

Amendment to reform/clarify the current process of student qualifying for the elimination rounds at TFA State

Intended to replace the entire section on page 80 entitled "Elimination Rounds Eligibility"

Elimination Rounds Eligibility

If four preliminary rounds are held at the state tournament:

The number of entrants eligible for the elimination rounds shall be the lesser of (1) the number of entrants that have a record of 3-1 or better or (2) 64.

If five preliminary rounds are held at the state tournament:

The number of entrants eligible for the elimination rounds shall be 32, unless there are more than 32 entrants with a 4-1 record or better. In that case, the number of entrants shall be 64.

If six preliminary rounds are held at the state tournament:

The entrants eligible for the elimination rounds shall be all entrants with a record of 4-2 or better, unless that number exceeds 64. In that case, only the top 64 will advance to the elimination rounds.

Pairing the Elimination Rounds

The eligible entrants will be seeded and placed in a single-elimination bracket.

If the number of eligible entrants is a power of 2 (e.g., 16, 32, 64), the highest seeded entrant will be paired against the lowest seeded entrant, the second highest seeded entrant will be paired against the second lowest seeded entrant, and so on.

If the number of eligible entrant is not a power of 2 (creating a partial bracket), byes are to be awarded in the first elimination round to the top seeds, while the lower seeded entrants must debate to earn a place in the second elimination round. The number of entrants to debate in the first elimination round is twice the difference between the number of eligible entrants and the highest power of 2 less than the number of eligible entrants. For example, if 40 entrants qualify for the first elimination round, the bottom 16 entrants (those seeded 25 - 40) will debate in the first elimination round (giving a bye to the top 24). This is because the largest power of 2 less than 40 is 32, and the difference between 40 and 32 is 8. Thus, there needs to be 8 debates involving the bottom 16 entrants to narrow the field from 40 to 32. In this example, the 25th seed shall debate the 40th seed, the 26th seed shall debate the 39th seed, and so on. The winner of the 25 vs 40 debate will meet the 8th seed in the second elimination round, the winner of the 26 vs 39 debate will meet the 7th seed in the second elimination round, the winner of the 27 vs 38 debate will meet the 6th seed in the second elimination round, etc.

Subsequent elimination round pairings will be consistent with the principle that high seed is matched against low seed. If a lower seeded entrant wins, then it "captures" the high seed for the purpose of placement in the bracket.

Brackets shall be broken to prevent teams from the same school from meeting; this break will occur in the round in which the meeting is scheduled to occur. Once an entrant is switched, it "captures" the seed of the entrant from the same school.

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