

December 20, 2020

Dear NPDA Colleagues:

On behalf of President David Worth, the Executive Council, our host, McKendree University, and the National Parliamentary Debate Association, I am pleased to invite you to the 24<sup>th</sup> annual NPDA National Championship Tournament on Wednesday, March 11 through Saturday, March 14, 2020 at McKendree University in Lebanon, IL. We anticipate a fine weekend of education and competition, culminating with the awarding of the 2020 National Championship.

Please note the following deadlines for entry and ensure that all materials **arrive** in the proper location **on time**. **All forms must be electronically submitted following the enclosed instructions. Faxes will not be accepted.**

- **Monday, February 17, (6 p.m. Mountain)**
  - Tournament entry due at <http://www.forensictournament.net> and must include the names of all debaters and critics.
  - Tournament fees must be paid online if by credit card or, if by check, must **arrive** to the NPDA Treasurer's office. Credit card payment is available at [www.parlidebate.org](http://www.parlidebate.org). **No personal checks are accepted.**
  - Student eligibility forms due by e-mail (npdanationals@gmail.com) to the tournament director. The document must include the signature of the Director of Forensics/Debate of the program, the signature of the college/university Registrar, and the seal of the institution.
  - Critic certification forms due by email (npdanationals@gmail.com) to the tournament director.
  - Critic philosophy statements and email addresses due to <http://www.forensictournament.net>. Philosophy statements must meet minimum standards for acceptance (see Critics section of this document). Critics must enter the addresses where they will receive ballots during the tournament.
  - Program Responsibility form due by email (npdanationals@gmail.com) to the tournament director.
  - Title XI training must be completed by all observes, judges, coaches, critics, and other attendees. If you have not completed training, use this link for instructions: <https://www.parlidebate.org/harassment-violence-awareness-prevention-training>
- **Monday, March 2, 2020 (6 p.m. Mountain)**
  - Critic strike page will be emailed to directors. Judging philosophies will be available at [forensictournament.net](http://forensictournament.net).
- **Sunday, March 8, 2020 (6 p.m. Mountain)**
  - Critic strikes and ADA requests are due to the email indicated on the strike sheet. Strikes that are submitted late will not be guaranteed.
- **Wednesday, March 11, 2020 (4 p.m. Mountain)**
  - Schools must register **in person** at McKendree University. Teams failing to register in person will be removed from the tournament.

**Failure to meet any of these deadlines will result in the removal of teams from the National Championship Tournament and the surrender of all registration fees.**

**Note: For all tournament-related communication, please contact me ONLY at [npdanationals@gmail.com](mailto:npdanationals@gmail.com) or 417-655-3556.**

**For payment-related questions, you must contact NPDA Treasurer, Shannon LaBove, at [Npdatreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:Npdatreasurer@gmail.com) or 903-503-2907.**

*Please read this document completely.* I look forward to seeing each of you at the tournament as we celebrate the year and crown the national champion.

For the NPDA,

Adam Testerman  
National Championship Tournament Director

## TOURNAMENT RULES

The Constitution, Bylaws, Tournament Operating Procedures document and the Rules for Debating and Judging of the NPDA will govern the National Championship Tournament and shall take precedence over any errors in this document.

## REGISTRATION FEES

**It is your responsibility to ensure that entries arrive on time.** Uncovered fees are per team and in addition to the team entry fee. In addition to a school fee and a per person lunch fee, the following schedule will be employed:

**ON-TIME FEE SCHEDULE** (received by February 17, 2020)

- TEAM ENTRY – \$125 per team
- UNCOVERED TEAMS – \$175 additional

**LATE FEE SCHEDULE** (entry after February 17, but before March 2<sup>nd</sup>)

- TEAM ENTRY – \$200 per team
- UNCOVERED TEAMS – \$250 additional

**LAST MINUTE FEE SCHEDULE** (entry after March 2)

- TEAM ENTRY (includes uncovered fee) – \$750 per team

**FORM OF PAYMENT**--NPDA will accept a cashier's check, a College/University check, or a credit card payment made out to NPDA. To pay with a credit card, go to [www.parlidebate.org](http://www.parlidebate.org)

**PAYMENT BY University/College or Cashier's CHECK** - NPDA's tax ID number is: **EIN 81 0543496**. Checks should be made payable to **National Parliamentary Debate Association** (not the tournament director) and sent to:

Shannon LaBove, NPDA Treasurer  
Rice University  
MS36  
6100 Main St.  
Houston, TX 77005

***The NPDA does not accept personal checks.***

Unless space limitations prevent a school from entering all the teams for which they have paid, **registration fees are non-refundable**. If more teams apply to compete than the campus can accommodate, the procedure from the NPDA Nationals Tournament Operating Procedure Section B.4 shall be followed.

You must include the Tournament Fee Schedule (included in this document) with your school's check.

**2020 NPDA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT  
TOURNAMENT FEE SCHEDULE**

**If you are paying by check, include this form when mailing payment.**

**School Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Director's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Director's Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Director's Cell #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SCHOOL ENTRY SECTION**

Each College and University entering the National Championship Tournament must be a member school of the NPDA. Membership is \$50.00 per year. Additionally, each school is required to pay a 75.00 fee to support the administrative costs of the tournament.

District/area schools that wish to support the host school program can help by paying the District Fee.

\_\_1\_\_ School Entry Fee at \$75.00.....\$ 75.00\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ Meal Packages at \$20.00 per person (mandatory).....\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ District Fee at \$250.00 (optional, supports local host).....\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ 2019-2020 NPDA membership at \$50.00 .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ 2020-2021 NPDA membership at \$50.00 .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TEAM ENTRY SECTION**

Fees charged for each school depend on the date (1) the entry is posted to forensicstournament.net and (2) arrival date of registration materials.

\_\_\_\_ Each On-Time Debate Team at \$125.00 .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ Each Late Entry Debate Team at \$200.00 .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ Last Minute Debate Teams at \$750.00 (must pay as uncovered).....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**JUDGING SECTION**

Every school **must bring a minimum of one critic.** Beyond this, a school is responsible for bringing a full-time critic for every two teams entered. Teams will only be allowed to buy out of their commitment as the tournament is able to find additional hired critics.

\_\_\_\_ On-Time Uncovered Teams at \$175.00 .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ Late Entry Uncovered Debate Teams at \$250.00 .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL FEES FOR SCHOOL.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**REMINDER – NPDA's tax ID number is: EIN 81 0543496.  
Checks must be a University Check or Cashier's Check and  
made payable to National Parliamentary Debate Association.**

## CRITIC REQUIREMENTS

**Each entering school is required to bring a minimum of one qualified critic.** Two schools with odd numbers of teams may share a full-commitment judge. Judges for the National Championship Tournament are **required** to certify (using the Critic Certification form included in this document) that they will follow the Rules for Debating and Judging, which can be found on the critic certification form. Judges who fail to follow these rules will be removed from the tournament, and their schools will be charged appropriate judging fees, as determined by the Tournament Director.

If your school is bringing extra judges/judges without a full commitment, and you would like to donate that judging to student-run programs or programs with limited support, please contact the tournament director.

All judges must have a computer, smartphone, or other device with which to receive and send ballots. Judges **MUST** include their e-mail address on the critic certification form and must enter it when registering on forensicstournament.net.

**Length of Service** - Unless given special permission from the Tournament Director, **ALL** critics must be available through two rounds past the elimination of their teams. If any teams from a school qualify for the Octafinal round, **all** critics from that school must remain available through the semifinal round.

**Ballot Distribution and Responsibility- The National Championship Tournament will use an e-mail ballot system.** A fee of \$50.00 for each preliminary round and \$100.00 for each elimination round will be imposed against judges who fail to be available to judge all rounds for which they are obligated. Fines must be paid promptly, as determined by the Tournament Director. **Teams from schools who have not paid penalties for their judges failing to pick up assigned and/or pushed ballots will not be allowed to advance to elimination rounds.** Furthermore, until fines are paid the judge's affiliated or hiring school will be suspended from NPDA membership.

## JUDGING PHILOSOPHIES

All critics **must** submit a judging philosophy to <http://www.forensicstournament.net>. These philosophies should substantively represent the critic's understanding of how debate works, and they should be written in plain language. **Critics who submit philosophies past the deadline or whose philosophies are insufficient will not be counted when calculating a school's commitment. The affected school will be charged an uncovered judge fee.** Failure to complete philosophy statements for a judge will result in charging schools for uncovered teams, late fees, and/or disqualification of two teams.

## HIRED CRITICS

According to NPDA tournament operating procedures, the Tournament Director may secure additional hired critics. Any hired critic must be sponsored by a member school participating in the tournament. **If you are bringing qualified critics who wish to be hired, please contact the Tournament Director no later than Feb. 15, 2020.** Qualified judges must submit complete philosophies and proof of Title IX training (either from their sponsoring institution or via NPDA online training) on time and are hired for the first two days of the tournament for a \$150.00 stipend, or \$15.00 per round. If a hired judge is retained for the third day, they will be paid \$15 per round judged.

## TOURNAMENT OPERATION

### PAIRING PROCEDURES

**PRELIMINARY ROUNDS** – The first two rounds will be randomly paired. The third through eighth rounds will be power-matched, high-low within each win-loss bracket. Except for teams receiving a BYE, teams will debate four times on each side, debating the opposite side of the motion in even numbered rounds from the side they debated in the previous odd-numbered round. No judge may render a decision that awards a win to both teams or a loss to both teams. If a judge refuses to render a decision, the tab room

will assign a winner by coin toss. A complete listing of the pairing procedures is available in the NPDA National Championship Tournament Procedures document.

**ELIMINATION ROUNDS** – Following round eight, all teams with five wins will advance to single elimination debates. Each team will be ranked by (1) wins, (2) adjusted speaker points, (3) total speaker points, (4) strength of opposition record, (5) double adjusted speaker points and (6) judge’s variance.

If the number of teams advancing is less than a full elimination round, a partial round will be held. Those teams holding the lower seeds will debate while the teams with the highest seeds will receive a bye into the next round. The computer will randomly assign sides until the quarterfinal round unless the teams have previously debated. For the quarterfinal round and all following rounds, a coin toss will determine sides. The team listed first will call the side in the coin toss. If the two teams have debated previously, the two teams will debate on the opposite sides that they debated in the preliminary round. Teams will debate in single elimination round debates until one team remains undefeated in the elimination rounds. The team with a majority of the ballots in a panel will be declared the winner.

In the event that two teams from the same school meet in elimination rounds, brackets will be broken according to the following criteria: (1) protecting the highest seed; (2) changing the fewest number of brackets; (3) preserving original bracket order.

**NOVICE BREAKOUT:** Teams in which both debaters qualified for novice status at the start of the Fall 2018 semester, provided the tab room is informed of their status prior to the tournament, will be eligible for a novice semifinal and final breakout round to be held during elimination rounds three and four of the open bracket. Teams of novice status who are eliminated from the tournament prior to the beginning of the second elimination debate, including any novice teams who debate but fail to win the first elimination round, will be eligible for the novice breakout.

## **ASSIGNMENT OF CRITICS**

**Assignment of Judges**—The Tournament Director has final authority over judge assignments and/or removals from preliminary rounds and elimination round panels.

**Judge Strikes** – Each team may strike up to 15% of the judging pool.

**Judge Conflicts** – All judging assignments will be made at random from a pool that excludes judges who, according to both the perception of participants and the Tournament Director, have a legitimate conflict of interest. Judges may not adjudicate teams from their own school (**or the team's school for the past four years**), teams from other schools they may be prepping with, former students, or anybody who that critic may not be able to objectively and fairly evaluate. Should a judge conflict arise during the tournament, tab should be notified 30 minutes prior to the release of pairings.

At registration or before, judges are **required** to inform the Tournament Director of any teams they should not judge. Failure to notify the Tournament Director in advance of the tournament may result in the assessment of missed rounds fees in the event of an improperly assigned ballot. Any constraints entered by a team for the tournament will be considered by the Tournament Director if based on the following categories: former coaches, former team members, romantic relationships, or other cases as approved on a case-by-case basis. Instructions for submitting constraints will be available with the critic strike page.

**Elimination Rounds** – Each preliminary round will be adjudicated by one judge. Each elimination round prior to the quarter final round will be adjudicated by no fewer than three judges. The quarterfinal and semifinals will be adjudicated by no fewer than five judges. The final round will be adjudicated by no fewer than seven judges. At the discretion of the Tournament Director, each team in the semifinal and final round of debate may be allowed to remove one or more judges from a tentative panel. In this case, the Tournament Director has the right to name one judge who cannot be removed by either team. The team will be given up to five minutes to return the judge strike card or forfeit their right to strike judges. From the remaining potential judge panel, the tab room will randomly assign judges to the debates. The final judge panel will then be announced to the teams debating.

## TIMELY ARRIVAL AND START OF DEBATES

**PREPARATION AND TRANSIT TIME** - NPDA operating procedures indicate that the specified preparation and transit time shall be twenty minutes plus the amount of time needed to walk to the furthest building where debates are being held, as determined by the Tournament Director. Preparation and transit time for the 2020 National Championship Tournament will be **30 minutes**. This timing schedule includes time to locate buildings and find rooms. It is the responsibility of each team to familiarize themselves with the campus and campus maps **before** rounds begin. ***An inability to locate competition rooms will not be accepted as an excuse for late arrival to rounds.*** Prep time will be adjusted if campus logistics necessitate it and the tournament will be notified by the Tournament Director of any changes prior to topic announcement.

**If you encounter a locked room**, call 417-655-3556 immediately.

**PENALTIES FOR LATENESS** – At the expiration of preparation time, the judge will begin a timer. The team(s) who is/are not present will have the total of that time deducted from the speaking time of their first speech. If the late team(s) is/are not present by the expiration of their first speech's total time, they will receive a forfeit with zero speaker points. If neither team is present by 8:00 after prep time has expired, both shall be forfeited and both teams shall receive 0 speaker points. Refusal by a judge to do this will result in the removal of the judge from the judging pool and an uncovered judge fee will be assessed to the team who the judge is representing. NOTE: The judge does NOT have discretion about whether to enforce this rule and their decision may be overturned by the Tournament Director if they refuse to enforce it. If a judge refuses to enforce this rule, the affected team should contact the tab room immediately.

Furthermore, **judges are also bound by the prep clock** and must arrive at their debates on time. This means that judges must also walk during prep time and must NOT continue to prep until the end of prep time and then walk to their round. Debaters shall be afforded the opportunity to inform the tab room of judges who are late to their rounds. The Tournament Director shall have the discretion of imposing penalties, equivalent to those imposed for a missed round, for lateness.

## LODGING, TRANSPORTATION, AND MEALS

### TRANSPORTATION

If you need any transportation arrangements, please contact the tournament director at [NPDAnationals@gmail.com](mailto:NPDAnationals@gmail.com) or 417-655-3556. We cannot guarantee anything, but we want to make attending the tournament as easy for you as possible. Let us know if we can help!

### MEALS AND FOOD OPTIONS

Two meals will be provided for all coaches, competitors and judges. The fee is \$10 per person per lunch. The meal package is **required** for everyone (student, coach, judge, guest) who will attend the tournament with that squad on Friday and Saturday (\$20 per person covers both days). The meal fee must be paid with registration. The meals location will be announced at Topic Announcement and/or at registration. Lunch on SUNDAY will be on your own.

### LODGING

There is no designated tournament hotel for the 2020 championship.

## TOURNAMENT AWARDS

### INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

**TEAM AWARDS** – Each member of a team that advances to elimination rounds will receive an award. Placing will be determined by the round of a team’s elimination or their placing in the championship debate (for first and second). Additionally, the members of the top three (3) novice teams at the tournament will receive an award. **Per NPDA rules, ANY form or length of high school or college debate (but not individual events) competition excludes competitors from consideration for novice awards** (Even participation in JUST ONE tournament in high school disqualifies a competitor from novice standing). Novice placing will first be determined by a team’s placing in elimination rounds. If a tie still exists, the seeding of the tied teams after preliminary rounds will determine placing.

**SPEAKER AWARDS** – Based upon the speaker points assigned by the eight critics in the preliminary debates, the top twenty speakers will receive awards. The top speaker in the tournament receives the James “Al” Johnson top speaker trophy, named after one of NPDA’s founders. Rank ordering of speakers is determined by (1) adjusted speaker points, (2) total speaker points, (3) double adjusted speaker points and (4) judge variance. Awards will be given to the top five novice debaters as well.

**NOVICE BREAKOUT AWARDS** – In addition to the awards described above, participants in the novice breakout will be awarded appropriate trophies based on their finish in the novice elimination breakout debates.

### SCHOOL AWARDS

**TOURNAMENT SWEEPSTAKES** – The top twenty schools will receive tournament sweepstakes awards. Two points are awarded for each preliminary round win for the top four teams from each school. Additionally, two points are awarded for each elimination round won (including BYEs) for the top four teams from each school – these need not be the same teams as those in preliminary rounds. The tournament champion receives an additional two points for its school. Hybrid teams divide points equally between their respective squads. The top five community colleges will receive awards.

**SEASON SWEEPSTAKES** – The top twenty schools in the season long sweepstakes standings will receive awards, along with the top five schools in the Novice, Junior, and Open divisions. The top five community colleges will also receive awards. The procedures used to calculate these standings are available online at <http://www.parlidebate.org>.

## OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**ADA ACCOMODATIONS** – If you or one of your students needs ADA accommodations while on campus, please contact the tournament director as soon as possible **and no later than the day that strikes are due**.

**OPENING ASSEMBLY** – Important information about tournament logistics will be provided during the opening assembly. Each school is responsible for this information, **so one person from each participating school should be present at the opening assembly**.

**PREPARATION ROOMS** – Schools will be randomly assigned to a prep room relative to the size of their entry and to required ADA accommodations. You may only prep in the room assigned to you or a common area. You may not occupy a room that appears to be unused. You will be notified of your prep room at tournament registration. There is no guarantee of availability of any resources in rooms. The Tournament Director may reassign preparation rooms at any time during the tournament at their discretion as needed. In the event of a change in prep room location, the tournament director will provide the team with time to facilitate their location change.

**Each team is responsible for returning its prep room(s) to its original condition at the end of preparation time.** Damage to university property risks immediate removal of those responsible from the tournament and from the host school campus. The NPDA Executive Board and/or tournament host, has the right to assess appropriate fines/and or bills to associated programs for costs incurred to replace, repair, or clean (beyond normal expectations) campus property. Should damage be documented before the end of the tournament, teams may be prohibited from competing until payment has been arranged. Failure to pay fines and/or costs will mean that a program will not be allowed to compete at the NPDA National Championship Tournament again until these fines and/or costs are paid.

**Teams prepping in competition rooms must move all personal property to the back or side of the room so that debates can proceed.** Notify the ballot table after the round if you are competing or judging in a room that is left in disarray. Teams failing to comply with these guidelines shall be stripped of the privilege of using host rooms for preparation for the duration of the tournament.

**Smoking Policy.** Smoking is permitted on campus, but must occur at least 15 ft. away from buildings and guests should properly dispose of all items. Please treat the campus with respect.

#### **DRUG FREE STATEMENT-**

A. The unlawful manufacture, distribution, possession, or use of a controlled substance as defined by the Controlled Substances Act of 1970 while on property owned and/or operated by the host institution for the NPDA national tournament is prohibited.

B. The distribution, possession, or use of alcohol, marijuana, tobacco or other substances in violation of a host institution's policies or procedures is prohibited.

C. Violation of these rules will result in the following penalties.

1. The first offense will result in the disqualification of the competitor from the current tournament and prohibited entry into the subsequent national tournament. In the case of a judge, the individual will be removed from the current tournament and prohibited from judging the subsequent national tournament. In the case of an observer, the individual will be removed from the current tournament.

2. On the second offense, the competitor will be disqualified from the current tournament and prohibited entry into all subsequent national tournaments. In the case of a judge, the individual will be removed from the current tournament and prohibited from judging in all subsequent national tournaments. In the case of an observer, the individual will be removed from the current tournament and prohibited from attending all subsequent national tournaments.

3. The Executive Council shall determine what, if any, additional sanctions may be taken. Depending on the nature of the incident, the Executive Council may issue a written reprimand to be sent to the Director, Dean and/or Provost of the associated institution, order the removal of NPDA points, or enact the suspension of a program from membership in NPDA.



## TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

### WEDNESDAY, March 11, 2020 (McKendree University)

10:00-11:00	Site Selection Committee
11:00-12:30	Championship Tournament Committee Meeting, TBD
2:30-4:30	Tournament Registration (Open to all schools), TBD
4:45-5:30	Opening Assembly, TBD
5:30-6:30	Title IX/Sexual Harassment Prevention Training, TBD
6:30-8:30	NPDA Business Meeting, TBD

### FRIDAY, March 13, 2020 (McKendree University)

8:30	Release Round 6 Pairings
8:40	Topic Announced: Round Six
9:10-9:55	Round Six Debates
10:15	Ballots Due
10:40	Release Round 7 Pairings
10:50	Topic Announced: Round Seven
11:20-12:05	Round Seven Debates
12:25	Ballots Due
12:15-1:45	LUNCH BREAK (TBD) DISTRICT MEETINGS, Locations TBA
1:45	Release Round 8 Pairings
1:55	Topic Announced: Round Eight
2:25-3:10	Round Eight Debates
3:30	Ballots Due
3:20-4:00	NATIONAL STUDENT MEETING (Location TBA)
4:05	Release Quad-Octafinal Pairings
4:20	Topic Announced: Quad-octafinals
4:50-5:35	Quad-octafinal Debates
5:55	Ballots Due
6:15	Release Triple-Octafinal Pairings
6:30	Topic Announced: Triple-Octafinals
7:00-7:45	Triple-Octafinal Debates
8:05	Ballots Due

### THURSDAY, March 12, 2020 (McKendree University)

#### (Topic Announcement: TBD)

8:30	Release Round 1 Pairings
8:40	Topic Announced: Round One
9:10-9:55	Round One Debates
10:15	Ballots Due
10:30	Release Round 2 Pairings
10:40	Topic Announced: Round Two
11:10-11:55	Round Two Debates
12:15	Ballots Due
12:15-1:45	LUNCH BREAK (TBD)
1:45	Release Round 3 Pairings
1:55	Topic Announced: Round Three
2:25-3:10	Round Three Debates
3:30	Ballots Due
3:55	Release Round 4 Pairings
4:05	Topic Announced: Round Four
4:35-5:20	Round Four Debates
5:40	Ballots Due
6:00	Release Round 5 Pairings
6:20	Topic Announced: Round Five
6:50-7:45	Round Five Debates
8:00	Ballots Due

### SATURDAY, March 14, 2020 (McKendree University)

8:30	Release Double-Octafinal Pairings
8:40	Topic Announce: Double-Octafinals
9:10-9:55	Double-Octafinal Round Debates
10:15	Ballots Due
10:35	Release Octafinal Pairings
10:45	Topic Announce: Octafinals
11:15-12:00	Octafinal Round Debates
12:20	Ballots Due
12:20-1:45	LUNCH BREAK – ON YOUR OWN
1:45	Release Quarterfinal Pairings
1:55	Topic Announce: Quarterfinals
2:25-3:10	Quarterfinal Round Debates
3:30	Ballots Due
4:10	Release Semifinal Pairings
4:20	Topic Announce: Semifinals
4:50-5:35	Semifinal Round Debates
6:00	Topic Announce: The Final Round
6:30	The Championship Round
7:30	AWARDS CEREMONY: Alumni House

**2020 NPDA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT  
RULES FOR DEBATING AND JUDGING**

Page 1 of 2

The purpose of these rules is to define goals and procedures of the debates so everyone will enter the debates with shared expectations. These rules are designed to apply to the framework for debate rather than the substance and are framed in an attempt to preserve debater creativity.

These rules apply to the NPDA National Championship Tournament. Sanctions for violating Section 4 of the Rules of Debating and Judging (rules that apply during the debate) shall be the province of the judge. In the case of a dispute regarding a judge's interpretation of the rules, enforcement of the rules, or adhering to the procedures of the tournament, one or both debate teams may appeal a judge's decision regarding sanctions to the Ombudsperson for a final decision.

Enforcement of all other sections of the NPDA Tournament Rules shall be the responsibility of the Tournament Director in consultation with the Championship Tournament Committee. Appeals of decisions made by the Tournament Director will be directed to the National Championship Tournament Ombudsperson.

**A NOTE ON APPEALS**

All appeals pertaining to tournament rules in a particular round must be made before the topic is announced for the subsequent round. This requirement can be initially fulfilled by notifying the Tournament Director verbally of a pending appeal; however, a written appeal will be required within the time limit established by the Tournament Director and before a decision will be issued. If the Tournament Director requires more information or documentation, the Tournament Director will inform the team filing the appeal of an appropriate time limit for gathering those materials.

**RULES OF DEBATING AND JUDGING**

**1. RESOLUTIONS**

- A. A different resolution for each round will be presented to the debaters at a specified time prior to the beginning of each debate.
- B. The topic of each round will be about current affairs or philosophy. The resolutions will be general enough that a well-educated college student can debate them. They may be phrased in literal or metaphorical language.

**2. OBJECTIVE OF THE DEBATE**

The proposition team must affirm the resolution by presenting and defending a sufficient case for that resolution. The opposition team must oppose the resolution and/or the proposition team's case. If, at the end of the debate, the judge believes that the proposition team has supported and successfully defended the resolution, they will be declared the winner - otherwise the opposition will be declared the winner.

**3. 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.

**B. Format of the debate**

First Proposition Constructive Speaker: 7 minutes

*Opposition Flex Time: 2 Minutes*

First Opposition Constructive Speaker: 8 minutes

*Proposition Flex Time: 2 Minutes*

Second Proposition Constructive Speaker: 8 minutes

*Opposition Flex Time: 1 Minute*

Second Opposition Constructive Speaker: 8 minutes

Opposition Rebuttal by First Speaker: 4 minutes

*Proposition Flex Time: 1 Minute*

Proposition Rebuttal by First Speaker: 5 minutes

- C. **Constructive and Rebuttal Speeches** - Introduction of new arguments is appropriate during all constructive speeches. However, debaters may not introduce new arguments in rebuttal speeches except that the proposition rebuttalist may introduce new arguments in his or her rebuttal to refute arguments that were first raised in the Second Opposition Constructive. New examples, analysis, analogies, etc. that support previously introduced arguments are permitted in rebuttal speeches.
- D. **Points of Information** - A debater may request a point of information-either verbally or by rising-at any time after the first minute and before the last minute of any constructive speech. The debater holding the floor has the discretion to accept or refuse points of information. If accepted, the debater requesting the point of information has a maximum of fifteen seconds to make a statement or ask a question. The speaking time of the debater with the floor continues during the point of information.
- E. **Points of Order** - Points of order can be raised for no reason other than those specified in these Rules of Debating and Judging. If at any time during the debate, a debater believes that his or her opponent has violated one of these Rules of Debating and Judging, he or she may address the judge with a point of order. Once recognized by the judge, the debater must state, but may not argue for, the point of order. At the discretion of the judge, the accused may briefly respond to the point of order. The judge will then rule immediately on the point of order in one of three ways: point well taken, point not well taken, or point taken under consideration. The time used to state and address a point of order will not be deducted from the speaking time of the debater with the floor. A point of order is a serious charge and should not be raised for minor violations. In elimination rounds, points of order will be taken under consideration and each judge will make their own determination on its merit as they render their decision.
- F. **Points of Personal Privilege** - At any time during the debate, a debater may rise to a point of personal privilege when he or she believes that an opponent has personally insulted one of the debaters, has made an offensive or tasteless comment, or has grievously misconstrued another's words or arguments. **The judge will then rule on whether or not the comments were acceptable.** The time used to state and address a point of personal privilege will not be deducted from the speaking time of the debater with the floor. Like a point of order, a point of personal privilege is a serious charge and should not be raised for minor transgressions. Debaters may be penalized for raising spurious points of personal privilege.
- G. **Flex Time:** Flex time may be used by the controlling team to prepare arguments, drink water, set up stands, ask questions of their opponents, etc. Flex time may not be used as additional speech time.

#### **4. AFTER THE DEBATE**

- A. After the final rebuttal, the judge will dismiss the teams, complete the ballot and submit it to the Tournament Director via email. The judge should not give oral comments before the ballot is completed and submitted to the Tournament Director.
- B. After submitting the ballot, the judge may, at her or his discretion, give brief constructive comments to the debaters. Such conversations should, if possible, take place in the established "warm room" area if one is designated by the tournament. No one may be required to enter the "warm room" or participate in discussions. Judges should refrain from checking the records of teams they are about to judge should such information be available.
- C. Debaters or coaches will refrain from arguing with judges' decisions or comments. Debaters or coaches who harass judges may be withdrawn from the tournament on a 2/3 vote of the Tournament Committee.

## 2020 NPDA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT CRITIC CERTIFICATION FORM

Page 1 of 2

EVERY critic adjudicating at the NPDA National Championship Tournament must sign a copy of these rules, thereby indicating their knowledge of the rules and an agreement to abide by them. Refusal to comply will result in that judge being removed from the National Championship Tournament and their affiliated team being assessed the costs of hiring an additional critic or the removal of teams from the offending judge's school.

These rules and guidelines are intended to define basic goals and procedures so that debaters and judges will enter rounds with shared expectations. The Tournament Rules attempt to allow freedom in debaters' creativity.

### - PART ONE: TIMING AND LOGISTICS -

**Preparation Time:** Judges will follow timing guidelines stated in the invitation under "Penalties for Lateness."

**Timing of the Debate:** The Judge should serve as official timekeeper, giving time signals (if needed) that indicate the number of minutes of speaking time remaining. During constructive speeches, judges should be prepared to alert debaters if needed when one minute has elapsed and when one minute remains. There is no preparation time between speeches. Speeches should not exceed the following time limits:

First Proposition Constructive Speaker: 7 minutes  
*Opposition Flex Time: 2 Minutes*  
First Opposition Constructive Speaker: 8 minutes  
*Proposition Flex Time: 2 Minutes*  
Second Proposition Constructive Speaker: 8 minutes

*Opposition Flex Time: 1 Minute*  
Second Opposition Constructive Speaker: 8 minutes  
Opposition Rebuttal by First Speaker: 4 minutes  
*Proposition Flex Time: 1 Minute*  
Proposition Rebuttal by First Speaker: 5 minutes

**Pre-Prepared and Published Materials:** Any published information, prepared arguments, or other resources may be consulted before the debate; however, such materials may not be used during the debate, with two exceptions: (1) notes made during preparation time by the debaters competing in that round may be used during the debate, and (2) a copy of the NPDA "Rules of Debating and Judging" may be used in the debating chambers.

**Specific Information:** Debaters may refer to any information within the realm of knowledge of liberally educated and informed citizens. If a debater believes that certain cited information is too specific, he or she may request that his or her opponent explain the information. In the event that further explanation of specific information is requested, the opponent should provide details sufficient to allow others to understand the connection between the information and his or her claim. Judges will disallow specific information only in the event that no reasonable person could have access to the information, e.g., information from the debater's personal family history.

**New Arguments in Rebuttals:** New arguments are appropriate during all constructive speeches. Debaters may not introduce new arguments in rebuttal speeches, except that the Proposition rebuttalist may introduce new arguments in her/his rebuttal to refute arguments first raised in the Second Opposition Constructive. New examples, analysis, analogies, etc. that support previously introduced arguments are permitted in rebuttals.

**Flex Time:** Flex time may be used by the controlling team to prepare arguments, drink water, set up stands, ask questions of their opponents, etc. Flex time may not be used as additional speech time.

### - PART TWO: PARLIAMENTARY POINTS -

**Points of Information:** A debater may request a point of information (either verbally or by standing) at any time after the first minute and before the last minute of any constructive speech. The debater holding the floor may accept or refuse points of information. If accepted, the debater requesting the point of information has a maximum of fifteen seconds to make a statement or ask a question. The speaking time of the debater with the floor continues during the point of information. There is no requirement that a point of information be phrased in a particular format—question, statement, or otherwise.

**2020 NPDA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT  
CRITIC CERTIFICATION FORM**

Page 2 of 2

**Points of Personal Privilege:** At any time during the debate, a debater may rise to a point of personal privilege when he/she believes that an opponent has personally insulted one of the debaters, has made an offensive or tasteless comment, or has grievously misconstrued another's words or arguments. **The judge will then rule on whether the comments were acceptable.** The time used for a point of personal privilege is not deducted from the speaking time of the debater with the floor. Points of personal privilege should not be raised for minor issues. Debaters may be penalized for raising spurious points of personal privilege.

**Points of Order:** Points of Order may be raised for no reason other than those specified in the NPDA Rules for Debating and Judging. If at any time during the debate, a debater believes that her/his opponent has violated one of these rules, he/she may address the judge with a point of order. Once recognized by the judge, the debater must state, but may not argue for, the point of order. At the discretion of the judge, the accused may respond to the point of order. The judge will then rule immediately on the point of order in one of three ways: "point well taken," "point not well taken," or "point taken under consideration." In elimination rounds, points of order will be taken under consideration and each judge will make their own determination on its merit as they render their decision. The time used to state and address a point of order will not be deducted from the speaking time of the debater with the floor. A point of order is a serious charge and should not be raised for minor violations.

**- PART THREE: COMPLETION OF THE BALLOT -**

**Written Comments on Ballots:** Judges are encouraged to provide constructive comments on each ballot instead of merely writing "oral critique." You may resend ballots afterward with further comments.

**After the Debate:** The judge should complete the ballot and submit it via email by the time indicated in the tournament schedule, but preferably immediately after the decision is made. Judges should not confer with ANYONE prior to making a decision and awarding speaker points. After submitting the ballot, the judge may, at their discretion, give brief constructive comments to the debaters. Debaters or coaches may not argue with a judge's decision or comments.

**Debaters or coaches who verbally abuse judges will be removed from the tournament.** Judges should take care to make comments in a way that respects their role as professionals, as educators, and as holders of power in the debate. This means they should be respectful of the students in the debate and should not denigrate, demean, or insult the students. **Judges who verbally abuse students will be removed from the tournament, and their school will be charged a judging fee.**

**- PART FOUR: ADJUDICATOR RESPONSIBILITY -**

**Sexual Harassment Policy:** The NPDA 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 difference in ability. These principles should guide the behavior and conduct of all members and participants of the organization. The full NPDA Sexual Harassment Policy is available at <http://www.parl Debate.org/sexual-harassment-policy/> and will be made available at tournament registration.

**Abuse of Power by Judges:** Judges should enact their role with the highest degree of responsibility. This includes arriving at the round on time, listening to the round closely, and making a decision to the best of one's ability at the completion of the debate round. Judges who flow on a laptop or other device should not be working on anything else during the debate and SHOULD NOT be communicating with people outside of the round. Judges should also treat competitors, fellow judges, coaches, and hosts with respect. Judges should never use their position to impose inappropriate or artificial demands on debaters and should never endorse rules violations. Judges who refuse to carry out their duties in a responsible manner, both inside and outside of debate rounds, will be removed from the tournament.

**- PART FIVE: ADJUDICATOR ACCOUNTABILITY -**

I have read this document and I agree that the rounds under my jurisdiction will be governed by these rules.

Name of Critic	School Affiliation	Signature of Critic	Date	E-mail address
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**2020 NPDA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT  
PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITY FORM**

Page 1 of 1

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Director of Forensics: \_\_\_\_\_

The NPDA expects all participants to act responsibly throughout the tournament. Failure to have appropriate identification could lead to removal from campus. Any behavior deemed disruptive, threatening, or damaging to others, including behavior that damages tournament facilities, risks immediate removal of those responsible from the tournament and the host school. In addition, participants are expected to comply with the rules, policies, and regulations of the NPDA, including Title IX Compliance. The NPDA Executive Committee and/or the host school will assess an appropriate response, including fines or judging fees to associated programs to cover judging obligations, and, if applicable, bill the associated program for costs incurred to replace, repair, or clean (beyond normal expectations) campus property, including property in assigned prep rooms or elsewhere on campus. Should damage be documented before the end of the tournament, teams may be prohibited from competing until payment has been arranged. Failure to pay fines and/or costs will mean that a program will not be allowed to compete at the NPDA National Championship Tournament again until these fines and/or costs are paid. As appropriate, failure to observe these conditions of participation, including Title IX policies, will result in formal reporting by the NPDA to responsible academic institutions.

**DIRECTOR OF FORENSICS CERTIFICATION**

My signature below indicates that I have read the Statement for Program Responsibility. I will inform participants associated with my program of their responsibilities and I will abide by disciplinary decisions made by the NPDA Executive Board, Tournament Director, or host school, to participants who are associated with my squad, including debaters, observers, judges, and coaches.

_____ Director of Forensics (signature)	_____ Date
_____ Current email address	_____ cell number
_____ Name of Senior Coaching member at NPDA Nationals	
_____ Current email address	_____ cell number
_____ Signature (if different from DOF)	_____ Date

**2020 NPDA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT  
NPDA STUDENT ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS**

Page 1 of 1

Please make sure your students fulfill these guidelines. Questions regarding eligibility should be addressed to the Tournament Director BEFORE submitting an entry.

- 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 criteria below.
  - 1. A student must represent a recognized degree granting institution that is a member of the NPDA and participate with the full knowledge and approval of that institution, its officials, and any existing NPDA affiliated organization operating within that institution.
  - 2. A student should be seeking a baccalaureate degree at the institution they are representing unless competing for a two-year school, in which case, pursuit of associate's degree or equivalent two-year certification at their institution is sufficient.
  - 3. Possession of one of the aforementioned degrees precludes further competition for those respective honors at the national tournament.
  - 4. "Good standing" and definition of degree pursuit are defined by the institution the student is representing.
  - 5. A student is limited to competition in five NPDA National Championship Tournaments.
- B. Midyear graduates may compete in the NPDA National Championship in the spring after graduation. 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 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.

Note: Hybrid teams are allowed to compete, but three person teams may not participate. A school may not enter more than one hybrid team. No individual may debate without a partner.

