

Directive to the Executive Council

The Executive Council is charged with forming a regionally balanced ad-hoc committee to review the current rules and procedures for TFA events. The goal will be to have these rules and procedures more closely align to those of the National Speech and Debate Association. Areas may include, but not be limited to event descriptions and rules, interp script source requirement and standards, internet usage in debate and individual events, and evidence rules in debate. The deadline for completion of this project will be May of 2019 so that the changes, if necessary, would be implemented during the 2019-20 school year.

Rationale

The TFA constitution has undergone several changes in the past decade. Two reasons would exist for adherence to NSDA rules. First, the organization was founded with the express intent of helping students qualify and compete successfully at the NSDA national tournament. Rule changes have sometimes worked at cross purposes to those goals. We need to return to a greater adherence of those rules to assist our students in not only qualification for the NSDA national tournament, but success when they get there.

Second, other national organizations have begun to work with the NSDA to bring their rules and procedures in sync with those of the NSDA. If Texas wants to continue to be the leader in that regard, they must be willing to more closely adhere to NSDA guidelines. In many instances, those rules, although seemingly more complicated, are more comprehensive and clear in their interpretation. There is a history of precedence that can be used for rule interpretations. That can only help competitions be more consistent and fair in their administration.

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