

Amendment to Add World Schools Debate as a qualifying event for TFA State (for the 2018 – 2019 school year)

World Schools Debate features a dynamic form of debate combining the concepts of “prepared” topics with “impromptu” topics, encouraging debaters to focus on specified issues rather than debate theory or procedural arguments. This highly interactive style of debate allows debaters to engage each other, even during speeches. This challenging format requires good teamwork and in depth quality argumentation.

1. A team shall have at least three (3) and no more than five (5) members, all of which must be from the same school. Only three students may speak in any given debate.
2. Motions – Motions shall take the format befitting debate in a House of Parliament, always beginning with the phrase ‘ This House, ‘ which will often – but not exclusively – be followed by the verbs “would,” “ believes that”, “regrets>’ One team proposes the motion (resolution) in each debate; the other team opposes it. Some motions will be impromptu motions and other will be prepared motions. Prepared motions will be released one month before the start of the TFA State tournament.
3. Format – The format of the debate shall model the following format:
 - Opening Government/ Proposition 1 – 8 Minutes
 - Opening Opposition/ Opposition 1 – 8 Minutes
 - Proposition 2 – 8 Minutes
 - Opposition 2 – 8 Minutes
 - Proposition 3 – 8 Minutes
 - Opposition 3 – 8 Minutes
 - Opposition 3 – 8 Minutes
 - Opposition Reply (Speaker 1 or 2) – 4 Minutes
 - Proposition Reply (speaker 1 or 2) – 4 Minutes
4. Materials – During the debate students are permitted to bring with them an English language dictionary, a bilingual dictionary and a single volume encyclopedia or almanac. Other printed materials referred to during the course of prepared speeches, may also accompany a team into the room. **Students may not use electronic storage or retrieval devices (except the use of mobile phone for timing. Use of electronic devices during debates (or in preparation in the impromptu preparation period) will result in the loss of a round.**
5. Preparation Time and Procedure – For both preliminary and elimination rounds, both the team supporting the motion, and the team opposing the motion shall have one hour from the time the motion is released until the beginning of the impromptu round. All members of the three to five member team – both those who will be speaking in the round and any other members who will speak in other rounds – may participate in in preparation.
6. Winning a Debate - In preliminary rounds, a debate is won by the team who receives the highest team score from the judge. There are no low point wins. In elimination rounds or any rounds with

a panel of judges, the debate is won by the team who receives a winning ballot from a majority of judges in the round. The sum of team scores determines a winning ballot. There are no low point wins.

7. Interruptions - During a substantive speech (an 8 - minute speech) a competitor from the opposite team may rise to offer a Point of Information. A Point of Information may be a question or a statement. The first full minute of a substantive speech and the last full minute of a substantive speech are considered protected time. No Points of Information may be given during this time. The speaker may choose to accept a Point of Information or to reject or waive down a Point of Information. Rejection can take the form of an obvious hand gesture or a verbal comment from the speaker.

Rationale:

World Schools Debate is the format of the future in the United States. As an event that has been practiced for decade's internationally, and grown exponentially at the NSDA National tournament in the last five years. As the state with some of the highest numbers of competitors and the largest number of NSDA Districts in the country, I feel that Texas should lead the way in showing how a large state can implement Worlds Schools at our state tournament.

The biggest concern is, "will this increase the size of the state Tournament"? Frankly, I think more people would switch from current formats to World Schools.

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