



Competition and Rules Leadership Committee Meeting, September 17, 2024

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

Call to Order/Welcome

On August 1, 2024, the NSDA implemented 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 committee will also serve in an advisory capacity on issues related to interscholastic programming. On September 17, 2024, the Competition and Rules Leadership Committee will meet for the first time.

Onboarding

The Competition and Rules Leadership Committee will discuss the scope of their role, committee meeting processes, and expectations for members. The group will also review the 2024-2025 strategic plan that outlines the goals of the Association in the next school year.

Subcommittee Selection

A majority of Competition and Rules Leadership Committee work will take place in subcommittees. The Office of the Executive Director has identified several subcommittee focus areas based on the strategic plan: Honor Society/Recognition, Middle School/Novice Opportunities, School/District-wide Educational Instruction, Community Building Efforts, Judge Training, Coach Recruitment/New Coach Development, and National Tournament Affordability. Competition and Rules Leadership Committee members will prioritize three of these subcommittees to begin work in 2024-2025.

Electronic Visual Aids in Informative

Currently, the *High School Unified Manual* rules on Informative Speaking state that “During the presentation, no electronic equipment is permitted. Electronic equipment is defined as any object requiring an electrical cord, battery, or solar power to operate it (projectors, cell phones, radios, iPads, computers, etc.)” The Competition and Rules Leadership Committee will assess a member-submitted proposal to allow students in Informative Speaking to use electronic equipment as part of their visual aids.

Scouting Rule

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

Equity Pause

At the end of deliberations, the Competition and Rules Leadership Committee 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