



Competition Rules Board Meeting, August 1, 2023

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

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

On August 1, 2023, Competition Rules Board meeting minutes will be read into the record. Minutes are available for discussion, as requested by Competition Rules Board members.

National Tournament Competition Debrief

The Executive Director and Director of Competition will share an initial assessment of the competition aspects of the 2023 National Tournament and invite feedback from the Competition Rules Board.

Last-Chance Qualifier

In April 2023, schools who attended their district tournament were permitted to enter any districts-eligible student into the NSDA Last-Chance Qualifier for another chance to qualify to the 2023 National Tournament in main events. Over 1700 students from 490 schools participated, and 193 entries from 159 schools qualified to the National Tournament. The Competition Rules Board will review an assessment of the 2023 Last-Chance Qualifier and determine whether a Last-Chance Qualifier should be an ongoing opportunity for qualification. If it is determined the competition should continue, the Competition Rules Board will discuss potential desired and/or necessary adjustments to the eligibility requirements and qualification numbers.

Middle School Nationals

The Middle School National Tournament returned to in-person competition in 2023 for the first time since 2019. The Competition Rules Board will review an assessment of the 2023 Middle School National Tournament and determine the merits of future Middle School National Tournaments being held in-person as a general practice.

Supplemental Event-Only Opportunities

In 2021 and 2022, each school had the opportunity to enter two non-qualifying students that attended the district tournament into supplemental events. In 2023, the opportunity expanded to allow every member school to enter any two districts-eligible students who did not qualify into supplemental events. Over 900 students who did not qualify in a main event attended the 2023 National Tournament to participate in supplemental events. The Competition Rules Board will determine whether this opportunity for participation in supplemental events should continue at future National Tournaments.

Assessment of the 2023 World Schools Debate Invitational and Qualification Standards

The Competition Rules Board will review an assessment of the 2023 World Schools Debate Invitational. The group will also review member feedback regarding the May 2023 decision to pilot a requirement that at least one of a district's two World Schools teams be composed of students from one school. This new requirement still gives districts the autonomy to determine how World Schools teams are selected, and school-based and hybrid teams will compete in the same division at the tournament. This trial will provide an assessment regarding the merits of moving toward a school-based World Schools Debate format to foster participation and growth of this format of debate.

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