

# Texas Forensic Association Constitution and Contest Rules



Revised December 2020

The purpose of the Texas Forensic Association is to bring about more effective cooperation among the members of the speech and theatre arts profession in the discharge of their special responsibilities in forensic and theatre activities; to create a means of educating the general and professional publics to the important educational functions of forensics and theatre arts; to make collective action possible on problems of common professional interest; and, in general, to maintain and advance the ideals and standards of the speech and theatre arts profession.

The Texas Forensic Association shall promote the interests of interscholastic speech and theatre by encouraging a spirit of fellowship among participating students and teachers. Activities viewed as central to the organization's function include debate, theatre, and competitive individual speaking events.

The Association continues to set high standards and strives to meet new goals for the benefit of Texas Teachers and students. The model of the Texas Forensic Association has been recommended for other states where similar needs are felt.

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# Constitution

*\*The following section may be amended by the two-thirds majority vote of the members present and voting at any annual meeting, special meeting, or mail ballot provided that copies of the Proposed amendment have been mailed to all members or placed on the official TFA website at least fourteen (14) days prior to the vote, or without prior notice by a three-fourths majority of those present and voting.*

## **Article 1. Name**

The name of this organization shall be the Texas Forensic Association.

## **Article II. Purpose**

Section 1: The purpose of this association is to bring about more effective cooperation among the members of the speech, debate, and theatre arts profession in the discharge of their special responsibilities in forensic and theatre activities; to create a means of educating the general and professional publics to the important educational functions of forensics and theatre arts; to make collective action possible on problems of common professional interest; and, in general, to maintain and advance the ideals and standards of the speech and theatre arts profession.

Section 2: This organization shall promote the interests of interscholastic speech and theatre by encouraging a spirit of fellowship among participating students and teachers. Activities viewed as central to the organization's function include debate, theatre, and competitive individual speaking events. The Texas Forensic Association, however, assumes no legal liability for copyright violations or other actions by participants or members.

## **Article III. Membership**

All members of the Texas Forensic Association must also be members of the Texas Speech Communication Association and the National Federation of State High School Associations. Annual dues for these organizations must be paid through TSCA registration.

Section 1: Persons engaged in directing forensics and theatre arts shall be eligible for membership and shall become members upon payment of annual dues. This type of individual membership shall remain with the person rather than the institution during the membership term (i.e., if the person changes schools the membership will remain with the person). These members must represent a school, defined as an organization, institution, or group which grants a diploma or its equivalent as recognized by the Texas State Board of Education and/or Texas Education Agency to provide instruction for grades nine, ten, eleven, and/or twelve.

Directors of colleges and universities, recognized and accredited, by the U.S. Department of Education are allowed membership in the organization for purposes of hosting tournaments.

Section 2: Persons friendly to the aims of the organization: retired coaches, administrators, college students, spouses, and out-of-state coaches or out of state institutions, shall be eligible for membership in TFA only, but shall not be allowed to host a qualifying tournament nor compete in the State tournament. Membership will be attained upon payment of a \$5.00 annual fee.

Section 3: Institutional memberships shall be available for institutions by payment of annual dues. This type of membership shall remain with the institution during the membership period regardless of personnel changes. These members must represent a school, defined as an organization, institution, or group which grants a diploma or its equivalent as recognized by the Texas State Board of Education and/or Texas Education Agency to provide instruction for grades nine, ten, eleven, and/or twelve. Colleges and universities, recognized and accredited, by the U.S. Department of Education are allowed membership in the organization for purposes of hosting tournaments.

Section 4: Emeritus life membership shall be granted to individuals whose service to the Texas Forensic Association has been of the highest merit. The Hall of Fame/Emeritus Membership Committee shall designate the honorees. These members shall be members of TFA only and shall pay no dues.

Section 5: The membership period is from September 1 to September 1. Benefits for the current membership year shall be extended only to those paying membership dues on or before January 31. Schools hosting a TFA qualifier must become members before October 31, either through an individual membership or institutional membership. Schools hosting an IQT tournament that do not pay by the October 31 deadline will incur the following penalty based on payment made:

- A. If paid between November 1 and November 30 - \$100 fine.
- B. If paid between December 1 and December 31 - \$200 fine.
- C. If paid after December 31st, the hosting school will be sanctioned from hosting a tournament in the following season.

Section 6: In the event that the Texas Forensic Association should decide to dissolve, the Executive Council shall, after paying all liabilities, dispose of remaining assets as follows:

- A. Donate them to the Texas Speech Communication Association which is an exempt organization under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, or, in the event that the organization no longer exists.
- B. Donate them to some other educational organization which qualifies under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, and which is concerned primarily with the field of communication.

## **Article IV. Executive Council**

Section 1: The Executive Council shall consist of Voting Members - President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Regional Representatives as specified in the By-Laws, and Non-Voting Members- Immediate Past President, Archivist, I.Q.T. Coordinator, Social Media Specialist, a current Superintendent of Schools. When the number of regions in the state is an even number, the immediate Past President shall become a voting member.

Section 2: The Executive Council shall act for the Association in the interim between annual meetings, but all of its actions shall be reported to the following annual meeting, and such actions may be reversed by majority, provided a quorum is present.

Section 3: The Executive Council is empowered to solicit, review, and approve initiatives by member coaches and institutions that may run contrary to the standing rules and by-laws of the organization for purposes of testing alternatives for future consideration and broader approval.

Section 4: The Executive Council is empowered to recruit, hire, evaluate, and terminate paid personnel to serve the interests of the organization. In the case that the Texas Forensic Association engages in any arrangement (via contract or other agreement) that requires expenditures of over \$5000 in organizational funds, that expenditure would require a majority vote of all voting members of the Executive Council. In addition, the amount of the expenditure, and the purpose of the expenditure, the votes of the members of the Executive Council on that issue(s), must be made public to the body of the Texas Forensic Association within 14 days of the agreement to spend those funds.

Section 5: All members of the Texas Forensic Association Executive Council will be required to receive formal training, consistent with educational 501c3 nonprofit organizations and their boards of directors. Formal training should focus on, but not be limited to, best practices and legal requirements for fiscal oversight; equity and inclusion; fiduciary responsibilities of Council members; organizational record keeping; succession processes. The Executive Council will take bids from a firm to conduct the training and elect the firm no later than December of that calendar year. The training should be initiated no later than April 1 of each school year. If members are added to the Executive Council after the training occurs, they must receive training immediately before serving on the Executive Council. A report to TFA members outlining the bid process and training process should be made no later than April 1.

## **Article V. Meetings**

Section 1: The annual business meeting of the organization shall be held in conjunction with the annual convention of the Texas Speech Communication Association. In addition, business may be conducted by (a) A special meeting called by the President with the consent of the Executive Council. Written notice of said meeting must be issued to all members at least

thirty days in advance. (b) A vote of the membership through a mail ballot authorized by the President with the consent of the Executive Council.

Section 2: The annual meeting may consist of several sessions. The session at which the election of officers is to be held, and any session at which a constitutional amendment is to be voted upon, must be clearly designated for those purposes in all announcements.

Section 3: Meetings of the Executive Council shall be held at the call of the President, or the Secretary shall call a meeting at the written request of any three members of the Executive Council.

## **Article VI. Committees**

Section 1: Standing committees, as detailed by the By-Laws, shall be appointed for a term of one year by the President of the Executive Council with nominations from each Region provided by the Regional Representatives except as otherwise provided. Their term of office shall coincide with that of the President. Each standing committee shall present a report of its activities at the annual meeting.

Section 2: Ad Hoc committees may be established as the need arises.

## **Article VII. Amendment**

Section 1: This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present and voting at any annual meeting, special meeting, or mail ballot provided that copies of the Proposed amendment have been posted on the official TFA website at least fourteen (14) days prior to the vote, or without prior notice by a three-fourths majority of those present and voting. Members must represent a school, defined as an organization, institution, or group which grants a diploma or its equivalent as recognized by the Texas State Board of Education and/or Texas Education Agency to provide instruction for grades nine, ten, eleven, and/or twelve.

Section 2: The Secretary or an appointed member of the Executive Council is authorized to correct articles and section designations, punctuation, and cross-references and to make such other technical and conforming changes in the TFA Constitution, By-Laws, Standing Rules, and Code of Professional Standards of the organization. Suggested changes must be approved by the Executive Council and published for the membership.

# By-Laws

*\*Rules or Regulations in the following sections may be amended by the majority vote of the members present and voting at any annual meeting, special meeting, or mail ballot provided that copies of the Proposed amendment have been mailed to all members or placed on the official TFA website at least fourteen (14) days prior to the vote, or without prior notice by a three-fourths majority of those present and voting.*

Section 1: **ANNUAL DUES.** The annual dues shall be established by the annual summer EC retreat, in order to be reflected in the TSCA registration and may vary from year to year.

Section 2: **ELECTION OF OFFICERS.** The newly elected officers shall assume office on April 1 the year following their election. They shall hold office until their terms expire and their successors are elected. A candidate, to be elected, must receive a majority vote by secret ballot. In the event no candidate receives a majority on the first ballot, the second ballots shall be conducted with only the names of the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes in the first ballot in the consideration.

Section 3: **SPECIAL ELECTIONS.** In the case of a vacancy in any office due to death, resignation, or other cause, the President, with the consent of the Executive Council, shall appoint any eligible member to serve until the next annual meeting. In the event of a vacancy for the office of the President, the Executive Council shall appoint an eligible member to serve until an election is held at the next annual meeting.

Section 4: **DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.** The Executive Council, under the leadership of the President, and with the aid of the standing and special committees, shall be responsible for the planning of policy, the best utilization of personnel, and the execution of policy once adopted.

- A. **The President.** The President shall be required to perform the usual duties of such an officer. S/He shall have the power to call meetings of the Executive Council; to appoint State Tournament Tabulation Directors and State Tournament Committee members, the members of standing committees and special committees unless the original motion formulating the special committee shall designate another method of appointment. S/He shall be responsible for developing the sectional meeting programs at the annual convention. The term of office shall be two years and will be elected in odd number years. The President shall not serve more than one consecutive full term.
- B. **The Vice-President.** In addition to those duties assigned to him/her by the President or the Executive Council, the Vice-President shall be responsible for coordinating judging

assignments at the State Tournament. The term of office shall be two years and will be elected in even number years.

- C. **The Secretary.** The Secretary shall be responsible for recording and reporting in the newsletter the minutes of all business meetings of the Executive Council. S/He shall also be responsible for newsletters and for correspondence of the Association and such other normal secretarial duties as may need to be done or are assigned to him/her by the President. The term of office shall be two years and will be elected in even number years. Minutes of the business meeting(s) and meetings of the Executive Council shall be specific and give details of authors of motions, discussion, and how members of the Executive Council voted in meetings that do not include the general body of members.
- D. **The Treasurer.** The Treasurer shall be responsible for directing all the day-to-day business transactions of the organization. It shall be his/her duty to keep official account of all funds of the organization, to pay bills and accounts as prescribed by the President and the Executive Council or as prescribed by special action of the members at the annual meeting. In addition, s/he shall be responsible for sending out dues notices, receiving dues and applications for membership, maintaining up-to-date membership lists, publishing a directory, and for promptly forwarding all appropriate dues on to the Texas Speech Communication Association and the National Federation of State High School Associations. S/He shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Financial Committee. The term of office shall be two years and will be elected in odd number years. The Treasurer shall secure approval from a majority of the Executive Council for all expenditures over \$750.00 requested by the President of the organization.
- E. **Past President.** The President from the preceding year shall serve as Past President and shall act as an advisor to the Executive Council. When the number of regions in the state is an odd number, the immediate past president shall be a non-voting member of the Executive Council. If the regions of the state are even, the Past President is a voting member of the Executive Council.
- F. **Regional Representatives.** A Regional Representative shall be elected from each of five regions and shall serve on the Executive Council.
1. The composition of the regions shall be determined by the Executive Council with approval by the annual business meeting.
  2. Proposed changes in Texas Forensic Association regions shall be distributed to the membership at least fourteen (14) days prior to the annual meetings.
  3. Representatives from odd-numbered regions shall be elected in even-number years; representatives from even-numbered regions shall be elected in odd-numbered years. All Representatives shall be elected for two-year terms.
- G. **IQT Coordinator.** The President shall appoint, by July 1, a member to serve as Invitational Qualifying Tournament (I.Q.T.) Coordinator. This individual shall be a non-voting member of the Executive Council and shall serve as a member of the State

Tournament Committee. The duties of the IQT Coordinator shall include receiving, recording, and notifying qualified participants in the TFA State Tournament, finalizing entries in the State Tournament, and assisting in the planning and operation of the TFA State Tournament.

- H. **Archivist.** The President shall appoint a member to serve as Archivist for two years on even-numbered years. It shall be the Archivist's duty to maintain such documents and items as the President and Executive Council prescribe. A report, including a listing, shall be made to the membership at the annual meeting. The Archivist will be a non-voting member of the Executive Council.
  
- I. **Social Media Correspondent.** This position will be appointed by the TFA President (at the same time and through the same process as the IQT Coordinator), and shall serve for one year. This individual will update and maintain the TFA website, update and maintain the TFA Facebook page, update and maintain the TFA twitter account, and shall be responsible for presenting social media opportunities to the body at the annual meeting. S/He will also be responsible for scanning ballots (if this option is available) at the TFA State Tournament. S/He will also be responsible for maintaining the purchasing and distribution of TFA merchandise. This person will be a non-voting member of the TFA Executive Council.
  
- J. **State Tournament Coordinator:** After soliciting applications from the TFA membership, the President will select from the group of applicants, and make public on the TFA website by July 1, a member to serve as the TFA State Tournament Coordinator for the upcoming TFA State Tournament that will take place the following March. Immediately after the President's selection has been publicized on the TFA website, all voting members of the EC will vote on whether or not the President's selection will fill this office. For this person to hold office, this selection must be approved, through a majority vote of the voting members of the Executive Council, including the President. An individual familiar with the TFA and marketing will be compensated by and serve as an ex-officio member of the Executive Council for one year. This individual will perform the following functions:
  - 1. Beginning at least two years prior to the dates for the state tournament, the STC will solicit potential tournament sites from the region whose turn it would be in the constitutionally mandated rotation. If a suitable site cannot be found in that region, the STC will then be authorized to solicit potential sites from other parts of the state.
  - 2. The STC will use a bid package created in conjunction with the EC in soliciting organizations for the state tournament. That package will include tournament logistic needs (rooms, internet access, food service, etc.) and community characteristics (hotel rooms; airport access; bus parking, etc.) The STC will provide necessary information such as economic impact for the tournament.

3. The STC will begin with appropriate convention and/or tourism bureaus. It will then be the responsibility of the local convention/tourism bureaus to work with school personnel to make appropriate sites available. Partnerships between business and education communities will be used to procure and prepare tournament sites. The STC will work with the hosting school district personnel to help with the approval of release time so that the maximum number of rounds may be scheduled.
  4. The STC will announce the state tournament site at the TFA Business meeting in the school year prior to the tournament being held. For example, the 2021 TFA State Tournament site will be announced at the 2019 TFA Business Meeting.
- K. **Superintendent of Schools.** The TFA President shall appoint this person to serve as an advisor to the council and as an advocate for the organization. This person will be a non-voting member.
- L. **Reports.** All members of the Executive Council, including Regional Representatives shall make reports at the annual meetings, as necessary.

**Section 6: Committees.** Committees shall be of two types, standing and special. The standing committee shall be appointed by the President with nominations from each Region provided by the Regional Representatives. Special committees shall be appointed by the President alone. A standing committee shall serve for two years, while special committees shall be appointed for one year, or until their assignment is completed, whichever is shorter, with the exception of the Congress Committee and World Schools Committee. All committees shall report at the annual meeting and, upon request of the President, shall be required to report to the Executive Council. Membership of each committee shall be published in the digital newsletter no later than September 1<sup>st</sup>. The following committees shall each consist of 5 members and be regionally balanced: Public Relations, Professional Relations, Finance, Scholarship, Hall of Fame/Emeritus Membership, and Congressional Debate.

- A. **Public Relations.** This committee shall plan and conduct a program of public relations in such a fashion as to best serve the interests of the Association and the profession, and to develop in the general public an appreciation, understanding, and awareness of the values of forensics and theatre arts.
- B. **Professional Relations.** This committee shall be responsible for the development of high standards in training of speakers and in the conduct of tournaments. This committee shall also be responsible for ethical practices within the profession.
- C. **Standing Committee for Equity.** This committee shall meet to discuss ways to encourage and meet the needs of disadvantaged groups within the TFA community to capture coaches, students, judges. They will advise the Executive Council ways to reduce obstacles for disadvantaged groups of students and enhancing representation at all

levels within TFA IQT's and the State meet. In addition, they will create and maintain a list of judges by region for high schools that have marginalized groups to call upon for volunteering at meets including the TFA state meet. The committee will also help create and maintain a list of names of individuals by region who are qualified and/or willing to fulfil the role of equity officers at local invitational qualifying meets and at the TFA state meet. The committee shall be regionally balanced and members shall be appointed by the President and the region reps.

- D. **Finance Committee.** This committee shall present an audit report at the annual meeting on odd-numbered years and additionally as necessary. A consultation with a CPA will be conducted each year beginning with fiscal year 2009-2010 and the results posted on the website immediately after the audit. If an audit is deemed necessary by the CPA, then the EC will authorize an audit of that fiscal year's records. The Chair of the Finance Committee is responsible for implementing this amendment and the Executive Council shall have the authority to release and disperse funds to a CPA and/or auditor. The President and Treasurer shall be ex-officio members.
- E. **State Tournament Committee.** This committee shall plan and run the state tournament. This committee shall be composed of the Executive Council and Tab Directors.
- F. **State Tournament Judging Committee.** This committee shall supply a pool of judges from each region of the state to judge the TFA State Tournament. Beginning with preliminary rounds, the committee shall make all judging assignments during the TFA State Tournament. This committee is comprised of the Vice President and the Region Representatives.
- G. **Scholarship Committee.** This committee shall send out scholarship applications by January 1. Completed applications shall be returned to the committee chairperson by February 1. The committee shall review all applications with school, name, and gender omitted. Four recipients shall be announced at the TFA State Tournament.
- H. **Hall of Fame/Emeritus Membership Committee.** This committee shall consist of five former TFA Executive Council members. It shall be their duty to designate honorees for the status of Hall of Fame membership. For designation into the Hall of Fame honorees may still be actively teaching forensics and/or theatre teaching and/or shall have served the organization and his/her students in a meritorious fashion. The announcement shall be made at the annual business meeting. A yearly designee is not necessary. To be eligible for the emeritus membership, one must be retired from forensic and/or theatre teaching, and shall have served the organization and his/her students in meritorious fashion. Upon retirement from forensic and/or theatre teaching, a member of the Hall of Fame will automatically be designated emeritus.

- I. **Congressional Debate Committee.** The committee will have a member from each region. The region will elect their committee member every other year at the region meeting opposite when the region reps are elected. Nominations for the committee should be from the region and to the region rep. Their term will begin April 1<sup>st</sup> the following year. After the results of the election are announced, the Committee Chair will be appointed by the acting TFA President at the TFA Business Meeting. The Congress Committee will evaluate and come to a consensus on the rubric that the committee will use to select legislation for the calendar for all sessions. One rubric will be used for both the fall and spring dockets. That rubric will be sent out to the TFA membership by May 1<sup>st</sup> of the preceding year. This committee shall select the best 30 pieces of submitted legislation through a blind review to create the calendar for all sessions. A docket of 30 items shall be established based on lowest cumulative ranking (with all items over 30 mapped to a rank of 31) of each member. Legislation will be selected according to the following criteria: (a) grammatical structure and style, (b) legislative intent, (c) need for the plan and feasibility, (d) formatted in the prescribed template, and (e) national in scope.
  
- J. **Regional State Tournament Hosting Committees.** This committee shall coordinate the local arrangements for hosting the TFA State tournament when it comes to their region. Members shall report to the State Tournament Committee as well as work with the State Judging Committee. The committee shall consist of 5 members appointed by the Region Representative of the hosting region and shall serve for a 2-year period.
  
- K. **Standing Constitutional Committee.** This committee shall review the TFA Constitution for discrepancies and general errors and recommend updates to the document in a fashion as to best serve the interests of the Association. The Constitutional Committee shall submit their recommendations at the annual meeting. (During the TFA competitive season, the Executive Council may refer constitutional discrepancies to the Constitutional Committee. The Constitutional Committee will then render a ruling in the form of a recommendation to the Executive Council. The Executive Council may then use the Constitutional Committee’s recommendation in their final ruling.)
  
- L. **World Schools Committee.** The committee will have a member from each region. The region will elect their committee member every other year at the region meeting opposite when the region reps are elected. Nominations for the committee should be from the region and to the region rep. Their term will begin April 1<sup>st</sup> the following year. After the results of the election are announced, the Committee Chair will be appointed by the acting TFA President at the TFA Business Meeting. The World Schools Committee will come to consensus on the selection of prepared motions to be used at TFA qualifying tournaments and the TFA State Tournament.

**Section 7: Agenda of the Annual Meeting.** The agenda for the annual meeting shall be the responsibility of the President, and s/he shall direct a copy of the proposed agenda be mailed (or placed on the TFA website) to every member thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting. In no case shall the proposed agenda be final in the sense of excluding motions from the floor not otherwise prohibited by this constitution or by the rules of procedure.

**Section 8: Quorum.** A quorum for the annual meeting shall be 20% of the membership. A quorum for a meeting of the Executive Council shall be a majority of its members. A quorum for a special meeting shall be 30% of the membership. A quorum for a mail vote shall be 40% of the membership. Once a quorum is established at the beginning of the first business meeting, it will be considered established through the end of that business meeting. Member shall be defined as an advisor in good standing who has paid their annual dues.

**Section 9: Rules of Procedure.** The annual business meetings of the organization shall be governed in their procedure by 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.

**Section 10: Amendments.** These By-Laws, Standing Rules, and Code of Professional Standards may be amended by a majority vote of the members present and voting at any annual meeting, special meeting, or mail ballot provided that copies of the Proposed amendment have been mailed to all members or placed on the official TFA website at least thirty (30) days prior to the vote, or without prior notice by a three-fourths majority of those present and voting. If a proposed amendment does not specify a date of implementation, the effective date shall be presumed as the first day of the next competitive season. Any proposed amendment that adds a qualifying event for TFA State requires a three-fourths majority of those present and voting. (Amended 10-17)

**Section 11: Petition.** Petitions shall be made in writing to the President. The petition must be signed by the school principal or authorized administrator.

**Section 12: Removal From Office.**

- A. Grounds for Removal:** The Texas Forensic Association shall have the power to remove any of its officers as provided in this section. The valid grounds for such removal shall include 1) continued gross or willful neglect or the duties of the office 2) failure or refusal to disclose necessary information on matters of organization business 3) unauthorized expenditures or misuse of organizations funds 4) conviction of a felony.
- B. Removal Procedures:** The following procedures shall be followed in all proceedings leading to the possible expulsion of an officer and shall not exceed a 60-day time limit from the time of the resolution.

1. A resolution by the Executive Council to consider the removal of an officer can be introduced by any member of the Executive Council. The resolution must be accompanied by corroborating evidence and/or support of the resolution.
2. The accused and the accuser shall recuse themselves from voting in any of the proceedings.
3. If said resolution to consider the removal of an officer should pass the Executive Council by a simple majority, adequate defense shall be made by the officer, by telephone, by mail, or in person, to all those who shall vote on the question of his removal. No vote shall be taken to remove that officer until s/he has finished presenting his/her defense. The procedure for removing an officer must provide adequate notice to the accused officer, a fair hearing and the right to counsel.
4. After the officer in question has finished his/her defense, a two-thirds vote of the Executive Council shall be necessary to remove the officer in question. No officer shall be denied a response to proceedings aimed at his/her removal. If a two-thirds vote of the Executive Council is reached, the officer will be required to step down immediately. If it is an office that has control over funds of the Texas Forensic Association, they will be obligated to cede control over said funds in a timely manner as determined by the Executive Council.
5. An appeal may be brought forth before the membership by the officer in question. A vote requiring a two-thirds majority of the membership will be required to reinstate the removed officer. The vote of the body will be conducted as soon as feasible (within the 60-day outlined above). The vote may be electronic or by US mail.

# Code of Professional Standards

The Texas Forensic Association is a group of professional forensic and theatre arts educators. As such, members of this group support the following set of standards in order to stimulate the growth of our students through honest and equitable forms of competition, and to encourage professionally ethical relationships between coaches, students, and institutions.

By virtue of TFA membership, each individual and institution shall subscribe to and abide by the following code of professional standards.

1. Each member and institution shall adhere to the rules and regulations governing the TFA, TFA-sanctioned competition, and such provisions that regulate conduct at an institution hosting TFA competition.
2. The speech sponsor and administrator of a school hosting a TFA-sanctioned competition may choose whom to invite to the competition on their campus.
3. Violations of any TFA rule or regulation shall be the responsibility of both the student-participant, and of the adult member of TFA who serves as the student's sponsor.
4. During the TFA qualifying tournament competition, the enforcement of tournament and TFA rules shall be the specific responsibility of the tournament host. At the State Tournament such responsibility shall reside with the Executive Council. Any violation of a state rule or regulation of the TFA, TFA-sanctioned competition, or such provisions that regulate conduct at an institution hosting TFA competition may result in the disqualification by the host of the offending participant, school, or sponsor from that competition.
5. Any decision rendered by a tournament host that violates the TFA constitution, including but not limited to, rule violations, constitutional interpretations, and/or disqualifications of a participant, school, or sponsor, may be appealed to the Executive Council of the TFA. Responsibility for contacting and presenting the specifics of that appeal to the Executive Council rests with the appellant.
6. Hosts of TFA qualifying tournaments are responsible for meeting minimum TFA standards and offering at least four TFA events. Moreover, the speech sponsor or sponsors hosting a TFA-sanctioned competition are responsible for providing a competition that is fairly and competently administered and realistically scheduled. In the event of an official protest, the host is required to respond to protesting coaches/sponsors prior to subsequent rounds/awards. Upon receipt of proof of the failure of an Invitational Qualifying Tournament to adhere to these standards and

meet acceptable administrative and scheduling guidelines, the TFA Executive Council shall be empowered to act on those appeals in a variety of ways, including but not limited to: rewarding/revocation of IQT qualifying points, contacting relevant school administrators, and revoking the ability of the host to host an IQT for at least one year.

7. All sponsors chaperoning students participating in a TFA-sanctioned competition are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner. Such conduct would include, but not be limited to, the following: paying entry fees at time of registration or demonstrating proof of intent to pay in the form of a purchase order or personal check. All outstanding fees are to be settled or received no later than sixty (60) days from the date of the tournament; (b) any additional judging, drop fees, or refunds must be paid or settled no later than thirty (30) days from the date of the tournament; (c) being present or having a principal-approved designee present so long as students from the sponsor's school are at the tournament site; and (d) refraining from berating or intimidating judges, other coaches, and students.
8. Coaches/sponsors shall refrain from efforts to manipulate the outcome of competition. Encouraging students to not perform well, to not show up, or to "forget", in an effort to help other students gain a qualification would be considered manipulation. Coaches conspiring to determine placement or judging their own students in an effort to determine placing shall not be allowed unless only one school is represented in the elimination round.

# Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct seeks to foster and embrace a culture of respect, whether in the argumentative heat of a debate round or in the myriad of professional and personal interactions that come together to create the experience of participation as a part of the Texas Forensic Association. Competitive forensics can and must be frank, thorough, and based on dissent. At the same time, respect for all participants in the process is an irreducible minimum requirement. Respect is not incompatible with vigorous or even impassioned advocacy.

This Code has been prepared by the TFA Code of Conduct Ad Hoc Committee in consultation with the National Debate Tournament Code of Conduct and the American Forensic Association Code of Conduct, and adopted by the Executive Council of the Texas Forensic Association (and approved by the body October 8, 2020) and will be in effect for the year 2020 and all years subsequent until explicitly replaced, amended, or superseded by another document.

All competitors, coaches, judges, staff, and other individuals present at TFA Individual Qualifying Tournaments and the TFA State Tournament, or participating in activities associated with TFA, in any capacity whatsoever, are expected to know and are required to abide by this Code.

Coaches and program directors are expected to discuss the Code of Conduct with their students, parents/guardians, consultants, and any judges, and are expected to take all reasonable and necessary actions to ensure compliance by participants who are affiliated with their respective schools. By belonging to TFA or participating in activities sanctioned by TFA, each individual shall be deemed to have agreed to behave in accordance with this Code of Conduct. For the purposes of this document, “Code of Conduct” and “Policy” are used interchangeably.

## **POLICY**

All persons participating in TFA sanctioned tournaments, or in any activity associated with TFA, shall at all times and in all circumstances conduct themselves with respect for all other participants, during rounds and at all other times.

No participant shall suffer or cause discrimination or harassment during the course of, or in connection with, TFA on the basis of any protected characteristic. Protected characteristics include age, color, religion, disability, race, ethnicity, national origin, sex, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, veteran’s status, or any other basis prohibited by any applicable law, regulation, or ordinance.

Violence or the threat of violence, whether or not motivated in whole or in part by any protected characteristic, has no place whatsoever in academic competition. Bullying and intimidation, whether or not motivated in whole or in part by any protected characteristic, has

no place whatsoever in academic debate. Any such practice is absolutely prohibited at, or in connection with, any TFA event or competition.

In applying these principles, TFA Executive Council (EC) shall consistently and expediently respond to alleged violations.

## **DISCUSSION, DEFINITIONS, AND PROCEDURES.**

### **Section 1: Legal Background.**

#### **A. References in Academic Speech and Debate:**

Academic speech and debate is largely self-regulating, and the rules and guidelines governing competition in the activity are themselves often open to discussion and modification in the course of individual competitive rounds. Notwithstanding this particular theoretical freedom, the speech and debate community remains part of a larger world of academia, and is thus, subject to certain practical and legal constraints. Virtually all K-12 institutions and colleges and their sponsored activities are, for example, subject to federal law prohibiting discrimination or harassment on the basis of sex (Title IX of the Education Act Amendments of 1972), color, race, national origin (Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964), disability (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act), and other protected classifications. Other federal, state, and local laws and ordinances impose similar requirements on activities occurring in schools or other places of public accommodation.

Private bodies, groups, or entities affiliated in one manner or the other with TFA, as well as all individual educational institutions, have their own policies, which may also govern the conduct of certain participants in TFA.

This Policy supplements, and does not supplant, any other applicable policy. It is incumbent upon the participants in TFA to ensure full and enthusiastic compliance with the anti-discrimination and anti-harassment goals of these provisions, as well as any additional requirements imposed by their individual institutions.

#### **B. All Participants are Protected:**

Existing federal and state laws and local ordinances, institutional and organizational policies, and this Code of Conduct, protect everyone. The Policy prohibits discrimination or harassment based on a protected characteristic no matter who is being harassed, and no matter who is doing the harassing. Harassment based on a protected characteristic violates this policy even if the harasser shares the same characteristic. Men may not harass men based on their gender; African-Americans may not harass African-Americans based on their race.

C. Policy against Violence and Threats:

This Policy’s prohibition on violence or threats of violence is independent from any consideration of protected category, or whether the threat or violent conduct rises to the level of “harassment.” The prohibition on violence or threats of violence is unconditional. A “threat of violence” is either an explicit threat of violence, or any action, verbal or physical, that creates in the target or other observer a reasonable perception that violence is, or may be, imminent or intended.

D. No legal rights created:

This Policy is not intended to create any legal right, or to create any cause of action in favor of or against any person. This Policy does not attempt to define any term or conduct for purposes of any law, but rather only for the purposes of the Policy itself. This is an internal policy of the Texas Forensic Association.

E. No legal rights removed:

1. Coaches

a. Mandatory reporting

This Policy is not intended to circumvent, replace, or otherwise serve as a substitute to mandatory reporting, required by law, of teachers, consultants, and/or district employees.

b. District / Team policies and punishments

This Policy is not intended to circumvent, replace, or otherwise serve as a substitute for institutional policies and handbooks, either of individual teams or school district policies. Punishments rendered by TFA for violations of this Policy apply to TFA sanctioned activities and corollary activities. Individual teams and school districts may have punishments beyond those laid out in this Policy.

2. Victims’ Rights

a. This Policy is not intended to remove or eliminate rights held by victims of the offenses described herein. Per state and federal law, victims are allowed to pursue all remedies and legal recourse afforded to them by their institution, their school district, and the laws governing their jurisdiction or the State of Texas.

Section 2: **Harassment.**

A. For purposes of this policy, the term “harassment” means any act or course of conduct that:

1. is predicated on or derogatory of a protected classification, such as sex, race, or national origin;

2. is offensive to the recipient of conduct, and would be offensive to a reasonable person in the same situation/circumstances as the recipient of conduct;
3. is severe in nature or pervasive in extent, or both, under the circumstances, and
4. interferes materially with an individual's participation in TFA or any associated activity, or creates an environment that is intimidating or hostile, or which substantially disrupts or interferes with the orderly operation of TFA or the rights of any person to participate in or benefit from the activities of TFA.
5. Such conduct may include threats; gestures; making remarks which are by common usage lewd, obscene, or may expose a person to hatred; or any other conduct which is sufficiently severe, pervasive or persistent so as to interfere with or limit a person's ability to participate in, or benefit from, the services, activities, or opportunities offered by TFA.
6. Such conduct may include both in person and online communication and behaviors both during and outside of TFA sanctioned activities, if those communications substantially disrupt or interfere with the orderly operation of TFA or the rights of any person to participate in or benefit from the activities of TFA.

Section 3: **Examples of harassment.** *Even a single instance of such conduct may be sufficiently severe, or pervasive, to violate this Policy. This list is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all forms of harassment, other examples that meet the criteria established in section 3 are also covered under this section.*

- A. A judge states or implies that the judge's assessment of a round may be affected by the grant of sexual favors from a competitor or some other person affiliated with a speech and debate team.
- B. A participant engages in intentional, unwelcome, and offensive touching of another participant, based at least in part on sex. Such an offensive touching may, or may not, involve contact with sexually-sensitive areas of the body.
- C. A participant utilizes derogatory, demeaning, or degrading language to describe another participant, based at least in part on a protected classification including labeling another participant. Demeaning or degrading language that does not use lewd or prohibited words can also constitute harassment; examples would include stereotypical references that may imply derogation or statements that play on stereotypes or group prejudices.

- D. A participant exhibits obscenity, sexually explicit images or other imagery, that is intentionally derogatory, demeaning, or degrading, based at least in part on a protected classification with the intent to incite fear or harass.
- E. A participant inflicts mental or emotional distress upon a person through a course of conduct involving abuse or disparagement of that person's race, religion, sex, color, sexual orientation, disability, national origin, or other protected characteristic.
- F. A participant engages in conduct that is abusive or disparaging of any race, gender, sexual orientation, or other protected characteristic, even if that conduct is not directed toward a particular individual sharing that characteristic.

Section 4: **Violence.** Violence and threats of violence are absolutely prohibited. A "threat of violence" is either an explicit threat of violence, or any action, oral or physical, that creates in the target or another observer a reasonable perception that violence is, or may be, imminent or intended. Participants must not engage in behavior that threatens the safety, security, or functioning of TFA; the safety and security of other participants, or the safety and security of others. Orderly conduct is required of all participants at any activity associated with TFA.

- A. Participants, either individually or as a group, shall neither cause violence nor threaten violence. No participant shall commit any assault, battery, unwelcome bodily contact or touching, or the impeding or blocking of safe movement.
- B. This policy includes the prohibition of bullying. "Bullying" includes physical intimidation, taunting, name-calling, or insults or the making of false or derogatory statements about another. Such conduct may include both in person and online communication and behaviors both during and outside of TFA sanctioned activities.

Section 5: **Positions of Power.** Coaches, program directors, judges, consultants, volunteers and other individuals who may be (or who may reasonably be perceived to be) in a position to exert power or undue influence over other participants, and particularly over students, should be particularly aware of their responsibilities to avoid harassment or discriminatory actions.

- A. Judges, consultants, and assistants, like coaches and program directors, should consider themselves to be educators who will lead by deed as well as by word.
- B. Coaches, program directors, judges, consultants, volunteers, and assistants should scrupulously avoid using their position, or their perceived position, as leverage either to engage in inappropriate exclusion of individuals based on a protected classification (for example, excluding individuals from activities based on national origin) or to engage in inappropriate relationships.

- C. Coaches, program directors, judges, consultants, volunteers, and assistants must ensure their conduct complies with this Policy during all TFA activities, including situations that may generate inherent tension, such as during a judge’s explanation of their reason for decision in a particular round.
- D. Tournament directors, within the venue of their particular tournament, have explicit power as defined in the TFA Constitution. However, they must act to ensure that their conduct in exercising these powers does not violate this Policy.
- E. TFA EC members and committee members, both elected and appointed, have explicit power as defined in the TFA Constitution. However, they must act to ensure that their conduct in exercising these powers does not violate this Policy.

Section 6: **Disability Accommodations.** Any individual who believes that accommodation for a disability, or an accommodation for a religious belief or preference, would be appropriate and reasonable in connection with that individual’s participation in TFA, is encouraged to contact the IQT tournament host as far in advance of competition as possible. Individuals who believe their disabilities or religious beliefs are not being accommodated appropriately by tournament hosts should contact the TFA EC so that they can engage in an iterative process to determine the need for and character of any reasonable accommodation and assess individual school’s ability to provide requested accommodations. TFA takes direction from TEA guidelines on reasonable accommodations for disabilities within the competitive space.

Section 7: **Behavioral Context.** Harassment, discrimination, threats of violence, or other abuse may occur based on conduct in or outside of round. For example, harassment may occur at tournament sites, at tournament hotels, or at an outside activity associated or affiliated with TFA sanctioned functions, such as a tournament meal, committee meeting, or award ceremonies. Harassment may also occur during a debate, speech, or cross-examination, or during preparation, waiting, or decisional time in a round. Harassment, discrimination, threats of violence, or other abuse may occur within individual team activities, during practice, drills, or in the classroom as well.

- A. Intentional and offensive verbal or physical conduct that is intended to constitute a part of relevant argumentation during a debate round can constitute harassment. The TFA EC is aware that scrupulous attention must be paid to principles of free speech and open argumentation. However, by the adoption of this policy, the TFA EC signals their conclusion that inappropriate harassment or threatening conduct should never occur in TFA sanctioned activities, even where it is intended as part of an argument made during a speech or debate round. This conclusion also is consistent with governing legal principles.
- B. Intentional and offensive conduct that occurs during the debate round, yet outside the context of argumentation, of course remains harassment. For example, use of a

denigrating term to refer to an opponent, judge, or class of persons – even during a speech – generally serves no legitimate argumentative purpose and may constitute harassment. Intentional and offensive touching or the making of personal threats will never serve any legitimate argumentative purpose, and may also constitute criminal battery or assault.

- C. This Policy governs the conduct of participants of TFA sanctioned activities and all activities associated with TFA. The Code of Conduct applies to interactions at tournament meetings, meals, announcements, and at the tournament site. This Policy also governs the conduct of participants at the NDT in other pre- and post-tournament activities arising from participation in TFA sanctioned activities, such as discussions of results, arguments, individuals, ballots, and the like by participants in social media.
- D. The overarching aim of academic debate is to teach, exhibit, and enhance reasoning skills, research abilities, and persuasive modalities. The competitive aim of speech and debate remains to persuade the judge as to which team did the better job of debating, and not to shock or intimidate one’s opponents, the judge, or an audience. Conduct that “interferes materially with an individual’s participation in TFA sanctioned activities, or creates an environment that is intimidating or hostile,” does not serve any legitimate purpose of the Texas Forensic Association even if it purports to be part of an argument.
- E. This policy is not intended to stifle or limit student voices when exposing instances of harassment, discrimination, threats of violence, or other abuse that occur within their lives. Performances designed to raise awareness and call attention to these instances should not be considered violations of the Policy, unless those performances are given with the expressed intent to intimidate or harass others.

**Section 8: Procedures.**

- A. The TFA EC (EC) shall be responsible for enforcement of this policy. As deemed necessary, the EC may task the Professional Relations Committee (PRC) with arbitration or additional investigation of any charges brought forth. The committee will be regionally balanced and standing at 5 members. In appointing members of the committee, the TFA President shall take into consideration such factors as experience in the activity; maturity of judgment; diversity with respect to demographic factors; representation of large, small, public, and private institutions; any particular expertise required, and resulting recommendations of EC members.
- B. The overarching goal of the Code of Conduct is to reify and uphold acceptable conduct by TFA members and school participants to secure an equitable space for all forms of discourse. TFA will defend its expectations of all contributors to the activity and will stand firm to respond to conduct detrimental to the mission of providing for students.

- C. It is not the purpose of the Code of Conduct to become another tool to narrow the lens of acceptable discourse. TFA is sensitive to the possibility of this Code as leverage for competitive advantage through the making of unwarranted complaints. The EC will respond to misuse of the Code of Conduct as a tactical tool. Harassment and discrimination are serious matters, and willfully false or frivolous complaints may become another tool of harassment. Unsubstantiated complaints may be subject to the same sanctions as are set forth for harassment or discrimination. This is not to serve as a chilling effect on reporting misconduct among participants. Given the nature of the offense, it is inevitable that some complaints will raise close or narrow issues of fact or interpretation, and there is no desire to deter those complaints, even if it is eventually determined that no violation of this Policy has occurred. Baseless complaints interposed for competitive advantage will, however, be subject to sanctions.
- D. Any challenge or charges regarding an allegation of violation of this Code should be presented in writing to the EC. The EC will have 10 days to notify all parties involved in the matter and initiate investigation into the allegation, including requesting statements or pertinent facts from involved members. The EC may utilize their judgement regarding the seriousness of the offense when determining if the ten-day statute is a valid reason to dismiss a charge. The EC may then decide based on the circumstances surrounding each unique situation. Under no circumstances should the EC agree in advance to vote unanimously prior to discussion of issues that are contested. In the event that an accusation involves student competitors, EC communication shall be done via the coach of record with the school/institution.
- E. Any participant in TFA activities and extensions of such activities may offer a formal complaint against violations of the Code of Conduct utilizing the Code of Conduct Violation Report document found on the TFA website. Such complaints will be forwarded to the EC of the TFA. The EC shall promptly investigate the matter, with due regard for the privacy of all parties and witnesses to the greatest extent possible consistent with adequate investigation. However, the nature of the conduct may make it impossible to investigate without apprising witnesses, as well as the accused, of the nature of the accusations. If deemed a violation of professional standards, and necessary for an objective decision, the EC shall refer the complaint to the PRC. The PRC will investigate the complaint, hear rebuttal by the accused member, and render an opinion on each complaint and may make recommendations regarding punishments. The EC may:
1. dismiss the complaint;
  2. dismiss the complaint and sanction those making the complaint;
  3. sanction the offending party or institution;
  4. remove membership from the offending member or institution; and/or deny the school, competitor, or judge/consultant the right to participate in the current year's TFA State Tournament.

- F. When the nature of the violation requires expedient response, Tournament Hosts are allowed to act as far as, but not limited to removal of the offending party and/or their organization from the host site to ensure the safety of participants. The Tournament Host is required to report any actions related to violations of the Code and to inform complainants of the formal process of reporting violations of the Code to the EC. Tournament Hosts shall use the Code of Conduct Incident Report to report such occurrences to the EC.
- G. All EC members shall be promptly notified of any professional standards hearing. All professional standards hearings shall be by the full EC. Any penalties shall be by a two-thirds vote of the voting members of the EC.

Section 9: **Sanctions.** Sanction shall be a written reprimand addressed to the offending member or institution. Removal of membership shall be immediate, and suspension shall be for at least one school year, but no longer than three years. For sanctions issued to non-members or affiliates with TFA (judges, volunteers, or consultants), suspensions may be longer, up to and including lifetime removal from TFA sanctioned activities. If the complaint involves a member of the EC they may be removed from office. In the rare case of a complaint that appears to raise the possibility of an intentional violation of a criminal law, the Council or its designee shall report those allegations to appropriate authorities.

- A. The nature of sanctions the EC may impose will necessarily vary, based on the type of conduct found to have occurred as well as the role of the individual who has committed the conduct. For example, a sanction against a debater who has engaged in harassment may involve some competitive consequence, whereas a provided judge's or consultant's violation of the Code of Conduct may or may not appropriately be imputed to the team, and in some circumstances may not properly implicate a competitive consequence. The EC may impose some or all of the following sanctions, based on a finding that this Policy has been violated, considering the seriousness of the offense, the nature of the injury caused (if any), and all other circumstances the EC may find to be appropriate:
  - 1. A confidential letter of admonition or censure to the offender, their coach, director, and/or affiliated school representative (usually appropriate only in the case of a *de minimis* first offense);
  - 2. A letter of admonition or censure to the offender, also provided to the principal/dean of the school with which the offender is associated;
  - 3. The making of a formal complaint to the appropriate governing board of the offender's school, such as the superintendent, school board, or Title IX Coordinator;

4. Limitation of or prohibition on the offender's attendance at at future TFA sanctioned events including but not limited to the additional revocation of TFA membership of the associated school or their suspension from TFA activities for a time no longer than three years;
  5. Competitive sanctions at TFA sanctioned events: reduction or elimination of state points from the tournament at which they competed; preclusion from award recognition, or such other competitive consequences as the TFA EC deems appropriate in these circumstances.
    - a. In the instance that a violation is handled by a Tournament Host at an IQT, the Host can choose to handle accusations in a way they see fit to ensure protection of students, including, but not limited to removal from competition of the offending competitor, notification of appropriate authorities, and/or removal from school premises (virtual or actual) of the offending competitor. Any actions taken by Tournament Hosts should be included on the Code of Conduct Incident Report.
  6. The TFA EC may take into consideration whether the proscribed conduct was a first offense or a repeat offense. A record of sanctions, including confidential admonition and censure, shall be kept for purposes of imposing future discipline.
    - a. In the instance of judges and consultants not directly associated with a program other than through hiring/volunteering, these records of sanction will be noted on a page dedicated to reporting sanctions hosted on the organization website.
    - b. Specifics of the violation will not be noted for confidentiality of the victims and the sanctioned party.
    - c. The continued association with the listed parties through continued use of judging or consulting services by TFA members shall itself constitute a violation of this Code of Conduct, and will be subject to complaint and sanction.
- B. A decision of the EC or Tournament Hosts imposing a sanction of dismissal from a tournament under section 8, subparagraph (f), or additional competitive consequences under section 9, subparagraph (a)(v), or declining to impose sanctions, may be appealed to the EC, at the appealing party's option. Only one level of appeal shall be utilized in any case. The determination on appeal shall be unreviewable and final for all purposes. An appeal involving any sanction other than prohibition must be made as soon as practicable, but in any event must be made (for conduct occurring before the elimination rounds) before the announcement of the elimination rounds. The EC and

the PRC may provide for the manner in which such appeals may be decided, including delegation of authority for deciding appeals, and including the number of members of such committee who shall constitute a sufficient quorum for action on an appeal.

- C. Nothing in this Policy prevents or restricts individual judges from exercising their independent discretion in awarding or withholding speaker points, ranking, wins or losses, based on inappropriate or offensive behavior that may also violate this Code of Conduct. Individual judges acting based on their independent discretion as to conduct that may also violate this Policy are encouraged to report any violations or perceived violations to the EC or Tournament Host. The imposition of individual discretionary consequences by one or more judges shall not preclude the EC from imposing additional sanctions. The EC shall have no authority to reverse or revise any competitive demerit (as to speaker points, rank, win, or loss) imposed by an individual judge.
- D. TFA emphasizes that each and every individual participating in any event associated with the TFA, is deemed to have agreed to this Code of Conduct. Given that predicate, each individual participating in any activity associated with TFA, agrees that any action taken in good faith by TFA Leadership, the EC, the Professional Relations Committee, any witness or participant in any investigation, any complaining party, or any member, employee, attorney, agent, or designee of any of those bodies or persons, pursuant to this Code of Conduct, shall not give rise to any claim or cause of action whatsoever, of any kind, against any person, including specifically but not exclusively any claim for defamation, libel, or slander.

Section 10: **Retaliation.** No retaliation by individuals shall be permitted arising out of the making of, or action taken in connection with, a complaint of a violation of this Policy. Every individual participating in TFA, or in any activity associated with TFA, has the right to make a complaint under this Code of Conduct, without fear of retaliation. Participating in the investigation of a complaint, making a complaint on behalf of another, providing evidence relating to a complaint (regardless of whether the evidence supports or tends not to support the complaint), and all similar activities, are protected against retaliation by any person.

- A. Other than for the filing of a willfully false or frivolous complaint, no adverse action of any kind whatsoever may be taken – by any person – against any person making a complaint under this Code of Conduct, even if the complaint is ultimately determined to be unfounded.
- B. Any unwarranted act of retaliation – by any person – shall itself constitute a violation of this Code of Conduct, and will be subject to the complaint and sanction

## TFA in Review (1972-present)

On May 2, 1972, thirty college and high school debate coaches from across the state of Texas met in Houston to discuss the need for an organization which would give students from large and small, public and private, schools an opportunity for competition which would lead directly to qualification for the NFL National Tournament. Response was enthusiastic, and a constitution committee was appointed. On June 3, 1972, a committee of twelve met in Waco, and made plans for a system of qualification through invitational and regional tournaments. A nominating committee was appointed to present a slate of officers to the first annual meeting in October, held in conjunction with the Texas Speech Communication Association convention. Dr. William English, Director of Forensics at the University of Houston, contacted the National Forensic Association. On June 19, 1972, the Executive Council of NFL voted to recognize TFA as the qualifying agency in Texas for NFL National Tournament competitors. In October, seventy-five speech directors met in San Antonio, elected officers, ratified a constitution and bylaws, and officially formed the Texas Forensic Association. TSCA gave official recognition to TFA as the forensics interest group of that association. Subsequently, the first TFA State Tournament was held at Baylor University, March 23-24, 1973.

During the first year of operation, it became apparent that a person was needed to coordinate records of state qualifiers, so an IQT coordinator was added to the Executive Council. The number of regions was reduced from five to four because of the participation level in the original Region 1. During the annual convention in 1974, Duet Acting was added as a state event for 1975-76. TFA vice-presidents began assuming full responsibility for planning forensic-related programs for the TSCA annual convention. Since the Speech Communication Association/American Forensic Association was held in Houston in 1975, TFA hosted a reception for the AFA National Council to explore the relationship between the two organizations.

In 1976-77, Student Congress was added to the events of the TFA State Tournament. Participation in the event increased rapidly, and it was expanded to include a semifinal and final house at the State Tournament. Because of the increase in Invitational Qualifying Tournaments, the method of approval for tournaments was changed. In addition, Regional TFA Tournaments were discontinued. Membership in TFA was originally tied to membership in AFA. At the 1978 convention, the membership unanimously voted to require membership in TSCA of all TFA members. The intent of this move was to cement relationships between TFA and TSCA and to emphasize the professional nature of TFA. The TFA began publication of the State Judging Philosophy Booklet. In 1978, TFA sent Virginia Meyers as a delegate to the NUCEA topic selection conference. TFA also assumed full partnership with TSCA in promoting speech curriculum concerns in the state.

In 1979, Lincoln Douglas Debate was added as a national qualifying event. A major constitutional revision was initiated, and in 1981, an Ad Hoc Committee for TFA Scholarships was formed. In 1982, TFA voted to make the NUCEA Committee on Topic Selection a standing committee with the charge to prepare research studies each year for the topic selection process. A Lincoln-Douglas Topic Selection Committee was formed and charged with formulating LD topics each year for use in TFA qualifying and State tournaments. Many of the goals of the charter members of TFA were realized in its first ten years of existence. The focus of the association moved from that of providing a national qualifying tournament to that of becoming a force in the broad range of professional concerns: competitive, curricular, and professional.

1985-86 provided new challenges for all student organizations with the passage of House Bill 72. Again, TFA weathered the storm of the new regulations by adapting the invitational tournaments schedules and shifting the State Tournament from a three-day format to a two-day schedule. 1987-88 saw the TFA taking a leadership position in establishing the importance of forensics in Texas under state guidelines. As a result, speech was accepted as a fine art credit qualifying it for the advanced seal requirement set by the State of Texas. Domestic and Foreign Extemporaneous Speaking replaced the Men's and Women's divisions.

In 1988-89, the State Tournament grew as Supplemental Events were added on a trial basis, and in 1989-90, they became a permanent addition to the tournament schedule. On a national level, the debate topic drafted by the TFA representative to the NUCEA topic selection conference was adopted as the official national topic for 1989-90. A constitutional revision in 1988-89 established a committee to select Emeritus Life Members to be honored for significant contributions to the association. The first members of this select group were honored at the 1989 convention. Charter members named were Jean Boles, Ed Brower, Opal Hall, and Dell McComb. At the 1989 convention, the membership voted to no longer require members to join the AFA.

In 1991, TFA became an incorporated organization. This guaranteed our tax-exempt status and helped to streamline accounting procedures. During this same year, the term of service by TFA officers was changed to coincide with the completion of the state tournament, allowing for a smoother transition in administrations and more preparation time for convention planning. An amendment was passed at convention providing for a rotational system for the location of the State Tournament to provide the highest quality competition. Changes made from 1992 to 1994 included the establishment of five regions instead of four, returning to the three-day format for the State Tournament, establishment of a State Tournament Sweepstakes, and a commitment to new technology with the purchase of new computer equipment.

In 1997, the qualification procedure was changed to a point system in an effort to limit the size of entries. The points began at six and have moved up in following years to eight, ten, and now twelve. As participation in Student Congress continued to increase, a Semifinal Congress was added to the State Tournament. The membership of the organization has grown steadily each year with more than 420 professional members in the 1997-98 Silver Anniversary year. The Association continues to set high standards and strive to meet new goals for the benefit of Texas teachers and students. The model of the Texas Forensic Association has been recommended for other states where similar needs are felt.

In 2017, Informative Speaking and Program Oral Interpretation were added as events in order to align with the National Speech and Debate Association. In 2019, World Schools Debate was added for the same reason.

As TFA begins its second quarter century, the future is secure. TFA is founded in positive goals and fosters a cooperative relationship between high school and college coaches.

## Hall of Fame Life Members

(previously “Emeritus,” changed 2014)

<b>Elected 1989</b>	<b>Elected 1998</b>	<b>Elected 2003</b>	<b>Elected in 2010</b>
Jean Boles	Ron Dodson	Rita Harlan	
Ed Brower	Mildred Peveto		
Opal Hall	Emerson Turner	<b>Elected in 2006</b>	<b>Elected in 2011</b>
Dell McComb	Sandy Lucaa	Elizabeth White	
	B.J. Naegelin	David Johnson	
<b>Elected 1990</b>		Ira Evers	<b>Elected in 2012</b>
Vernon McGuire	<b>Elected 1999</b>	Tanya Evers	
	Anne Rains Hayden	John O’Neill	
<b>Elected 1994</b>	Jim Long		<b>Elected in 2013</b>
Bill English	Carla McGee	<b>Elected in 2007</b>	Mary Green
Maridell Fryar	David Reins	Sandy Schneider	
Lee Polk		Cheryl Ryne	<b>Elected in 2014</b>
	<b>Elected 2000</b>	Dr. Kerry Moore	Larry Balfe
<b>Elected 1995</b>	Ed Thompson		Carolyn DeLaCoeur
Carl Adkins	Horace Griffin	<b>Elected in 2008</b>	George Grice
Jackie Jarrett	Debbie Dehlinger	Roberta Grenfell	Charlotte English Joyner
Lanny Naegelin	Judy Carter	Bruce Garner	Margo Kendrick
	Paula Moeller Fisher	Barbara Garner	Johnny Mitchell
<b>Elected 1997</b>		Sandra Greene	Paul Newman
Linda Donnell	<b>Elected 2001</b>		Alan Shumate
Judy Dorsett	Miff Mendoza	<b>Elected in 2009</b>	
Virginia Myers		Connie Aufdembrink	
Guy Paul Yates			

## Hall of Fame

<b>Elected 2006</b>	<b>Elected 2012</b>	<b>Elected 2016</b>	
Randy Ellis	Robert Shepard	Tim Cook	
Cindi Timmons	Kim Falco	Connie McKee	
David Baker	Billye Lucas	Terri Robinson	
J.E. Masters	Cheryl Potts	Sally Squibb	
<b>Elected 2007</b>	<b>Elected 2013</b>	<b>Elected 2017</b>	
Kandi King	Lee Ann Ince	Brian Eanes	
Bill Schuetz	Michael Merritt	Rhonda Smith	
	Sammy Green	Gay Hollis	
<b>Elected 2008</b>	Jane Boyd	Cecil Trent	
Joe Trevino			
Charlotte Brown	<b>Elected 2014</b>	<b>Elected 2018</b>	
Ann Shofner	Diane Forbes	Debbie Johnson	
	Brent Hinkle	Grant Hahn	
<b>Elected 2009</b>	Eloise Blair	Jay Stubbs	
Aaron Timmons	Dr. Rich Edwards		
Dave Huston		<b>Elected 2019</b>	
Gary Boeger	<b>Elected 2015</b>	Scott Baker	
Barbara McCain	Chris Agee	Michael Harlan	
Shawn Mena	Dan Lingel		
Karen Wilbanks	Kay Magill	<b>Elected 2020</b>	
	Janet Melton	Jason Sykes	
<b>Elected 2010</b>		Renita Johnson	
<b>Elected 2011</b>			

## TFA Leadership

1972-73: Dr. Bill English, President; Dr. Lee Polk, Vice President; Georgiana Sims, Secretary; John Crain, Treasurer; Jerry Knight, Maridell Fryar, Alan Shumate, Rev. Paul Duffey, Emerson Turner, Regional Representatives. State Tournament – Baylor University.

1973-74: Mary Alice Taker, President; Nancy DePuy, Vice President; Jackie Jarrett, Secretary; John Crain, Treasurer; Georgiana Sims, IQT Coordinator. State Tournament – Baylor University.

1974-75: Maridell Fryar, President; Bill Henderson, Vice President; Carla McGee, Secretary, John Crain, Treasurer; Johnny Mitchell, IQT Coordinator; Virginia Myers, J.E. Masters, Georgiana Sims, Danny Jennings, Regional Representatives. State Tournament – Baylor University.

1975-76: Carla McGee, President; J.E. Masters, Vice President; Jean Boles, Secretary; Ed Brower, Treasurer; Beverly Wakefield, IQT Coordinator; Virginia Myers, Dorothy Huffstutler, Johnny Mitchell, David Rien, Regional Representatives. State Tournament – Odessa College.

1976-77: Jean Boles, Secretary; Ed Brower, Treasurer; Dorothy Huffstutler, Johnny Mitchell David Rien, James Buchanan, Regional Representatives. State Tournament – Baylor University.

1977-78: Alan Shumate, President; George Grice, Vice President; Jean Boles, Secretary; Johnny Mitchell, Treasurer; Brent Northrum, IQT Coordinator; James Buchanan, Dorothy Huffstutler, Pat Garman, David Rien, Regional Representatives. State Tournament – Baylor University.

1978-79: Lanny Naegelin, President; Virginia Myers, Vice President; Judy Carter, Secretary; Judy Dorsett, Treasurer; Roz Laves, IQT Coordinator; Jackie Jarrett, Blair Lybbert, Ira Evers, Roz Laves, Regional Representatives. State Tournament – Baylor University.

1979-80: Judy Dorsett, President; Maridell Fryar, Vice President; Ira Evers, Secretary; Jean Boles, Treasurer; Roz Laves, IQT Coordinator; Jackie Jarrett, J.E. Masters, Johnny Mitchell, David Rien, Regional Representatives. State Tournament – The University of Texas at Arlington.

1980-81: Lanny Naegelin, President; Horace Griffin, Vice President; Carolyn DeLecour, Secretary; Don Blankenship, Treasurer; Judy Qualls, IQT Coordinator; Carolyn Ewin, J.E. Masters, Sandra Richmond, David Rien, Regional Representatives. State Tournament – The University of Texas at Arlington.

1981-82: J.E. Masters, President; David Thomas, Vice President; Jackie Jarrett, Secretary; Debbie Dehlinger, Treasurer; Linda Donnell, IQT Coordinator; Carolyn Ewing, Paul Newman, Sandra Richmond, Margo Kendrick, Regional Representatives. State Tournament – The University of Houston.

1982-83: Debbie Dehlinger, President; Carl Adkins, Vice President; Linda Donnell, Secretary; Charlotte English, Treasurer; Karen McGlashen, IQT Coordinator; Ann Shofner, Paul Newman, Ruth Zurate, Margo Kendrick, Regional Representatives. State Tournament – Richfield High School, Waco.

1983-84: Jackie Jarrett, President; Margo Kendrick, Vice President; Ann Shofner, Secretary; Charlotte English, Treasurer; Ron Dodson, IQT Coordinator; Stuart Baker, Ruth Zurate, Larry Balfe, Regional Representatives. State Tournament – Westlake High School, Austin.

1984-85: Margo Kendrick, President; Horace Griffin, Vice President; Debie Brantley, Secretary; Ron Dodson, Treasurer; Kandi King, IQT Coordinator; Bob Fennell, Sandy Lucas, Larry Balfe, Regional Representatives. State Tournament – Roosevelt High School, San Antonio.

1985-86: Ann Shofner, President; Treva Dayton, Vice President; Jane Eichen, Secretary; Ron Dodson, Treasurer; Kandi King, IQT Coordinator; Bob Fennell, Debie Brantley, Stan Klein, Cheryl Ryne, Regional Representatives. State Tournament – Central High School, San Angelo.

1986-87: Mildred Peveto, President; Paula Moeller, Vice President; Kerry Moore, Secretary; Kandi King, Treasurer; Mark Evans, IQT Coordinator; Loretia Marsh, Sandy Schneider, Debie Brantley, Cheryl Ryne, Regional Representatives. State Tournament – R.L. Turner High School, Carrollton.

1987-88: Paula Moeller, President; David Baker, Vice President; Mark Evans, Secretary; Kandi King, Treasurer; Anne Raines, IQT Coordinator; Loretia Marsh, Sandy Schneider, Mechelle Sexton, Valleri Speer, Regional Representatives. State Tournament – Westlake High School, Austin.

1988-89: David Baker, President; Jim Long, Vice President; Cindi Dittrich, Secretary; Kandi King, Treasurer; Bill Tedford, IQT Coordinator; Shawn Crain, Susan Hedger, Mechelle Sexton Bryson, Balleri Speer, Regional Representatives. State Tournament – Winston Churchill High School, San Antonio.

1989-90: Jim Long, President; Anne Raines, Vice President; Cindi Dittrich LaMendola, Secretary; Kandi King, Treasurer; Betsy Geery, IQT Coordinator; Roberta Grenfell, Archivist; Shawn Crain Mena, Susan Hedger, Debie Brantley Ladis, Wayne Paulus, Regional Representatives. State Tournament – Robert E. Lee High School, San Antonio.

1990-91: Anne Raines, President; Randy Ellis, Vice President; Lois Davis, Secretary; Kandi King, Treasurer; Betsy Geery, IQT Coordinator; Roberta Grenfell, Archivist; Joe Willis, Debie Ladis, Gay Hollis, Pam Hummel, Regional Representatives. State Tournament – Langham Creek High School, Houston.

1991-92: Anne Raines, President; Randy Ellis, Vice President; Lois Davis, Secretary; Kandi King, Treasurer; Betsy Geery, IQT Coordinator; Roberta Grenfell, Archivist; Joe Willis, Debie Ladis,

Gay Hollis, Pam Hummel, Regional Representatives. State Tournament – Hanks High School, El Paso.

1992-93: Randy Ellis, President; Ron Dodson, Vice President; Betsy Geery, Secretary; Kandi King, Treasurer; Barbara Garner, IQT Coordinator; Roberta Grenfell, Archivist; Joe Willis, Pam Hummel, Carla Ford, Gay Hollis, Regional Representatives. State Tournament – Lewisville High School, Lewisville.

1993-94: Ron Dodson, President; Gay Hollis/Cindy LaMendola, Vice President; Charlotte Brown, Secretary; Kandi King, Treasurer; Barbara Garner, IQT Coordinator; Roberta Grenfell, Archivist; Connie McKee, Carla Ford, David Thweatt, Teresa Lee, Lynda Melanson, Regional Representatives. State Tournament – Clark High School, San Antonio.

1994-95: Cindi LaMendola, President; David Thweatt, Vice President; Charlotte Brown, Secretary; Kandi King, Treasurer; Ken Ogden, IQT Coordinator; Roberta Grenfell, Archivist; Connie McKee, Sally Tate, Elizabeth White, Teresa Lee, Regional Representatives. State Tournament – Dulles High School, Houston.

1995-96: David Thweatt, President; Elizabeth White, Vice President; Becky Hodges, Secretary; Kandi King, Treasurer; Ken Ogden, IQT Coordinator; Roberta Grenfell, Archivist; Julie Fuller, Bruce Garner, Terri Robinson, Michael Thompson, Lynda Melanson, Regional Representatives. State Tournament – Hanks High School, El Paso.

1996-97: Elizabeth White, President; Kandi King, Vice President; Becky Hodges, Secretary; Terri Robinson, Treasurer; Ken Ogden, IQT Coordinator; Roberta Grenfell, Archivist; Julie Fuller, Sandra Shelton, Tom Ray, Michael Thompson, Billye Lucas, Regional Representatives. State Tournament – Monterey High School, Lubbock.

1997-98: Kandi King, President; Barbara Garner, Vice President; Heath Dixon, Secretary; Terri Robinson, Treasurer; Lisa Barnett, IQT Coordinator; Roberta Grenfell, Archivist; Lana Hall, Sandra Shelton, Tom Ray, Michael Thompson, Billye Lucas, Regional Representatives. State Tournament – Colleyville Heritage High School, Colleyville.

1998-99: Barbara Garner, President; Tom Ray, Vice President; Heather Sands, Secretary; Bill Schuetz, Treasurer; Lisa Barnett, IQT Coordinator; Roberta Grenfell, Archivist; Lana Hall, Sandra Shelton, Joseph Johnson, Mariann Fedrizzi, Billye Lucas, Regional Representatives. State Tournament – Cypress Falls High School, Houston.

1999-2000: Tom Ray, President; Lisa Barnett, Vice President; Barbara McCain, Secretary; Bill Schuetz, Treasurer; Dixie Waldo, IQT Coordinator; Roberta Grenfell, Archivist; Tricia Evans, Diane Forbes, Joseph Johnson, Mariann Fedrizzi, Billye Lucas, Regional Representatives. State Tournament – Bel Air High School, El Paso.

2000-01: Lisa Barnett, President; Gary Boeger, Vice President; Barbara McCain, Secretary; Bill Schuetz, Treasurer; Barbara Garner, IQT Coordinator; Roberta Grenfell, Archivist; Tricia Bass, Diane Forbes, Kandi King, Mariann Fedrizzi, Billye Lucas, Regional Representatives. State Tournament – Ronald Reagan High School, San Antonio.

2001-02: Gary Boeger, President; Randy Ellis, Vice President; Barbara McCain, Secretary; Bill Schuetz, Treasurer; Cindi Saukel, IQT Coordinator; Roberta Grenfell, Archivist; Elyane Patridge, Diane Forbes, Kandi King, Mariann Fedrizzi, Billye Lucas, Regional Representatives. State Tournament – Lubbock High School, Lubbock.

2002-03: Randy Ellis, President; Keith Townsend, Vice President; David Huston, Secretary; Bill Schuetz, Treasurer; Cindi Saukel, IQT Coordinator; Roberta Grenfell, Archivist; Elayne Patridge, Diane Forbes, Kandi King, Rhonda Bell, Billye Lucas, Regional Representatives. State Tournament – Highland Park High School, Dallas.

2003-04: Keith Townsend, President; Rosemary Kinkaid, Vice President; David Huston, Secretary; Bill Schuetz, Treasurer; Cindi Sauke, IQT Coordinator; Roberta Grenfell, Archivist; Elayne Patridge, Diane Forbes, Terri Robinson, Rhonda Bell, Billye Lucas, Regional Representatives. State Tournament – Bryan High School, Bryan.

2004-05: Rosemary Kinkaid, President; Dixie Waldo, Vice President; David Huston, Secretary; Bill Schuetz, Treasurer; Cindi Saukel, IQT Coordinator; Roberta Grenfell, Archivist; Elayne Patridge, Diane Forbes, Terri Robinson, Rhonda Bell, Billye Lucas, Regional Representatives. State Tournament – Bel Air High School, El Paso.

2005-06: Dixie Waldo, President; Aaron Timmons, Vice President; David Huston, Secretary; Bill Schuetz, Treasurer; Alicia Elliott, IQT Coordinator; Roberta Grenfell, Archivist; Carol Hildebrand, Diane Forbes, Erin Stage, Rhonda Bell, Shawn Mena, Regional Representatives. State Tournament – Pharr-San Juan-Alamo High School, San Juan.

2006-07: Aaron Timmons, President; Rhonda Bell, Vice President; Brent Hinkle, Secretary; Bill Schuetz, Treasurer; Alicia Dunson, IQT Coordinator; Roberta Grenfell, Archivist; Carol Hildebrand, Jason Sykes, Erin Stage, Gary Boeger, Shawn Mena, Regional Representatives. State Tournament – Creekview High School, Carrollton.

2007-08: Rhonda Bell, President; Karen Wilbanks, Vice President; Brent Hinkle, Secretary; David Gardiner, Treasurer; Alicia Dunson, IQT Coordinator; Sammy Green, Archivist; Carol Hildebrand, Jason Sykes, Erin Stage, Adam Woodward, Yolanda Silva, Regional Representatives. State Tournament – Coppell High School, Coppell.

2008-09: Bill Schuetz, President; Karen Wilbanks, Vice President; Brent Hinkle, Secretary; David Gardiner, Treasurer; Alicia Dunson, IQT Coordinator; Sammy Green, Archivist; Carol Hildebrand, Jason Sykes, Erin Stage, Adam Woodward, Yolanda Silva, Regional Representatives. State Tournament – Cy Fair ISD, Houston.

2009-10: Karen Wilbanks, President; Robert Shepard, Vice President; Raul Ruiz, Secretary; David Gardiner, Treasurer; Alicia Dunson, IQT Coordinator; Sammy Green, Archivist; Carol Hildebrand, Diane Forbes, Kirsten Nash, Adam Woodward, Yolanda Silva, Regional Representatives. State Tournament – Ysleta ISD, El Paso.

2010-11: Robert Shepard, President; Shawn Mena, Vice President; Scott Baker, Secretary, Cindi Havron, Treasurer; Alicia Dunson, IQT Coordinator; Sammy Green, Archivist; Carol Hildebrand, Eric Mears, Kirsten Nash, Debbie Waddell, Yolanda Silva, Regional Representatives. State Tournament – Flower Mound High School, Lewisville.

2011-12: Shawn Mena, President; Heath Martin, Vice President; Scott Baker, Secretary; Cindi Havron, Treasurer; Grant Hahn, IQT Coordinator; Sammy Green, Archivist; Carol Hildebrand, Eric Mears, Kirsten Nash, Debbie Waddell, Yolanda Silva, Regional Representatives. State Tournament – Amarillo High School, Amarillo.

2012-13: Heath Martin, President; Joseph Uhler, Vice President; Scott Baker, Secretary; Jason Warren, Treasurer; Grant Hahn, IQT Coordinator; Robert Shepard, Archivist; Mellessa Denny, Wendi Brandenburg, Kirsten Nash, Debbie Waddell, Yolanda Silva, Regional Representatives. State Tournament – Grand Prairie High School, South Grand Prairie.

2013-14: Joseph Uhler, President; Kirsten Nash, Vice President; Scott Baker, Secretary; Jason Warren, Treasurer; Grant Hahn, IQT Coordinator; Robert Shepard, Archivist; Mellessa Denny, Wendi Brandenburg, John Mast, Debbie Waddell, Yolanda Silva, Regional Representatives. State Tournament – Cypress Creek High School, Cypress.

2014-15: Kirsten Nash, President; Gay Hollis, Vice President; Scott Baker, Secretary; Jason Warren, Treasurer; Grant Hahn, IQT Coordinator; Robert Shepard, Archivist; Mellessa Denny, Wendi Brandenburg, John Mast, Debbie Waddell, Yolanda Silva, Regional Representatives. State Tournament – Franklin High School, El Paso.

2015-16: Gay Hollis, President; Perry Beard, Vice President; Wendi Brandenburg, Secretary; Jason Warren, Treasurer; Grant Hahn, IQT Coordinator; Robert Shepard, Archivist; Ryan Lovell, Rhonda Smith, John Mast, Debbie Waddell, Yolanda Silva, Regional Representatives. State Tournament – Hendrickson High School, Pflugerville.

2016-17: Noah Recker, President; Perry Beard, Vice President; Wendi Brandenburg, Secretary; Jason Warren, Treasurer; Grant Hahn, IQT Coordinator; Kirsten Nash, Archivist; Ryan Lovell, Rhonda Smith, John Mast, Debbie Waddell, Yolanda Silva, Regional Representatives. State Tournament – Plano West Senior High School, Plano.

2017-18: Noah Recker, President; John Mast, Vice President; Victoria Beard, Secretary; Jason Warren, Treasurer; Grant Hahn, IQT Coordinator; Kirsten Nash, Archivist; Ryan Lovell, Rhonda Smith, Michelle Watkins, Debbie Waddell, Yolanda Silva, Regional Representatives. State Tournament – La Vernia High School, La Vernia.

2018-19: Seth Pietsek/Joseph Uhler, President; John Mast, Vice President; Victoria Beard, Secretary; Noah Recker, Treasurer; Grant Hahn, IQT Coordinator; Kirsten Nash, Archivist; Ryan Lovell, Rhonda Smith/Rory McKenzie, Michelle Watkins, Debbie Waddell/Ryan Hennessey, Yolanda Silva, Regional Representatives. State Tournament – Alief Taylor High School, Houston.

2019-2020: Joseph Uhler, President, John Mast, Vice President; Victoria Beard, Secretary; Noah Recker, Treasurer; Nicole Cornish, IQT Coordinator; Kirsten Nash, Archivist, Ryan Lovell, Rory McKenzie, Michelle Watkins, Ryan Hennessey, Yolanda Silva, Region Representatives. State Tournament—Gregory Portland, Portland, Texas.

2020-2021: Lillian Adeyemi, President; John Mast, Vice President; Victoria Beard, Secretary; Noah Recker, Treasurer; Nicole Cornish, IQT Coordinator; Kirsten Nash, Archivist; Ryan Lovell, Rory McKenzie, Michelle Watkins, Ryan Hennessey, Yolanda Silva, Region Representatives. State Tournament—Virtual.

## TFA State Champions

If you have any missing information, please contact the current Archivist or your Region Representative so that our records may be completed.

### **Humorous Interpretation**

1974-77	No Information Available	
1978	Greg Baldwin	Spring HS, Spring
1979	Paul Vela	Jefferson HS, San Antonio
1980	Kyndal May	Newman Smith HS, Carrollton
1981	Steven Crabtree	Newman Smith HS, Carrollton
1982	John Matthews	McAllen HS, McAllen
1983	Chris Welch	MacArthur HS, Irving
1984		
1985	Lyra Barrera	Gregory-Portland HS, Portland
1986	Audra Hans	Newman Smith HS, Carrollton
1987	Ben McDonald	Klein HS, Klein
1988	Paul DeCordova	Gregory-Portland HS, Portland
1989	Gwen Templeton	Klein HS, Klein
1990	Mark Town	Duncanville HS, Duncanville
1991	Greg McFadden	Klein HS, Klein
1992	Michael Frederico	Vines HS, Plano
1993	Demond Wilson	Plano Senior HS, Plano
1994	Trevor Wood	Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio
1995	Brad Goertz	Klein HS, Klein
1996	Mark Banks	Arlington HS, Arlington
1997	Michael Washington	Plano Senior HS, Plano
1998	Leah Chaney	Gregory-Portland HS, Portland
1999	Dan Charbaneau	Texas Military Institute, San Antonio
2000	Marco Ramirez	Gregory-Portland HS, Portland
2001	Robert Sublett	Bishop HS, Bishop
2002	Robert Sublett	Bishop HS, Bishop
2003	Buddy Hardt	Foster HS, Richmond
2004	Cody Kirkpatrick	Gregory-Portland HS, Portland
2005	Alice Wiesner	Klein HS, Klein
2006	Chase Williamson	Carroll Senior HS, Southlake
2007	Reggie Talley	Klein Forest HS, Houston
2008	A J Galvan	W.B. Ray HS, Corpus Christi
2009	Brett Gray	Cypress Ridge HS, Houston
2010	Landry Ayres	Grapevine HS, Grapevine
2011	Tommy Waas	Klein HS, Klein
2012	Marah Wilson	Grapevine HS, Grapevine
2013	Michael Ferguson	Creekview HS, Carrollton
2014	John Biebighauser	Grapevine HS, Grapevine
2015	Seis Steves	St. Mary's Hall, San Antonio
2016	Ryan Esparza	Klein HS, Klein

2017	Andy VanSaders	Saginaw HS, Saginaw
2018	Harrison Webster	Ronald Reagan HS, San Antonio
2019	John Duncan	Harlingen South HS, Harlingen
2020	Matthew Ryan Gutowski	Grapevine HS, Grapevine

## Dramatic Interpretation

1974-77	No Information Available	
1978	Greg Baldwin	Spring HS, Spring
1979	Thomas Bruner	Jefferson HS, San Antonio
1980	Dee Dee Green	Newman Smith HS, Carrollton
1981	Janay Ferguson	Highland Park HS, Dallas
1982		
1983	Natalie Staley	Newman Smith HS, Carrollton
1984		
1985	Brian Hoffman	Newman Smith HS, Carrollton
1986	Lyra Barrera	Gregory-Portland HS, Portland
1987	Kent Lanier	Klein HS, Klein
1988	Sarah Fisch	Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio
1989	Bruce Smith	Duncanville HS, Duncanville
1990	Jennifer Mueller	Plano Senior HS, Plano
1991	Christy Vannoy	Newman Smith HS, Carrollton
1992	Jenny Hall	Westlake HS, Austin
1993	Jeni Seaman	Klein HS, Klein
1994	David Hornsby	The Kinkaid School, Houston
1995	Sue Cerreta	Klein HS, Klein
1996	Jared Coseglia	Newman Smith HS, Carrollton
1997	Nathan Frailing	Harlingen South HS, Harlingen
1998	Angela Grovey	Elkins HS, Elkins
1999	Blake Walker	Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio
2000	Stephanie Cerreta	Klein HS, Klein
2001	Chris Grant	Denton Senior HS, Denton
2002	Meg Fee	The Kinkaid School, Houston
2003	Ashley Gay	Creekview HS, Carrollton
2004	Bianca Anderson	Duncanville HS, Duncanville
2005	D'Angelo Lacy	Creekview HS, Carrollton
2006	Ace Heckathorn	Plano Senior HS, Plano
2007	Alex Hardaway	James Martin HS, Arlington
2008	Lawryn LaCroix	Creekview HS, Carrollton
2009	Lawryn LaCroix	Creekview HS, Carrollton
2010	Jake McCready	Coppell HS, Coppell
2011	Keegan Latham	Plano Senior HS, Plano
2012	Robert Jackson	Alief Hastings HS, Alief
2013	Aldean Pearson II	Mansfield HS, Mansfield
2014	Abigail Onwunali	Alief Hastings HS, Alief
2015	Bianca Montgomery	Andy Dekaney HS, Houston
2016	Jaylon Bolden	J. Frank Dobie HS, Houston
2017	Taylor Woods	Grand Prairie HS, Grand Prairie

2018	Christopher Scott	J. Frank Dobie HS, Houston
2019	Dago Lopez	Pharr-San Juan-Alamo North HS, Pharr
2020	Andrea Meador-Safont	Central HS, San Angelo

### Extemporaneous Speaking (Men's and Women's)

1974	Kenneth Marks	Bellaire HS, Houston
1975	Collyn Peddle	Bellaire HS, Houston
1976		
1977	David Dow	Bellaire HS, Houston
1978	Kelly Coyner	Bellaire HS, Houston
1979	Denise Huddle	Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio
	Mark Kolitz	Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio
1980	Linda O'Connor	Roosevelt HS, San Antonio
	Mark Taylor	Humble HS, Humble
1981		
1982	Sheri Brown	Jefferson HS, San Antonio
	Mike Gagliardi	Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio
1983	Cathy Palczewski	Robert E. Lee HS, San Antonio
	Gene Spears	Cypress Creek HS, Houston
1984	Rajesh Aggarwal	Bellaire HS, Houston
1985	Kim Wulfe	Robert E. Lee HS, San Antonio
1986	Becky Buckman	Kingwood HS, Humble
	Joey Profaizer	Plano Senior HS, Plano
1987	Barbara Wall	Kingwood HS, Humble
	Steve Hill	Plano Senior HS, Plano

### Foreign Extemporaneous Speaking

1988	Michael Tomz	Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio
1989	Suzie Sprague	Plano Senior HS, Plano
1990	Christina Rodriguez	Robert E. Lee HS, San Antonio
1991	Alison Tedor	Robert E. Lee HS, San Antonio
1992	Michelle Ganow	Humble HS, Humble
1993	Bobby Root	MacArthur HS, San Antonio
1994	Wade Coriel	Cypress Creek HS, Houston
1995	Jason Earle	MacArthur HS, San Antonio
1996	Caleb McDaniel	Clark HS, San Antonio
1997	Anjan Choudhury	Taylor HS, Katy
1998	Rajit Marwah	Alief Hastings HS, Alief
1999	Sean Yom	Kingwood HS, Kingwood
2000	Bryan Gray	Lewisville HS, Lewisville
2001	Emily Scheer	Calallen HS, Corpus Christi
2002	Lily Wang	Plano East Senior HS, Plano
2003	Jeff Geels	Carroll HS, Southlake
2004	Jeff Geels	Carroll HS, Southlake
2005	Jeff Geels	Carroll HS, Southlake
2006	Christine Halbert	Carroll HS, Southlake
2007	Samin Agha	Alief Taylor HS, Houston

2008	Dillon Huff	Carroll Senior HS, Southlake
2009	Kate Mozynski	Coppell HS, Coppell
2010	Dillon Huff	Carroll Senior HS, Southlake
2011	Lavanya Sunder	Lamar HS, Houston
2012	Arvind Venkataraman	Carroll Senior HS, Southlake
2013	Cyrus Ghaznavi	Parish Episcopal School, Dallas
2014	Abhinav Sridharan	Plano Senior HS, Plano
2015	Abhinav Sridharan	Plano Senior HS, Plano
2016	Neil Patel	Plano West Senior HS, Plano
2017	Sarah Lanier	Northland Christian, Houston
2018	Kate Fisher	St. Mary's Hall, San Antonio
2019	Faizan Asif	Seven Lakes HS, Katy
2020	Angela Wang	Plano West, Plano

### Domestic Extemporaneous Speaking

1988	Steve Hill	Plano Senior HS, Plano
1989	Heath Dixon	Plano East Senior HS, Plano
1990	Stefanie Rosenthal	Robert E. Lee HS, San Antonio
1991	Christina Rodriguez	Robert E. Lee HS, San Antonio
1992	Matthew Whitley	Central HS, San Angelo
1993	K.C. Allen	Uvalde HS, Uvalde
1994	Lisa Tsai	Jersey Village HS, Houston
1995	Win Hayes	Klein HS, Klein
1996	Jim Hawkins	Dulles HS, Sugarland
1997	Ryan Cunningham	Robert E. Lee HS, San Antonio
1998	Justine Fisher	Robert E. Lee HS, San Antonio
1999	Jason Warren	Plano Senior HS, Plano
2000	Amanda Knight	Friendswood HS, Friendswood
2001	Amanda Knight	Friendswood HS, Friendswood
2002	Amanda Knight	Friendswood HS, Friendswood
2003	Weston Elkins	Lamar Consolidated HS, Rosenberg
2004	Weston Elkins	Lamar Consolidated HS, Rosenberg
2005	Joanna Smolenski	Plano West Senior HS, Plano
2006	Mark Alan Isaacson	Bay City HS, Bay City
2007	Tex Dawson	Plano West Senior HS, Plano
2008	Nick Cugini	Cypress Ridge HS, Houston
2009	Nick Cugini	Cypress Ridge HS, Houston
2010	Claire Daviss	Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio
2011	Shikha Garg	Plano Senior HS, Plano
2012	Zachary Stone	Plano West Senior HS, Plano
2013	Drew Huegel	Lamar Consolidated HS, Rosenberg
2014	Ash Malhotra	Plano Senior HS, Plano
2015	Marshall Webb	St. Mary's Hall, San Antonio
2016	Marshall Webb	St. Mary's Hall, San Antonio
2017	Katherine Hu	Plano Senior HS, Plano
2018	Jacqueline Wei	Plano West Senior HS, Plano
2019	Hunter Brown	Spring Woods HS, Houston

2020 Amarachi Okoli

Seven Lakes HS, Katy

### Original Oratory

1974 Neal Amsden

Bellaire HS, Houston

1975-78 No Information Available

1979 Henry Samelson

Jefferson HS, San Antonio

1980

1981

1982 Mike Chocon

Amarillo HS, Amarillo

1983 Bill Thompson

Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio

1984

1985

1986 Emily Stouffer

Newman Smith HS, Carrollton

1987 Debra Rodriguez

Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio

1988 Valerie Funkhouser

Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio

1989 Troy Wolverton

Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio

1990 David Greenstone

R.L. Turner HS, Carrollton

1991 Lauren Hodges

Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio

1992 Ryan Breidenbach

Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio

1993 Trevor Wood

Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio

1994 Allison Webster

The Kinkaid School, Houston

1995 Matt Pierce

McCullough HS, Conroe

1996 Maya Buryakovsky

The Kinkaid School, Houston

1997 Ashley Lucas

Bowie HS, El Paso

1998 Danny Lutman

Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio

1999 Ryan Short

Plano Senior HS, Plano

2000 Joe Williams

Cypress Falls HS, Houston

2001 Michael Woywood

Harlingen South HS, Harlingen

2002 Melissa Messer

Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio

2003 Melissa Messer

Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio

2004 Kari Wohlschlegel

Kingwood HS, Kingwood

2005 Danny Carissimi

Carroll HS, Southlake

2006 Nicole Kreisberg

Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio

2007 Eddie Gamboa

Bel Air HS, El Paso

2008 Mario Nguyen

Plano Senior HS, Plano

2009 Morgan Booksh

McNeil HS, Round Rock

2010 Matthew King

Creekview HS, Carrollton

2011 Michael McBride

Plano Senior HS, Plano

2012 Paige LaNasa

Centennial HS, Frisco

2013 Billy Tate

Plano Senior HS, Plano

2014 Sana Moti

Grapevine HS, Grapevine

2015 Nikki Dargahi

L.C. Anderson HS, Austin

2016 Usmaan Hasan

Plano West Senior HS, Plano

2017 Ariana Uriah Okhuozagbon

J. Frank Dobie HS, Houston

2018 Christy Caudle

Lake Travis HS, Austin

2019 Saskia Reford

St. Mary's Hall, San Antonio

2020 Leah Gomez

St. Mary's Hall, San Antonio

## Duet Acting

1979	Ponce & Lopez	Jefferson HS, San Antonio
1980	Dee Dee Green & Kyndal May	Newman Smith HS, Carrollton
1981	Traci Milburn & Tiffany Tweldle	Newman Smith HS, Carrollton
1982	Daniel Escobar & John Matthews	McAllen HS, McAllen
1983	John Smith & Ivette Solar	Robert E. Lee HS, San Antonio
1984	Troy Wharton & Desi Doyen	Newman Smith HS, Carrollton
1985		
1986	Jernard Burks & Billy Griffin	Eisenhower HS, Houston
1987	Curtis Bay & Laurie Norton	Klein HS, Klein
1988	Wayne Rowe & Erin Ryan	Clear Lake HS, Clear Lake
1989	Kent Kubena & Marshall York	Clear Lake HS, Clear Lake
1990	Jennifer Kinard & Kent Kubena	Clear Lake HS, Clear Lake
1991	Gret McFadden & Michelle Courtney	Klein HS, Klein
1992	Brad Miles & Haley Akridge	Dumas HS, Dumas
1993	Phillip Gonzales & Adam McCormick	Klein HS, Klein
1994	David Hornsby & Brooke Herzstein	The Kinkaid School, Houston
1995	Shauna Kinney & Hillary Smith	Plano Senior HS, Plano
1996	Jared Coseglia & Adron Ming	Newman Smith HS, Carrollton
1997	Andrew Fenack & Chris Cardenas	Madison HS, San Antonio
1998	Hunter Wood & Eric Steele	Highland Park HS, Dallas
1999	Hunter Wood & Eric Steele	Highland Park HS, Dallas
2000	Steven Leyva & William Cunningham	Booker T. Washington HS, Houston
2001	Chris Grant & Amy Windle	Denton Senior HS, Denton
2002	Colt Scharringhausen & Jennifer Lovell	Creekview HS, Carrollton
2003	Maggie Hope & Dylan Vandam	Westlake HS, Austin
2004	Patrick Morgan & Mike Pivowar	Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio
2005	Bridget Skaggs & Andrew Ryder	Carroll HS, Southlake
2006	Cortney Macneil & Natalie Baker	Harlingen South HS, Harlingen
2007	Lindsley Howard & Darry Hearon	Elkins HS, Missouri City
2008	Sarah Lavere & Forrest Weber	Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio
2009	Andrew Asper & Jennifer Tate	Ronald Reagan HS, San Antonio
2010	Nico Bonacci & Paige Kerr	St. Mary's Hall, San Antonio
2011	Lauren Rutherford & Travis Tope	Plano Senior HS, Plano
2012	Deshawn Weston & Anissa Torres	Grand Prairie HS, Grand Prairie
2013	Dakota Ratliff & Cody Vann	Ryan HS, Denton
2014	Andrew Hansen & Drake Lawson	Guyer HS, Denton
2015	Schwope & McDonald	Robert E. Lee HS, San Antonio
2016	Brian Kyle Frizzell & Hannah Mclver	Central HS, San Angelo
2017	Sara Heaslip & Nick Martinez	Lake Travis HS, Austin
2018	Grace Widner & Reed Sizdek	James Bowie HS, Austin
2019	Maddie Champion & Matthew Gutowski	Grapevine HS, Grapevine
2020	Chence Hull & Cesear Palacios	Tuloso-Midway HS, Corpus Christi

## Duo Interpretation

2007	Jonathan Foster & Kelsi Tyler	Klein HS, Klein
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2008	Sarah Lavere & Forrest Weber	Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio
2009	Patrick McDonald & Kathrine Daugherty	Mansfield HS, Mansfield
2010	Sarah Baston & Landry Ayres	Grapevine HS, Grapevine
2011	Julian Flores & Juan Martinez	Grand Prairie HS, Grand Prairie
2012	Devin Hunt & Beaven Waller	Mansfield HS, Mansfield
2013	Chris Jefferson & Keith Machekanyanga	South Grand Prairie HS, Grand Prairie
2014	Seis Steves & Emma Barnett	St. Mary's Hall, San Antonio
2015	Velazquez & Ocampo	South Grand Prairie HS, Grand Prairie
2016	Angel Ramirez & Carlos Diaz	Spring Woods HS, Spring
2017	Christina Gayton & Juan Nunez	Ronald Reagan HS, San Antonio
2018	Nathaniel Cullors & Joshua Mayo	Judson HS, Converse
2019	Kaedon Solana & Luke Evans	James Bowie HS, Austin
2020	Emiliano Flores & Cesear Palacios	Tuloso-Midway HS, Corpus Christi

## Impromptu

1990	Rajan Shah	Plano Senior HS, Plano
1991	Michael Day	Lamar HS, Arlington
1992	Michael Day	Lamar HS, Arlington
1993	Justin Deabler	Kingwood HS, Kingwood
1994	Katie Perkins	Cooper HS, Abilene
1995	Tejal Shah	Grapevine HS, Grapevine
1996	Hana Sharif	Cypress Crekk HS, Houston
1997	Vairavan Subramanian	Alief Elsie HS, Alief
1998	Steve Peterson	Kingwood HS, Kingwood
1999	Keith Leventhal	Robert E. Lee HS, Midland
2000	Megan Hall	Harlingen South HS, Harlingen
2001	Ryan Lovell	Tascosa HS, Amarillo
2002	Katie Whidden	Abilene HS, Abilene
2003	Zach Sumners	Monsignor Kelly HS, Beaumont
2004	Drew Pfanmiller	Frenship HS, Frenship
2005	Ben Briscoe	Pampa HS, Pampa
2006	Marin Mueller	Plano West Senior HS, Plano
2007	Nicholas Brown	Hightower HS, Missouri City
2008	Ryan Aguirre	Gregory-Portland HS, Portland
2009	Sachin Shah	Plano Senior HS, Plano
2010	Avis Rodriguez	Cypress Woods HS, Houston
2011	Nick Brown	Bishop HS, Bishop
2012	Alex Pustelnyk	Lake Travis HS, Austin
2013	John William VanDerSchans	Centennial HS, Frisco
2014	Sagar Segal	Summit International Prep, Arlington
2015	Gage Krause	Lake Travis HS, Austin
2017	Gabriella Ghandour	Lubbock HS, Lubbock
2018	Ashwin Desai	Plano West Senior HS, Plano
2019	Matthew Boddy	Jack C. Hays HS, Buda
2020	Madison Buchanan	Clear Springs HS, League City

## Prose/Poetry

1990	Joe Walters (Prose)	Gregory-Portland HS, Portland
1991	Sophie Snodgres (Prose)	R.L. Turner HS, Carrollton
1992	Stacie Slaughter (Prose)	Amarillo HS, Amarillo
1993	Erin Greene (Poetry)	Sanford-Fitch HS
1994	Robin Benson (Prose)	Duncanville HS, Duncanville
1995	Coung Nguyen (Poetry)	Central HS, San Angelo
1996	Kala Sanchez (Prose)	McNeil HS, Round Rock
1997	Kristin Kerbow (Poetry)	Central HS, San Angelo
1998	Andrea Gatelum (Prose)	Westlake HS, Austin
1999	Jennifer Frank (Poetry)	Gregory-Portland HS, Portland
2000	Trent Meyer (Prose)	Carroll HS, Southlake
2001	Katy Johnson (Poetry)	Harlingen South HS, Harlingen
2002	Wayetu Moore (Prose)	Spring HS, Spring
2003	Nathan Barrientes (Poetry)	Bishop HS, Bishop
2004	Nathan Barrientes (Prose)	Bishop HS, Bishop
2005	Alex Bergfors (Poetry)	Gregory-Portland HS, Portland
2006	Grant Neal (Prose)	Bay City HS, Bay City
2007	Caitlin Taylor (Poetry)	Colleyville Heritage HS, Colleyville
2008	Sarah Mullinix (Prose)	Westlake HS, Austin
2009	Doha Hussein (Poetry)	Hanks HS, El Paso
2010	Tretitia Hobbs (Prose)	Hightower HS, Missouri City
	Casey Powers (Poetry)	Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio
2011	Elliot Garza (Prose)	Garland HS, Garland
	Deborah Corpening (Poetry)	St. Michael's Academy, Austin
2012	Katherine McDoniel (Prose)	Westlake HS, Austin
	Matthew Stone (Poetry)	Royse City HS, Royse City
2013	Cody Eilrich (Prose)	North Lamar HS, Paris
	Mahalia Tutuwaa Agyepong (Poetry)	Hightower HS, Missouri City
2014	Carly Suhr (Prose)	Centennial HS, Frisco
	Alonna Ray (Poetry)	Centennial HS, Frisco
2015	Amani Abderahman (Prose)	Garland HS, Garland
	Matthew Almaguer (Poetry)	Harlingen South HS, Harlingen
2016	Julie Juekeng (Poetry)	Cypress Lakes HS, Houston
2017	Sarah Skees (Prose)	John Paul II HS, Plano
	Shade Smith (Poetry)	Judson HS, Converse
2018	Marisela Saenz (Prose)	Tuloso-Midway HS, Corpus Christi
	Derneisa Green (Poetry)	J. Frank Dobie HS, Houston
2019	Catherine Porfirio (Prose)	Jack C. Hays HS, Buda
	Faith George Ann Zepeda (Poetry)	Harlingen HS, Harlingen
2020	Joshua Ryan Timmons (Prose)	Greenhill School, Dallas

## Public Forum Debate

2009	Balhara & Chandrasekar	Clements HS, Sugarland
2010	Garg & Narayanan (co-champ)	Plano Senior HS, Plano
	Gulati & Ahmed (co-champ)	
2011	Patrick Beckwith & Shyam Prasad	Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio

2012	Eric Diep & Brandon Daniels	Kempner HS, Sugarland
2013	Cyrus Ghaznavi & Sahil Vanjani	Parish Episcopal School, Dallas
2014	Gregory Ross & David Ratnoff	Lamar HS, Houston
2015	Joshua Yang & Austin Tang	Clements HS, Sugarland
2016	Franz Brotzen-Smith & John Vick	Lamar HS, Houston
2017	Miranda Nutt & Marina Leventis	Colleyville Heritage HS, Colleyville
2018	Seung Joh Cho & Zachary Turner	L.C. Anderson HS, Austin
2019	Miles Dintzner & Ali Slimi	Westlake HS, Austin
2020	Cooper Carlilie & Santiago Weiland	Strake Jesuit, Houston
	Ali Jalal & Zain Ashraf (co-champ)	Strake Jesuit, Houston

### Lincoln-Douglas Debate

1981	Todd Adkins	Plano Senior HS, Plano
1982	David Black	Deer Park HS, Deer Park
1983	Kelly Franklin	Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio
1984		
1985		
1986	Steve Hill	Shepton HS, Plano
1987	Robyn Cohen	Plano Senior HS, Plano
1988	Steve Hill	Plano Senior HS, Plano
1989	Steve Gray	Plano East Senior HS, Plano
1990	John Shannon	Greenhill School, Addison
1991	Seth Perisho	Newman Smith HS, Carrollton
1992	Jason Ciarochi	Duncanville HS, Duncanville
1993	Jenny Rudenick	Garland HS, Garland
1994	Aaron Cassidy	Garland HS, Garland
1995	Jay Conklin	Trinity HS, Euless
1996	Jim Hawkins	Dulles HS, Dulles
1997	Eric Melin	Grapevine HS, Grapevine
1998	Marc Wallenstein	Greenhill School, Addison
1999	Lindsey Jandal	Grapevine HS, Grapevine
2000	James Scott	Katy HS, Katy
2001	Stephen Babb	Texas Military Institute, San Antonio
2002	Sarah Smith (co-champ)	Georgetown HS, Georgetown
	Kristen Ray (co-champ)	
2003	Bryce Adams	R.L. Turner HS, Carrollton
2004	Paul Schiano	Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio
2005	David Wolfish	Greenhill School, Addison
2006	Andy Werner	Strake Jesuit College Prep, Houston
2007	David McGough	Greenhill School, Addison
2008	David Donatti	Strake Jesuit College Prep, Houston
2009	Devin Race	Westlake HS, Austin
2010	Claire Daviss	Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio
2011	Josh Roberts	Northland Christian, Houston
2012	Amy Kassam	Dulles HS, Dulles
2013	Rebecca Kwang	Greenhill School, Addison
2014	Bennett Eckert	Greenhill School, Addison

2015	Bennett Eckert	Greenhill School, Addison
2016	Bennett Eckert (co-champ) Varad Agarwala (co-champ)	Greenhill School, Addison
2017	Saavan Nanavati	Westwood HS, Round Rock
2018	Chakra Jonnalagadda	Cypress Woods HS, Houston
2019	Anna Myers	Greenhill School, Addison
2020	Tarun Ratnasabapathy	Southlake Carroll HS, Southlake

## Policy Debate

1974	Harold Dubinski & Kenneth Marks	Bellaire HS, Houston
1975	Brian Becker & Chris Hearn	Bellaire HS, Houston
1976	Tom Nichols & Charles Pyke	R.L. Turner HS, Carrollton
1977	Kathy Armstrong & Mark Moran	Notre Dame HS, Wichita Falls
1978	Chris Fairman & James Starr	Lanier HS, Austin
1979	Greg Ackels & Jeff Tillotson	Jesuit Preparatory School, Dallas
1980	Brian Pennington & Craig Couch	Burleson HS, Burleson
1981	Cliff Cary & Scott Edwards	Richfield HS, Waco
1982	Sam Paulos & Jeremy Ofseyer	St. Mark's School of Texas, Dallas
1983	David Oelman & Phillip Stevenson	The Kinkaid School, Houston
1984	Rui de Figueiredo & Mike Weiss	Bellaire HS, Houston
1985	Diane Martin & Melissa Miller	Coronado HS, Lubbock
1986	David Coale & Troy Ficklin	Allen HS, Allen
1987	Jay Hudkins & Mike Tomz	Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio
1988	Jeff Blum & Matt Drake	Robert E. Lee HS, San Antonio
1989	Jon Brody & Justin Shrader	The Kinkaid School, Houston
1990	Craig Ackerman & Drew Ungerman	St. Mark's School of Texas, Dallas
1991	Beeton & Larson-Hendricks	The Kinkaid School, Houston
1992	Brandon Fletcher & Dan Kern	Newman Smith HS, Carrollton
1993	Brandon Fletcher & Emily Paramore	Newman Smith HS, Carrollton
1994	Moore & Szygenda (co-champ) Goldberg & Norton (co-champ)	Greenhill School, Addison
1995	Jeremy Goldberg & Walter Luh	Greenhill School, Addison
1996	Harrison & Marshall (co-champ) Hussain & Goldberg (co-champ)	Greenhill School, Addison
1997	Arif Mawji & Orin Hoffman	The Kinkaid School, Houston
1998	Caitlin Talmadge & Andrew Bradt	Greenhill School, Addison
1999	Eickmeyer & Talmadge (co-champ) Haig & Oden (co-champ)	Greenhill School, Addison
2000	Talluri & Linford (co-champ) Holmes & Keane (co-champ)	Colleyville Heritage HS, Colleyville Jesuit Preparatory School, Dallas
2001	Racquel Bracken & Jordan Pietzsch	Greenhill School, Addison
2002	Sam Ackels & Anthony Jardina	Jesuit Preparatory School, Dallas
2003	Hussain & Ahn (co-champ) Hamraie & Murray (co-champ)	Greenhill School, Addison Colleyville Heritage HS, Colleyville
2004	Brandi Villarreal & Sam Iola	Highland Park HS, Dallas
2005	Nick Miller & David Roosth	The Kinkaid School, Houston
2006	Stephen Polley & Mat Andrews	Greenhill School, Addison

2007	Bryant Huang & Matthew Andrews	Greenhill School, Addison
2008	Daniel Sharp & Ryan Beiermeister	The Kinkaid School, Houston
2009	David Mullins & John Baker	Westlake HS, Austin
2010	Young & McCormick (co-champ) Diamond & Gorman (co-champ)	Jesuit Preparatory School, Dallas
2011	Ryan Gorman & Sullivan McCormick	Jesuit Preparatory School, Dallas
2012	Zach Rosenthal & Ben Mitchell	The Kinkaid School, Houston
2013	Holmes Hampton & Tyler Shearer	Highland Park HS, Dallas
2014	Emma Pabst & Quaram Robinson	Cedar Ridge HS, Round Rock
2015	Alex Estrada & Joseph Estrada	Stephen F. Austin HS, Austin
2016	Crayton Gerst & Vernon Johnson	Law Magnet, Dallas
2017	Mason Marriott-Voss & Ezra Serrins	Liberal Arts and Science Academy, Austin
2018	Ronak Desai & Anthony Wyatt	Lindale HS, Lindale
2019	Samar Ahmad & Christopher Eckert Shreyas Rajagopal & Het Desai	Greenhill School, Addison Coppell HS, Coppell
2020	Daniel Shu & Vikas Bunugu	Westwood HS, Austin

### Debate Speaker Awards

1989	Morton Barnett (CX) Craig Fisher (LD)	St. Mark's School of Texas, Dallas Plano Senior HS, Plano
1990	Steven Sklaver (CX) Tim Martin (LD)	St. Mark's School of Texas, Dallas Plano Senior HS, Plano
1991	John Paul Lunn (CX) John Stearns (LD)	Memorial HS, Houston Miller HS, Corpus Christi
1992	Brandon Fletcher (CX) Cody Morrow (LD)	Newman Smith HS, Carrollton Bridgeport HS, Bridgeport
1993	Collin Cox (CX) Meredith Armstrong (LD)	Midway HS, Waco The Hockaday School, Dallas
1994	Miguel Duran (CX) Denis Killian (LD)	Carroll HS, Corpus Christi Lewisville HS, Lewisville
1995	Julio Gonzales (CX) Autumn Smith (LD)	Nikke Rowe HS, McAllen Midway HS, Waco
1996	Joel DeLaGarza (CX) Ryan Cunningham (LD)	Nikke Rowe HS, McAllen Robert E. Lee HS, San Antonio
1997	Rashad Hussein (CX) Liz Durham (LD)	Greenhill School, Addison Klein Oak HS, Klein
1998	Caitlin Talmadge (CX) Steven Wilbur (LD)	Greenhill School, Addison Jack C. Hays HS, Buda
1999	Jessie Stuckey (CX) Niraj Mehdiratta (LD)	Sugarland HS, Sugarland Dulles HS, Dulles
2000	Asher Haig (CX) Amy Moffett (LD)	Greenhill School, Addison The Colony HS, The Colony
2001	Eddie Ahn (CX) Eric Wolfish (LD)	Greenhill School, Addison Greenhill School, Addison
2002	Laura Leigh-Nix (CX) Frances Schendle (LD)	Crosby HS, Crosby The Hockaday School, Dallas

2003	Adam Wright (CX) Tyler Bexley (LD)	McNeil HS, Round Rock Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio
2004	Josh Lively (CX) Neil Conrad (LD)	McCollough HS, The Woodlands Texas Military Institute, San Antonio
2005	Sam Iola (CX) David Wolfish (LD)	Highland Park HS, Dallas Greenhill School, Addison
2006	Sydney Vanberg (CX) Jeremy Dudley (LD)	Mercedes HS, Mercedes Mayde Creek HS, Houston
2007	Daniel Jung (CX)	Memorial HS, Houston
2008	Daniel Jung (CX) Andrew Badachhape (LD)	Memorial HS, Houston Clements HS, Sugarland
2009	Steven Murray (CX) Devin Race (LD) Cody Orr/Raven McGuane (PF)	Westwood HS, Round Rock Westlake HS, Austin Lamar Consolidated, Rosenberg
2010	Layne Kirshon (CX) Megha Motgi (LD) Kevin King/Alejandro Martinez (PF)	The Kinkaid School, Houston The Hockaday School, Dallas Creekview HS, Carrollton
2011	Emily Wang (CX) Josh Roberts (LD) Shikha Garg (PF)	Liberal Arts and Science Academy, Austin Northland Christian, Houston Plano Senior HS, Plano
2012	Zach Rosenthal (CX) Andrew McCormick (LD) Priyanka Rao (PF)	The Kinkaid School, Houston Strake Jesuit College Prep, Houston Plano West Senior HS, Plano
2013	Zach Rosenthal (CX) Jeremy Dang (LD) Kartik Sridhar (PF)	The Kinkaid School, Houston Strake Jesuit College Prep, Houston Plano Senior HS, Plano
2014	Quaram Robinson (CX) Shania Hunt (LD) Nazifa Mim (PF) Sana Moti (IE)	Cedar Ridge HS, Round Rock Northland Christian, Houston Cypress Falls, Cypress Grapevine HS, Grapevine
2015	Alex Estrada (CX) Nolan Burdett (LD) Samuel Tekie (PF)	Stephen F. Austin HS, Austin Dulles HS, Sugarland Lamar HS, Houston
2016	Andrew Xiang (CX) Felix Tan (LD) Suneal Vemuri (PF)	Ronald Reagan HS, San Antonio Clements HS, Sugarland Bellaire HS, Houston
2017	Elan Wilson (CX) Lucas Clarke (LD) Jacob Tate (PF)	Hendrickson HS, Pflugerville Cypress Woods HS, Cypress Bellaire HS, Houston
2018	Aakash Reddy (CX) Amber Wang (LD) Daniel Tan (PF)	The Woodlands HS, The Woodlands Katy Taylor HS, Katy Austin HS, Houston
2019	Sena Kucukkarca (CX) Anna Myers (LD) Justin Hoang (PF) Pippa Powers (WSD)	Lampasas HS, Lampasas Greenhill School, Addison Strake Jesuit College Prep, Houston Kingwood HS
2020	Yet Desai (CX)	Coppell HS, Coppell

Zan Haq (LD)  
Zain Ashraf (PF)  
Aaron Erol (WSD)

Episcopal School of Dallas, Dallas  
Strake Jesuit, Houston  
Tompkins HS, Katy

## Congressional Debate

1979	Louis Bonham	Lamar Consolidated HS, Rosenberg
1980		
1981		
1982	Kerry Mooney	Coronado HS, Lubbock
1983	Steve Crawford	Westchester HS, Houston
1984-88		No Information Available
1989	Thomas Colyandro	Westfield HS, Houston
1990	Wendy Saltzman	Robert E. Lee HS, San Antonio
1991	Michael Lu	Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio
1992	Aaron Day	James Martin HS, Arlington
1993	Ashley Damron	Westlake HS, Austin
1994	Gene Bixler	Lewisville HS, Lewisville
1995	Chad Dunn	Klein Oak HS, Klein
1996	Tan-May Desai	Vines HS, Plano
1997	Liz Hong	James Martin HS, Arlington
1998	Jason South	Trinity HS, Euless
1999	Dan Forbes	Connally HS, Pflugerville
2000	Jared Tamez	Harlingen South HS, Harlingen
2001	Shahzeb Gaziani	Plano Senior HS, Plano
2002	David Wechsler	Langham Creek HS, Houston
2003	Isaiah Broussard	Cypress Falls HS, Houston
2004	Amber Ahmed (House) Priya Gupta (Senate)	Kingwood HS, Kingwood Shepton HS, Plano
2005	Jessica Ferguson (House) Will Chambers (Senate)	Sandra Day O'Connor HS, Helotes Bellaire HS, Houston
2006	Jessica Ferguson (House) Holly Moore (Senate)	Sandra Day O'Connor HS, Helotes Carroll Senior HS, Southlake
2007	Samantha Shaw (House) Ian Jacoby (Senate)	Carroll Senior HS, Southlake Deer Park HS, Deer Park
2008	Kevin Eaton (House) Mary Claire Parker (Senate)	Duncanville HS, Duncanville Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio
2009	Louise Lu (House) Janus Pan (Senate)	Bellaire HS, Houston Johnson HS, Austin
2010	Sam Scott (House) Rebecca Kuang (Senate)	Plano Senior HS, Plano Flower Mound HS, Flower Mound
2011	David Engleman (House) Forrest Hebron (Senate)	L.C. Anderson HS, Austin Van HS, Van
2012	Esteban Rodriguez-Vazquez (House) Azhar Hussain (Senate)	La Vernia HS, La Vernia Carroll Senior HS, Southlake
2013	Diane Sun (House) Blake Seaman (Senate)	Clements HS, Sugarland Allen HS, Allen
2014	Daniella Cohen (House)	Carroll Senior HS, Southlake

2015	Sankalp Singh (Senate) Eric Bailey (House) Preston Nieves (Senate)	Plano Senior HS, Plano Bellaire HS, Houston Pflugerville HS, Pflugerville
2016	Usmaan Hasan (House) Angela Lytle (Senate)	Plano West Senior HS, Plano Cinco Ranch HS, Katy
2017	Spencer Buckner (House) John Osho (Senate)	Lake Travis HS, Austin George Ranch HS, Houston
2018	Sahaj Singh (House) Aaron Dutka (Senate)	Carroll Senior HS, Southlake Coram Deo Academy, Plano
2019	Siddhant Puranik (House) Ayo Adereti (Senate)	Tompkins HS, Katy Klein Oak HS, Spring
2020	Skylar Dixon-Englert (House)	Klein Oak, HS, Spring

### World Schools Debate

2019	Emily Grantham, Leila Saklou, Darian McCrary	Kingwood HS
2020	Elyse Dewbre, Sydney Reaves, Maddie Leard, Claire Schulter	Northland Christian

### Program Oral Interp

2017	Alfredo Antu	Central HS, San Angelo
2018	Nicholas Martinez	Lake Travis HS, Austin
2019	Elizabeth Lopez-Aguilar	Alief Early College HS, Houston
2020	Reginald Jawan Jefferson	J. Frank Dobie HS, Houston

### Informative

2017	Anna Olivia Speed	W. B. Ray HS, Corpus Christi
2018	Pablo Labiaga	Ronald Reagan HS, San Antonio
2019	Ashlyn Ellgass	Lindale HS, Lindale
2020	Madeline Belknap	Coram Deo Academy, Flower Mound

# Standing Rules: Competition Events Guide

*\*Rules or Regulations in the following sections may be amended by the majority vote of the members present and voting at any annual meeting, special meeting, or mail ballot provided that copies of the Proposed amendment have been mailed to all members or placed on the official TFA website at least fourteen (14) days prior to the vote, or without prior notice by a three-fourths majority of those present and voting.*



The Texas Forensic Association offers a number of speaking, literary interpretation, and debate events at Invitational Qualifying Tournaments that determine qualification to the State Tournament.

NOTE: Please consult the Invitational Qualifying Tournament Operations Manual and the State Tournament Operations Manual for tournament procedures. This document is strictly a guide to event rules and standards. The TFA Executive Council has established these rules, and often works with advisory committees on a periodic basis to review their effectiveness and educational value.

## Debate Events Overview

Through this contest the student gains skills of critical thinking, perfects principles of argumentation, and learns effective research techniques in order to present the most effective case for or against a given proposition on a question of national or international implication. Because it is the belief of the Texas Forensic Association that the cross-examination format more realistically advances important debate and communication skills, all TFA team debate divisions shall follow a cross-examination format in order to provide the opportunity for Texas high school debaters to successfully perfect those skills necessary to compete nationally.

Debate, by its very nature, is public. Therefore, all debates at TFA-sanctioned tournaments shall be open to the public. The right to privacy of person and the taking of personal notes for memory aid or otherwise shall not be abridged. Audience members may be excluded for disorderly conduct that distracts contestants, lack of seating, or violations of TFA rules, as pursuant to local school policy. Debate may be run in any pattern at the discretion of the tournament director, and the tournament director may limit cross-entries.

### **Evidence Rules**

**Scope of Acceptable Material.** Admissible evidence includes only material which has been published in written form. Information in formats which do not satisfy this criterion, such as personal correspondence or oral interviews, shall not be admissible as evidence.

### **Required Documentation**

1. **Citations:** Where a quotation is ascribed to a particular individual(s), the name of the author(s), a reference to the qualifications of the author(s) (e.g., professional title or level or expertise in the subject area), and the date of the publication are required. Where the quotation is ascribed to an institutional source, (e.g., studies by research organizations, reference books, journalistic sources) the name of publication and date are adequate. Should the same source of material be quoted more than once in a round of competition, subsequent uses may be presented with abbreviated citation.
2. **Written Requirements**
  - a. **Bibliographic Documentation:** All participants submitting evidence in competition shall possess and present upon demand such evidence in written form. This written form must display full bibliographic source citation, even if the full citation is not orally delivered. "Full citation" includes the following elements: Author's name, author's qualifications, complete source information, complete date, and page number. Evidence submitted from an internet source should include the URL site.

- b. **Internal Ellipses:** Either no internal ellipses may be used in the written evidence form, or ellipses may be used in the written evidence form only if the original source or a copy of the original is present. The evidence may be read in the ellipses form, but the entirety of the evidence must be available in one of the two ways cited. (Note: Ellipses are deletions after the first word of the quotation and before the final word.)
3. **Abrogation of Documentation Requirements:** Judges should be instructed that any evidence falling short of meeting these requirements should be afforded no legitimacy in supporting arguments.
4. **Reading of Evidence by the Judge:** Judges shall be strongly discouraged from examining evidence after round in the interest of expediting tournament operations and in the interest of maintaining the status of debate as an oral activity. Judges shall be instructed that evidence should not be reviewed if deficiency in the participants' delivery (e.g., excessive speed or unclear enunciation) caused the lack of comprehension involved. Examples of proper instances of post-competition review of evidence include question of legitimacy or authenticity of the evidence and instances in which lack of comprehension lies beyond the fault of the student (e.g., external noises or mental lapses on the fault of the judge). Judges shall be instructed that should they decide that a given situation justifies overcoming the strong presumption against reviewing evidence they should be certain both that only evidence actually read in the round is reviewed and that additional elements of the sources reviewed that were not orally presented (e.g., qualifications not delivered in the speech) should be disregarded.
5. **Required Documentation:** If paraphrasing is used in a public forum debate, the debater will be held to the same standard of citation and accuracy as if the entire text of the evidence were read. Paraphrasing may be used to shorten or clarify one specific portion of an original source. It should not be confused with general summary of an entire book, chapter, study, etc., which may only be used for information that is widely considered to be common knowledge. Paraphrasing focuses on a single idea, while summary focuses on a general concept. For example, if a public forum debater references a specific theory by a specific author, the debater must also be able to provide an original source as well as the specific text from the original source which is being paraphrased. If a debater were to reference social contract theory in general, that would not be an authoritative source that would require citation. However, if the debater references 'John Locke's Social Contract,' evidence would need to be available.

## Evidence Misrepresentation

1. **Availability of Evidence:** In all debate rounds, if a team or individual debater asks to view evidence read by an opponent, the opposing team or individual is required to comply with that request at that time.

2. **Responsibility for Validity:** Each participant is responsible for the validity of all evidence s/he presents in rounds of competition.
3. **Reasonability of Debaters Challenging Evidence Validity:** Indictments or protests against the validity of evidence must be made only on substantive grounds.
  - a. A challenger must have either the original source or a copy of the source cited, or
  - b. A challenger must demonstrate that reasonable search has not been able to locate the source.
4. **Definition of Misrepresentation:** Evidence is misrepresented if its origin is falsely portrayed or if it is altered so that the original intention of the author toward the issue in question is changed.
5. **Penalties for Misrepresentation:** Judges should be instructed that teams violating these standards shall automatically forfeit the round of competition in which the violation occurs.

### **Use of Computers During a Round**

The Use of laptop or portable computers by the competitors in debate rounds shall be allowed with the following provisions:

1. **Availability:** Electronic evidence must be as available to the opposition team/judge as paper evidence would have been. Teams will adapt to this new trend in a variety of ways but must keep in mind that the choice to read off of a computer cannot be an excuse to withhold evidence. If a team refuses to show evidence to an opposing team/judge in a timely manner (as determined by the judge), that evidence should not be considered in the judge's decision.
2. **Wireless Use:** The use of wireless internet is permitted in Policy, Lincoln-Douglas, Congress, and Public Forum debate with the following conditions.
  - a. Competitors should not communicate with individuals not participating in the debate round through Wi-Fi or other means.
  - b. Coaches and staff should not assist a debater or team during a round through the internet.
  - c. Host schools are not required to support the use of the internet through the host school's network.
  - d. Debaters, coaches, and staff found in violation of these conditions will forfeit the round where the violation occurred.
  - e. By choosing to use electronic devices in the round, debaters and other relevant parties are consenting to give tournament officials the right to search their devices in the event of a protest. The device may only be searched by

tournament officials and must be restricted to files and/or electronic exchanges relevant to the protest. Failure to comply would result in the upholding of the protest. Debaters and coaches should be present as their device is searched. Debaters who do not wish to consent should not use electronic devices in the round.

## Policy Debate

Policy Debate is a team event that focuses on a proposition of policy, where students use research to either affirm or negate the topic. Through this contest, students are encouraged to learn the following skills: research, policy analysis, case building, refutation, questioning, organization, team building, and communication.

- 1. Resolution:** The official national high school Policy Debate topic shall be used.
- 2. Order of Speeches:** Each debater must give one and only one constructive speech, one period of questioning, one period of answering, and one rebuttal speech, in the following order:

Affirmative Constructive Speech	8 minutes
Negative Cross Examines Affirmative	3 minutes
Negative Constructive Speech	8 minutes
Affirmative Cross Examines Negative	3 minutes
Affirmative Constructive Speech	8 minutes
Negative Cross Examines Affirmative	3 minutes
Negative Constructive Speech	8 minutes
Affirmative Cross Examines Negative	3 minutes
Negative Rebuttal	5 minutes
Affirmative Rebuttal	5 minutes
Negative Rebuttal	5 minutes
Affirmative Rebuttal	5 minutes
<i>Prep Time</i>	<i>8 minutes per team</i>

- 3. Time:** No grace time is allowed beyond completion of a sentence. The judge may penalize for overtime through reduction in speaker points. Each team shall be allowed a total of eight minutes of preparation time per round.
- 4. Prompting Philosophy:** Only the specific speaker, witness or questioner should audibly participate in the cross-examination, constructive, or rebuttal phase of the round. Assistance in the form of oral comments from a partner or team member during a speech (other than time signals in numbers) or written comments other than pre-prepared material (i.e., evidence or briefs) shall be discouraged. Judges shall be instructed to respond with a remedy which is appropriate according to their own standards.
- 5. Team:** A team shall consist of two competitors from the same school.

## Lincoln-Douglas Debate

Lincoln-Douglas Debate centers on a proposition of value, which concerns itself with what ought to be instead of what is. A value is an ideal held by individuals, societies, governments, etc. One debater upholds each side of the resolution from a value perspective. Through this contest, students are encouraged to develop a direct and communicative delivery and emphasize logic, theory, and philosophy, in the development of argumentation.

1. **Resolution:** Directors of IQTs must choose either the current NFL or UIL Lincoln-Douglas topic.
  
2. **Order of Speeches:**

Affirmative Constructive Speech	6 minutes
Negative Cross Examination	3 minutes
Negative Constructive Speech	7 minutes
Affirmative Cross Examination	3 minutes
Affirmative Rebuttal	4 minutes
Negative Rebuttal	6 minutes
Affirmative Rebuttal	3 minutes
<i>Prep Time</i>	<i>4 minutes per debater</i>
  
3. **Time:** No grace time is allowed beyond completion of a sentence. The judge may penalize for overtime through reduction in speaker points. Each debater shall be allowed a total of four minutes of preparation time per round.
  
4. **Conduct During the Round:** Only the specific speaker, witness or questioner should audibly participate in the cross-examination, constructive, or rebuttal phase of the round.
  
5. **Entry:** An entry consists of a single participant.

## Public Forum Debate

Public Forum Debate is a team event that advocates or rejects a position. The clash of ideas should be communicated in a manner persuasive to the non-specialist or citizen judge. Through this contest, students are encouraged to communicate ideas with clarity, organization and eloquence and display solid logic, lucid reasoning, and depth of analysis, in the development of argumentation.

1. **Resolution:** The official national high school Public Forum Debate topic shall be used.
2. **Procedure and Order of Speeches:** Prior to EVERY round and in the presence of the judge(s), a coin is tossed by one team and called by the other team. The team that wins the flip may choose one of two options: EITHER the SIDE of the topic they wish to defend (pro or con) OR the SPEAKING POSITION they wish to have (begin the debate or end the debate). The remaining option (SIDE or SPEAKING POSITION) is the choice of the team that loses the flip. Each debater must give one and only one 4-minute speech, one individual crossfire, and one 2-minute speech and Grand crossfire in the following order:

First Speaker – Team A	4 minutes
First Speaker – Team B	4 minutes
Crossfire (first question by speaker A1 to B1)	3 minutes
Second Speaker – Team A	4 minutes
Second Speaker – Team B	4 minutes
Crossfire (first question by speaker A2 to B2)	3 minutes
Summary – First Speaker – Team A	3 minutes
Summary – First Speaker – Team B	3 minutes
Grand Crossfire	3 minutes
Final Focus – Second Speaker – Team A	2 minutes
Final Focus – Second Speaker – Team B	2 minutes
<i>Prep Time</i>	<i>3 minutes per team</i>

At the conclusion of the summary speeches, all four debaters will remain seated and participate in a three-minute 'Grand Crossfire' in which all four debaters are allowed to cross-examine one another. The speaker who gave the first summary speech must ask the first question. The speakers from each team will continue to ask and answer questions. Teams should alternate asking and answering questions rather than allowing one team to dominate so that a balance between teams is achieved. All speakers are encouraged to participate in the Grand Crossfire. Speakers should listen respectfully to opponents' questions and answers.

3. **Time:** No grace time is allowed beyond completion of a sentence. The judge may penalize for overtime through reduction in speaker points.

4. **Prompting Philosophy:** Only the specific speaker, witness or questioner should audibly participate in the cross-examination, constructive, or rebuttal phase of the round. Assistance in the form of oral comments from a partner or team member during a speech (other than time signals in numbers) or written comments other than pre-prepared material (i.e., evidence or briefs) shall be discouraged except during the Grand Crossfire. Judges shall be instructed to respond with a remedy which is appropriate according to their own standards.
  
5. **Team:** A team shall consist of two competitors from the same school.

## World Schools Debate

World Schools Debate features a dynamic form of debate combining the concepts of “prepared” topics with “impromptu” topics, encouraging debaters to focus on specified issues rather than debate theory or procedural arguments. This highly interactive style of debate allows debaters to engage each other, even during speeches. This challenging format requires good teamwork and in-depth, quality argumentation.

- 1. Team:** A team shall have at least three (3) and no more than five (5) members, all of which must be from the same school. Only three students may speak in any given debate. Each speaker gives only one 8-minute constructive (substantive) speech. The Proposition team (P) speaks first and the Opposition team (O) speaks second. Constructive speeches alternate as follows: P1, O1, P2, O2, P3, O3. After each speaker has spoken, the first or second speaker for each team gives a 4-minute Reply speech with the Opposition going first, and the Proposition reply concluding the debate.
- 2. Motions:** Motions shall take the format befitting debate in a House of Parliament, always beginning with the phrase, ‘This House,’ which will often – but not exclusively – be followed by the verbs, “would,” “believes that,” “supports,” or “regrets.” One team proposes the motion (resolution) in each debate; the other team opposes it. Some motions will be impromptu motions and others will be prepared motions. IQTs must offer at least one impromptu motion in prelims and one impromptu motion in elimination rounds in order for the event to receive state qualification points. The TFA State Tournament will schedule impromptu motions for half of the preliminary rounds (or 1/2 minus 1 if there are an odd number) and at least 1/2 minus one in elimination rounds. For example - if the TFA State Tournament has five preliminary rounds, then at least two must be impromptu motions. If the TFA State tournament breaks to quarter-finals, at least one of the motions must be an impromptu motion. A list of prepared motions for IQTs will be released on this schedule:
  - August: 1 - 20 motions for use from August-November
  - November: 1 - 20 motions for use from December-February
  - February: 1 - 6 motions for use at TFA State - one being designated for finals

Prepared motions will be chosen by tournament hosts from these lists. Hosts may create their own impromptu motions using the prepared motion list as a guide. The motions for debates will be written by officers of the Texas Forensic Association (or their designees) taking into consideration subject, variety, and other qualities as appropriate.

- 3. Format:** The format of the debate shall model the following:
  - Opening Government / Proposition 1 – 8 Minutes
  - Opening Opposition / Opposition 1 – 8 Minutes
  - Proposition 2 – 8 Minutes
  - Opposition 2 – 8 Minutes
  - Proposition 3 – 8 Minutes
  - Opposition 3 – 8 Minutes

Opposition Reply (Speaker 1 or 2) – 4 Minutes

Proposition Reply (Speaker 1 or 2 ) – 4 Minutes

Unlike other formats, there is no preparation time during the debate.

The judge may provide time signals for each speech. Speakers may also time themselves. In addition to the time signals that may be provided by the judge(s), team members (even those not speaking in that round) may give time signals to a speaker provided that the signals are discreet and unobtrusive.

Any use of the internet or any verbal or written communication with anyone not among the three team members speaking in the round (other than time signals given by one of the other team members observing) may result in the loss of the round.

- 4. Materials:** During the debate students are permitted to bring with them an English language dictionary, a bilingual dictionary, and a single volume encyclopedia or almanac. Other printed materials referred to during the course of prepared speeches, may also accompany a team into the room. Students may not use electronic storage or retrieval devices (except the use of mobile phone for timing. Use of electronic devices during debates (or in preparation in the impromptu preparation period) will result in the loss of a round.
- 5. Preparation Time and Procedure for Impromptu Motions:** For both preliminary and elimination rounds with impromptu motions, both the team supporting the motion, and the team opposing the motion shall have one hour from the time the motion is released until the beginning of the impromptu round. All members of the three to five-member team – both those who will be speaking in the round and any other members who will speak in other rounds – may participate in preparation. During the one-hour impromptu motion prep period, team members must prepare without consulting coaches or anyone outside their 3 to 5-person team. They may not access the internet or any previously-prepared materials. The only materials allowed in the impromptu prep process are a dictionary and a one-volume encyclopedia or almanac.
- 6. Winning a Debate:** In preliminary rounds, a debate is won by the team who receives the highest team score from the judge. There are no low point wins or ties in team points. In elimination rounds or any rounds with a panel of judges, the debate is won by the team who receives a winning ballot from a majority of judges in the round. The sum of team scores determines a winning ballot.
- 7. Interruptions:** During a substantive speech (an 8-minute speech) a competitor from the opposite team may rise to offer a Point of Information. A Point of Information may be a question or a statement. The first full minute of a substantive speech and the last full minute of a substantive speech are considered protected time. No Points of Information may be given during this time. The speaker may choose to accept a Point of Information or to reject or waive down a Point of Information. Rejection can take the form of an

obvious hand gesture or a verbal comment from the speaker. POIs should not exceed 15 seconds in length. Judges should consider the strength or weaknesses of POIs and the answers given in awarding points to individual team members. Failure to ask or accept POIs should also be considered by judges in awarding individual scores.

- 8. Communication:** During a debate, speakers may not communicate with persons not speaking in any given debate, with the exception of a non-speaking team member offering time signals.
- 9. Judging Criteria:** The judging criteria will follow that of the standards/rules of the National Speech and Debate Association.
- 10. State Qualification:** To qualify for the TFA State Tournament students must compete together as a team of a three to five-member roster at an IQT, but students will earn qualification points individually. In order to earn qualification points each member of the roster submitted on an IQT entry form must participate in at least half (or 1/2 minus 1) preliminary rounds. Coaches may use any combination of three-five students accumulating the required qualification points to enter the state tournament. World Schools Debate will be listed as a debate event for the TFA State tournament schedule.
- 11. Minimum IQT requirements and qualification numbers for World Schools Debate:** The minimum number of WS entries for an IQT to award qualification points is 6 teams.
- 12. Round Requirements:** IQTs must offer a minimum of 3 preliminary rounds (one being an impromptu motion) with the following required elimination rounds:
  - 6-9 teams - minimum break - finals
  - 10-15 teams - minimum break - semis
  - 16-50 teams - minimum break - quarters
  - 50 plus teams - minimum break - octos

## Congressional Debate

Congressional Debate enables the student to gain a better knowledge of political science while utilizing the skills of public speaking, group discussion, debate, and parliamentary procedure. Students have the opportunity to qualify for the Texas Forensic Association State Tournament as a Representative in the United States House. Every TFA Member School shall be granted one legislator in the United States Senate.

Congressional Debate may be run in any pattern at the discretion of the tournament director, and the tournament director may limit cross-entries. A minimum number of actual minutes for floor debate must be met.

- 1. Preliminary Session:** A preliminary session is defined as including:
  - 18-20 students as the optimum number for three-hour session
  - Election of a presiding officer
  - New seating chart
  - Resetting of precedence/recency
  - New legislation that has not been debated in a previous session in the tournament
  
- 2. Floor Debate:** Following the first two speeches on legislation, the presiding officer will alternately recognize affirmative and negative speakers, who will address the chamber for up to 3 minutes, followed by 1 minute of questioning by other delegates. If no one wishes to oppose the preceding speaker, the presiding officer may recognize a speaker upholding the same side. When no one seeks the floor for debate, the presiding officer may ask the chamber if they are “ready for the question” at which point, if there is no objection, voting may commence on the legislation itself. There is no “minimum cycle.” At the point at which 3 speeches are given unopposed the previous question will be immediately called.
  - a. In the event a student speaks on the wrong side called for by the presiding officer and the error is not caught, the speaker shall be scored and the speech shall count in precedence, but the speaker will receive no more than 3 points for not paying close attention to the flow of debate.
  - b. In the event a student speaks on an item of legislation not currently being debated, said speech shall count in precedence, but zero points shall be awarded.
    - i. Violators who speak on the wrong side or the wrong item shall be refused further recognition for debate on that piece of legislation, and that speech will count for precedence.
  - c. Speeches shall last no longer than three minutes with one minute of cross-examination time with the exception of sponsorship/authorship speeches and the first negative speech, where cross-examination shall last no longer than two minutes.
  - d. Members shall not yield any portion of his/her time for questioning.

- e. Members may ask only one question per questioning period. No prefacing or multiple part questions are allowed. Speakers may request the rephrasing/ repeating of a question, at the discretion of the parliamentarian. Members may ask additional questions if no members who haven't asked a question want to ask a question.
- f. Members must speak only after being recognized by the presiding officer.
- g. Members may not suspend the rules in order to change rules stipulated in the TFA Constitution.
- h. Authorship shall be attributed to submitting schools. Therefore, opening speeches on a given piece of legislation will be authorship or sponsorship speeches, depending on whether the school authoring the legislation is in attendance at each tournament. If the author of the legislation is not in the chamber, the chair will recognize a member legislator to begin debate, according to precedence.
- i. Amendments – Students may offer amendments to legislation on their docket. Once accepted by the Parliamentarian, a speech introducing the amendment 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 be followed by a 2-minute questioning period. A brief statement of justification is allowed, but not scored.
- j. Two minutes of questioning shall follow the first pro and the first con speech, and all other speeches on legislation will be followed by 1 minute of questioning. At the State Tournament, the final round will include a direct questioning period, as described below. (Though not mandatory, Invitational Qualifying Tournaments are urged to use the direct questioning format in the final round.)
- k. In the Final Round of Congressional debate, 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.
- l. Tournament directors must declare in their tournament invitations if direct questioning is being used.
  - i. 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.

- 3. Legislation:** Legislation for Invitational Qualifying Tournaments in the regular season shall be available for all schools and participants on the website at [www.txfa.org](http://www.txfa.org).
- a. An “All Call” for legislation will invite all TFA member schools to submit up to three (3) pieces of legislation for consideration two times per year: Due by May 1<sup>st</sup> for debate in the months of August-December, and due by November 1<sup>st</sup> for debate in the months of January-March (including TFA State competition).
  - b. No more than 2 pieces of legislation will be placed on the docket from any one school. The Congressional Debate Committee shall establish a docket of exactly 30 pieces of legislation for each of the two halves of yearly competition and post for use by all schools equally.
  - c. In the event there are fewer than 30 items submitted that meet the Committee’s standard for debate, the Committee shall complete the docket with current topical legislation from other sources than the TFA membership.
  - d. Tournament Directors shall designate in their invitation which pieces of legislation shall be used in Prelims, Semis, and Finals.
  - e. Plagiarism and “extensive paraphrasing” are not allowed. While some legislative issues continue to merit legislative debate in Congressional Debate, the creation of legislation surrounding the issue should be the original work of the authoring school. Legislation from NSDA District contests, NSDA Nationals, and previously submitted TFA Congressional Debate legislation (not the work of the submitting school) are all reviewed when a challenge to originality is made. If at any point it is discovered that a school has submitted plagiarized work for the docket, the school will have the item of legislation on the docket removed. The school will also lose authorship of any other pieces of legislation they might have on the docket. The Congressional Committee will have the ability to add a new piece of legislation to the docket either by moving up an item that missed the cut or by pulling from other sources.
  - f. Requirements - Legislation which does not conform to guidelines will be rejected from consideration for the Congressional Debate calendar.
    - i. Bills or resolutions are to be typed using the template provided on the TFA website. Templates are located on the TFA Congress page at [www.txfa.org](http://www.txfa.org).
    - ii. Legislation Deadlines
      1. May 1 for August-December debate
      2. November 1 for January-March (including TFA State) debate
- 4. Parliamentary Procedure:** It is necessary for all Congressional Debate participants to have a working knowledge of parliamentary procedure. The Parliamentarian shall be the final authority on both parliamentary and Congressional Debate rules.
- 5. Ballots and Forms:** All Ballots and Forms for Congressional Debate will be available to all members on the TFA website.

## Speaking Events

### **Extemporaneous Speaking**

The Extemporaneous Speaking contest is designed to enable the student to speak in an integrated manner on a central idea, organize his/her ideas in a pattern which is meaningful to his/her listeners, and orally communicate his/her ideas effectively. This contest is similar in some respects to impromptu speaking in that the word extemporaneous is used to mean “on short notice.” It differs, however, in that although the specific extemporaneous speech has not been prepared in advance of the contest day, considerable preparation in terms of gathering, analyzing, and organizing information about state, national, and international current events has gone on. A student may prepare for this contest by reading a variety of news sources, either online or in print.

1. **Divisions:** There shall be two divisions: United States and International.
2. **Topics:** Topics are to be phrased in the form of a question. Topics shall be from subjects discussed in standard periodicals of the current school year.
3. **Draw:** Thirty minutes before the contest is to begin, the first speaker shall draw three topics, choose one, and return the others. The other contestants shall draw in like manner, in their speaking order, at seven-minute intervals. A contestant drawing a topic on which s/he has spoken previously in the tournament shall return that topic and draw again.
4. **Preparation and Materials:** After the contestant has chosen a topic, s/he shall withdraw to the preparation area and plan his/her speech without conferring or exchanging information with anyone. No pre-prepared notes, or outlines, or speeches may be used by the competitor. Contestants may refer to files containing books, book excerpts, periodicals, online retrievals from mass media publications, and/or photocopies or digital copies of any of the above. Information retrieved from internet websites must include the URL citation. Competitors may not cut or paste articles into a single document. Once a contestant has chosen a topic, s/he may neither change from nor alter that topic. No visual aids may be used in the delivery of the speech. Contestants must present their topic slip to the judge(s) prior to speaking. Violation shall result in being disqualified from the event.
5. **Note Cards:** A note card may be used in preliminary rounds of Invitational Qualifying Tournaments but is NOT permitted in any elimination rounds of these tournaments. Violation shall result in being ranked last in the round in which the violation occurred. NOTE: A note card may not be used in any round of the State Tournament.
6. **Time Limit:** Time limit is seven minutes maximum with a thirty-second grace period. Overtime violators SHALL NOT be ranked first in the round by the judge. Any other

penalty is at the discretion of the judge. Judges may consider audience reaction and its impact on official time before enforcing any overtime penalty.

7. **Cross-Examination:** At the State Tournament, the final round will include a cross-examination period, as described below. (Though not mandatory, Invitational Qualifying Tournaments are urged to use the cross-examination format in the final round.)
  - a. **Cross-Examination Procedure:** Each speaker shall be assigned a position in the speaking order. Drawing shall take place at 12-minute intervals. Thirty minutes after Speaker 1 has drawn, the last Speaker shall enter the contest room. Speaker 1 shall give his/her speech and the last Speaker shall take notes and/or listen. At the conclusion of Speaker 1's speech, the last Speaker shall cross-examine Speaker 1 for a time period not to exceed three minutes. The cross-examination will be an open format, similar to the cross-examination period employed in the final round of the NSDA National Tournament. The last Speaker shall return to the prep room and Speaker 1 shall stay to listen to and question Speaker 2. Speaker 2 will question Speaker 3, etc.
8. **Multiple Divisions:** Students can compete and qualify in both United States and International Extemporaneous Speaking but s/he must choose one for TFA State.
9. **Electronic Devices:** The use of electronic devices (i.e. laptops, tablets or phones) by the competitors may be used during draw to retrieve information online or saved onto a storage device with the following provisions:
  - a. Competitors found engaging in online communication with other individuals not directly participating in the round will be disqualified.
  - b. Tournament hosts are under no obligation to provide internet access to competitors.

## Original Oratory

Oratory is an activity in which the student writes, memorizes, and then delivers a persuasive speech arising from his/her personal feelings, convictions, or a source of irritation about some problem. Topics for the original oration may be selected by the student and with the aid of the coach or teacher, but the oration itself must be the product of the contestant alone and not his/her coach or teacher.

Although many orations deal with a current problem and propose a solution, this is not the only acceptable form of oratory. The oration may simply alert the audience to a threatening danger, strengthen its devotion to an accepted cause, or eulogize a person. Visual aids are not permitted in this contest.

TFA, understanding that final judgment must remain with the individual judge concerning effect on ranking, suggests that coaches encourage their students to avoid speeches that may be offensive because of language or subject matter.

1. **Procedures:** The contestant may not use an oration which s/he used in any TFA contest prior to the current school year. The same oration shall be used for the duration of the tournament. Violation of this rule shall result in disqualification from the tournament.
2. **Subject Matter:** Any appropriate subject may be used, but the orator must be truthful. Any nonfactual reference, especially a personal one, must be so identified. Violation shall result in ranking down in the round in which the violation occurred.
3. **Direct Quotations:** Not more than 150 words of the oration may be a direct quotation from any other speech or writing, and such quotations shall be identified in the written copy of the speech. Extensive paraphrasing of any source is prohibited. Violation shall result in disqualification from the tournament.
4. **Written Copy:** A written copy of the oration must be available to the tournament director upon request. Violation of this rule will result in disqualification.
5. **Documentation Requirements:** Each year, specific documentation will be required by the Executive council for entry into the State Tournament. During the online registration process, coaches will be required to provide the oratory title. The competitor's typed oration is required to be submitted during the registration process.
  - a. All quoted material must be underlined and/or printed in red. Quoted material may not exceed 150 words.
  - b. A cover sheet with title, student's name and signature, coach's name and signature, and the school name must be completed. The cover sheet can be found online at [www.txfa.org](http://www.txfa.org).
  - c. Oratories need to be available for the duration of the tournament.

6. **Time Limit:** Time limit shall be ten minutes maximum with a thirty-second grace period. There is no minimum time required. Overtime violators SHALL NOT be ranked first in the round by the judge. Any other penalty is at the discretion of the judge. Judges may consider audience reaction and its impact on official time before enforcing any overtime penalty.
7. **Aids:** The oration shall be memorized and presented without the use of notes, visual aids, or costume. Violation shall result in being ranked last in the round.
8. **Prior Topics:** No student may use the same speech at a tournament in more than one event, but may change events with the speech during a tournament season. No student can use the same speech in more than one tournament year. Violation will result in disqualification. In addition, a student may not qualify for nor compete with the same speech at the state meet. The same speech shall be defined as a speech that has a significant repetition of sources, structure, ideas, and arguments.

## Informative Speaking

An informative speech is an original speech designed to explain, define, describe, or illustrate a particular subject. The general purpose of the speech is for the audience to gain understanding and/or knowledge of a topic. Any other purpose such as to entertain or to convince shall be secondary. The use of audio/visual aids is optional.

1. **Acceptable Material:** This contest comprises only memorized speeches composed by the contestants and not used by them during a previous contest season.
2. **Subject Matter:** Effective speeches provide new information or perspectives on a topic, including those that are widely known. The responsibility for choosing a worthwhile topic rests with the contestant. A fabricated topic may not be used. Any non-factual reference, including a personal reference, must be so identified. Violations will result in the contestant being ranked down in the round.
3. **Direct Quotations:** Not more than 150 words of the oration may be a direct quotation from any other speech or writing, and such quotations shall be identified in the written copy of the speech. Extensive paraphrasing of any source is prohibited. Violation shall result in disqualification from the tournament.
4. **Written Copy:** A written copy of the oration must be available to the tournament director upon request. Violation of this rule will result in disqualification.
5. **Documentation Requirements:** Each year, specific documentation will be required by the Executive council for entry into the State Tournament. During the online registration process, coaches will be required to provide the oratory title. The competitor's typed oration is required to be submitted during the registration process.
  - a. All quoted material must be underlined and/or printed in red. Quoted material may not exceed 150 words.
  - b. A cover sheet with title, student's name and signature, coach's name and signature, and the school name must be completed. The cover sheet can be found online at [www.txfa.org](http://www.txfa.org).
  - c. Oratories need to be available for the duration of the tournament.
6. **Time Limit:** Maximum time shall be ten minutes with a thirty-second grace period. Overtime violators SHALL NOT be ranked first in the round by the judge. Any other penalty is at the discretion of the judge. Judges may consider audience reaction and its impact on official time before enforcing any overtime penalty.
7. **Visual Aids:** Audio/visual aids may or may not be used to supplement and reinforce the message. If used, the audio/visual aids should enhance or support the message rather than distract from the overall effectiveness of the presentation. During the presentation, no electronic equipment is permitted. Electronic equipment is defined as

any object requiring an electrical cord, battery, or solar power to operate it (projectors, cell phones, radios, iPads, computers, etc.). The use of live animals or any additional people as visual aids is not allowed during the speech. Items of dress put on and/or removed for illustration during the course of the presentation are considered costumes and may not be part of the contestant's presentation. Visual aids may not violate policies as dictated by local and state law (weapons, drugs, etc.) The host school is not responsible for providing facilities, equipment, including tables, chairs, or easels, or assistance in a contestant's use of visual aids. Expedient set up and take down of aids is expected. If a visual aid displays published pictorial material, the source must be included in the work-cited page but does not need to be cited orally.

8. **Prior Topics:** No student may use the same speech at a tournament in more than one event, but may change events with the speech during a tournament season. No student can use the same speech in more than one tournament year. Violation will result in disqualification. In addition, a student may not qualify for nor compete with the same speech at the state meet. The same speech shall be defined as a speech that has a significant repetition of sources, structure, ideas, and arguments.

## Interpretation Events Overview

1. Original source material must not be written by the competitor who is performing it.
2. Original source material must be publicly accessible throughout the duration of the tournament. Digital printed publications such as web pages and PDFs retrieved or purchased from web pages are permitted as long as the web page is publicly accessible throughout the duration of the tournament. Digital unprinted publications such as videos, audio files, and films are permitted as long as the original source is publicly accessible throughout the duration of the tournament and the competitor can obtain an official transcript of the original source. (See 2d. for official transcript details.)
  - a. For print publications such as novels, short stories, plays, or poetry, the original source is the physical book or e-book. Photocopies of original literature are not acceptable. Presenting the physical book or e-book is sufficient to prove that a printed publication is publicly accessible.
  - b. For digital printed publications such as web pages, original source material is no longer required to come from online publishing sources listed on the NSDA Approved Websites List. The original source must be publicly accessible for viewing or purchase by a simple internet search or by a URL not requiring passwords or access codes. Competitors must also present a printed manuscript to be used in the case of a protest, but presenting a printed copy of a website is not alone sufficient to prove that a digital printed publication is publicly accessible.
  - c. PDFs are permitted as long as the website from which the PDF is retrieved or purchased is publicly accessible for viewing or purchase by a simple internet search or by a URL not requiring passwords or access codes. Competitors must also present a printed copy of the PDF to be used in the case of a protest, but presenting a printed copy of the PDF is not alone sufficient to prove that a PDF is publicly accessible.

## Duet Acting

This contest will enable the students to develop skills in techniques, ensemble, and oral interpretation common to all communications. TFA, understanding that final judgment must remain with the individual judge concerning effect on ranking, suggests that coaches encourage their students to avoid (1) literature that is devoid of literary merit, (2) literature that is in poor taste and, therefore, may be offensive because of language or subject matter.

1. **Dual Qualification:** Students may qualify in both Duet Acting and Duo Interpretation, and may compete at the state level in both events, but in this case, they may not perform the same selection for both categories and they may only compete in one other event in which they are qualified.
2. **Acceptable Material:** Selections used in Duet Acting shall be cuttings from a single source from a published novel, short story, play, poem, or screenplay. Published can mean traditionally printed, commercially available E-Books or PDFs, or material from websites. Coaches and/or students must provide the original source, including ISBN, electronic resource, or website URL, if one exists to the tournament director upon request. Coaches and/or students are solely responsible for providing any electronic device upon which electronic sources may be verified. No tournament is ever responsible for providing electronic devices or internet access for verification purposes. A photocopy of the original print source is acceptable if the publication page is included. Violation of this rule will result in disqualification.
3. **Documentation:** Each year, specific documentation will be required by the Executive council for entry into the State Tournament. During the online registration process, coaches will be required to provide the Duet title and ISBN number or website URL. The competitors' original script and copied script is required to be checked at registration and must be available during the State Tournament.
  - a. A flat copy of the text with page numbers and all lines being performed highlighted is required.
  - b. A copy of the bibliographic information page or front page of the website with visible URL is required.
  - c. A cover sheet with title, author(s), ISBN number, date of publication, number of transitional phrases, student's name(s), coach's name and signature, and the school name must be completed. The cover sheet form can be found online at [www.txfa.org](http://www.txfa.org).
  - d. The original script, in printed or electronic form, and highlighted photocopy need to be available for the duration of the tournament.
4. **Topic Nature:** The selections may be serious or humorous works.
5. **Time Limit:** Time for presentation shall not exceed ten minutes with a thirty-second grace period. There is no minimum time required. Overtime violators SHALL NOT be ranked first in the round by the judge. Any other penalty is at the discretion of the

judge. Judges may consider audience reaction and its impact on official time before enforcing any overtime penalty.

6. **Introduction:** Each selection shall include an introduction which shall set the scene and mood and include the title and author of the work. Time for the introduction shall be included in the time limit. Violation shall result in an adverse effect on the team's ranking in the round.
7. **Materials:** The selection shall be memorized and presented without the use of physical objects (notes, props, hand props, or scenery) or costume. Two chairs will be allowed. The two chairs may be used to create atmosphere and environment. Violation shall result in being ranked last in the round.
8. **Material Selection:** No student may use the same selection at a tournament in more than one event, but may change events with the selection during a tournament season. No student can use the same selection in more than one tournament year. Violation will result in disqualification. In addition, a student may not qualify for nor compete with the same selection at the state meet. A selection shall be defined as a standalone piece of literature, often further delineated by the title of an individual piece. For example, anthologies shall be considered a collection of separate selections; books of poems shall be considered a collection of separate poem selections; a novel or an autobiography shall be considered a single selection; a news article shall be considered a selection, while the publication shall be considered a collection of separate selections.
9. **Multiple Entries:** A student may compete with one partner from the same school and one selection at a given tournament.
10. **Transitional Phrases:** Transitional phrases may be used in Duet Acting but must meet the following word requirements. Violation will result in disqualification.
  - a. No selection may use more than 100 total transitional words.
  - b. These words cannot be used to write new scenes to any piece of literature.
  - c. The 100 words cannot all be used in one particular location within the selection.
  - d. All transitional phrases must be written in the margin, by hand, on the copy of the piece of literature for checking in case of protest. At TFA State, this will be used to check that the number does not exceed the 100-word limit.
  - e. Introductions do not count as part of the transitional phrases.

## Duo Interpretation

This contest will enable students to develop skills in techniques, ensemble, and oral interpretation common to all communications. TFA, understanding that final judgment must remain with the individual judge concerning effect on ranking, suggests that coaches encourage their students to avoid (1) literature that is devoid of literary merit, (2) literature that is in poor taste and, therefore, may be offensive because of language or subject matter.

1. **Dual Qualification:** Students may qualify in both Duet Acting and Duo Interpretation, and may compete at the state level in both events, but in this case, they may not perform the same selection for both categories and they may only compete in one other event in which they are qualified.
2. **Acceptable Material:** Selections used in Duo shall be cuttings from a single source from a published novel, short story, play, poem, or screenplay. Published can mean traditionally printed, commercially available E-Books or PDFs, or material from websites. Coaches and/or students must provide the original source, including ISBN, electronic resource, or website URL, if one exists to the tournament director upon request. Coaches and/or students are solely responsible for providing electronic devices or internet access for verification purposes. A photocopy of the original print source is acceptable if the publication page is included. Violation of this rule will result in disqualification.
3. **Documentation:** Each year, specific documentation will be required by the Executive Council for entry into the State Tournament. During the online registration process, coaches will be required to provide the Duo title and ISBN number or NSDA approved website URL. The competitors' original script and copied script is required to be checked at registration and must be available at the State Tournament.
  - a. A flat copy of the text with page numbers and all lines being performed highlighted is required.
  - b. A copy of the bibliographic information page or front page of the website with visible URL is required.
  - c. A cover sheet with title, author(s), ISBN number or website URL, date of publication, number of transitional phrases, student's name(s), coach's name and signature, and the school name must be completed. The cover sheet form can be found online at [www.txfa.org](http://www.txfa.org).
  - d. The original script, in printed or electronic form, and highlighted copy need to be available for the duration of the tournament.
4. **Topic Nature:** The selections may be serious or humorous works.
5. **Time Limit:** Time for presentation shall not exceed ten minutes with a thirty-second grace period. There is no minimum time required. Overtime violators SHALL NOT be ranked first in the round by the judge. Any other penalty is at the discretion of the

judge. Judges may consider audience reaction and its impact on official time before enforcing any overtime penalty.

6. **Introduction:** Each selection shall include an introduction which shall set the scene and mood and include the title and author of the work. Time for the introduction shall be included in the time limit. Violation shall result in an adverse effect on the team's ranking in the round.
7. **Materials:** The selection shall be memorized and presented without the use of physical objects (script, props, hand props, or scenery) or costume. Violation shall result in being ranked last in the round.
8. **Off-Stage Focus:** In Duo Interpretation focus may be direct during the introduction and the performers may look at each other, but must be indirect (off-stage) during the performance itself.
9. **Balanced Performance:** Each of the two performers may play one or more characters, as long as performance responsibility in the cutting remains as balanced as possible. If the selection is prose or poetry and contains narration, either or both of the performers may present the narration.
10. **Material Selection:** No student may use the same selection at a tournament in more than one event, but may change events with the selection during a tournament season. No student can use the same selection in more than one tournament year. Violation will result in disqualification. In addition, a student may not qualify for nor compete with the same selection at the state meet. A selection shall be defined as a standalone piece of literature, often further delineated by the title of an individual piece. For example, anthologies shall be considered a collection of separate selections; books of poems shall be considered a collection of separate poem selections; a novel or an autobiography shall be considered a single selection; a news article shall be considered a selection, while the publication shall be considered a collection of separate selections.
11. **Multiple Entries:** A student may compete with only one partner from the same school and one selection at a given tournament.
12. **Transitional Phrases:** Transitional phrases may be used in Duet Acting but must meet the following word requirements. Violation will result in disqualification.
  - a. No selection may use more than 100 total transitional words.
  - b. These words cannot be used to write new scenes to any piece of literature.
  - c. The 100 words cannot all be used in one particular location within the selection.
  - d. All transitional phrases must be written in the margin, by hand, on the copy of the piece of literature for checking in case of protest. At TFA State, this will be used to check that the number does not exceed the 100-word limit.
  - e. Introductions do not count as part of the transitional phrases.

## Dramatic Interpretation

This contest enables the student not only to develop skills common in all speech contests, but also to select and condense worthy dramatic literature suitable to the contestant's personality and maturity, and to convey orally the meaning of that dramatic literature through characterization and narration. TFA, understanding that final judgment must remain with the individual judge concerning effect on ranking, suggests that coaches encourage their students to avoid (1) literature that is devoid of literary merit, (2) literature that is in poor taste and, therefore, may be offensive because of language or subject matter.

1. **Acceptable Material:** Selections used in Dramatic shall be cuttings from a single source from published novels, short stories, plays, poems, or screenplays. Published can mean traditionally printed, commercially available E-Books or PDFs, or material from websites. Coaches and/or students must have the original source, including ISBN, electronic resource, or website URL, if one exists to the tournament director upon request. Coaches and/or students are solely responsible for providing any electronic device upon which electronic sources may be verified. No tournament is ever responsible for providing electronic devices or internet access for verification purposes. A photocopy of the original print source is acceptable if the publication page is included. Violation of this rule will result in disqualification.
2. **Documentation:** Each year, specific documentation will be required by the Executive Council for entry into the State Tournament. During the online registration process, coaches will be required to provide the Dramatic title and ISBN number, or website URL. The competitor's original script and highlighted photocopy is required to be checked at registration and must be available at the State Tournament.
  - a. A flat copy of the original source with page numbers and all lines being performed highlighted is required.
  - b. A copy of the bibliographic information page is required.
  - c. A cover sheet with title, author(s), ISBN number or website URL, date of publication, number of transitional phrases, student's name(s), coach's name and signature, and the school name must be completed. The cover sheet form can be found online at [www.txfa.org](http://www.txfa.org).
  - d. The original script, in printed or electronic form, and highlighted copy need to be available for the duration of the tournament.
3. **Materials:** The selection shall be memorized and presented without the use of physical objects (script, props, hand props, or scenery) or costume. Students should avoid movement in the presentation that would distract from the literature itself. Violation shall result in being ranked last in the round.
4. **Material Selection:** No student may use the same selection at a tournament in more than one event, but may change events with the selection during a tournament season. No student can use the same selection in more than one tournament year. Violation will

result in disqualification. In addition, a student may not qualify for nor compete with the same selection at the state meet. A selection shall be defined as a standalone piece of literature, often further delineated by the title of an individual piece. For example, anthologies shall be considered a collection of separate selections; books of poems shall be considered a collection of separate poem selections; a novel or an autobiography shall be considered a single selection; a news article shall be considered a selection, while the publication shall be considered a collection of separate selections.

5. **Introduction:** The contestant shall name the author and the title of the selection being presented during his/her performance. Violation shall result in being ranked down in the round.
6. **Time Limit:** Maximum time shall be ten minutes with a thirty-second grace period. Overtime violators SHALL NOT be ranked first in the round by the judge. Any other penalty is at the discretion of the judge. Judges may consider audience reaction and its impact on official time before enforcing any overtime penalty.
7. **Transitional Phrases:** Transitional phrases may be used in Dramatic Interpretation but must meet the following word requirements. Violation will result in disqualification.
  - a. No selection may use more than 100 total transitional words.
  - b. These words cannot be used to write new scenes to any piece of literature.
  - c. The 100 words cannot all be used in one particular location within the selection.
  - d. All transitional phrases must be written in the margin, by hand, on the copy of the piece of literature for checking in case of protest. At TFA State, this will be used to check that the number does not exceed the 100-word limit.
  - e. Introductions do not count as part of the transitional phrases.

### **Humorous Interpretation**

This contest enables the student not only to develop skills common to all speech contests, but also to select and condense worthy humorous literature suitable to the contestant's personality and maturity, and to convey orally the humor of that literature through characterization and narration. Suggestions for suitable material and specific rules governing this contest are the ones listed for Dramatic Interpretation.

## Program Oral Interpretation

POI is a program of oral interpretation of thematically-linked selections chosen from at least two genres: prose, poetry, drama (plays). At least two pieces of literature that represent at least two separate genres must be used. Unlike the other interpretation events, Program Oral Interpretation may use multiple sources for the program.

1. **Acceptable Material:** All selections must be verbally identified by title and author. Competitors are encouraged to devote approximately equal times to each of the genres used in the program. This distinction pertains to these genres as a whole, not types of literature within a genre (such as fiction/nonfiction). Prose expresses thought through language recorded in sentences and paragraphs: fiction (short stories, novels) and non-fiction (articles, essays, journals, biographies). Poetry is writing which expresses ideas, experience, or emotion through the creative arrangement of words according to their sound, their rhythm, their meaning. Poetry may rely on verse and stanza form.
2. **Manuscript:** The use of a manuscript during the performance is required. Common practices include the use of a binder or folder. Reading from a book or magazine is not permitted. The intact manuscript may be used by the contestant as a prop, so long as it remains in the contestant's control at all times. No costumes or props other than the manuscript are permitted. The contestant must address the script; however, introduction and transitional material may be memorized.
3. **Time Limit:** Maximum time shall be ten minutes with a thirty-second grace period. Overtime violators SHALL NOT be ranked first in the round by the judge. Any other penalty is at the discretion of the judge. Judges may consider audience reaction and its impact on official time before enforcing any overtime penalty.
4. **Documentation Requirements:** Each year, specific documentation will be required by the Executive Council for entry into the State Tournament. All material used in POI must be published. Published can mean traditionally printed, commercially available E-Books or PDFs, or material from websites. During the online registration process, coaches will be required to provide the POI title(s) and ISBN number(s), URLs from a website, and/or publication information for each source used. Coaches and/or students must provide the original source, in print or electronically, including ISBN, or website URL, if one exists, to the tournament director upon request. Coaches and/or students are solely responsible for providing any electronic device upon which electronic sources may be verified. No tournament is ever responsible for providing electronic devices or internet access for verification purposes. A photocopy of the original print source is acceptable if the publication page is included. Violation of this rule will result in disqualification. The competitor's original source material and copied, highlighted scripts are required to be checked at registration and must be available at the State Tournament.
  - a. A flat copy of the source material with page numbers and all lines being performed highlighted is required.

- b. A copy of the bibliographic information page, or front page of the website with visible URL, for all source material is required.
  - c. A cover sheet with title(s), author(s), ISBN number or URL from website, date of publication, number of transitional phrases, student's name(s), coach's name and signature, and the school name must be completed. The cover sheet form can be found online at [www.txfa.org](http://www.txfa.org).
  - d. The original source material, and highlighted copies need to be available for the duration of the tournament.
5. **Transitional Phrases:** Transitional phrases may be used in Program Oral Interpretation but must meet the following word requirements. Violation will result in disqualification.
- a. No selection may use more than 100 total transitional words.
  - b. These words cannot be used to write new scenes to any piece of literature.
  - c. The 100 words cannot all be used in one particular location within the selection.
  - d. All transitional phrases must be written in the margin, by hand, on the highlighted photocopies of the original source material for checking in case of protest. At TFA State, this will be used to check that the number does not exceed the 100-word limit.
  - e. Introductions do not count as part of the transitional phrases.
6. **Prior Topics:** No student may use the same selection at a tournament in more than one event, but may change events with the selection during a tournament season. No student can use the same selection in more than one tournament year. Violation will result in disqualification. In addition, a student may not qualify for nor compete with the same selection at the state meet. A selection shall be defined as a standalone piece of literature, often further delineated by the title of an individual piece. For example, anthologies shall be considered a collection of separate selections; books of poems shall be considered a collection of separate poem selections; a novel or an autobiography shall be considered a single selection; a news article shall be considered a selection, while the publication shall be considered a collection of separate selections.

## **Judge Conduct**

When more than one judge adjudicates the same round, each judge should render their decision independently and without collusion. No judges should confer with each other before their decision is rendered and written on the ballot. It is the responsibility of the tournament director to inform each judge of this rule.

# Standing Rules: Invitational Qualifying Tournament

Operations Manual

*\* Rules or Regulations in the following sections may be amended by a majority vote of the members present and voting at any annual meeting, special meeting, or mail ballot provided that copies of the Proposed amendment have been mailed to all members or placed on the official TFA website at least fourteen (14) days prior to the vote, or without prior notice by a three-fourths majority of those present and voting.*



The Texas Forensic Association is committed to providing every student with the opportunity to qualify for the State Tournament in a fair and impartial manner. This document provides the specific procedures for hosting Invitational Qualifying Tournaments. Due diligence must be made to ensure that these procedures are followed to ensure fairness as well as the absence of the perception of impropriety when running an IQT. The members of TFA have established and approved these procedures for all Invitational Qualifying Tournaments. During each contest, your Tournament Director, Region Representative, and Executive Council are available to adjudicate disputes regarding these rules.

## **Hosting an Invitational Qualifying Tournament**

In regions with more than 15 applications, each member school will be limited to hosting a single qualifying tournament. Any TFA member school or institution wishing to apply for its tournament to be a TFA Qualifying tournament must meet the following conditions:

1. Sponsor at least four TFA events: Policy Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Public Forum Debate, Duet Acting, Duo Interpretation, Dramatic Interpretation, Humorous Interpretation, United States Extemporaneous Speaking, International Extemporaneous Speaking, Original Oratory, Program Oral Interpretation, Informative Speaking, and Congressional Debate. Tournament directors must follow TFA rules in all aforementioned events.
2. The designated tournament director must have experience in directing/coordinating a competitive tournament of a similar nature to the TFA qualifiers. If a school wishes to host a tournament, but doesn't have an experienced director, it may apply under the aegis of a group of two or more experienced directors, who may be from other schools. Letters of acceptance of responsibility from each experienced director must accompany the application. Approval is pursuant to the Executive Council's contact with these sponsors. This also applies to approved tournaments where the director leaves the TFA host school during the year.
3. The tournament shall be held between the dates of the weekend following the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday in August and the second weekend in February. A tournament weekend should be defined as Monday-Sunday. No qualifying tournament can be held on the dates of the TSCA convention. In the event of a natural or man-made disaster, the Executive Council shall be granted authority to alter the qualifying requirements, in regions so affected, so as not to affect the ability to host the State Tournament on its pre-determined weekend.
4. TFA members will be notified by March 15 of the availability of the IQT application on the TFA website. Members wishing to host a tournament will complete the online application form and submit the document. Tournament hosts will be expected to print a copy of the form and submit the tournament fee to the TFA Treasurer no later than May 1. The website administrator will move forward copies of the form to the TFA President, TFA Treasurer, and the appropriate Region Representative. Tournament dates will be established by the Executive Council. Applications received after May 1 will be considered, but may not be accepted. No applications will be considered after August 15.
5. The tournament dates shall be assigned according to the following priorities:
  - a. Those schools having previously hosted a qualifying tournament and who are requesting the same weekend as the previous year.

- b. Those schools having previously hosted a qualifying tournament and who are requesting a different weekend from the previous year.
  - c. Anyone requesting to hold a qualifying tournament who had not hosted one the previous year.
  - d. Any application received after May 1.
  - e. Those schools who requested a tournament date the previous year and subsequently cancelled their tournament or moved their tournament date.
  - f. The Executive Council reserves the right to revoke or alter precedence for tournaments who were protested and sanctioned in the previous competitive year.
  - g. If two or more schools choose to host a tournament together (co-host), the co-hosting pair has precedence based on the guidelines stated above. If the co-hosting schools choose to apply separately in subsequent years, they qualify for priority c above.
6. By the third week in May, the Secretary shall notify all TFA members of the posting on the TFA website of the tentative list of tournaments which will be TFA qualifiers for the next school year. The tournament list will be reviewed, amended, and given final approval in August. Petitions for changing approved tournament dates must be submitted to the TFA Executive Council prior to August 15<sup>th</sup> unless extenuating circumstances are documented by the administrator and coach involved prior to the beginning of the TSCA convention. Requests for date changes and tournament additions to the list received after August 15<sup>th</sup> will be brought before the members of TFA attending the business meeting at the TSCA convention and must be approved by that body for those changes and additions to occur.
  7. The Tournament Director for any IQT must be a regular member of the school's faculty.
  8. The tournament must have a minimum of ten schools participating in order for it to be a qualifier.
  9. The host school must be a current school year TFA member at the time its tournament is held.
  10. A maximum of two tournaments per region can be scheduled on the same weekend, with the exceptions of tournaments being 150+ miles apart within a region or when all possible tournament slots have been filled by other schools. When 150+ miles apart, from the closest hosting school, a region may host up to four tournaments per weekend. When there are more applicants in a region than available calendar spots and the 150+ mile rule cannot apply, regions can offer 3 tournaments on a weekend. Conflicts will be resolved by application of the above priorities. If no tournament in the region offers a qualifying event on a given weekend, a third tournament in that region may be offered that holds only the event(s) that are missing from the other

tournaments. Such tournaments would have to meet any other requirement such as minimum schools, following the TFA rules, etc., with the exception of the four qualifying event requirements. Schools in any given region that intend not to host an event should make that intention known in the tournament application process. Region reps then should make that known to smaller schools to plan their schedules for applying for tournaments. In the instance that this circumstance arises, schools would be allowed to host a second tournament (with the events not offered elsewhere in the regions only) in a school year.

11. If more than two tournaments within any one region apply for the same date, the Executive Council shall attempt to accommodate the alternate dates on the tournament applications. If an alternative date cannot be found, the TFA Treasurer shall accept only the first two applications and return the other application(s) along with the registration fee.
12. Any host of a TFA qualifying tournament may offer a formal complaint against student(s) attending their TFA qualifying tournament based on their inappropriate behavior during the 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 Executive Council of the TFA. If deemed a violation of appropriate student behavior the Executive Council shall remove all current TFA State points (individual and team events) from the student(s) found to be in violation. The Executive Council shall also impose a two-month suspension from TFA qualifying tournament participation for the student(s) found in violation.

### **Qualifying Numbers**

1. Invitational Qualifying Tournaments must have ten (10) participating schools in attendance in order to award any qualification points. Minimum numbers in each event to award qualification points are: Policy-10 teams, PFD-10 teams, LD-10 entries, Congressional Debate-10 entries, World Schools Debate-6; all IE's (including Duo and Duet)-10 entries/teams. The Executive Council may modify this section at the beginning of the tournament season in order to make it consistent with any changes to the point system if the need arises.
2. Qualification points will be awarded as outlined in the current year's Qualifying Point Schedule on [www.txfa.org](http://www.txfa.org).
3. A tournament director must certify that the number of entries at the tournament do not include "phantom" entries. The number must include only those students who actually participate in at least one round of the scheduled event at the tournament, compete using their own names, and are listed with the appropriate school affiliation. Tournament directors who do not follow accepted practices will be considered to be in violation of the Professional Code of Conduct and applicable procedures will then apply.

4. It will be the responsibility of the school's TFA coach of record to keep track of students' points. They will notify the IQT coordinator of students' qualifications which will then be checked with the finalists list from the tournament.
5. The Executive Council may modify this point schedule at the beginning of the tournament season if the need arises.

## Requirements

1. Separate divisions for men and women shall not be offered in any TFA event.
2. The specified qualifying events shall follow the rules, including time limits, of those events as outlined in the TFA Standing Rules.
3. Tabulation and tie-breaking procedures shall follow those specified in the standing rules.
4. TFA/AFA ballots should be used as available.
5. The minimum number of rounds for TFA-sanctioned individual events and Duet Acting or Duo Interpretation is at least one preliminary round, followed by semifinals and finals. For tournaments with single preliminary rounds, at least two competitors must advance from each preliminary section to semifinals, and at all tournaments at least two competitors must advance from each semifinal section to finals in all TFA events. At tournaments in which there are 24 or fewer entries in an individual event or duet acting/duo interpretation, the tournament may have two or more preliminary rounds, followed by a finals round.
6. Entries from the same school must not be assigned to compete in the same section or pairing in TFA events unless there are more entries from that school than there are sections or pairings.
7. No more than eight contestants may be scheduled to appear in any section of individual events/duet/duo in TFA events.
8. The minimum number of preliminary rounds shall be three in Policy, Public Forum, and Lincoln-Douglas Debate. The last preliminary round shall be power-matched. The minimum number of elimination rounds for all divisions shall be semifinals and finals. Additional round may be required based on event entries.
9. The Tournament Director shall report all qualifiers to the IQT Coordinator online at [www.txfa.org](http://www.txfa.org) within 24 hours following the completion of his/her tournament.

10. Videotaping of rounds will not be allowed. The use of audio recordings will only be used to ensure that students accurately represent the material they read during debates. Participants who are recorded may require the recording be deleted after the judge has rendered a decision and ethics charges were not raised during the debate.
11. In advance of the tournament, all non-member schools must be provided with a copy of TFA regulations for all TFA events.
12. TFA regulations must be followed in all TFA events. Only matters of rule interpretation or clarification may be made by the tournament director. Under no circumstances may event rules or time limits be altered.
13. Judges of any and all TFA events shall have already graduated from high school.
14. Texas students participating at TFA tournaments must be affiliated with and a representative of the schools they are attending.
15. Fees collected for judging must be used for payment of judges and not as tournament profit.
16. Dissemination of Ballots: Following tabulation of preliminary rounds, and all subsequent rounds, except for finals, the ballots shall be made available to the coaches. A reasonable time and place shall have been designated for verification of preliminary results. This verification period must allow reasonable time for coaches to be made aware that a challenge is taking place and must occur in a location that is easily accessible to the coach. Challenge/verification for all divisions of a category of events (ex. all debate) must occur at the same location. An open tab room may not be substituted for the formal challenge period. Following this verification period, except for finals, results are to be considered final and any errors should stand. Following the beginning of the rounds for each subsequent elimination round, the results for the previous rounds are considered final. No challenge of judges' decision is allowed. Once the school has been eliminated from the tournament, no ballots should be withheld from that coach.
17. No rounds of any TFA event may begin after midnight on Friday or Saturday. Any tournament in violation of this policy may, at the discretion of the Executive Council, forfeit status as a TFA State Qualifying Tournament in the following year.
18. No school may participate in elimination rounds at their own tournament.
19. A tournament must disclose in their invitation whether panels will be used in quarterfinals and beyond of debate events and finals of Individual Events, Duet Acting, and Duo Interpretation.

20. Tournament hosts shall make their sweepstakes formula available in their invitation information or information given to participating schools at the beginning of the tournament.
21. No Texas Forensic Association Invitational Qualifying Tournament may offer a separate division in which all pre-qualified students must/are encouraged to compete.
22. Any team that concedes or forfeits an elimination round debate to a team from another school other than their own shall only be awarded points for the last elimination round they actually participated in. For example, a team that concedes in the semifinals in a tournament that would award them 4 points would receive 2 points for successfully participating in the quarterfinals. Another example, a team that concedes in the quarterfinals in a tournament without octofinals, would be awarded no points. Additionally, any tournament that arranges or encourages concessions may forfeit their TFA qualifying status in that debate event at the discretion of the Executive Council. The Executive Council may grant exceptions to this rule to accommodate unavoidable extenuating circumstances (such as weather).
23. Competitors who forfeit elimination rounds in finals of individual events will receive qualification points as if they had placed last in the I.E. round.
24. Any name changes must be submitted in writing to the tournament director prior to the end of the first round of that event.
25. Information required to be communicated on the tournament invitation includes:
  - a. Judge paneling information for quarterfinals and beyond in debate events and finals of IEs, Duet Acting, and Duo Interpretation
  - b. Sweepstakes formula
  - c. Power-matching method used (high-high or high-low within brackets)
  - d. Whether brackets will be broken (if not properly communicated ahead of time, the default is to break brackets)
  - e. Debate topics
  - f. Congressional dockets (from approved legislation) with designation of legislation to be used in preliminary, semifinals, and/or finals rounds.

## **Procedure for Processing Protests of Violations**

1. Any violation of Texas Forensic Association rules or regulations by an Invitational Qualifying Tournament host should be reported to the TFA Executive Council, along with data to support such a charge. If investigation results in confirmation of such charge, eligibility of the offending school to host an IQT may be revoked for one year.
2. Any violation of the TFA Code of Professional Standards by a coach concerning an IQT should be reported to the TFA Executive Council, along with data to support such a charge. See TFA Code of Professional Standards and Code of Conduct.

## Debate Tabulation

The following methods have been devised by the Texas Forensic Association for determining winners in Policy, Public Forum, and Lincoln-Douglas Debate. Specific exclusions will be applicable for Public Forum Debate in regards to side constraints.

### **Pairing of Preliminary Rounds**

1. The first two rounds of an IQT will be a pre-set in a manner that schedules each entrant in one affirmative and one negative round. These rounds should be randomly paired, attempting to minimize individuals from the same two schools hitting one another (if possible), and avoid the pairing of individuals from the same school.
2. At least one round of a three or four round preliminary tournament will be power-matched. If the tournament features five or more preliminary rounds, power matching will begin no later than the 4<sup>th</sup> round. If time allows, tournaments are highly encouraged to use some form of power matching beginning with the 3<sup>rd</sup> round. The power matching should take place within win/loss brackets as commonly practiced. Undefeated entrants should debate undefeated entrants; entrants with one loss should debate entrants with one loss, and so on. Tournaments should announce in their invitation which form of power matching they will be using (high-high or high-low within brackets).
3. At the end of each even numbered round, each entrant (with the exception of entrants having received a BYE) will have debated an equal number of affirmative and negative rounds.
4. If using a computer to run the tournament, the tournament host will be aware and take proper steps to set-up the tournament, including but not limited to room use; entrant code/names; division characteristics including how pairing and power matching procedures will occur; and the avoidance of team and judge conflicts. These steps will be taken to minimize and/or avoid challenges as the tournament progresses.
5. When power matching teams, priorities shall be as follows:
  - a. Entrants shall have an equal number of affirmative and negative debates following each even numbered round.
  - b. Entrants shall not meet another entrant from their own school during any preliminary round unless a school's entry comprises more than half the field.
  - c. Entrants shall not meet the same entrant more than once in preliminary rounds.
  - d. In the event entrants cannot be paired within a given bracket during power matching, entrants should be pulled from the next lower bracket(s) until these requirements are met. Pulling from two or more brackets down may be required in some instances.

## Advancement

The criteria for determining teams advancing to elimination rounds are in the following order:

1. If Only 3 Prelim Rounds are Held:
  - a. Win-loss record
  - b. Total speaker points
  - c. Adjusted speaker points (drop highs and lows) per team
  - d. Total speaker ranks
  - e. Opponent's win-loss record
  - f. Opponent's speaker points
  - g. Opponent's ranks
  - h. Adjusted ranks
  - i. Blind draw
  
2. If More than 3 Prelim Rounds are Held:
  - a. Win-loss record
  - b. Adjusted speaker points (drop highs and lows) per team
  - c. Total speaker points
  - d. Total speaker ranks
  - e. Opponent's win-loss record
  - f. Opponent's speaker points
  - g. Opponent's ranks
  - h. Adjusted ranks
  - i. Blind draw

## Elimination Brackets

1. If a tournament holds three preliminary debate rounds and 51 or more entries compete, elimination rounds must include an octofinal round; if 75 or more entries compete, elimination rounds must include a double octofinal round, if 120 or more compete, elimination rounds must include a triple octofinal.
  - a. If a tournament holds four preliminary rounds and 51 or more entries compete, elimination rounds must include an octofinal round; if 100 or more entries compete, elimination rounds must include a double-octofinal.
  - b. If 15 or fewer entries compete, quarterfinals do not have to be held.
  - c. Upon completion of the preliminary round portion of a tournament, all students with an undefeated record shall advance to the elimination bracket.
  
2. Entries will be seeded according to their prelim round record for the purpose of creating an elimination round bracket. This seeding shall not be changed, even if entries are removed from the bracket. New entries may not be pulled up into the bracket because of entry removal. The only exception to this rule shall be if an entry is designated prior to the final preliminary round in writing as not being eligible to break (they will not be considered in the seeding process).

3. If entries from the same school are meeting, brackets may be broken, at the discretion of the tournament director, in the following manner. Brackets will be broken unless an Invitational Qualifying Tournament's invitation stipulates that they will not be broken.
  - a. The lower seeded entry of the two will be moved up in the bracket (i.e., In a conflict between the 5<sup>th</sup> seed and the 12<sup>th</sup> see, the 12<sup>th</sup> seen will be switched with the 11<sup>th</sup> seed). In the case where the initial switch does not resolve the conflict, additional switches may be made by moving the entry causing the conflict one place at a time until the conflict is resolved (i.e., in a conflict between 1 and 32, the 32<sup>nd</sup> entry would switch with 31, then 30, then 29, and so on until the conflict is resolved). Brackets shall be broken by working down the pairings in seed order (i.e., check the 1-32 pairings first, if it works, then move to the 2-31 pairing, the 3-30 pairing, etc.). In all cases where a switch is made, either by the tab room before a round or by a lower seeded entry winning a round, the new seed position will be assumed for purposes of breaking brackets in the next round (i.e., in a debate between 1-31, if the 32<sup>nd</sup> entry wins, it assumes the first seed position for the next round).
  - b. Brackets are broken only when a conflict occurs. Brackets are not broken in anticipation of conflict in future elimination rounds.
  - c. In the event that a conflict cannot be avoided, the entries involved will not be forced to debate. The coach of the squad involved will make the determination if there is to be a debate or which entry will advance.
  - d. In the event that a school closes out both sides of the bracket, the coach (sponsor) may have the option of choosing any of the involved students to advance for the qualifying positions even if this involves two competitors or teams from the same side of the bracket.

### **Determining Speaker Points for Forfeit or Bye**

In order to determine speaker points for a bye the debater(s) will receive the average number of points given in their preliminary rounds. In case of a forfeit, the team forfeiting the debate will receive zero speaker points. The team who is being forfeited to will be given the average number of points given in their other preliminary rounds.

## Congressional Debate Tabulation

### Entry Numbers and Requirements

Requirement	Number
Minimum number of entries for Qualifying Event	10
Maximum number of students per Preliminary House	20 (if 20 or fewer entries exist, then one chamber for the entire tournament may be used)
Semifinals Houses required	61 or greater entries
Maximum entries per Semifinal chamber	16 per chamber
Minimum total hours of actual floor debate (recesses do not count as floor debate time)	Minimum total hours of actual floor debate for prelims (recesses do not count as floor debate time) 2 hours for fewer than 10 competitors, 2.5 hours for 10-14 competitors, 3 hours for 15-20 competitors. (Amended 10-17) 2 hours for semis with 12 competitors (add 10 minutes for each additional competitor – not to exceed 16 competitors); 2 hours for finals with 12 competitors (add 10 minutes for each additional competitor – not to exceed 16 competitors).
Preliminary Judges	A minimum of 1 Judge (who scores speeches and serves as Parliamentarian)
Semis	A minimum of two judges (1 Scorer and 1 Parliamentarian)
Finals Judges	A minimum of THREE judges (2 Scorers and 1 Parliamentarian)
Maximum advancing to Super Congress	16 with a minimum of 8
Presiding Officer Audition Time	Campaign speeches enumerating qualifications to preside, not to exceed one minute each.
Score per speech	0 min – 6 max

### Presiding Officers

Tournament Directors shall decide if students may run for Presiding Officers in all sessions and shall indicate this opportunity in the tournament invitation. Students wishing to run for PO shall declare their intention on the tournament entry form or with the tournament director by the due date.

If students are permitted to run, brief speeches of qualification not to exceed one minute may be given. Candidates shall be elected via secret ballot by the members present. Candidates for PO shall be equally divided among houses, and if multiple preliminary sessions are held, candidates may be divided equally among sessions. Candidate speeches shall not be scored, will not count against precedence, and will not be included in the students' totals. Parliamentarians shall award 0-6 points per hour of service to the elected Presiding Officer, which shall count against precedence and be included in the students' totals. Parliamentarians and scorers shall award 0-6 points per hour of service to the elected Presiding Officer, which shall count against precedence and be included in the students' totals.

If no PO candidates are running or are permitted to run, the designated Presiding Officer shall be an adult (high school graduate) parliamentarian designated to conduct the session. This adult PO will not have scoring responsibilities, or serve as Parliamentarian.

### **Scoring and Advancement**

In all sessions, the Scorer(s) shall be responsible for evaluating every student speech given. The Parliamentarian scores only the student PO, and ranks all competitors in the room. Elected Pos shall receive one score per hour of service from the Parliamentarian. If a student receives a score from the scorer, for both speaking and service, these scores shall be added together to compute the student's total.

The required method for determining advancement and tabulating final results in Congressional Debate is ranking of the top 8 legislators. Speech points are required for NFL points only. Advancement is selected by the scorer, ranking the top 8 Best Overall Legislators. All other students will receive a rank of 9. Parliamentarians are to rank ALL members of the chamber. For initial rankings, the Parliamentarian's ranks, up to eighth are tabulated as well, with subsequent ranks considered as ranks of 9. Parliamentarians will have scoring responsibilities only for the presiding officer.

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

1. Judge's preference
2. Reciprocal fractions
3. Rank by the parliamentarian

## Speech and Interpretation Tabulation

The criteria for determining winners in speech and interpretation events are in the following manner.

1. The contestant with the lowest cumulative score of the individual judges in the round. In tournaments with multiple preliminary rounds, students with the lowest cumulative ranks will advance.
2. If there is a tie in cumulative ranks in the round, judge's preference shall be used to break the tie. The following diagram illustrates the "judge's preference" method of breaking ties:

	Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 3	Total
Speaker A	1*	2	3	=6
Speaker B	4	1*	1*	=6

In this case, both speakers' ranks are the same when combined (Rule 1); however, Judge 1 ranks Speaker A over Speaker B, Judge 2 ranks Speaker B over Speaker A, and Judge 3 ranks Speaker B over Speaker A. Essentially, two out of the three judges have preferred Speaker B to Speaker A, even though the ranks are tied.

If there is a 3-way tie, judge's preference can be used to compare each pair of speakers head to head. If one speaker wins head to head judges' preference against both tied opponents, that speaker will be awarded the highest rank. The remaining two contestants will be compared using judge's preference to determine the next highest ranking. For example:

	Judge X	Judge Y	Judge Z	Total
Speaker A	3	1	5	=9
Speaker B	1	2	6	=9
Speaker C	4	3	2	=9

In this example, Speaker A wins judge's preference against Speaker B (Judge Y and Z) and Speaker A wins judge's preference against Speaker C (Judge X and Y). Hence, Speaker A would receive the highest rank amongst the three, Speaker B would receive the next highest rank.

3. In case of an unbreakable three-way tie, inverted fractions (reciprocals) shall be used.

Rank	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Reciprocal	1	½	1/3	¼	1/5	1/6	1/7	1/8
As a Decimal	1	.5	.33	.25	.2	.17	.14	.125

Then add these numbers and the contestant with the highest score is the best of the three, and the next highest score receives the next rank, etc. See example below:

	Ranks	Converts to	Total	Place
Speaker A	1 3 3 = 7	1.00 .33 .33	1.66	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Speaker B	2 1 4 = 7	.50 1.00 .25	1.75	1 <sup>st</sup>
Speaker C	3 2 2 = 7	.33 .50 .50	1.33	3 <sup>rd</sup>

In case of a tie in inverted fractions among 2 of the 3 tied speakers, revert back to judge preference to resolve the tie between the 2 tied speakers. See the example below:

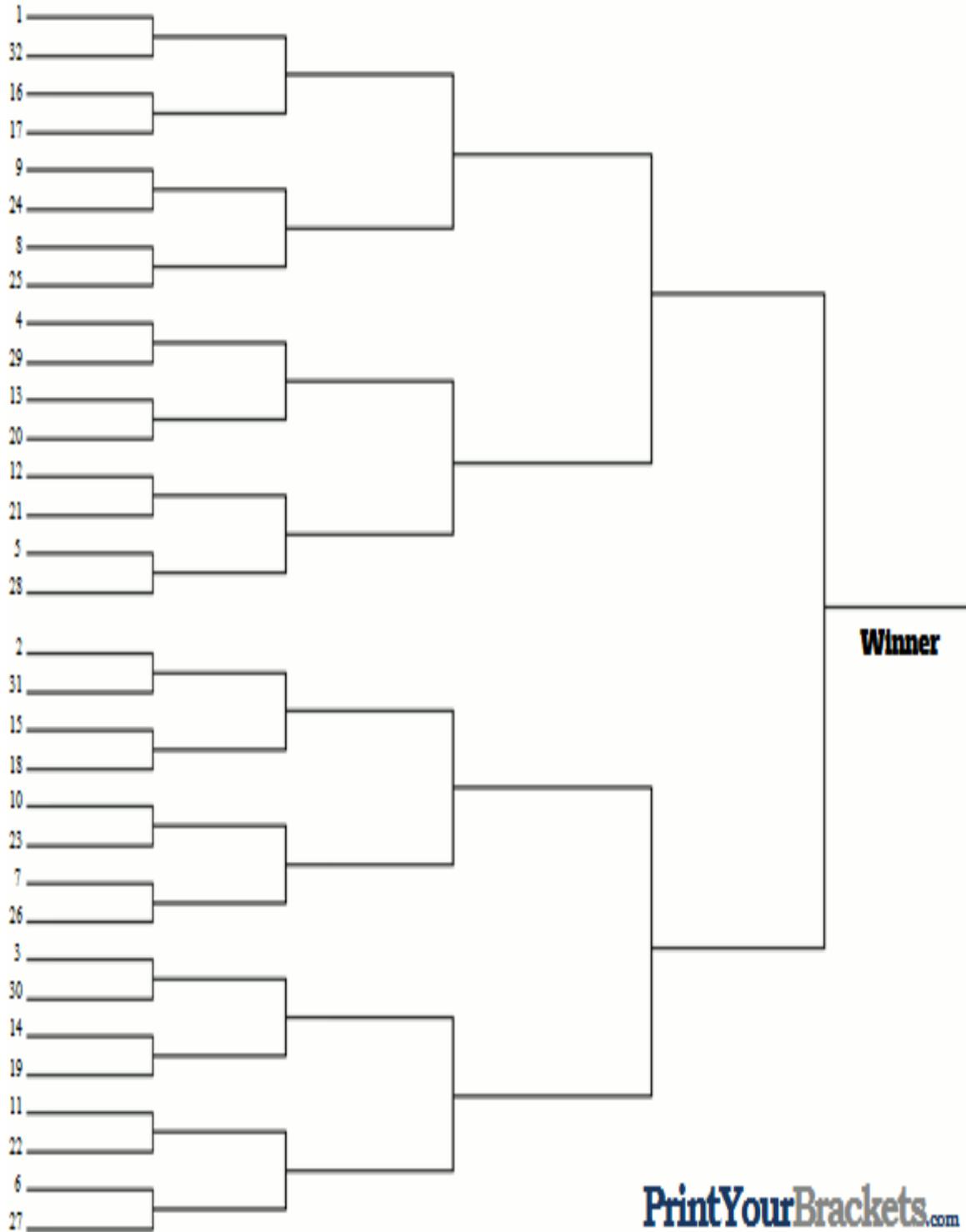
	Ranks	Converts to	Total	Place
Speaker A	4 2 5 = 11	.25 .50 .20	0.95	4 <sup>th</sup>
Speaker B	3 6 2 = 11	.33 .17 .50	1.00	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Speaker C	2 3 6 = 11	.50 .33 .17	1.00	2 <sup>nd</sup>

\*The 1.00 tie between speakers B and C is broken on the basis of Judge Preference (Speaker C is preferred over Speaker B by 2 of the 3 judges).

4. These methods shall be used in all rounds including the final round.
5. If for any reason the above methods cannot be utilized in the final round, winners shall be determined on the basis of accumulated ranks, including ranks from preliminary rounds, and all elimination rounds. This is also the procedure to be used for breaking unbreakable ties in quarterfinals and semifinals at the State Tournament.
6. If there is still a tie after the provisions mentioned above, a blind draw should be used to determine placement in the round. If the tie is to determine a state champion, a dual championship will be declared.

Appendix A – Seeding Order for Debate Elimination Rounds

**32 Team Single Elimination**



# Standing Rules: State Tournament Operations Manual

*\* Rules or Regulations in the following sections may be amended by the majority vote of the members present and voting at any annual meeting, special meeting, or mail ballot provided that copies of the Proposed amendment have been mailed to all members or placed on the official TFA website at least thirty (30) days prior to the vote, or without notice by a three-fourths majority of those present and voting.*



The Texas Forensic Association is committed to providing every student with a fair and impartial competition experience. This document provides the specific procedures for running the State Tournament. Due diligence must be made to ensure that these procedures are followed to ensure fairness as well as the absence of the perception of impropriety. The members of TFA have established and approved these procedures for the State Tournament. During the contest, an ombudsman is available to answer any questions and field protests regarding an infraction of these rules.

## General Rules

Each year, the Texas Forensic Association sponsors a State High School Tournament. The TFA State Tournament provides competition with opponents of high caliber; it determines a state champion in all TFA events. If the Executive Council is unable to secure a suitable location based on the state size and entry constraints, the decision may be made to not offer a state tournament that year.

- 1. Location:** Each year the State Tournament shall be held in a different region so that in five years each region shall have hosted it once. The year a region is to host, that Region Representative shall submit the region's choice for the site. If a region cannot host that year, the Executive Council shall open up bids for the site to the other regions.
  - a. The Executive Council will consider proposals with precedence going to the region who has hosted state least recently.
  - b. If a suitable host cannot be found in that region, the TFA Executive Council will consider proposals from the next least recent region, and so on and so forth.
  - c. In such a case, the rotation will resume as if the region slated to host state had hosted state (e.g. if region IV declines to host, region V hosts the following year regardless of where the tournament was held during region IV's year).
  
- 2. Rotation:** The order of regions to host State shall be as follows beginning with the 1997 State Tournament: (At the end of the cycle, the rotation will repeat.)

Region 1	(Upper West Texas/Panhandle)
Region 2	(North Texas)
Region 4	(East Texas)
Region 5	(Far West Texas)
Region 3	(Central/South Texas)
  
- 3. Deadline:** The deadline for choosing the state tournament site shall be the annual TSCA Convention in October.
  
- 4. Recording of Rounds:** The TFA Executive Council has the exclusive right to audio-record and/or videotape any and all rounds with all participants' or parents' permission.
  
- 5. Tournament Director:** The current TFA President will serve as the State Tournament Director. The President will appoint Tab Room Directors for Debate and Individual Events. The Tab Room Directors will be assisted by the state tournament committee.
  
- 6. Schedule:** The TFA State Tournament will have a minimum of 5 rounds of preliminary competition in debate; three rounds of preliminary competition in individual events; two preliminary sessions in Congressional Debate. The elimination round level will be determined by the number of participants, but will guarantee that any debate contestant with one or fewer losses participates in an elimination round. The number of rounds scheduled for debate on the final day cannot be more than the number of

rounds that are scheduled for the first two days of competition. When debate requires a power matched preliminary round, there will always be an individual event round scheduled prior to the power matched round to make sure power matching can occur in a timely fashion that will not delay the overall tournament. If possible, debate and individual event rounds should alternate after the completion of the first two preset rounds of debate. A possible tournament format could be as follows:

#### Day 1

Round 1 Debate (CX; LD; PF; WS; CD)  
Round 2 Debate (CX; LD; PF; WS; CD)  
Round 1 IE's (USX, IX, OO, Info, DI, HI, DUO, POI)  
Round 3 Debate (CX; LD; PF; WS; CD)

#### Day 2

Round 4 Debate (CX; LD; PF; WS; CD)  
Round 2 IE's (USX, IX, OO, Info, DI, HI, DUO, POI)  
Round 5 Debate (CX; LD; PF; WS; CD)  
Round 3 IE's (USX, IX, OO, Info, DI, HI, DUO, POI)  
Round 6 Debate (CX; LD; PF; WS; CD)  
Elim 1 IE's (USX, IX, OO, Info, DI, HI, DUO, POI)  
Elim 1 Debate (CX; LD; PF; WS; CD)

#### Day 3

Elim 2 IE's (USX, IX, OO, Info, DI, HI, DUO, POI)  
Elim 2 Debate (CX; LD; PF; WS; CD)  
Elim 3 IE's (USX, IX, OO, Info, DI, HI, DUO, POI)  
Elim 3 Debate (CX; LD; PF; WS; CD)  
Elim 4 Debate (CX; LD; PF; WS)  
Elim 5 Debate (CX; LD; PF; WS)  
Elim 6 (if needed) Debate (CX; LD; PF; WS)

Depending on when rounds can begin on the second day, a preliminary round of debate may be eliminated. The format would remain the same with the first elimination rounds of IE's and debate following the final debate round. The elimination rounds of debate could be accelerated at any time if there are no conflicts with contestants participating in other events and room accessibility.

## Steps to Limit the Size of the TFA State Tournament

Teams and individuals qualified for the state tournament will be determined in the following fashion. These are not mutually exclusive and can be adopted in any combination that decision makers would deem necessary.

1. **Step #1:** Set a required number of points that an individual or team needs to accumulate to qualify for the state tournament.
2. **Step #2:** If there are more teams or individuals qualified under the minimum qualification than the facility will allow, then the designated committee and/or tournament director will exercise one or more of the following options in the following order:
  - a. Option #1: Students will be allowed to enter no more than two events.
  - b. Option #2: Students will be allowed to enter only one event.
  - c. Option #3: Under exigent circumstances, implementation of contingencies determined by the Executive Council and/or the tournament director from one or more of the following choices:
    - i. Hosting of regional tournaments
    - ii. Creating a “leg” system of qualification

## Entry and Eligibility

1. Students participating at the TFA State Tournament must be affiliated with and a representative of the Texas school they are attending as defined by article III, section 1. Students who have earned a qualification for the current school year but graduate prior to the state meet shall be allowed to participate at State. They may not continue to compete at qualifiers to earn a qualification after they have graduated.
2. A student may qualify for participation at the TFA State Tournament by earning the required number of qualification points as determined by the Executive Council at one or more of the designated Invitational Qualifying Tournaments across the state (see Invitational Qualifying Tournaments for greater details).
3. In order to participate at the State Tournament, the student's school or his coach must be a member of the Texas Forensic Association with membership dues paid on or before January 31<sup>st</sup>. The coach and/or a qualified adult must be in attendance with all contestants at the TFA State Tournament. Said coach or adult must be available to judge each round of competition. No single individual may represent more than one school. Failure of a school to comply will result in the disqualification of that school's entire entry. Appeals may be made to the Executive Council in cases of extenuating circumstances. If the school or coach is not a member by January 31<sup>st</sup>, the following penalty will be assessed based on time of payment:
  - a. If dues are paid by February 15<sup>th</sup> - \$100 fine.
  - b. If dues are paid between February 16<sup>th</sup> and state registration - \$200 fine.
  - c. If dues are not paid by registration at the state tournament the school will forfeit all entries into the state tournament. Proof of payment is the responsibility of the school and all fines must be paid before students are allowed to compete.
4. Qualification to the state tournament is on the basis of the team or individual rather than the school. A school may not substitute students.
5. For a debate team, duet acting, or duo interpretation team to qualify for the state tournament they may accumulate the required number of points with the same partner during the school year.
6. The Executive Council may modify this point schedule at the beginning of the tournament season if the need arises.
7. A student is eligible to compete at the State Tournament only in the event(s) in which s/he has qualified (i.e., students qualified in debate only may not participate in other events).

8. Entries shall not compete in both Duet or Duo and debate at the State Tournament.
9. A student must be a currently enrolled high school student in grades 9-12 in order to qualify for the State Tournament. Graduation prior to the State Tournament does not prevent a student from participating in the State Tournament.
10. The Executive Council holds the right to establish conflict patterns at the State Tournament for the purpose of scheduling.
11. In order for a school to be eligible for competition in the state meet, that school needs to have fully paid tournament dues to member schools that hosted IQT invitationals in which they attended. Schools that have disputes of payment after the IQT season shall provide a list of unpaid schools to the President of TFA. If there is a dispute on payment, the school owing money will need to show proof of payment to the President for verification.

### Examples of Acceptable Qualifications

1. A & B have the required number of points; A & C have the required number of points; A & D have the required number of points.
  - a. Only one team is qualified from this combination.
  - b. The team qualified must include A (A and B, A and C, or A and D)
  - c. An unacceptable combination is B and C, or B and D, or C and D because neither B, C, nor D have twelve points, except with A.
2. A & B have the required number of points; C & D have the required number of points; E & F have the required number of points. There are three teams qualified.
3. A & B have the required number of points; B & C have the required number of points; D & E have the required number of points.
  - a. There are only two teams qualified (A and B or B and C and D and E)
4. A & B have the required number of points; C & D have the required number of points; E & F have the required number of points.
  - a. There are three teams qualified.
  - b. The three teams may be entered as follows (these are only a few of the possible combinations):
 

A & B	A & D	A & F	E & F	E & D	C & D
C & F	C & B	E & B			

### Examples of Unacceptable Qualifications

1. A & B have the required number of points; A & C have the required number of points; A & D have the required number of points

- a. An unacceptable combination is B and C, or B and D, or C and D because neither B, C, nor D have the required number of points except with A.
2. Coaches may switch partners of teams who have qualified as separate teams. In no case may a school's team entries exceed the total number of teams that have qualified as independent teams.

## **Documentation Requirements**

Each year, specific documentation will be required by the Executive Council for entry into the State Tournament.

### **Original Oratory / Informative**

During the online registration process, coaches will be required to provide the title. The competitor's typed oration/informative is required to be submitted at registration.

1. All quoted material must be underlined and/or printed in red. Quoted material may not exceed 150 words.
2. A cover sheet with title, student's name and signature, coach's name and signature, and the school name must be completed. The cover sheet form can be found online at [www.txfa.org](http://www.txfa.org)
3. Oratories/Informative scripts need to be available for the duration of the tournament.

### **Interpretation Events**

During the online registration process, coaches will be required to provide the title and ISBN number or website URL. This information will be verified during registration. Titles of Interpretation selections must be submitted at registration. Once the titles are submitted, a change in selection will result in the student's disqualification. The competitors' original script and copied script and highlighted copy is required to be checked during the registration process and must be available at the State Tournament.

1. A flat copy of the original source with page numbers and all lines being performed highlighted is required.
2. A copy of the bibliographic information page or front page of the website with visible URL is required.
3. A cover sheet with title, author(s), ISBN number or website URL, date of publication, number of transitional phrases, student's name, coach's name and signature, and the school name must be completed. The cover sheet can be found online at [www.txfa.org](http://www.txfa.org)
4. The original script, either printed or electronic, highlighted copy and bibliographic information page need to be available for the duration of the tournament. Coaches and/or students are solely responsible for providing any electronic device upon which electronic sources may be verified. No tournament is ever responsible for providing electronic devices or internet access for verification purposes.

## Judging

1. **Judge Panels:** Panels of three (3) or more judges shall be used in all elimination rounds.
2. **Judges' Fees:** The Executive Council shall appropriate a set sum to be used for the payment of judges by the State Tournament Judging Committee in a manner which they deem appropriate. Judges may be paid per round, or the money may be used for entertainment, hospitality, etc.
3. **Title I School Fees:** Title I schools attending TFA State will not be charged judging fees associated with unfulfilled judging obligations. Title I schools that do provide judging will receive a 30% reduction of entry fees for the events they have provided judges.

## Tabulation of Events

1. **See Standing Rules:** Invitational Qualifying Tournament Operations Manual
2. **Dissemination of Individual Events Ballots:** The State Tournament Director shall be in charge of a closed individual events ballot room. Following the tabulation of preliminary rounds, semifinals, and finals, the ballots shall be made available to the coaches.
3. **Debate Challenge:** Following the final tabulation of win/loss, speaker points, and other data, the State Tournament Director shall post tabulation charts, elimination pairings, and other pertinent data. Ballots for each preliminary round are to be placed in a school envelope and coaches are admitted to the ballot room. Each school is personally responsible for comparing the posted record and results for his/her teams with the ballot. Following the debate challenge, results are final and any errors shall stand. No challenge of decisions is allowed.

## Protests

1. All protests shall be submitted in writing to an Ombudsman, to be appointed by the tournament director. The Ombudsman shall have the full power to adjudicate any protest, dispute, or interpretation of the rules. All protests must be submitted in writing and include the following information
  - a. Name of the coach filing the protest.
  - b. Code and/or name of person/team being protested.
  - c. Round being protested, including section number, room number, and speaker number of person/team being protested.
  - d. Specific infraction being protested described with supporting details.
  - e. Signature of the protesting coach.
2. The Ombudsman will then review and render a decision on the protest. All involved parties will be notified of the decision.
3. Appeals of the Ombudsman's Decision: The Ombudsman's ruling may be appealed to the Executive Council members who shall review the protest and the appeal, retire to closed session, and render a decision that shall be final.

## Debate Rounds

### General Rules

1. **Postings:** Codes of competitors and elimination brackets in their normal order shall be posted and made available for coaches during preliminary and elimination rounds.
  
2. **Debate Topics:**
  - a. Policy Debate: TFA shall adopt the current year National Speech and Debate Association's Policy Debate topic as the topic for the State Tournament.
  - b. Lincoln Douglas: TFA shall adopt the National Speech and Debate Association's Lincoln-Douglas Debate topic (current at the time) as the topic for the State Tournament. If the state tournament begins with a February date, the January/February topic will be used. If the state tournament begins with a date in March, the March/April topic will be used.
  - c. Public Forum Debate: TFA shall adopt the National Speech and Debate Association's Public Forum Debate topic (current at the time) as the topic for the State Tournament. If the state tournament begins with a February date, the February topic will be used. If the state tournament begins with a date in March, the March topic will be used.
  - d. World Schools Debate: The World Schools Debate committee shall be responsible for selecting prepared and impromptu motions for the State Tournament.
  
3. **Number of Rounds:** There shall be at least four (4) preliminary rounds of Policy, Public Forum, and Lincoln-Douglas Debate followed by elimination rounds.
  
4. **Previously Met Teams:** Teams meeting for a second time during the tournament shall switch sides from those previously upheld.
  
5. **15 Minute Rule:** Any competitor that is more than 15 minutes late through no fault of the tournament schedule may be recorded as a forfeit in that particular round. Extenuating circumstances can be appealed to the tournament director and the Executive Council.

### Preliminary Rounds

Rounds 1 and 2 shall be pre-set. Preliminary round seeding shall be made before power matching. An effort shall be made to prevent debates between teams from the same region in Rounds 1 and 2 only. Additional preliminary rounds shall have no "lag" power matching. Round 3 through 6 will be matched high-low within brackets (low 2-1's meet high 2-1's, etc.). Each round shall be paired on the basis of all previous rounds. Entrants shall not meet the same entrant more than once in preliminary rounds.

## **Elimination Rounds Eligibility**

If five preliminary rounds are held at the state tournament:

The number of entrants eligible for the elimination rounds shall be 32, unless there are more than 32 entrants with a 4-1 record or better. In that case, the number of entrants shall be 64.

If six preliminary rounds are held at the state tournament:

The entrants eligible for the elimination rounds shall be all entrants with a record of 4-2 or better, unless that number exceeds 64. In that case, only the top 64 will advance to the elimination rounds.

## **Pairing the Elimination Rounds**

The eligible entrants will be seeded and placed in a single-elimination bracket.

If the number of eligible entrants is a power of 2 (e.g., 16, 32, 64), the highest seeded entrant will be paired against the lowest seeded entrant, the second highest seeded entrant will be paired against the second lowest seeded entrant, and so on.

If the number of eligible entrants is not a power of 2 (creating a partial bracket), byes are to be awarded in the first elimination round to the top seeds, while the lower seeded entrants must debate to earn a place in the second elimination round. The number of entrants to debate in the first elimination round is twice the difference between the number of eligible entrants and the highest power of 2 less than the number of eligible entrants. For example, if 40 entrants qualify for the first elimination round, the bottom 16 entrants (those seeded 25-40) will debate in the first elimination round (giving a bye to the top 24). This is because the largest power of 2 less than 40 is 32, and the difference between 40 and 32 is 8. Thus, there need to be 8 debates involving the bottom 16 entrants to narrow the field from 40 to 32. In this example, the 25<sup>th</sup> seed shall debate the 40<sup>th</sup> seed, the 26<sup>th</sup> seed shall debate the 39<sup>th</sup> seed, and so on. The winner of the 25 vs 40 debate will meet the 8<sup>th</sup> seed in the second elimination round, the winner of the 26 vs 39 debate will meet the 7<sup>th</sup> seed in the second elimination round, the winner of the 27 vs 38 debate will meet the 6<sup>th</sup> seed in the second elimination round, etc.

Subsequent elimination round pairings will be consistent with the principle that high seed is matched against low seed. If a lower seeded entrant wins, then it “captures” the high seed for the purpose of placement in the bracket.

Brackets shall be broken to prevent teams from the same school from meeting; this break will occur in the round in which the meeting is scheduled to occur. Once an entrant is switched, it “captures” the seed of the entrant from the same school. (Amended 10-17)

## **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 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 Committee may offer a strike system for judges at the state tournament in public forum debate, World Schools debate, and the individual events, including duo and/or duet. 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.

## 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.
  
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 if for the duration of the tournament 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).
  - b. Each preliminary session must include the following:
    - 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
  - c. 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
  - d. 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 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 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 Top 8 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).

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 will be tallied and the lowest cume will receive 1<sup>st</sup>, next lowest 2<sup>nd</sup>; 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.

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

## Speech and Interpretation Rounds

### General Rules

1. **Postings:** Codes of competitors and schematics shall be posted and made available for coaches during preliminary and elimination rounds.
2. **Number of Rounds:** At the State Tournament, Speech and Interpretation events shall have three preliminary rounds, quarterfinals, semifinals, and a final round.
3. **Extemporaneous Speaking Cross-Examination:** The final round will include a cross-examination period, as described below. (Though not mandatory, Invitational Qualifying Tournaments are urged to use the cross-examination format in the final round.)
  - a. **Cross-Examination Procedure:** Each speaker shall be assigned a position in the speaking order. Drawing will take place at 12-minute intervals. Thirty minutes after Speaker 1 has drawn, the last Speaker shall enter the contest room. Speaker 1 shall give his/her speech and the last Speaker shall take notes and/or listen. At the conclusion of Speaker 1's speech, the last Speaker shall cross-examine Speaker 1 for a time period not to exceed three minutes. The cross-examination will be an open format, similar to the cross-examination period employed in the final round of the NSDA National Tournament. The last Speaker shall return to the prep room and Speaker 1 shall stay to listen to and question Speaker 2. Speaker 2 will question Speaker 3, etc.

### Composite Rerank system for advancement to Semis and Finals

1. **Definitions of Terms**
  - a. **Composite re-rank:** Sum the individual judge ranks for each entry and list the entry in order of their respective totals. The entry with the lowest cumulative score would be re-ranked first, second-most as second, and so on.
  - b. **Adjusted rank:** In sections of six or seven, each judge will rank entries through the sixth and seventh placing. The tabulation staff will adjust each rank of six or seven to a five for the purpose of creating the composite re-rank. This is the only instance when the adjusted rank is used.
  - c. **Actual rank:** Rank the judge gave the entry, counting sixes and sevens.
2. **Preliminary Rounds**
  - a. In the three preliminary rounds there will be two judges, whose ranks will not be combined. Individual ranks of 6 or 7 will be modified to a 5.
  - b. Advancing to a Quarterfinal round is based on the following:
    - i. Lowest preliminary cumulative rank total, using all six modified ranks

- ii. Highest preliminary cumulative reciprocal total, using all six modified reciprocals
- iii. Lowest preliminary rank total using all six ranks, reverting to original/unmodified ranks
- iv. Head-to-head in prelims (two-way ties only) using unmodified ranks
- v. Lowest Opponent's Average Rank
- vi. Greatest number of 1s, then greatest number of 2s, all the way down to the worst rank using unmodified ranks
- vii. Drop the worst unmodified rank (leaving seven unmodified ranks)
- viii. Drop the best unmodified rank (leaving seven unmodified ranks)

### 3. Quarterfinals

- a. The quarterfinal round will be power balanced with three judges in each section. All individual ranks will remain unmodified. The 18 students with the lowest overall cumulative rankings (from the quarterfinal and prelim rounds) will advance to the semifinal round based on the following:
  - i. Lowest cumulative rank total in all rounds (modified prelims + quarters)
  - ii. Highest cumulative reciprocal total in all rounds (modified prelims + quarters)
  - iii. Lowest rank total in the quarterfinal round only
  - iv. Highest reciprocal total in the quarterfinal round only
  - v. Lowest Panel Rank in Quarterfinals. Panel Rank will be computed in the following way:
    - a. Students in the section will be ordered according to their quarterfinal rank total
    - b. In case of a tie, judges' preference will be employed\*
    - c. If judges' preference is unable to break the tie, use quarterfinal round reciprocals to break the panel rank tie.
  - vi. Judges' preference\* in quarterfinal round only (if tied contestants are in the same quarterfinal panel)
  - vii. Lowest Opponent's Average Rank
  - viii. Greatest number of 1s, then greatest number of 2s, all the way down to the worst rank in all rounds (modified prelims + quarterfinals)
  - ix. Preliminary rank total using modified ranks

### 4. Semifinals

- a. The semifinal rounds will be power balanced with three judges in each section. All individual ranks will remain unmodified. The six students with the best cumulative rankings (from the semifinal, quarterfinal and preliminary rounds) will advance to the final round based on the following:
  - i. Lowest cumulative rank total in all rounds (modified prelims + quarters + semis)
  - ii. Highest cumulative reciprocal total in all rounds (modified prelims + quarters + semis)

- iii. Lowest rank total in the semifinal round only
- iv. Highest reciprocal total in the semifinal round only
- v. Lowest Panel Rank in Semifinals. Panel Rank will be computed in the following way:
  - a. Students in the section will be ordered according to their semifinal rank total
  - b. In case of a tie, judges' preference will be employed\*
  - c. If judges' preference is unable to break the tie, use semifinal round reciprocals to break the panel rank tie.
- vi. Judges' preference\* in semifinal round only (if tied contestants are in the same semifinal panel)
- vii. Lowest Opponent's Average Rank
- viii. Greatest number of 1s, then greatest number of 2s, all the way down to the worst rank in all rounds (modified prelims + quarterfinals + semifinals)

## 5. Finals

- a. The final round will have five judges. The six finalists will speak in a random order. All individual ranks earned in the final round will remain unmodified. Tournament placing will be determined on the following:
  - i. Lowest cumulative rank total in all rounds (modified prelims + quarters + semis + finals)
  - ii. Highest cumulative reciprocal total in all rounds (modified prelims + quarters + semis + finals)
  - iii. Lowest rank total in the final round only
  - iv. Highest reciprocal total in the final round only
  - v. Judges' preference\* in final round only
  - vi. Lowest Opponent's Average Rank 9. Greatest number of 1s, then greatest number of 2s, all the way down to the worst rank in all rounds (modified prelims + quarters + semis + finals)

\* – Judges' preference: If a student received the top rank among the tied students from a majority of the judges in the section containing the tie, that student will come out of the tie in first via judges' preference. If a three-or-more-way tie is broken in this fashion, a tie may still remain – if so, judges' preference will then be used on it, as well

### **Individual Events, Duo, and Duet Acting Elimination Round Eligibility**

In individual events, the top 36 contestants will advance to quarterfinals based on adjusted cumulative ranks in the first three rounds with no more than 42 advancing (should there be a tie for the 36th rank). Ranks above 5 will be converted to 5 for the purposes of determining adjusted cumulative rank. There will be a clean break as close to 36 as possible using adjusted cumulative ranks. If there is a tie that includes contestant 36 and exceeds contest 42 (i.e. all of contestants have an identical adjusted cumulative rank), that tie would be broken based first on converting scores to reciprocal fractions: 1st = 1.00, 2nd = .50, 3rd = .33, 4th = .25, 5th = .20.

Ranks above 5 will be treated as 5s (.20) in determining the reciprocal. Contestants with the highest reciprocal total that are tied with 36th place will advance unless, because of the tie, more than 42 would break. The ties among those pushing the number over 36 would be broken by reverting to original ranks in the round – a rank of 7 would be counted as a 7, a 6 as a 6, etc., taking as few as possible over 36 based on the unadjusted cumulative ranks. If there is still a tie that exceeds 42, the unadjusted ranks will be converted to reciprocals and the highest reciprocal and the highest total that are tied for 36th will advance.

$$\text{AB11 } 1 \ 4 \ 5(5) = 10 \ 1.00 \ .25 \ .20 = 1.45$$

$$\text{SD14 } 1 \ 5(6) \ 4 = 10 \ 1.00 \ .20 \ .25 = 1.45$$

$$\text{GH8 } 2 \ 5(7) \ 3 = 10 \ .50 \ .20 \ .33 = 1.03$$

If contestants AB11, SD14, GH8 were ties for 42nd place, AB11 and SD14 would all break. The total breaking would be 38.

If AB11 and SD14 were tied for the 36th spot and that tie extended to the 42nd spot, the AB11 would advance, because originally SD14 had a rank of 6 that was converted to a 5 in round two (GH8 would already be out of consideration.)

In the quarterfinals there would be 6 sections with up to a maximum of 7 in each section.

## Consolation Events

The State Tournament will offer consolation events to all students entered in Individual Events or Duet Acting or Duo Interpretation who do not advance to elimination rounds. Students in debate will be allowed to enter if the tournament schedule allows.

### **Entry Guidelines**

A student may enter only one consolation event. Pre-registration by coaches is required; upon elimination from the tournament, individual registration is required. Entry limits shall be established by the State Tournament Committee.

### **Events**

1. **Prose (Offered in even years only):** Selection(s) must be from a published work (or published works) and must be read from a folder. Published can mean traditionally printed, commercially available E-Books or PDFs, or material from approved websites as designated by the National Speech and Debate Association. The list of NSDA approved websites may be found at <https://www.speechanddebate.org/approved-websites/>. Selections cannot be taken from plays. A memorized introduction stating the title(s) and author(s) is required. Maximum time is seven minutes with a thirty-second grace period. Overtime violators SHALL NOT be ranked first in the round by the judge. Any other penalty is at the discretion of the judge. Judges may consider audience reaction and its impact on official time before enforcing any overtime penalty.
2. **Poetry (Offered in odd years only):** The rules shall be the same as Prose, except that the literature must be poetic in nature.
3. **Impromptu:** The speaker will draw three topics, choose one, and take one minute to prepare. Topics shall be chosen from proverbs, quotations, current concerns, and famous people. The maximum time for the speech is five minutes with a thirty-second grace period. There is no minimum time. Overtime violators SHALL NOT be ranked first in the round by the judge. Any other penalty is at the discretion of the judge. Judges may consider audience reaction and its impact on official time before enforcing any overtime penalty

## Awards

### **Debate Event Awards**

Awards will be given to all quarterfinalists and beyond. First, Second, and Third place awards will be given to the semifinalists and beyond in Policy, Lincoln Douglas, Public Forum and World Schools.

### **Congressional Debate Awards**

Awards will be given to the Top 8 in Congressional Debate. First, Second, and Third place awards will be presented to the top three placing students. All outstanding presiding officers from preliminary chambers shall receive an award. At the conclusion of the preliminary sessions, each chamber will vote for an outstanding presiding officer, who will be presented with a gavel at the awards ceremony.

### **Debate Speaker Awards**

Speaker awards for Policy, Public Forum, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, and Worlds Schools Debate at the State Tournament shall be determined by the following criteria.

- a) adjusted points
- b) total points
- c) total ranks win-loss record
- d) opponents' win-loss record
- e) opponents' speaker points
- f) opponents' ranks
- g) adjusted ranks
- h) blind draw

### **Speech and Interpretation Event Awards**

Awards will be given to all finalists. First, Second, and Third place awards will be presented to the top three placing students.

### **School Sweepstakes Awards**

1. School sweepstakes will be presented to the top schools based on the following criteria:
  - a. Qualifying Events
    - i. Two points shall be awarded for advancing to debate double-octofinals and semifinal participation in the United States House.
    - ii. Four points shall be awarded for reaching quarterfinals in individual events, duo, and duet.
    - iii. Six points shall be awarded for reaching semifinals in qualifying events, finalists in the United States House not making the top 8, and non-advancing octofinalists in debate.
    - iv. Ten points shall be awarded for each non-placing finalist in qualifying events, 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> place finalists in the United States House, and non-advancing quarterfinalists in debate.

- v. Fifteen points shall be awarded in qualifying events for each third place awarded, twenty points for each second place, and twenty-five points for each first place awarded.
- b. Consolation Events (Prose, Poetry, and Impromptu)
  - i. One point shall be awarded for semifinals participation
  - ii. Two points shall be awarded for participating in semifinals in consolation events
  - iii. Five points shall be awarded for non-placing participants in finals in consolation events
  - iv. Eight points shall be awarded for each third place awarded, ten points for each second place, and fifteen points for each first place awarded.
- c. Sweepstakes points are not cumulative – students receive points based on highest placement in an event.

### **Individual Sweepstakes Awards**

Individual sweepstakes awards will be presented to the top individuals based on the following criteria.

1. Students will receive the same number of points as they earn towards team sweepstakes.
2. The top five students will be recognized.
  - a. In the event of a tie, the tie will be broken on most final rounds, then semifinal rounds, then quarterfinal rounds. If still tied, ties will be broken based on number of 1<sup>st</sup> place finishes, and then 2<sup>nd</sup> place finishes, etc. Tied contestants after the above tie breakers are applied will remain tied.

### **Naming of Awards in Honor of Service to the Organization**

The Executive Council shall be empowered to dedicate the awards and scholarships presented at the State Tournament to the honor of individual TFA members in recognition of service to this organization.

### **Breakfast of Champions**

The first-place winners and their coaches will be recognized at the Breakfast of Champions following the tournament.