
 - c. To serve on the Professional Development Committee.
 - d. To serve on the National Tournament Committee Rules Sub-Committee;
 - e. To oversee the implementation of By-Law IX--Sexual Harassment Policy;
 - f. In the event of a validated complaint, work with the NPDA President to determine appropriate action as outlined in By-Law IX--Sexual Harassment Policy.

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5. The National Championship Tournament Director's Duties
- a. To oversee all aspects of the National Championship Tournament.
 - b. To administer the National Championship Tournament according to the NPDA By-Laws and Tournament Operating Procedures.
 - c. To prepare with the assistance of the treasurer and site committee a budget for the next year's National Championship Tournament and submit it in a timely fashion for inclusion in the next fiscal year's budget.
 - d. To prepare and distribute the invitation to the National Championship Tournament as directed in the tournament operating procedures.
 - e. To make requests to the National Championship Tournament Committee via the Rules and Standards Sub-

	Committee for deviations from the printed rules for administering the championship tournament.	Deleted: and affirming the decision as stated in A.1 of the Tournament Operating Procedures
f.	To chair the Tournament Administration Sub-Committee.	Deleted: g
g.	To appoint tabulation and topic committee members not specified in the Constitution and By-Laws and provide said members with the material and information necessary to conduct the National Championship Tournament.	Deleted: h
h.	To consult with and seek guidance from the Rules and Standards Sub-Committee regarding tournament rules as needed.	Deleted: i
i.	To consult with the Research and Assessment Sub-Committee to approve and authorize research activity at the National Championship Tournament.	Deleted: j
j.	To certify the eligibility of all competitors.	Deleted: k
k.	To identify novice competitors and track their performance at the tournament while protecting the confidentiality of competitor status throughout the tournament.	Deleted: l
l.	To provide for judge training, to do judge assignment, to present judges with rules and to certify that they have read and agreed to the rules.	Deleted: m
m.	To implement sanctions as determined by the NPDA President and SHO in verified cases of harassment.	Deleted: n
n.	To assess fees and fines.	Deleted: o

Article VI: District and At-Large Representation

Section A: District Representative duties are:

1. To communicate district/national information to subscribers
2. To provide to the Treasurer mailing lists of active programs in the district;
3. To hold at least one district or interest group meeting each year at an appropriate tournament to discuss upcoming items of business and district concerns and to report to and advise the Executive Council at or before the National Championship Tournament on issues related to their districts and special interests.
4. To review district membership indicating two-year and four-year schools;
5. To solicit and send resolutions to the Tournament Director for use at the Championship Tournament;
6. To recruit judges for the NPDA Championship Tournament;
7. To assist as needed in collection of tournament information for season long awards.

Section B: Two-Year College Representative duties are:

1. To identify community college programs;
2. To coordinate and strengthen NPDA ties with community college participants;
3. To hold at least one district or interest group meeting each year at an appropriate tournament to discuss upcoming items of business and district concerns and to report to and advise the Executive Council at or before the National Championship Tournament on issues related to their districts and special interests.

Section C: District Student Representative duties are:

1. To communicate district/national information to subscribers
2. To provide to the Treasurer mailing lists of active student programs in the district;
3. To hold at least one district or interest group meeting each year at an appropriate tournament to discuss upcoming items of business and district concerns and to report to and advise the Executive Council at or before the National Championship Tournament on issues related to their districts and special interests.
4. To review district membership indicating two-year and four-year schools;
5. To solicit and send resolutions to the Tournament Director for use at the Championship Tournament;
6. To recruit judges for the NPDA Championship Tournament;
7. To assist as needed in collection of tournament information for season long awards.

Section D: Any elected district representative can be removed for mis, mal- or non-feasance by petition of 2/3 of the membership of the organization or by a 2/3 vote of members present at any business meeting.

Article VII: Standing Committees

Section A: Committee Appointment and Oversight

1. The NPDA President will issue calls for and appoint members to the standing committees and sub-committees as specified in the constitution unless otherwise indicated in the governance documents of the NPDA.
2. Members of the Executive Council as specified by their job descriptions or by request of the NPDA President will serve ex-officio and enable the actions of each standing committee and respective sub-committees.
3. Members of the Executive Council are responsible as ex-officio members of standing committees for soliciting proposals for presentation to the finance committee in a timely fashion, forwarding committee requests and reports to the Executive Council and notifying the president of vacancies on the committees.
4. Voting members of the Executive Council shall not hold membership in a standing committee except as otherwise noted in the constitution or by-laws. If an appointed member of a standing committee is elected to the Executive Council, the member will vacate their appointment and the NPDA President will appoint a new member to complete their term on the committee.
5. In cases of non-action by a committee or for appeals of a committee decision, members may submit in writing to the Executive Council a request for review and/or full appeal of committee decisions. The Executive Council may act on the review/appeal or take the appeal to the full body of the organization as a regular item of business.

~~Section B: Discrimination and Sexual Harassment Committee~~

~~1. The duties of the Committee on Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (CDSH) include:~~

~~a. To facilitate and review an educational program annually, informing members of the NPDA debate community about the definitions and interpretations of discrimination and sexual harassment and about procedures for initiating complaints.~~

Comment: This will be delete with the revision of the Sexual Harassment Policy.

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~~b. To review discrimination and sexual harassment complaints that arise during the academic year as well as the Championship Tournament;~~

~~c. To serve as a resource to coaches and students who wish to conduct intrasquad harassment education;~~

~~2. Discrimination and Sexual Harassment Committee Membership:~~

~~a. The President of the NPDA will appoint a Sexual Harassment Officer (SHO), who will chair the Committee on Discrimination and Sexual Harassment.~~

~~b. The CDSH will consist of no fewer than five representatives of active NPDA schools including at least two students.~~

~~c. The CDSH will be provided with adequate and appropriate training about what constitutes harassment and the policy implementation.~~

~~d. The names of the SHO and CDSH members shall be widely published.~~

~~e. The SHO and CDSH shall be available to consult with complainants and accused as outlined in the Sexual Harassment Policy.~~

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Section **B**: Finance Committee Membership:

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1. The duties of the finance committee are
 - a. To assist the treasurer in preparing an annual budget
 - b. To provide fiscal oversight
 - c. To provide input for specific requests made throughout the academic year
 - d. To offer guidelines for creation, implementation and accountability of committee and operational budgets.
2. Finance Committee Membership:
 - a. The Treasurer shall be an ex-officio member of the Finance Committee.
 - b. Other members of the Finance Committee shall be appointed by the president for staggered three-year terms.

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Section **C**: Nomination Committee

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1. The duties of the Nomination Committee shall include:
 - a. To solicit from the membership, potential nominees for all soon to be vacated Association offices;

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- b. To present nominations for offices of the Association at the first Business Meeting of the academic year, at which time additional nominations for any office may be submitted by any member present at the meeting;
 - c. To perform other duties related to elections as may be assigned by the President.
2. Nomination Committee Membership:
- a. The Vice President shall chair the Nomination Committee.
 - b. In addition to any other members the President shall appoint, the three immediate past presidents of the Association shall serve on the Nomination Committee.
3. The Nomination Committee shall not nominate any of its members for any office.

Section **D**, Publications Committee

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1. The duties of the Publications Committee shall include:
- a. To recommend to the President and the Executive Council, a person to be the Editor of *Parliamentary Debate* for a three-year renewable term;
 - b. To recommend to the President and the Executive Council, a person to be the Webmaster for a three-year renewable term;
 - c. To establish publication standards for the NPDA journal and web publications.
 - d. To perform other duties related to research and publications as may be assigned by the President.
 - e. To recommend a replacement for the Journal Editor or the Webmaster should the Journal Editor or the Webmaster fail to or be unable to complete their duties. The replacement will fulfill the remainder of the term.
 - f. To designate one member to serve on the Research and Assessment Subcommittee of the Championship Tournament Committee.

2. Publications Committee membership:
 - a. A chair shall be elected by the committee.
 - b. Two at-large members of the Publications Committee shall be appointed by the President.
 - c. The Executive Secretary, Webmaster and Journal Editor shall serve as members of the Publications Committee.
 - ~~d. The Publications Committee shall be announced at the annual NCA meeting.~~

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Section **E**, Championship Tournament Committee

The Championship Tournament Committee shall annually oversee and administer the Championship Tournament. The committee consists of the Vice President of the NPDA, who shall chair the committee, the President of the NPDA, who shall serve as an ex-officio member of the committee, and the chairs of the Tournament Administration Subcommittee, the Rules and Standards Subcommittee, the [Host](#), and [Site Sub](#) Committee, and the Research and Assessment Subcommittee.

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1. The duties of the Championship Tournament Committee shall include:
 - a. To meet at least twice annually, prior to the NCA Business Meeting and before the Championship Tournament;
 - b. To report annually on the NPDA Championship Tournament to the NPDA including motions to alter policy and/or procedures;
 - c. To approve, by means of subcommittee, requests by the Tournament Director, to deviate from the printed rules for administering the Championship Tournament;
 - d. To approve and select the site for future hosts of the Championship Tournament;
 - e. To oversee the following four subcommittees of tournament management:
2. Tournament Administration Subcommittee
 - a. The duties of the Tournament Administration Subcommittee shall include:
 - 1) To conduct the necessary preparation, data entry, data tabulation and results for the Championship Tournament;

- 2) To procure necessary supplies, produce the tournament invitation, train staff, hire and train judges (as necessary), and arrange special accommodation (as necessary);
- 3) To enter data, confirm entries and the gathering of additional necessary data, compile and distributing judging philosophies, administer entry limitations (as appropriate), and to coordinate with the Host and Treasurer to ensure all additional tournament details (such as meals);
- 4) To enforce NPDA rules and procedures (such as the rules of tournament participation, rules of debating and judging and other procedures for tournament function), oversee and manage the judging pool (including, but not limited to, qualification and selection of guest judges, production and administration of strike/preference sheets, and number of judges per round), compile and determine tournament sweepstakes, oversee the production and selection of topics, oversee entry and administration of tournament procedures;
- 5) To publish all tournament results. This includes the results of all preliminary round debates, a rank order listing of all teams participating in the National Tournament, a listing of speakers in order, top novice teams at the tournament, the top novice speakers at the tournament, elimination round results of the tournament and a rank order listing of tournament and season long sweepstakes results.

b. Tournament Administration Subcommittee
Membership:

- 1) The Tournament Director, who shall be appointed by the President of the NPDA, shall serve as chair of the Tournament Administration Subcommittee.
- 2) Two teams for tabulation, as appointed by the Tournament Director.

- 3) The current Championship Tournament Host and the next year's Tournament Host (as an ex-officio member of the committee).
- 4) Additional staff, as needed, appointed by the Tournament Director. These staff may perform duties including, but not limited to ballot checking and preparation of packets.

3. Rules and Standards Sub-Committee

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a. Duties

1. This committee will be charged to review, interpret and enforce the rules of the National Tournament.
2. To advise in the application of governing documents to day-to-day practices of the organization.
3. To serve as an avenue of appeal as stated elsewhere in the governing documents of the organization.
4. To review and comment on the impact of legislative proposals on existing governance documents and procedures.
5. To review discrimination and sexual harassment complaints that arise during the Championship Tournament or from actions taken by official or employees of NPDA in their official capacities.

- b. Membership of this committee shall include the Parliamentarian, the Executive Secretary, Sexual Harassment Officer and three members to be appointed by the President. The treasurer will serve as an ex-officio member of this committee. The parliamentarian will serve as chair.

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4. Host and Site Development Subcommittee

- a. The duties of the Host and Site Development Subcommittee shall include:

- 1) To identify, standardize, and administer application process for site bids;
- 2) To inform member schools of hosting opportunities;
- 3) To encourage bid applications from schools and seek out ways to make hosting more feasible;

- 4) To receive and research site bids applications; select sites to be visited by members of the site committee;
- 5) To recommend Championship Tournament sites to the Championship Tournament Committee;
- 6) To develop the site to meet the needs for the Association and the Championship Tournament in conjunction with the Championship Tournament Committee;
- 7) To recommend to the Championship Tournament Committee the dates of the Championship Tournament.
- 8) To locate a vendor and purchase trophies for the Championship Tournament;
- 9) To perform other duties related to the Championship Tournament sites as may be assigned by the Vice-President.

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b. Membership of the Host and Site Development Subcommittee shall include;

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- 1) The Treasurer of the NPDA;
- 2) Two previous Championship Tournament hosts, appointed by the Vice-President;
- 3) Four other members, appointed by the Vice-President, who should represent geographical diversity whenever possible;
- 4) The Vice-President will serve as an ex-officio member of this committee.

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5. Topic Selection Subcommittee

- a. The duties of the Topic Selection Subcommittee shall include:
- 1) To solicit proposed topics from the district representatives;
 - 2) To develop and publish guidelines used in selecting topics;
 - a) As overarching goals, topics should guarantee fair ground, be representative of topics (both in subject and composition) employed across the country during the year and preserve an even mixture of “loose” and “hard” linked topics.

- b) The subject matter of resolutions should be of a philosophical, international, domestic, or controversial nature.
- c) Resolution wording should allow for diversity and innovation.
- d) The resolutions should be ordered for balance (i.e., policy round follows policy round, metaphor follows metaphor).

~~3) To determine the topics to be used at the Championship Tournament from a list submitted by the District Representatives;~~

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~~3) To forego coaching their team during the tournament regarding case areas and arguments during the NPDA Championship Tournament;~~

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~~4) To maintain confidentiality.~~

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b. Topic Selection Committee Membership: In addition to others the Tournament Director may appoint, the NPDA President and the NPDA Vice President shall serve on the Topic Selection Committee, The Vice-President shall chair the committee.

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6. Research and Assessment Subcommittee

a. The duties of the Research and Assessment Subcommittee shall include:

- 1) To oversee the collection of data at the Championship Tournament including:
 - a) To encourage the development of research activity;
 - b) To receive and evaluate requests to conduct research at the National Tournament;
 - c) To work with the Tournament Host (or designee) to ensure that research proposals are consistent with standards established by the host school's human subjects committee;

~~d) To rank order proposals based on their scholarly merit;~~

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~~d) To approve (with consultation of the Tournament Director) and authorize~~

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research activity at the Championship Tournament.

- 2) To oversee the assessment of the National Parliamentary Debate Association and the Championship Tournament;
 - a) To appoint an individual(s) to construct and administer an assessment survey for both the National Parliamentary Debate Association and the National Tournament;
 - b) The results of the assessment would be published annually in the NPDA *Journal*
- 3) To collect and deliver final round judge decisions and ballots to the Journal Editor.

b. The membership of the Research and Assessment Subcommittee shall include;

- 1) The tournament host (or designee), a member of the Professional Development Committee and a member of the Publications Committee. The Executive Secretary will serve as an ex-officio member of the committee.
- 2) The Committee will elect a chair.

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Section E, Professional Development Committee.

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1. Duties

- a. The promotion of quality forensics pedagogy among NPDA members by developing initiatives to advance scholarly growth and teaching effectiveness.
- b. To mentor new and returning coaches.
- c. To aid in developing materials to assist in the tenure and promotion of forensics professionals.
- d. To promote and endorse ethical conduct among members of the debate community.
- e. To facilitate education about the organization's sexual harassment policies and procedures.
- f. To designate one member to serve on the Research and Assessment Sub-Committee of the Championship Tournament Committee.

2. Membership of this committee shall include the Executive Secretary as an ex-officio member of the committee, the Sexual Harassment Officer, and three members to be appointed by the President. The committee shall elect a chair.

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Section G, Outreach Committee

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1. Duties:
 - a. The committee is to promote and coordinate outreach on behalf of the NPDA and its member organization.
 - b. The committee will accept, review, approve and propose budgets to the finance committee for outreach projects.
 - c. The committee will offer to the membership published procedures and guidelines for appropriate projects and funding prior to or at the business meeting of the National Championship Tournament each year.

2. Membership: The committee will include the Executive Secretary as an ex-officio member and three members to be appointed by the President. One member will be elected Chair. The committee members, including the Chair, will be appointed by the NPDA President to serve 2 year, renewable terms on the committee.

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Comment: There is no term specified in any other committees. Funding clause below is redundant.

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3. Funding for projects will be set aside on an annual basis at an amount determined at the spring business meeting.

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Article VIII: Business Meetings of the Association

Section A: The Business Meetings of the National Parliamentary Debate Association constitute the governing body of the National Parliamentary Debate Association at the times they are meeting, and are the only bodies that can institute changes in the Constitution or its By-Laws. Between Business Meetings, actions of the Executive Council will have the force of By-Laws. These decisions must be reported to the next Business Meeting and are automatically placed on the agenda pursuant to Article VIII, Section B.

Section B: Business Meetings shall be held annually at the National Championship Tournament (spring meeting) and in conjunction with the National Communication Association Convention (fall meeting) at any other time and place agreed to by the Executive Council. At least sixty days notice will be given before the meeting.

Section C: Each member institution may be represented by one voting representative at a Business Meeting. No member institution represented at a Business Meeting may vote more than 10 proxies in addition to the member's own vote. At least 5% of member institutions must be personally represented (proxies do not suffice for this purpose) for the meeting to conduct any business other than hearing reports and discussing them. [Proxy votes may only be cast for proposals published in the NPDA Business Meeting Agenda](#).

Comment: This is moved up from the following paragraph. It applies to all proxies not just to student votes.

The National Student Representative and District Student Representatives will each be given a vote at the fall and spring NPDA business meetings. If the District Student Representatives are unable to attend either the fall or spring business meeting, the National Student Representative may deliver the respective vote by proxy.

Deleted: Proxy votes may only be cast for proposals published in the NPDA Business Meeting Agenda.

Section D: If sufficiently attended, as defined in the preceding section, a Business Meeting may adopt new By-Laws or change existing ones by a majority vote of schools present (personally or by proxy). The Business Meeting may propose constitutional changes by a two-thirds vote of the schools represented (personally or by proxy).

Section E: The presiding officer of a Business Meeting will be entitled to vote as the representative of his or her institution.

Section F: Any vote that results in a tie will be considered to have failed.

Section G: The agenda for business meetings shall be divided into four sections: Reports, Action Items (Action Agenda), Discussion Items (Discussion Agenda) and Consent Items (Consent Agenda).

1. Reports by officers or committees shall be posted online 10 days before each business meeting in fulfillment of the constitutional responsibilities of the officer and for the purpose of addressing issues of concern to the organization. Reports shall not be used to present legislation and shall not be subject to debate. Reports may be reviewed as necessary at the business meeting, and should not exceed five minutes each in such circumstances, but may be extended as necessary at the discretion of the Presiding Officer (the President or his/her designee in the absence of the President).
2. Business appearing on the agenda for the first time shall be listed as a Discussion Item. The Presiding Officer shall set a time limit for discussion of each item based on the size of the

agenda and the amount of time made available for the meeting. After discussion has ended, the item will automatically become an Action Item at the next meeting of the organization. The body may elect to immediately move a Discussion Item to an Action Item at the same business meeting if a motion is made to that effect, seconded and supported by 2/3 of the members present at the meeting (excluding proxies).

3. Action Items are placed on the Action Agenda for their final reading and possible vote. Items advanced from a Discussion to an Action Item at the same meeting are not subject to a second period of debate. Items appearing as on the Action Agenda at a meeting subsequent to their original period of discussion are again subject to debate if so desired by the body. The intent of this section is that the primary debate on an issue shall take place at one meeting, followed by further time for contemplation and, if necessary, further debate and a final vote at a later date.
4. Consent Items are those items which the Presiding Officer believes to be non-controversial (such as wording changes for consistency or minor Bylaw alterations). The Presiding Officer may entertain a motion to pass one or all of the items on the Consent Agenda without objection. If any member of the body objects, the item automatically moves to the Discussion Agenda.

5. The President, in consultation with the Executive Council, shall set the agenda for the business meeting based on submissions from the membership or committees. He or she shall have the power to limit the number of items on the agenda at any given meeting, based on the amount of business that may be realistically completed and the order of importance legislation may have to the timely and efficient running of the organization.

Deleted: 5. . Effective Date: This process shall become effective at the November 2006 (NCA) Business Meeting of the Association.¶

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Section H: Business Meetings of the Association shall use the latest edition of Roberts Rules of Order, Revised to rule on all matters of parliamentary procedure not addressed by the Bylaws or Constitution. When in contradiction, the rules of the association shall trump Robert's Rules.

Article IX: Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws

- Section A: Amendments to the Constitution
1. An amendment to the Constitution may be initiated by any member school.
 2. Amendments to the Constitution must be submitted to the Executive Secretary thirty days prior to a Business Meeting to be considered at that meeting. The Executive Secretary will communicate proposed amendments to the membership no later than fifteen days prior to the Business Meeting.
 3. A two-thirds vote of the schools represented at the Business Meeting will be necessary for a proposed constitutional amendment to be sent to the membership.
 4. Within ten days following the Business Meeting, the Executive Secretary will distribute by mail a ballot containing all proposed constitutional amendments. Balloting on these will cease at midnight thirty days after the date of the Business Meeting.
 5. A two-thirds vote of the schools voting by mail on the proposed amendment will be necessary for its enactment.
- Section B: Amendments to the By-Laws
1. An amendment to the By-Laws may be initiated by any member school.
 2. Amendments to the By-Laws must be submitted to the Executive Secretary no later than thirty days prior to a Business Meeting to be considered at that meeting. The Executive Secretary will communicate proposed amendments to the membership no later than fifteen days prior to the Business Meeting.
 3. A majority of the schools represented and voting at the Business Meeting will be necessary for enactment of the amendments to the By-Laws.
- Section C: Further Amendment Procedures for the Constitution and By-Laws
1. An amendment may be proposed by two-thirds of the Executive Council or by a petition of five percent of the current National Parliamentary Debate Association membership to the Executive Secretary and the President.
 2. The proposed amendment shall be distributed to the membership. Members shall have forty-five days to send comments on the proposed amendment to the Executive Secretary.
 3. Within sixty-five days of the publication of the proposed amendment, the Executive Secretary shall mail a ballot to the membership containing a copy of the proposed amendment, along with a statement of the arguments for and against the amendment. The author of the amendment shall have the opportunity to include a statement of the reasons for the amendment. The President may

designate an individual to outline potential objections to the amendment. Both of these individuals shall have access to the comments received by the Executive Secretary. Ballots shall be due no later than three weeks after the mailing.

4. A three-fourths vote of all members voting will be required to enact an amendment initiated under this section.
5. A majority of the Executive Council may vote to exclude the time from June 1 to September 1 from the time period specified in items 2, and 3, of Section C.

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Article X: Management of Assets

Section A: The National Parliamentary Debate Association is organized exclusively for educational purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

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Section B: No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, officers or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in the furtherance of the purposes set forth in the purpose clause hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this document, the organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)2 of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Section C: Upon the dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such asset not disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the

organization is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

Addenda 10- NPDA Bylaws Editorial Changes

Note: Consent items in blue and strikethrough; Highlighted items go to the membership as discussion/action items.

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.

III. **Season Sweepstakes Awards:**

- A. The National Parliamentary Debate Association will confer sweepstakes awards on outstanding schools that participate in sanctioned tournaments during the season.
- B. Points will be accumulated for sweepstakes according to the following formula:
 1. One point for each debate win (including a win for a bye and a win by forfeit) by a team in the final four preliminary rounds of a National Parliamentary Debate Association sanctioned tournament and two points for a win by a team for the first two elimination rounds.
 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

Deleted: Important note of clarification: What had previously been Bylaws IX, XI and XII dealing with the Championship Tournament have been severed from this document and are now in new documents:¶
<#> . Rules for Debating at the NPDA National Tournament (available in HTML, PDF form on the website) – This document previously was available as a separate document.¶
<#> . Guidelines for the NPDA National Tournament (available in PDF form on the website)¶
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- 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.

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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. In accord with A, unless hosted by a national or regional organization, the host of an NPDA sanctioned tournament must be a regular or affiliate 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 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. Unless exceptions are clearly noted in the tournament invitation, sanctioned tournaments must follow the NPDA “Rules of Debating and Judging” in By-Law XII.

E. The tournament must be attended by at least six teams from a minimum of three NPDA member schools.

F. ~~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~~

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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.

G. If the Executive Secretary (or other person designated to count sweepstakes points) fails to receive tournament results during the time period mentioned in item E 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.

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H. 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.

I. If a tournament fails to submit results in a timely basis for three consecutive years, then the tournament shall no longer be sanctioned.

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J. The sanctioning penalties in points, G, H and I above may be lifted if a new program director is in place and an appeal is made.

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

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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:

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1. 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.

2. Possession of one of the aforementioned degrees precludes further competition for those respective honors at the national tournament.

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3. "Good standing" and definition of degree pursuit are defined by the institution the student is representing.

4. 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.

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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. In other words, a student competing in no more than one or two tournaments during a semester retains eligibility for that semester, provided that he or she does not attend a national tournament during the course of that year. Once a national tournament is attended, that year is “used” regardless of the total number of tournaments in which the student has competed that year.
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

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he or she has competed. Thus, if a student does not compete in the fall or attends only a limited number of tournaments, he or she has still used a tournament year of eligibility if he or she attends any national tournament in the spring.

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- 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.

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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.

[The following section VII has been replaced by executive order with a new section VII which follows the deletion. The new policy is subject to ratification in November 2006 at the San Antonio NCA Meeting.]

~~VII.—Sexual Harassment Policy:~~

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~~A.—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 members should have access to debate activities without regard to race, creed, age, sex, national origin, sexual or affectional preference, or non-disqualifying handicap. These principles should guide the behavior and conduct of all members and participants of the organization. While the policy at hand is 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 that 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.

~~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 sexual harassment. Any participant who suffers discrimination or harassment as part of the activity is denied the guarantee of an equal opportunity to work, learn, and grow in the arena of academic debate and may be harmed in mind, body, and performance.

~~2.—Sexual Harassment~~

Sexual harassment is a form of discrimination and consists of verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, imposed on the basis of sex, 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 woman” (or man, as the case may be) 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. — False Accusations

Deliberate false accusations will not be tolerated.

B. — Options in dealing with harassment

1. — General principles in all situations

a. — Keep a written record of the event, the persons involved, witnesses, and attempts at resolution. Keep this record private or between persons directly involved in the resolution.

b. — Do not take the matter to the general public through listservs or general discussion until the matter has been dealt with through formal or informal intervention.

2. — Informal Intervention: Direct, private resolution

a. — If the harassed believes it is possible to resolve the situation one-on-one, participants are encouraged to do so. This approach may clarify situations in which there are misperceptions and can serve to educate and prevent rather than penalize.

1) — Indicate to the “harasser” that the comment or activity is unwanted and ask that it not be repeated. If the “problem” ceases, consider the incident resolved.

2) — Write a letter or note to the harasser clearly describing behaviors or statements that are seen as harassing or discriminatory. Indicate what actions need to stop and why. Keep a copy. If the “problem” ceases, consider the matter resolved.

b. — If one-on-one resolution is not possible or feasible, consider the involvement of one other person to serve as a mediator:

1) — If the event occurs during a debate, raise a point of personal privilege and ask the judge to rule on the issue.

2) — Ask another person (a coach, a friend, a trusted colleague, the judge in the round) to accompany you to talk with the person and to help mediate a conflict

resolution session. Talk through differences in perception and ideology.

3. Formal Intervention

a. In the event that informal intervention is not feasible, the following procedures should be followed.

b. Structure and membership of the formal intervention system

1) The President of the National Parliamentary Debate Association will appoint a Sexual Harassment Officer (SHO), who will chair the Committee on Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (CDSH). The CDSH will consist of no fewer than five representatives of active NPDA schools including at least two students. The CDSH will be provided with adequate and appropriate training about what constitutes harassment, the policy and implementation of said policy.

2) The CDSH shall facilitate and review an educational program annually, informing members of the NPDA debate community about the definitions and interpretations of discrimination and sexual harassment and about procedures for initiating complaints. The CDSH shall also serve as a resource to coaches and students who wish to conduct intrasquad harassment education.

c. Procedures in Cases of Discrimination or Sexual Harassment

1) Complaints may be brought by any member of the NPDA community. Complaints will not be pursued when more than one year has elapsed following the alleged incident.

2) At any point during the proceedings, any of the parties involved may choose to be accompanied by an adviser or a member of the CDSH. All parties are free to consult with an attorney, if they choose to do so, but the investigation and hearing procedure is not a legal proceeding and attorneys may not be present or participate.

3) At all times throughout the procedures outlined below, confidentiality will be preserved carefully whenever appropriate.

- 4) All written records pertaining to the case shall be kept permanently in a confidential file held by the NPDA President and not released unless required by law.
- 5) Procedures
 - a. The complainant submits a detailed complaint, in writing, to the SHO.
 - b. Once the complaint has been filed and accepted by the SHO, the complainant shall be considered solely as a witness in an investigation by the CDSH.
 - c. As expeditiously as possible, the SHO and CDSH (or appropriate replacements) will investigate, meet with all parties involved, and ensure that the accused has an opportunity to see and respond to all statements made against him or her.
- 6) If the CDSH finds that no discrimination or harassment has taken place, the matter will stop at this point and the immediate parties shall receive notification that the case will go no further. Copies of this report and other relevant information will be kept on file permanently in the office of the NPDA President.
- 7) If the CDSH is convinced that discrimination or harassment has occurred, it will prepare a complete report including its findings, the statements of the accused party as well as the other witnesses, and its conclusions about the nature and seriousness of the event that has taken place.
- 8) This report shall be submitted to the President, who shall review the evidence and, if necessary, request additional information.
- 9) In consultation with the CDSH, the President shall determine an appropriate sanction. Depending on the severity of the event, this sanction may include any of the following (this should not be viewed as an exhaustive listing of all possible sanctions, just the most likely): 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 NPDA Championship Tournament (either competing or judging); removal of NPDA points; or suspension of membership in NPDA.

d. Appeals Procedures

- 1) If the individual(s) found guilty of discrimination or harassment wishes to appeal the President's decision, he/she or they may request that a hearing be held to review the decision. Ordinarily, such an appeal will be possible only if the individual(s) involved can present new evidence not previously considered or evidence of procedural violations during the formal procedures.
- 2) The Appeals Board will consist of those members of the Executive Council, not previously involved in the formal hearing and not having conflicts of interest. Replacements may need to be appointed by the President to produce a board of at least five members.
- 3) The Appeals Board shall review the written evidence in the case, consider new evidence provided to them, interview witnesses as they deem necessary, and shall consider the proposed disciplinary action in relation to the evidence provided.
- 4) The findings and recommendations from the Appeals Board are considered final.
- 5) All reports are to be filed permanently with the Executive Secretary.

e. Protection of Participant's Rights

- 1) Attempts at retaliation, slander, or abuse on the part of any party during or after resolution will be subject to the most strenuous penalties of the policy.
- 2) During intervention proceedings or resolution, participants may negotiate with the President of NPDA (and through him/her with tournament directors), limited or no contact agreements. The organization recognizes that there are certain limitations to these agreements, given the nature of the typical tournament setting. Nonetheless, until resolution is achieved, attempts to preserve no contact agreements should be made.

3) All participants will be asked to keep the proceedings confidential during intervention and after resolution.

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," *N.A.S.P.A. Journal*, 1994.

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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 Rules and Standards Tournament Sub-Committee.
- 4) The SHO and/or Rules and Standards Tournament Sub-Committee promptly investigates all allegations of discrimination and/or harassment in as confidential a manner as possible.

5) In consultation with the SHO, 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.

5) 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.

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 forensics 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 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 transcript 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.

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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.

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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 Award Selection Committee.

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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.

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