

An Amendment Regarding Mutual Judge Preference at the State Tournament

Existing Language:

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“Use of the Mutual Preference System of Judging

The TFA State Tournament will use a mutual preference system of assigning judges in Lincoln Douglas and Policy Debate. Mutual preference is defined as a system allowing individual schools and/or teams to assign available judges in pre-described categories within numeric parameters. At least one week prior to the beginning of the tournament, the Secretary or a designated representative, will make available to coaches of LD and Policy entries the list of judges scheduled to judge at the state tournament. The coaches will then have the opportunity to designate a pre-determined number of judges in one of the following categories: 1-(most preferred), 2- (preferred), 3-(acceptable), 4-(OK), 6-Strike. All remaining judges will be assigned a “5” (not preferred) rating.

Example: If there were 75 judges available to judge at the state tournament, teams might be asked to assign judges in the following manner: 1 judges -20; 2 judges-20; 3 judges-15; 4 judges -10; Strikes-5; 5 judges-5. The formula for how many judges will be assigned to each category will be pre-determined by the debate tabulation director.

Coaches would be required to return the mutual preference sheet to the Secretary or designated representative no later than the Wednesday prior to the beginning of the tournament. If returned by that time, the mutual preference system would be in place prior to Round 1 of the tournament. Coaches would also have the opportunity to complete and return the mutual preference sheet at the tournament registration. Those preferences would go into effect at the time that the tabulation room had the opportunity to input them.

It will be the responsibility of individual coaches to complete the mutual preference sheet. Tabulation room staff will verify the correctness of the mutual preference sheet with individual coaches at registration. Coaches who may have completed the sheet incorrectly will have the opportunity to complete the sheet correctly at that time. Coaches may only designate strikes if they choose. All other judges will then be designated as “1” judges in such instances. For those coaches who fail to complete the sheet correctly, the tabulation staff will reserve the right to randomly assign judges from one category to another to correct the sheet.

Strike System

The executive Council may offer a strike system for judges at the state tournament in public forum debate and the individual events, including duo or duet.”

New Wording - Replace the entire section above with:

Strike System

“At least one week prior to the beginning of the tournament, the Secretary or a designated representative, will make available to coaches of LD and Policy entries the list of judges scheduled to judge at the state tournament. The coaches will then have the opportunity to strike six total judges. Coaches would be required to return the mutual strike sheet to the Secretary or designated representative no later than the Wednesday prior to the beginning of the tournament. If returned by that time, the strike system would be in place prior to Round 1 of the tournament.

The executive Council may offer a strike system for judges at the state tournament in public forum debate and the individual events, including duo or duet.”

Rationale:

Eliminating MJP will facilitate easier judge placement at the state tournament. It will also remove an unfair advantage to entrants at the state meet who are more familiar with the judging pool and thus better able to manipulate which judges they have in rounds.