

## CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT FORM

**Name:** Jason Warren

**School:** Parish Episcopal School

**Rationale for Amendment:** We used to have a provision allowing a one chamber tournament for 30 or fewer entries, which we rightfully struck down. However, since the standard preliminary chamber size is in the 16-20 range, this amendment gives tournaments the flexibility to have only one chamber if they are so inclined and the numbers are small enough. This also clarifies the ambiguity that the maximum chamber size is 20 but later on the maximum final chamber size is 16- if there are 17-20 entries, there is no need to break to a final- three hours of debate in one room should be enough to determine a winner.

**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:** 60

**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. )*

Maximum number of students per Preliminary House 20 (If 20 or fewer total entries exist, then one chamber for the entire tournament may be used).

Minimum total hours of actual floor debate (recesses do not count as floor debate time)- 3 hours minimum for prelims; 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). If only one chamber is held, the minimum total debate time is 3 hours.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT FORM

**Name:** Jason Warren

**School:** Parish Episcopal School

**Rationale for Amendment:** Most tournaments use a standard 2 rooms of 6 for a semi-final round when entries are small, especially if they are below the cutoff for points for top 8 performers. Going from 17 competitors to 12 is a bit cumbersome and it doesn't make a lot of sense to advance two-thirds of the field. This amendment would align the cut off for semis to coincide with the cut off for the second tier of qualification points, which currently stands at 25.

**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:** 55

**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. )*

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 **16-24** 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.

## Constitutional Amendment Template

Title of Amendment: Hall of Fame/Emeritus Membership Committee

Page of Constitution/By-Laws/Standing Rules/Code of Professional Standards you wish to address:   8  

Which section of the constitution are you amending?

       Constitution (two-thirds if submitted w/i 30 days, three-fourths otherwise)

  X   By-Laws, Standing Rules, and Code of Professional Standards (majority vote if submitted w/i 30 days, three-fourths otherwise)

Constitutional Wording Now:

H. 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 Emeritus/Hall of Fame membership. To be eligible for Emeritus membership one must be retired from forensic and/or theatre teaching and shall have served the organization and his/her students in a meritorious fashion. 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.

Change you wish to make:

1. Insert "Hall of Fame/" before "Emeritus" in the name of the Committee.
2. In the second sentence, delete "Emeritus/".
3. Delete the third sentence "To be eligible for Emeritus. . . fashion."
4. Add a new paragraph that states:

To be eligible for Emeritus membership one must be retired from forensic and/or theatre teaching and shall have served the organization and his/her students in a meritorious fashion. Upon retirement from forensic and/or theatre teaching a member of the Hall of Fame will automatically be designated Emeritus.

Rationale:

This amendment cleans up the Committee name and its function to be in alignment with its usage. In 1988-89 the Emeritus Committee was created to honor outstanding members of our organization upon their retirement. Then, in 2006-07 the Hall of Fame designation was added. In the years since the creation of the Hall of Fame, the designees have often become duplicative. This amendment will continue the intent of both designations in a more cohesive manner while maintaining the ability of the Committee to designate an Emeritus member who may make significant contributions but has not received Hall of Fame designation.

Date amendment would take effect: \_Upon passage of amendment\_\_\_\_\_

Respectfully Submitted

Name: Kandi King, Chair of Emeritus Committee

School: Retired

## Amendment codifying the ability of colleges/universities to be TFA Members

**Name:** Executive Council

**Rationale for Amendment:**

Clarifies the intent of the organization to allow colleges and universities to be TFA members and host tournaments as such.

**Section of the Constitution where Change occurs:**

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

Portion of the constitution being changed: **Article III Membership (Page 4)**

**Proposed Change(s)**

**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.

ADD: Directors of colleges and universities recognized and accredited by the US Department of Education are allowed membership in the organization for purposes of hosting tournaments.

**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.

ADD: Colleges and universities recognized and accredited by the US Department of Education are allowed membership in the organization for purposes of hosting.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT FORM

### Audio recording amendment

**Name:** Timothy Mahoney

**School:** St. Mark's School of Texas

#### **Rationale for Amendment:**

Clipping occurs when a debater claims to have read material that they didn't actually read. In order to enforce clipping rules audio recording is often necessary. The National Debate Coaches Association has recommended that tournaments adopt policies to help judges enforce prohibitions against clipping. A version of that policy can be seen here: <http://joyoftournaments.com/tx/stmarks/info.asp?p=1>

On that same page you can see the audio permission form that we require debaters to submit as a condition of competing in our tournament. This form ensures that we comply with all relevant laws involving recording of minors.

#### **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:** 55

**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. )*

#### **Existing language:**

10. Audio and /or video taping of rounds will not be allowed.  
(Hosting an Invitational Qualifying Tournament/Requirements)

#### **Proposed wording**

10. Video taping 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 that the recording be deleted after the judge has rendered a decision and ethics charges were not raised during the debate.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT FORM

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ Seth Pietsek \_\_\_\_\_

**School:** \_\_\_\_\_ Abilene High School  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Rationale for Amendment:** \_\_Regions that span a long distance have called for the Executive Council to consider re-mapping TFA regions in an effort to give better local options for tournament dates. To avoid the monstrous task of remapping, this amendment solves for the tournament conflict, particularly with the popularity of swing tournaments.

**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:** \_\_\_\_\_ 55 \_\_\_\_\_

**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. )*

\_10)\_ A maximum of two tournaments per region can be scheduled on the same weekend, **with the exception of tournaments being 150 + miles apart within a region. When 150+ miles apart, from the closest hosting schools, a region may host up to 4 tournaments per weekend.**

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## CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT FORM

**Name:** Greg McGee

**School:** Mayde Creek High School

**Rationale for Amendment:** To Clarify the judging requirements for congress. The current version is slightly confusing as it requires more judges when there is an adult Presiding Officer, even when that adult PO has no scoring responsibilities. This amendment clarifies the **minimum** number of judges.

**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:** 60-61

**Proposed Change(s):**

### 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
Semifinals Houses required	61 or greater entries
Maximum entries per Semifinal chamber	16 per chamber
Maximum advancing to Super Congress	16 with a minimum of 8
Minimum total hours of actual floor debate (recesses do not count as floor debate time)	3 hours minimum for prelims; 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	1 <del>Scorer</del> <b>Judge (who scores speeches and serves as Parliamentarian)</b> 1 Parliamentarian*
<b>Semis Judges</b>	<b>Two judges (1 Scorer and 1 Parliamentarian)</b>

Semis & Finals Judges	<b>Three Judges:</b> (2 Scorers and 1 Parliamentarian)
Presiding Officer Audition Time	Campaign speeches enumerating qualifications to preside, not to exceed one minute each.
Score per speech	0 min- 6 max
<b>Presiding Officer</b>	

~~\*In Prelims and Semis, the Scorer may also serve as the Parliamentarian, if a student is elected as Presiding Officer. If no student is elected as Presiding Officer, a scorer, a parliamentarian, and an adult (high school graduate) Presiding Officer are required. In Finals, one of the scorers may also act as a Parliamentarian if there is a student Presiding Officer. If no student serves, 2 scorers and a Parliamentarian are required in addition to an adult (high school graduate) Presiding Officer. The parliamentarian scores only the student PO and ranks all competitors in the room.~~

## 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. ~~Scorer-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

## CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT FORM

**Name:** Greg McGee

**School:** Mayde Creek High School

**Rationale for Amendment:** I propose we eliminate the coin flip to choose speaker positions in PF debate. The switching of sides and positions in PF causes a lot of confusion for lay judges. Countless times tournament directors have to track down judges who mistakenly voted for the wrong team. Additionally, teams should not be able to go one side for the entire tournament. For some topics, it is not the better debater that wins but the luckier team. We should treat PF like all the other debates

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- Standing Rules: Competition Event Guide
- Standing Rules: IQT Operations Manual
- Standing Rules: State Tournament Operations Manual

**Page number of change:** 31, 57

**Proposed Change(s)**

**On Page 31**

**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 – <b>Pro Team</b>	4 minutes
First Speaker – <b>Con Team</b>	4 minutes
Crossfire (first question by <b>Pro speaker</b> )	3 minutes
Second Speaker – <b>Pro Team</b>	4 minutes
Second Speaker – <b>Con Team</b>	4 minutes
Crossfire (first question by <b>Pro speaker</b> )	3 minutes
Summary - First Speaker – <b>Pro</b>	2 minutes
Summary - First Speaker – <b>Con</b>	2 minutes
Grand Crossfire	3 minutes
Final Focus - Second <b>Pro Speaker</b>	2 minutes
Final Focus - Second <b>Con Speaker</b>	2 minutes
<i>Prep time</i>	<i>2 minutes per team</i>

On Page 57

#### 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.~~

## CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT FORM

**Name:** Brian Eanes and Grant Hahn

**School:** Winston Churchill High School and Grapevine High School

**Rationale for Amendment:** For too long, overtime penalties in interpretation and public speaking events have been overly strict and enforced by the wrong people. Currently, by rule, a performance consisting only of a single expletive from a David Mamet play would rank higher than a thoughtfully cut and beautifully delivered performance of that same play if it was timed at 10:31. Tab room disqualifications should be reserved for individuals who purposefully break rules, not for those who run a second longer than their usual, practiced time. Additionally, tab room staff are in the least reasonable position to make a decision to penalize a competitor based on time. The judge is the adult in the room, observing and timing the performance (including audience reaction), and is, therefore, the best person to impose any penalty. A penalty WILL remain for overtime violations (a competitor running overtime may not be ranked first), discouraging conscious overtime. And the judge determines the final rank in the round, able to penalize competitors for time violations as s/he sees fit (individual judges always use their personal criteria to rank a round. If time is their number one priority, they are within their rights to rank overtime competitors last. This possibility would also discourage purposeful overtime by competitors). This rule change does two things. One - it makes the time limit a part of a performance rather than the only thing that matters in the case of overtime. Two – it gets the tab room out of the business of changing ranks after the round, and puts it in the hands of the judge where it belongs. (I also added the language, “There is no minimum time required.” to extemp, oratory, dramatic/humorous and prose/poetry for the sake of consistency and clarity.)

**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:** For Extemp: p. 43 #7; For Oratory: p. 45 #6; For Duet Acting: p. 46 #5; For Duo Interp: p. 48 #5; For Dramatic – p. 50 #6; For Humorous – none needed, as it draws from the rules of Dramatic; For Prose – p. 80 #1; For Impromptu – p. 80 #3.

**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. )*

[EXTEMP]: 7. Time limit is seven minutes maximum with a thirty-second grace period. There is no minimum time required. Violation shall result in being ranked last in the round by the tab room when visible time signals have been given by the judge or by the authorized timekeepers.

**[Underlined section replaced by]: There is no minimum time required. Overtime violators MAY 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.**

[ORATORY]: 6. Time limit shall be ten minutes maximum with a thirty-second grace period. Violation shall result in being ranked last in the round by the tab room when visible time signals have been given by the judge or by the authorized timekeepers. Without adding text to the previously performed selection and only considering audience response, the contestant shall not be penalized for exceeding the time limit in all qualifying and state tournament elimination and final rounds.

**[Underlined section replaced by]: There is no minimum time required. Overtime violators MAY 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.**

[DUET ACTING]: 5. Time for presentation shall not exceed twelve minutes with a thirty-second grace period. There is no minimum time required. Violation shall result in being ranked last in the round by the tab room when visible time signals have been given by the judge or by the authorized timekeeper. Without adding text to the previously performed selection and only considering audience response, the contestant shall not be penalized for exceeding the time limit in all qualifying and state tournament elimination and final rounds.

**[Underlined section replaced by]: Overtime violators MAY 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.**

[DUO INTERPRETATION]: 5. Time for presentation shall not exceed ten minutes with a thirty-second grace period. There is no minimum time required. Violation shall result in being ranked last in the round by the tab room when visible time signals have been given by the judge or by the authorized timekeeper. Without adding text to the previously performed selection and only considering audience response, the contestant shall not be penalized for exceeding the time limit in all qualifying and state tournament elimination and final rounds.

**[Underlined section replaced by]: Overtime violators MAY 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.**

[DRAMATIC/HUMOROUS]: 6. Maximum time shall be ten minutes with a thirty-second grace period. Violation shall result in being ranked last in the round by the tab room when visible time signals have been given by the judge or by the authorized timekeeper. Without adding text to the previously performed selection and only considering audience response, the contestant shall not be penalized for exceeding the time limit in all qualifying and state tournament elimination and final rounds.

**[Underlined section replaced by]: There is no minimum time required. Overtime violators MAY 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.**

[PROSE/POETRY]: 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. 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. Without adding text to the previously performed selection(s) and only considering audience response, the contestant shall not be penalized for exceeding the time limit in all state tournament elimination and final rounds.

**[Underlined section replaced by]: There is no minimum time required. Overtime violators MAY 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.**

[IMPROMPTU]: 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.

**[Underlined section replaced by]: Overtime violators MAY 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.**

## CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT FORM

**Name:** Matt Turner

**School:** Judson High School

**Rationale for Amendment:**

Reason 1: There is no central codification of how our judges should conduct themselves at invitational tournaments. This provides such codification.

Reason 2: Ballots, judges' comments in the hospitality lounge at tournaments, and contestants reporting back to the coach have revealed that some judges will behave with the mindset that they're the contestants' opponent and not their judge. In addition, reading "oral" on a preliminary round ballot tells me nothing as a coach. This means we need a central point-of-information that affirms our commitment to our students' education via written, constructive feedback.

**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:** 51

**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. )*

The totality of page 51 is to be struck and replaced with the following:

- "1. An adult, being of at least age 18 and no longer enrolled in high school, shall be the judge of a TFA qualifying event round.
2. Judges shall follow the same rules and expectations of fellow adults set by the tournament host (e.g. rules concerning tobacco use, alcohol use, food/drinks in classrooms, use of teachers' desks in classrooms, etc.).
3. Unless in extenuating circumstances particular to the tournament being hosted, an adult shall not adjudicate a round in which the adult, as judge, and any of the contestants:
  - a. Are employee and student of the same school;

- b. Are related to each other by blood or by family marriage;
  - c. Have a prior established social relationship directly or by family (e.g. “my mom’s friend,” “my dad’s co-worker,” “my friend’s uncle,” “my ex-boyfriend who went to another high school and has already graduated”);
  - c. Have been students of the same school within three graduating years of each other; and/or
  - d. Have a prior establishment of any type of pre-tournament coaching and training.
4. Judges’ constructive criticism shall adhere to the following:
- a. In speech and debate rounds, the judge shall adjudicate all contestants based on the criteria established on the provided ballot.
  - b. In debate rounds, the judge shall adjudicate based on the arguments, delivery, and refutation given by the contestants during constructive speeches and rebuttals, as well as questions and answers made during cross-examinations.
  - c. The judge may provide paradigms for how they plan to adjudicate the round.
  - d. The judge shall refrain from discussing the progress of the debate either with the contestants or fellow adults in the room.
  - e. The judge should distance themselves from the content of the debate. Personal values of the judges shall not influence the decision of the round.
  - f. All critiques are to be constructive, to promote continued competition in forensics, and to provide helpful feedback and suggestions.
  - g. For the benefit of contestants’ and coaches’ archives and future coaching, all critiques are to be written in all rounds. For the sake of maintaining a tournament on timely schedule, oral critiques should not be made in preliminary rounds. Oral critiques that are made in elimination rounds should be made concisely without delaying the tournament’s schedule.
5. 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.
6. Coaches may ask tournament hosts to strike a judge from adjudicating contestants at the coach’s school. The tournament host will have the final determination on judge strikes, and may decline if a judge strike will create a burden upon the tournament’s operations.”

## **Amendment to change precedence, reduce tournament season length and decrease number of qualifying points**

**Name:** Executive Council

### **Rationale for Amendment:**

**PRECEDENCE:** The use of precedence has long been a point of contention in the assigning of tournaments. Region Representatives feel currently like their hands are tied to arbitrary recognition of longevity on a particular weekend, while ignoring the best interests of the region and/or community and other factors which can and should impact weekend assignment. While hosting a tournament for many years is definitely commendable, the belief shared among the EC is that relying on this factor as sole determinant for deciding weekends, and the ability to host a tournament is overall a net negative for the ability of the Region Rep and Regional Committee to do what is in the best interest of the region.

**INCREASED NUMBER OF TOURNAMENTS / WEEKEND:** In the Houston and Dallas area specifically, there are schools who desire to host, but cannot, due to all of the weekend allotments being filled. Additionally, in region 3, there are frequently weekends where there are tournaments in SA/CC and none in Austin or Austin/SA and none in the valley. Despite weekends being filled, the locations of the tournaments are too far not to be cost prohibitive for schools. Increasing the number of tournaments per weekend would both assist in Houston and also in Austin.

**SEASON LENGTH:** No other state in the country has a season as long as Texas. This makes it extremely challenging to advocate for ourselves, our jobs and communication on the state level. This past year, we lost the required communication course. Many communication teachers across the state are in danger of losing their jobs. Young coaches are exiting the profession within a few short years due to the extensive time requirements. With the new pathways in CTE, there is an even greater need for Communication professionals to find time to be active advocates for the pathway of their program and to ensure their continued integration into the way education is being viewed in Texas. Additionally, the competitive season starts so early in the year that students have had little opportunity to actually 'learn'. Shortening the season, even just a small amount, would allow for better education of students, more opportunities for self-advocacy. With the increased number of tournaments per weekend and a reduction in qual points, this would reduce spending on tournament entry fees and travel, while having negligible effect on state meet size.

**REDUCED POINTS:** Once the season is shortened, the EC will consider reducing the number of qualifying points to 10. The reducing of points will give coaches the ability to still qualify for state while also still being able to take weekends off, participate in UIL invitational meets (Feb), and other activities without sacrificing their current level of qualification.

### **Section of the Constitution where Change occurs:**

- Constitution
- By Laws
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- Standing Rules: Competition Event Guide
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- Standing Rules: State Tournament Operations Manual

## Proposed Change(s)

**\*\*Portion of the constitution being changed: Standing Rules, IQT; Hosting an IQT (p. 53)**

3. ~~The tournament shall be held between the dates of the weekend following the 4th Monday in August and the second weekend in February.~~ 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.

Replace the above line with:

The tournament shall be held between the dates of the weekend following the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday in September and the last weekend in January. For purposes of assigning weekends, the last weekend in January shall be the weekend that includes at least ONE day of the tournament within the month of January.

**\*\*Portion of the constitution being changed: Standing Rules, IQT; Hosting an IQT (p. 54)**

~~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 they co-hosting schools choose to apply separately in subsequent years, they qualify for priority c above.~~

REPLACE WITH:

Tournament dates shall be assigned by Region Representatives with the assistance of a Regional Committee. Region Representatives shall receive the following information on all applications to host a meet. Representatives shall be able to assign up to 3 tournaments per weekend in their Region, provided that all available weekends have at least one tournament taking place. When assigning weekends, the following factors shall be considered by the Regional Committee:

- a. Application receipt date – applications received after the May 1 deadline are moved to the bottom of the consideration list.
- b. Geographic location of tournaments (when possible, Region Representatives shall avoid scheduling

- multiple tournaments located in close proximity to one another, unless the tournament is a swing).
- c. Number of years the member coach has coached
  - d. Number of years the hosting school has hosted
  - e. Number of years the hosting school has hosted on the same weekend
  - f. Number of qualifying events offered at the tournament
  - g. Prior Cancellation of tournament
  - h. Prior sanction of tournament/host
  - i. Tournament size in previous years
  - j. Tournament mentor letters for new hosts/tournaments
  - k. Number of official protests of tournament, not resulting in sanction.

**\*\*Portion of the constitution being changed: Standing Rules, IQT; Hosting an IQT (p. 54)**

~~4. A maximum of two tournaments per region can be scheduled on the same 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 requirement. 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 allow schools to plan their schedules for apply 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.~~

Replace with:

3. A maximum of three tournaments per region can be scheduled on the same weekend. If three tournaments are offered in a weekend, then the third tournament scheduled must include any event(s) not offered by at least one of the other tournaments.

**\*\*Portion of the constitution being changed: Standing Rules, IQT; Hosting an IQT (p. 54)**

~~4. 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.~~

Replace with:

5. If more than three tournaments within any one region apply for the same date, the **Region Representative, Regional Committee and** 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 three applications and return the other application(s) along with the registration fee.

**\*\*Portion of the constitution being changed: Standing Rules, IQT; Hosting an IQT (p. 54)**

~~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.~~

Replace with:

6. By May 20<sup>th</sup>, the Region Representative and the Regional Committee shall prepare and distribute the Regional calendar to the EC and the region. Coaches with disputes or concerns regarding the weekend assignment or tournament calendar shall have until June 1 to appeal to the EC and have their concerns addressed. 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 EC will consider all appeals and release a tentative calendar by June 15. A finalized calendar will be released one week after the EC Summer Retreat. The EC retains final calendar decision making authority. 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.