

# Arkansas District Series

Protest, Complaints and Belonging/Inclusion



**‘24-’25**

**Saturday Feb 22nd**

# Arkansas District Series



The Belonging and Inclusion Station is a tournament resource designed to provide interpersonal support to participants who feel excluded from an aspect of the tournament. The BIS also safeguards against potential violations of the NSDA Harassment and Discrimination policy.

## **National Speech & Debate Association Harassment and Discrimination Policy**

The National Speech & Debate Association is committed to providing its participants, judges, coaches, and staff the opportunity to pursue excellence in their endeavors. This opportunity can exist only when each member of our community is assured an atmosphere of mutual respect. The NSDA prohibits all forms of harassment and discrimination. Accordingly, all forms of harassment and discrimination, whether written or oral, based on race, color, religion, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, citizenship, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected by any applicable federal, state, or local law are prohibited, whether committed by participants, judges, coaches, or observers. Individuals who are found to have violated this policy will be subject to the full range of sanctions, up to and including removal from the tournament premises.

**Complainants may file a protest [here](#).**

(indicate what type of support you are need of on the document)

This includes the conduct of coaches toward the comittee, students or judges.

# *Arkansas District Series*

**The Committee Member handling BIS at our Tournament is Coach Sean Peterson**

## **Intake Process**

### **Intake**

A concerned person wants an issue addressed beyond interpersonal support/care and puts their concern in writing via the Intake Form

### **Inquiry**

BIA collects information on the concern

### **Resolution**

If necessary, BIA recommends a corrective action

### **Appeal**

Subject of concern has an option to appeal corrective action

It is always our hope that concerns brought to the BIS can be addressed with healing and teaching FIRST. The intake process, specifically the resolution and appeal steps, should be utilized when behavior warrants action beyond education and dialogue.

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## Protests

### The Process

#### Step 1: Filing the Protest

- Must be submitted in writing to the District Committee using the link found on the District Tabroom page. The complete protest, with all pertinent information needs to be include.
  - Should include:
    - The specific rule(s) allegedly violated. This rule must be found in the NSDA Unified Manual.
    - A description of the incident.
    - Evidence or supporting documentation (if applicable).
    - The requested resolution or remedy.
    -

#### Step 2: Review by the District Committee

- The District Committee evaluates the protest.
  - They may:
    - Conduct interviews with relevant parties.
    - Review video/audio recordings (if available and permitted).
    - Consult NSDA rules
    - Consult their point of contact with the National Office
    -

#### Step 3: Decision and Resolution

- The committee will deliberate and issue a ruling.
- Possible outcomes include:
  - Protest Denied: The results remain unchanged.
  - Protest Upheld – No Penalty: The infraction was minor, or no corrective action is necessary.
  - Protest Upheld – Corrective Action Taken: Actions may include:
    - Adjusting results (e.g., disqualifying a round or awarding a rematch).
    - Disqualifying a competitor (in severe cases).
    - Issuing a warning or probation to the competitor, school, or coach.

#### Step 4: Appeals (If Applicable)

- In rare cases, the NSDA point of contact may review district protest decisions if a party believes the ruling was incorrect or unfair.
- Appeals must follow NSDA guidelines and typically require strong justification.

### Important Considerations

- Timeliness: Protests must be filed promptly— *(within 30 minutes of the end of the round)*
- Professionalism: **Protests should be handled respectfully to maintain the integrity of competition.**
- Finality: Once a decision is made, it is usually final and binding, except in cases where NSDA national-level appeals are permitted.

### Why This Process Matters

- Ensures fair play and rule adherence.
- Provides structured resolution to disputes.
- Maintains the integrity and credibility of NSDA district tournaments.

Understanding the district protest process is essential for coaches, competitors, and tournament officials to navigate disputes effectively while maintaining sportsmanship and fairness in competition.

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## Complaints

### Tournament Complaints Submission

We understand that speech and debate tournaments are complex events, and while we strive for a smooth and fair competition, concerns may arise. This form is for submitting complaints that do not fall under an official NSDA protest or a belonging and inclusion issue but still warrant attention.

Please note that while all complaints will be reviewed, only those that impact the tournament's immediate operation will be addressed during the event. Other concerns may be handled after the tournament to ensure a fair and thorough resolution.

### Examples of Complaints That May Be Addressed After the Tournament:

- **Hospitality & Venue Conditions:** Comments on food, facility access, or comfort issues.
- **General Conduct Concerns:** Situations involving inappropriate behavior that do not rise to the level of an official ethics violation.

If your complaint directly impacts competition results, tournament fairness, or the ability to compete, please notify the tournament staff immediately so it can be addressed in real time. **After you file your DETAILED complaint please contact the District Chair, Eric Gamble, immediately.**

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work to ensure a positive and fair experience for all participants.

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