



Texas Forensic Association

Constitutional Amendment Form

The following must be provided before your proposal will be accepted by the Executive Committee.

Name: Nathaniel Council

School: Pampa HS

Region: 1

Email address: nathaniel.council@pampaisd.net

Rationale for Amendment: To allow all coaches and students, regardless of gender identity, to find a place in our constitution. All instances of reference to gender will be removed or altered to reflect the diversity of our population.

Section of the Constitution where Change occurs:

- Constitution
- ByLaws
- Code of Professional Standards
- Standing Rules: Competition Event Guide
- Standing Rules: IQT Operations Manual
- Standing Rules: State Tournament Operations Manual

Page number of change: 7,8,9,11,12,13,14,55,65,68,69,70,80,88,104,109,117

Select One of the Following: Add Language Delete Language Amend Language

Implementation Time Frame: Immediate

Proposed Change(s) (*List the change/add here. Changes should include any language you are replacing from the existing constitution along with the proposed new language.*)

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A. The President. The President shall be required to perform the usual duties of such an officer. ~~S/He~~**The President** shall have the power to call meetings of the Executive Council; to 7 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~~**The President** 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.

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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~~**The Secretary** 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~~ **their** 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~~ **the treasurer** 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~~ **The Treasurer** 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.

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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~~ **They** will also be responsible for scanning ballots (if this option is available) at the TFA State Tournament. ~~S/He~~ **They** 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.

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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~~ **their** 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

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teaching, and shall have served the organization and ~~his/her~~ **their** students in meritorious fashion. Upon retirement from forensic and/or theatre teaching, a member of the Hall of Fame will automatically be designated emeritus.

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Section 7: Agenda of the Annual Meeting. The agenda for the annual meeting shall be the responsibility of the President, and ~~s/he~~ **they** 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.

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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~~ **they have** finished presenting ~~his/her~~ **a** defense. The procedure for removing an officer must provide

4. After the officer in question has finished ~~his/her~~ **their** 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~~ **their** 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.

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2. Responsibility for Validity: Each participant is responsible for the validity of all evidence ~~s/he~~ **they** presents in rounds of competition.

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d. Members shall not yield any portion of ~~his/her~~ time for questioning.

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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.

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~~ **they have** 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~~ **the contestant** shall withdraw to the preparation area and plan ~~his/her~~ **the** 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~~ **they** 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.

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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~~ **the** 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.

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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 a~~ coach or teacher.

1. Procedures: The contestant may not use an oration which ~~s/he that student~~ 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.

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5. Introduction: The contestant shall name the author and the title of the selection being presented during ~~his/her the~~ performance. Violation shall result in being ranked down in the round.

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9. The Tournament Director shall report all qualifiers to the IQT Coordinator online at www.txfa.org within 24 hours following the completion of ~~his/her a~~ tournament.

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7. A student is eligible to compete at the State Tournament only in the event(s) in which ~~s/he has they have~~ qualified (i.e., students qualified in debate only may not participate in other events).

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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 their~~ teams with the ballot. Following the debate challenge, results are final and any errors shall stand. No challenge of decisions is allowed.

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