



Competition Rules Board Meeting, May 7, 2024

Location and Time: Online, 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. CT

Call to Order/Welcome/Record of Approved Competition Rules Board Minutes

On May 7, 2024, Competition Rules Board meeting minutes will be read into the record. Minutes are available for discussion, as requested by Competition Rules Board members.

Scouting Rule

Currently, the *High School Unified Manual* states that “scouting is strongly discouraged.” The Competition Rules Board will assess a member-submitted proposal to change the scouting rule to clarify whether schools should be penalized for scouting.

Update on Strategic Plan Goals from 2023-2024

The Director of Competition and Events will share an update on progress related to the 2023-2024 competition rules strategic plan objectives. This update will describe ongoing work related to judge accreditation, mapping competitive speech and debate events to educational standards, and the Last-Chance Qualifier and supplemental event opportunities for non-National Tournament qualifiers. The Competition Rules Board will review, analyze, and share feedback regarding progress on these objectives.

Strategic Realignment Discussion

The NSDA continues to work through the strategic realignment process with the goal of creating a framework for our future that will define the unique role of the NSDA in service to the speech and debate field while putting the mission and values of the NSDA at its core. The Competition Rules Board members will discuss realignment recommendations related to non-competitive events and expansion of speech and debate activities.

National Tournament Adjudication Process

In preparation for the 2024 National Tournament, the Competition Rules Board will review and discuss responsibilities and procedures related to adjudication of protests at the 2024 National Tournament. The CR Board will review the range of penalties for rule violations, analyze previous National Tournament protests, and discuss potential adjudication scenarios for the 2024 National Tournament.

Competition and Rules Leadership Committee Onboarding

By August 1, 2024, the NSDA will implement a new Competition and Rules Leadership Committee to serve as a standing committee as part of the Office of the Executive Director. This committee of speech and debate coaches and other members of various speech and debate

communities will serve as a decision-making body dedicated to issues that focus on NSDA competitions and rules. The committee will be empowered to establish policies governing NSDA competition rules and event procedures. The Competition Rules Board will discuss strategies for effectively onboarding new Competition and Rules Leadership Committee members.

Equity Pause

At the end of deliberations, the Competition Rules Board will utilize the NSDA Equity Lens to consider, reflect on, and address whether their decisions and decision-making processes are transparent, accountable, and reflect the organization's core value of equity.

Adjourn