

An amendment to seed the first two TFA State preliminary debate rounds by TFA points earned.

This amendment would replace the language in the TFA Constitution, in the State Tournament Operations Manual section, under Debate Rounds, Preliminary Rounds section.

Replace the language of:

Rounds I and II shall be pre-set. Preliminary round seeding shall be made before power matching.

with the following language.

Rounds I and II will be seeded according to the accumulation of TFA State points from that year's Individual Qualifying Points earned from competing in that debate event. Seeding will be based upon students who earned the most number of TFA State points in that debate event will be paired against students who earned the least number of TFA State points in that debate event. In team debate events, if the team consists of individuals from two separate qualifying teams, team points would be an average of the points collected by each of the original qualifying teams.

Explanation and clarification:

- Points earned in other TFA events will not count toward seeding in the debate event. So only points earned in LD debate will count in LD, CX for CX, etc.
- Students earning the highest points in that debate event during that TFA calendar year will debate students in the first two rounds who earned the least number of points. So, if a student earns 46 points in LD debate (and assuming this was one of the highest number of points earned) would debate students who earned the minimum number of points to qualify to compete in LD debate.
- All other constraints such as making every effort to prevent students from same region from debating in the first two rounds.
- Students earning point totals toward the middle of the pack would debate each other in the first two rounds.

Rationale:

The TFA State tournament is growing too large for most schools to house. This limits which schools can host and can prevent the organization from growing and innovating with new events. Various ideas have been proposed and rejected for being exclusive to TFA areas with fewer tournaments and lower chances to earn points.

This change would not preclude any students from earning the requisite number of points to qualify for state and so should not limit the ability of students and schools in areas with fewer tournaments to qualify for state.

This change could potentially shrink the number of entries in debate as students are incentivized to continue once they qualify. Often, once students qualify, they cease competing at TFA IQTs. This results in more students qualifying. Then these students who qualify may quit coming, and still more qualify. If students are incentivized to keep competing to earn points, then this could mean fewer students qualifying from each region annually.

This could make TFA IQTs more competitive and more heavily attended as students are incentivized to keep competing. Currently there are some weekends that can struggle to make as many students are already qualified.

This would also reward the students who are most active in the TFA each year.

Students can still qualify and then go to compete on other circuits.

This could discourage concessions as students seek to maximize their points which could further lower qualifying numbers.