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**Rationale for Amendment:** Most, if not all, major Speech and Debate associations do not prescribe a 45 minute maximum for floor debate in Congressional Debate, including UIL and the current NSDA Unified Manual. The 45 minute cap results in many awkward time breakdowns for students in Congress - for example, in a two hour final round, students would typically debate two items for 45 minutes and one item for about 20 minutes due to recesses. The rule change proposed below would allow hosts to either not limit debate in Congress, or would allow them to limit to debate per item to the much more flexible “no more than one-third of a session’s floor time,” which is also the language preferred in NSDA’s 2019-2020 pilot rules. This change would allow hosts to cater better to their tournament schedules and the norms of their region.

**Section of Constitution Where Change Occurs:** Standing Rules: Competition Event Guide

**Page Number of Change:** 52

**Add, Delete, or Amend:** Amend

**Implementation Timeframe:** Immediately upon passage

**Proposed Change:** The following paragraph from the “Floor Debate” section under “Congressional Debate” will be removed and replaced with the paragraph immediately following it. Highlighted words will be added. Words with a red strikethrough will be removed.

~~a. Each bill or resolution shall be debated for a maximum of 45 minutes. If action has not been taken on the legislation by that time, an immediate vote shall be taken.~~

*a. Optional rule for tournaments: Time for debate per legislation item should last no more than one-third of a session’s floor time. If action has not been taken on the legislation by that time, an immediate vote shall be taken. All TFA Tournaments including the State Meet must declare in their tournament invitations if this rule is being used.*