

January 7, 2021

Dear NPDA Colleagues:

On behalf of President David Worth, the Executive Council, and the National Parliamentary Debate Association, I am pleased to invite you to the 28th annual NPDA National Championship Tournament on Friday, March 5 through Monday, March 8, 2021. This year's tournament will be held virtually via Yaaty. We anticipate a fine weekend of education and competition, culminating with the awarding of the 2021 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 15, 2021 (7 p.m. Mountain)**
 - Tournament entry due at www.tabroom.com 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. **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 www.tabroom.com. 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 forms due** by email (npdanationals@gmail.com) to the tournament director.
 - **Title IX training** must be completed by all observers, judges, coaches, critics, and other attendees. If you have not completed a training through the institution with which you are associated, please email Luran Schaefer (parlit9@gmail.com) to request the training. We prefer you use your home institution for certification if possible.
- **Tuesday, March 2, 2021 (7 p.m. Mountain)**
 - Critic strike page will be emailed to directors. Judging philosophies will be available at www.tabroom.com.
- **Thursday, March 4, 2021 (7 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.
- **Friday, March 5, 2021 (2:30-4:30 p.m. Mountain)**
 - Schools must register in-person online. Teams failing to register online 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 or 618-973-0030.

For payment-related questions, you must contact NPDA Treasurer, Shannon LaBove, at 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,

Joe Blasdel
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 15, 2021)

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

LATE FEE SCHEDULE (entry after February 15, but before February 29th)

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

LAST MINUTE FEE SCHEDULE (entry after February 29th)

- 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

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.

Special note for the 2021 NPDA tournament: This year has seen substantial cuts for many programs. If your program has suffered budget cuts that prevent you from attending, please contact the tournament director to discuss possible fee adjustments.

**2021 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____
____ District Fee at \$250.00 (optional, supports hosting expenses)..... \$_____
____ 2020-2021 NPDA membership at \$50.00 \$_____
____ 2021-2022 NPDA membership at \$50.00 \$_____

TEAM ENTRY SECTION

Fees charged for each school depend on the date (1) the entry is posted to tabroom.com 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 observe rounds as well as to receive and send ballots. Judges **MUST** include their e-mail address on the critic certification form and must enter it when registering on tabroom.com. **Judges should test their ability to access Yaatly prior to the tournament. Note that Yaatly does not work with IOS-based devices.**

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 octofinal round, **all** critics from that school must remain available through the semifinal round.

Ballot Distribution and Responsibility- The National Championship Tournament will use an electronic 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 www.tabroom.com. 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, 2021.** 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 \$200.00 stipend, or \$20.00 per round. If a hired judge is retained for the third day, they will be paid \$20 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 2020 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. Although there is no “walk-time” this year, preparation time for the 2021 National Championship Tournament will be **25 minutes**.

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. 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.

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, 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 assigned ‘team’ rooms in Yaatly. These rooms may be used for preparation as well as tech checks.

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 (Mountain Time)

FRIDAY, March 5, 2021

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

SATURDAY, March 6, 2021

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

SUNDAY, March 7, 2021

8:30	Release Round 6 Pairings
8:45	Topic Announced: Round Six Ballots Due
10:25	Release Round 7 Pairings
10:45	Topic Announced: Round Seven Ballots Due
11:00	LUNCH BREAK (TBD)
12:40	DISTRICT MEETINGS
12:30-1:45	Release Round 8 Pairings
1:45	Topic Announced: Round Eight Ballots Due
2:00	NATIONAL STUDENT MEETING
3:40	Release Triple-Octofinal Pairings
3:40-4:20	Topic Announced: Triple- Octofinals
4:20	Ballots Due
4:35	Release Double-Octofinal Pairings
6:15	Topic Announced: Double- Octofinals
6:35	Ballots Due
6:50	
8:30	

MONDAY, March 8, 2021

8:30	Release Octofinal Pairings
8:45	Topic Announce: Octofinals Ballots Due
10:25	Release Quarterfinal Pairings
10:45	Topic Announce: Quarterfinals Ballots Due
11:00	LUNCH BREAK – ON YOUR OWN
12:40	Release Semifinal Pairings
12:30-1:45	Topic Announce: Semifinals Ballots Due
1:45	Release Final Pairings
2:00	Topic Announce: Finals
3:40	AWARDS CEREMONY
4:00	
4:15	
ASAP	

**2021 NPDA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT
RULES FOR DEBATING AND JUDGING**

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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.

Additionally, the NPDA 2020-2021 rules modifications will be used and are listed below.

1. Written preparation: Work written during prep, other than where an ADA accommodation has been made, somewhat defines our format. With the need for online/virtual debates, this presents an obvious problem. For the coming semester, the EC considers material typed during preparation time to be written. This does not include cutting and pasting from a file. This obviously excludes simply reading from a prepped file that already resides on a drive. Obviously, handwritten preparation is still fine, but the EC is concerned about partners who may be debating from different locations being able to prep. ADA accommodations take precedence over anything in conflict here.
2. In-round messaging: For partners who are debating from different locations, communicating is also a challenge. The EC considers messaging between partners appropriate in this case. As in any other round, debaters should not communicate with anyone else who is not involved in the round.
3. Shared commitment to prep: The limited preparation aspect of our format is what makes it unique and continues to do so even as contemporary argument forms and performances have found their place in Parli. Virtual debating will challenge the format as it has not been challenged before. Only a shared commitment to honestly conducting prep will make the format workable in this situation. The EC asks everyone to commit to that.
4. Flowing: Electronic/laptop flowing by debaters in a round is also acceptable for the coming season. This excludes cutting and pasting previously prepared material as well as flowing done by anyone not in the round on a shared spreadsheet.

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.

2021 NPDA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT CRITIC CERTIFICATION FORM

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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.

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CRITIC CERTIFICATION FORM**

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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.parlidebate.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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PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITY FORM**

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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

**2021 NPDA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT
NPDA STUDENT ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS**

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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 four 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.

