



Competition and Rules Leadership Committee Meeting, November 12, 2024

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

Call to Order/Welcome

On November 12, 2024, the Competition and Rules Leadership Committee meeting minutes will be read into the record. Minutes are available for discussion, as requested by Competition and Rules Leadership Committee members.

Debate Paradigms at the National Tournament

Currently, the Association requires judges in Lincoln-Douglas and Policy Debate to complete a paradigm questionnaire before the National Tournament. Competition and Rules Leadership Committee members will review a proposal to require judges in World Schools and Public Forum Debate to complete a paradigm that asks experience-based questions as well. If there is support for this proposal, it would go into effect for the 2026 National Tournament.

Artificial Intelligence in Extemporaneous Speaking

In 2023, the Competition Rules Board created rules surrounding what use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) is permitted in debate, Congress, Extemp, and Public Address. In 2024, additional rules regarding how AI can be used in Interp events were created. The guiding philosophy behind these rules was that an outright ban was impractical and ran contrary to the educational goals of speech and debate, but that artificial intelligence should not be used to write speeches in events like Extemp in which speeches must be the original work of the competitor. The committee will consider a member-submitted proposal to reconsider that philosophy and ban the use of AI in Extemp.

National Tournament Affordability

The Competition and Rules Leadership Committee will begin a discussion of potential strategies to reduce the cost of the National Tournament for participants. The committee will consider whether it is desirable to shorten the tournament schedule to reduce schools' hotel and meal costs by eliminating Sunday activities, running longer competition days, and/or shortening the final round schedule by running finals simultaneously. The committee will also discuss whether the National Tournament moving to a small rotation of host cities can reduce costs through the predictability it creates for participants and the Association's ability to negotiate lower fees in longer-term contracts. A Competition and Rules Leadership subcommittee has been formed to continue this discussion in 2025.

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