

Name: Neal White

School: Plano Senior High School

Region: 2

Email Address: neal.white@pisd.edu

Rationale for Amendment: This amendment changes many small things about the State Tournament operations manual for Congressional Debate.

Section of Constitution Where Change Occurs: Standing Rules: State Tournament Operations Manual

Page Number of Change: 93-95

Add, Delete, or Amend: Amend

Implementation Timeframe: Immediately upon passage

Proposed Change: Highlighted words will be added. Words with a red strikethrough will be removed.

Congressional Debate General Rules

1. *Entry:*

a. *Entries in the United States House shall be based upon qualification at IQT's that offer Congressional Debate. The students' names shall be submitted on the entry form for the State Tournament.*

b. *Students qualified for the United States House at the State Tournament may compete in up to two Individual Events in which they have also qualified, at the discretion of the TFA Executive Council. ~~Each member school may enter one contestant in the United States Senate. These students may not have qualified in any other event and will compete in a separated division from the United States House.~~*

2. *Judging: Parliamentarians and Scorers will be selected by the Congressional Debate Committee prior to assigning judges for other events. All judges affiliated with schools entering students in Congressional Debate will automatically be placed in the pool to serve as either a scorer or a parliamentarian for the duration of the tournament if needed.*

3. *Chambers: There will be preliminary houses as determined by the number of entries. Each chamber shall contain no more than 20 students and shall be regionally balanced.*

a. Preliminary Sessions: There will be two 4 hour sessions aligned with 4 debate rounds. Parliamentarians shall be assigned to a chamber for the entire round (both sessions). Scorers are reassigned each session (4 hours).

~~i. A~~ Each preliminary round is defined as including: session must include the following:

~~ii. Minimum of 3 hours~~

~~iii. 18-20 students as the optimum number for a 3-hour session~~

i. Election of a Presiding Officer

ii. New seating chart

iii. Resetting of precedence/recency

iv. New legislation that has not been debated in a previous session in the tournament

b. Semifinal Congress: In the event that there are three or more preliminary chambers, up to four semifinal chambers will be created for a round which shall be no less than four total hours of debate ~~two 2-hour sessions~~ in length

c. Super Congress: There will be one "finals" round of no less than three hours which will be known as Super Congress.

Procedural Rules

1. Order of the Docket: Docket order for State will be released following conclusion of the IQT season.

2. Floor Debate: See section under IQT's.

3. Presiding Officer: A presiding officer shall be elected at the beginning of each House/Senate preliminary session. At the conclusion of the Prelim sessions, each chamber will vote for their outstanding P.O. This student will be presented with a gavel at the awards ceremony.

4. Authorship speeches: Schools, whose legislation is selected for the Preliminary round at State, are guaranteed an authorship speech. The author of the bill or resolution shall be recognized to open debate, but shall have no other preference in speaking on said bill or resolution. Amendments are not allowed authorship speeches. A brief statement of justification is allowed but will not be scored.

a. The authorship speech shall be a maximum of three minutes (four in the final round) with ~~an additional~~ two minutes of cross-examination time.

b. If the author of the legislation is not in the chamber, the chair shall recognize a member to begin debate. This will be treated as a sponsorship speech, not one of authorship and will be followed by two minutes of cross-examination. The first negative speech will also be followed by a two minute questioning period.

5. Tiebreaking Procedures: Each individual chamber is calculated independent of the others. Legislators with the lowest cumulative rank total advance to the next level of competition, employing the following tiebreakers.

- a. Judge's preference
- b. Reciprocal fractions
- c. Rank by their parliamentarian

Scoring Speaker points shall be awarded by the official scorers ranging from 1-6 with 6 being the highest score. Presiding officers shall be awarded points by the parliamentarian ranging from 1 to 6, with 6 being the highest score.

- a. Points shall be awarded only for speeches with Cross-examination also being a factor. Rankings should include activity in the chamber as well as speeches and questions/responses to questions.
- b. The Parliamentarian shall award the presiding officer a score at the conclusion of each hour of service.
- c. The Parliamentarian will be assigned to a chamber for the entire Preliminary sessions. The Ranking of the Legislators, by the scorers **and the parliamentarian** in each chamber, will be used for determining advancement and tabulation of all rounds at the TFA State Tournament.

Semifinal Congress

1. Sectioning: Semifinal chambers shall be sectioned by rank balance between houses while maintaining regional balance.
2. Judges: Parliamentarians and Scorers shall not have judged in preliminary sessions. **If the semifinal round is broken into multiple sessions, scorers will be changed in each chamber between sessions and the parliamentarian will be assigned to the chamber for the entire round (all sessions).** ~~and shall be assigned to a chamber for the entire round.~~
3. Number of Members: Semifinal houses shall not contain more than 16 persons each.
4. Minimum Preliminary Rounds: If there are less than three preliminary chambers, no Semifinal Congress shall be held.

Super Congress

1. Organization
 - a. No more than 16 delegates shall be in the Super Congress
 - b. The assigned Parliamentarian/Scorers shall remain for the entire round/**session**.
 - c. Adult P.O. may be assigned if available

d. In Super Congress, Speeches are four minutes, with two-minute questioning of speakers introducing legislation as well as the first negative, and one minute of questioning for subsequent speakers. Each questioner has 30 seconds within the one or two minutes to engage in direct questioning with the speaker. During direct questioning, all questioning periods are broken into 30-second segments, with one questioner per segment, who may ask multiple questions of the speaker during that segment. The Presiding Officer must track and select questioners based on recency the same way speakers are recognized. Recency for speaker should be tracked independently of questioners.

*2. Selection for the Final Ballot: At the conclusion of Super Congress, the ranks of the top 8 legislators, provided by the **four** scorers **and the parliamentarian**, will be used to determine the winners. The cume rank ~~of the top 8~~ will be tallied and the lowest cume will receive 1st, next lowest 2nd; and so on to determine the top 8. The Parliamentarian will rank everyone in the chamber, and these ranks will be used for tie-breaking purposes **only**.*

3. Awards: The top six students ~~in each division~~ as determined by the tabulation of the ballots shall receive awards. All Outstanding Presiding Officers from preliminary chambers shall receive an award.