

Amendments suggested by Constitution Committee

Constitution:

Article II. Purpose-add "debate"

Article III. Membership-delete "must be sent with TFA dues to the treasurer", add "be paid through TSCA registration"

Article IV. Executive Council-adjusted wording on who are voting members of EC

Article VI. Committees, Section 2-change "special" to "ad hoc"

Article VII. Amendment, Section 1-change "mailed to all members or placed" to "posted"

By-Laws

Section 1-Annual Dues-change "annual meeting" to "annual summer EC retreat, in order to be reflected in the TSCA registration"

Section 2-Delete "Nominating Committee" and all language describing committee

Section 5, Committees-change "1" to "2" years for standing committees

Add "digital" in reference to newsletter

Delete "Nominating Committee"

Debate Topic Selection Committee-add "When possible, the chair should travel to the NFSHSA annual meeting and represent TFA.

Funds will be made available to supplement the cost of travel.

Congressional Debate Committee-add "evaluate and"

Add "One rubric will be used for both the fall and spring dockets"

Add "A docket of 30 items shall be established based on the lowest cumulative ranking (with all items over 30 mapped to a rank of 31) of each member."

Section 7. Quorum-add "Once quorum is established at the beginning of the first business meeting, it will be considered established through the end of business"

Add "Member shall be defined as an advisor in good standing, who has paid their annual dues."

Section 8. Rules of Procedure-Add "the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order and overseen by the Parliamentarian, to be appointed by the President. The Parliamentarian will be the final arbiter on issues of parliamentary procedure and cannot be appealed.

Standing Rules.

Debate Overview-change "analysis" to "critical thinking"

Add "Debate may be run in any pattern at the discretion of the tournament director, and the tournament director may limit cross-entries"

Evidence Rules-change "Oral Requirements" to "Citations"

Add examples of what the citations would look like

Reading of Evidence by the Judge-add "shall be disallowed from examining evidence during a round"

2. delete "or mental lapses on the fault of the judge"

3. delete "shall be instructed that they should decide that a given situation justifies overcoming the strong presumption against reviewing evidence they"

Evidence Misrepresentation-delete "such as copies of relevant pages of Books in Print, Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature, etc."

Congressional Debate-delete "Congressional debate shall not be run as a consolation event at IQTs"

Authorship Speeches-add "If the author of the legislation is not in the chamber, the chair will recognize a member legislator to begin debate, according to precedence."

Amendments-add "This will be treated as a sponsorship speech, not one of authorship and will be followed by 2 minutes of cross examination. The first negative speech will also be followed by a 2 minute questioning period. Amendments are not considered authorship speeches. A brief statement of justification is allowed but is not scored"

IQT Operations

Hosting an IQT-add “h. The EC reserves the right to revoke or alter precedence for tournaments who were protested and sanctioned in the previous competitive year”

Qualifying Numbers

1. Delete “Qualifications to the State tournament will be based on a 12 point system. When an individual or team accumulates 12 points, they will qualify to the State tournament.”
2. Add “The minimum entry number for Worlds Schools is 6”
4. Qualifying numbers shall not include those entries that have been disqualified, do not adhere to the definition of an entry to a specific event, or have competed representing an entity not representing a TFA school. So, for instance, if there are 10 entries, but 1 has been disqualified, 1 is from out of state, and 1 is a hybrid team, that event would only have 7 entries and would thus not be a qualifying event.”

Requirements-Add “Information Required to be Communicated on a Tournament Invitation:

1. Whether panels will be used in quarterfinals and beyond in debate events and finals of IES, Duet, and Duo.
2. Sweepstakes formula.
3. Which form of power matching being used (high-high or high-low within brackets)
4. Whether brackets will be broken (if not properly communicated ahead of time the default is to break bracket.
5. Which debate topics will be debated.
6. Congressional dockets (from approved legislation) and shall designate in their invitations which pieces of legislation shall be used in preliminary, semifinal, and or final rounds.”

Procedures for Processing Protests/Violations

Add “3. Any host of a TFA qualifying tournament may offer a formal complaint against student(s) attending their qualifying tournament based on their inappropriate behavior during a tournament. Such complaints must be accompanied by proof of the complaint (proof can include security camera footage, and/or written corroboration of witnesses). Such complaints will be forwarded to the EC of the TFA. If deemed a violation of appropriate student behavior the EC shall remove all current State points (Individual and team events) from the student(s)

found to be in violation. The EC shall also impose a 2 month suspension from the TFA qualifying tournament participation for the student(s) found to be in violation.”

Debate Tabulation

Pairing of Preliminary Rounds-1. delete “If power ranking is used for teams, every attempt should be made to balance the power of teams that are paired against one another.”

State Tournament

Elimination Round Eligibility-delete “If 4 preliminary rounds are held at the state tournament: The number of entrants eligible for the elimination rounds shall be the lesser of the (1) number of entrants that have a record of 3-1 or better or (2) 64.”

Strike System-add “World’s Schools debate”

Add “coaches are required to complete the online strike sheet no later than the Wednesday prior to the beginning of the tournament. If returned by that time, strikes will be in place prior to Round 1 of the tournament.”

Awards-add “Worlds Schools”

Debate Events Awards-Add “3. Awards will be given to all quarterfinalists and beyond. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awards will be given to the semifinalists and beyond in Policy, Public Forum, LD, and Worlds Schools. Awards will be given to the top 6 in Congressional Debate with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awards being presented.”

Add “4. All outstanding presiding officers from preliminary chambers shall receive an award. At conclusion of the preliminary sessions, each chamber will vote for an outstanding presiding officer, who will be presented with a gavel at the awards assembly”

***We were working from an August 2019 version of the Constitution, so all of the amendments and updates added by the secretary will still need to be added.