

Amendment I- Three-way ties -EC

Page 47

Under item #2 on three way ties:

“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:	A	B	C
Speaker A	3	1	5
Speaker B	1	2	6
Speaker C	4	3	2

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.”

Rationale: The constitution is unclear on how to handle a three-way tie that can be broken on judge’s preference. The constitution does not say that this method is not to be employed for a 3 or more way tie and because of its rank order of tie breakers in the constitution, it would appear to be preferred over other methods if cumulative rank totals are tied. This constitution outlines and clarifies that procedure.

Amendment II- Sweepstakes - EC

Page 59

Under sweepstakes item a.

Two points shall be awarded for advancing to debate double-octofinals

Under sweepstakes item c.

c. Sweepstakes points are not cumulative- students receive points based on highest placement in an event.

Rationale: This is for clarification purposes as the constitution does not explicitly say points are or are not cumulative.

Amendment III- Individual Sweepstakes - EC

Page 59

Add 4. **Individual Sweepstakes Awards-** Individual sweepstakes awards will be presented to the top individuals based on the following criteria.

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

Rationale: To award outstanding individuals across a multitude of events.

Amendment IV- Congress Submission - EC

Page 55

Item 3 legislation: “By the May 1st OR November 1st deadline”

Rationale: Clarification.

Amendment V- Defining school - EC

Page 3

Under section 1 add: “Members must represent a school, defined as an organization, institution, or group which grants a diploma or its equivalent as recognized by the state of Texas to provide instruction for grades nine, ten, eleven and twelve.”

Page 51, entry and eligibility after item 1, add: “as defined by article III, section 1”

Page 40- change eligibility to “Any TFA member school OR institution.”

Rationale- To clarify what constitutes an eligible institution for the purposes of competing at TFA State.

Amendment VI- Membership Deadline - EC

Page 3, Membership. Section 5. Amend to read:

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 or institutional membership.

Rationale: To avoid excessive late fees and provide more flexibility for schools to join TFA later in the season, this amendment seeks to extend the membership deadline. Further, since TSCA accepts memberships throughout the year, this change will be more accommodating for late memberships.

Amendment VII- IE Prelims at State -EC

Page 57

In individual events, the top 36 contestants would advance to quarterfinals based on cumulative ranks in the first three rounds. Ranks above 5 will be converted to 5 for the purposes of determining cumulative ranks. If there is a tie at 36, 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 total. The contestants with the highest total would advance. If there is still a tie for the 36th spot, all contestants still tied for that slot would advance to quarterfinals up to 48 maximum. If, because of the tie, more than 48 would break, then the ties among those pushing the number over 48 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.

Rationale- The language concerning converting 5s back into 6s and 7s implies that we convert ranks into 5s, but nothing in the rules explicitly states this.

Amendment VIII- Time Limits in Duet Acting - EC

Page 34 Duet Acting Item 5

Time for presentation shall not exceed ten minutes...

Rationale: To bring Duet more in line with the rest of the events.

Amendment IX- Additional Committee -EC

Page 7

Add item K- Standing Constitutional Committee.

Amendment X- State Host Procedures - EC

Page 51 Location: Add to paragraph 2:

- 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 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).

The order of regions to host State shall be as follows beginning with the 2012 state tournament:

Region I (Upper West Texas/Panhandle)

Region II (North Texas)

Region IV (East Texas)

Region V (Far West Texas)

Region III (Central/South Texas)

Amendment XI—Congressional Debate

AMENDMENT PROPOSAL:

p. 56 of the TFA Constitution,
Congressional Debate,
3. Chambers,
a. Preliminary Sessions

currently reads: “The number and length of preliminary sessions shall be determined by the State Tournament Director and the Congressional Debate Committee. Parliamentarians and Scorers shall be assigned to a chamber for the entire round.”

Change the text of this quoted passage to read: “Two rounds, combined totaling no less than four hours of floor debate in length, shall be held for preliminary rounds. Preliminary rounds shall be scheduled for no less than two-and-one-half hours to account for session recess, housekeeping, and other pertinent business aside from two hours of floor debate per round. Parliamentarians and Scorers shall be assigned to a chamber for an entire preliminary session round.”

Rationale:

1. Requiring that a four-hour session be conducted with vaguely defined “minimal breaks” in a four-hour time block is ergonomically impossible to ask of an adult, let alone 15-20 teenagers in one room. The thirty additional minutes of flexibility allows for pre-debate PO voting, docket arrangement, recesses, gathering paperwork into order, etc., while allowing two additional hours to be set devotedly for floor debate.
2. Requiring two preliminary rounds ensures that students have the opportunity, within two prelim rounds, to earn more NFL points rather than be limited by the precedence patterns set in one four-hour session.
3. No other TFA qualifying events have one preliminary round to determine advancement to elimination rounds. District/booster/family/student/coach money, time, energy, talent, and research are devoted to making the trip to TFA State sometimes from one end of the state to the other, and to have one student’s qualifying or supplemental weekend end by Thursday night does not allow a full educational experience for the student.

Respectfully submitted by Matt Turner of Judson High School, Converse, TX

Amendment XII-Parliamentary Debate

AMENDMENT PROPOSAL:

p. 58 of the TFA Constitution,
Consolation Events,
Events
add:

“4. **Parliamentary Debate:** Each Parliamentary Debate (PD) round shall have two teams. One team is called the proposition. The other team is called the opposition. Each PD team shall have two members from the same school; one will be known as the lead speaker, and the other the supporting speaker. Speakers make their presentations in the following order. The time that is listed is the maximum time for each speech.

Lead speaker, proposition team	5 minutes
Lead speaker, opposition team	5 minutes
Supporting speaker, proposition team	5 minutes
Supporting speaker, opposition team	5 minutes
Lead speaker rebuttal, opposition team	3 minutes
Lead speaker rebuttal, proposition team	3 minutes

Before each debate, a topic is announced. The topic will be one of seven pre-announced extemporaneous persuasive topics. Before the debate begins, debaters will have 20 minutes of prep time to confer with only with their fellow PD partner and their prepared notes.

The emphasis of the event shall be on public speaking, persuasive tactics, and argumentation. Evidence shall play a minimal role in weighing the round. The act of spreading is not to be conducted in this event.”

Rationale:

1. Parliamentary Debate is offered at the collegiate level, and this would be a good introduction for high school students to a collegiate debate event.
2. PD would offer an additional Consolation Event aside from Impromptu for students who are eliminated from outrounds of public speaking and debate rounds. Students would still need to select either Impromptu, Prose/Poetry, or PD as the consolation event to enter, therefore not impacting the amount of judges and rooms needed.

Respectfully submitted by Matt Turner of Judson High School, Converse, TX

Amendment XIII-Social Media Correspondent

Creation of a Social Media Correspondent for TFA

As TFA moves forward, it has become necessary to create an official position for a 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 Archivist), 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.

Rationale:

1. Social media has become a necessity for every successful organization, and this position will increase communication throughout the entire TFA body.
2. This position will further the TFA name and will increase the TFA reputation and prestige.
3. Many of the measures carried out by the person in this position have been performed by the National Forensic League.

Amendment XIV-Constitutional Committee

Creation of a Standing Constitutional Committee

Add to By Laws, Section 6 Committees – Add a Constitutional Committee to the list of Standing Committees. This standing committee shall consist of five members, appointed by the President. Regional balance shall be of consideration when choosing members of this standing committee. It shall be their duty to 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.)

Rationale:

1. The TFA Constitution is a living document, constantly changing. A Standing Constitutional Committee is necessary to make sure that the constitution is free of contradictions/discrepancies/errors, so that the body can effectively consult and use it during competition season.

Amendment XV- Gap Terminology

PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE WORDING FOR “GAP” TOURNAMENTS

On p. 41 of the TFA Constitution, as posted online, currently reads as follows:

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.

The following paragraph will be changed as follows (highlighted and bolded):

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 **or one or two tournaments do not offer a qualifying event whose opportunity would be equal to that of other opportunities for other qualifying events**, a third **or subsequent** 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.

Rationale:

Currently, in some regions, some tournaments are choosing not to offer certain qualifying events. The problem is not only arising when there are two tournaments in the region. In several instances, only a single tournament exists in the region and that tournament host is choosing not to offer certain events. Students choosing to participate in certain events are not being afforded the same competition opportunities as others. The opportunity needs to exist for students to have an equal opportunity to qualify for the state tournament in their chosen event.

Submitted by Dave Huston, Colleyville Heritage High School

Amendment XVI- Remap TFA

Proposal:

The TFA Map should reflect the current TEA Education Service Center map for the state of Texas. There will be a total of 20 Regions. Regions may host no more than 2 qualifying meets per weekend, regardless of the number of qualifying meets hosted in their region throughout the tournament season. Schools may host no more than 1 qualifying meet.

Tournament Calendar:

Qualifying tournaments may be hosted beginning the weekend following the last Monday in August. The last IQT date will be the first weekend in February. Competitors who have not qualified by this time may compete at a Regional Qualifying tournament (RQT). Regions opting to host a Regional Qualifier may host the 2nd or 3rd weekend of February.

Regional Qualifying Tournament (ROT):

- Students may only compete in 1 event at the Regional Qualifier
- Students must have earned at least 1 point and not more than 19 points in the event in which they are competing at the RQT
- Students who are state qualified in ANY event(s) may not compete at the RQT
- Automatic Qualification goes to the 1st & 2nd place finalists in each event at the RQT with at least 10 entries in the TFA event.
- No more than 8 may advance to finals, places 3-8 are alternates and may advance to the state meet only if a qualifier surrenders their spot.

State qualification:

Students must earn a total of 20 points in competition in order to qualify for the state meet. In team events, students must earn all 20 points with the same partner and compete at the state meet with the partner with whom they earned their qualification points.

Any competitor who has earned 1 point or up to 19 points by the end of the IQT season may compete at the Regional qualifying tournament. Students who have not earned any state qualification points are not eligible to compete at the Regional Qualifying Tournament. Students who have earned 20 or more qualification points are not eligible to compete at the Regional Qualifying tournament.

Rationale

- The current TFA map doesn't account for the population explosion in urban-heavy regions.
- In addition, the tournament calendar restriction of 2 tournaments per region per weekend penalizes regions which are heavily active while rewarding regions which are not growing or adding new members.
- The geographical distance from one end of Regions 2, 3, & 5 to the other renders the 2 tournament per region rule ineffective in the current model.
- Finally, the size problems of the state tournament are well-documented. This proposal would help address all of these problems.

Amendment XVII- CX Questions in Congressional Debate

Amendment to Allow Repeating/Rephrasing of CX Question in Congressional Debate

From the Constitution, p. 29

4. Members may ask multiple questions per questioning period if all other members have been recognized and time is still available. No prefacing or multiple part questions are allowed.

Questions cannot be repeated.

Replace with

5. 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.***

Rationale:

1. Environmental factors outside the control of the chamber participants may affect the ability of the listener to hear the question.
2. The “no repeat/no rephrase” rule is unique to Congressional Debate and not present in any of the other debate events.
3. The lack of division between varsity & novice competitors in this event invites some discrepancy in vocabulary and preparation, and a student may honestly need the question rephrased for better understanding
4. Limits placed on the rule allow for the parliamentarian to check abuses of this opportunity and promote active listening on the part of the speaker.

Amendment XVIII- Due Process

TFA Constitutional Amendment Placing a Formal Procedure for Rule Violations
The amendment would read...

Any challenge or charges regarding a TFA issue should be presented in writing within ten days to all parties involved in the matter. At that time, all parties have ten days to request a formal hearing so that each may present pertinent facts in person or via electronic communication. The Executive Council may then make a decision based on the circumstances surrounding each unique situation.

Justification:

1. In the TFA Constitution, no process exists to ensure a person is notified of any complaints or charges against him/her or his/her school or students other than at the tournament level. A clear and organized process needs to be in place to allow individuals the opportunity to first and foremost learn in an appropriate way if issues surrounding themselves, their schools, or their teams arise. In addition, members should be given a process for responding to any complaints or charges against them.
2. When a person is in violation of a TFA required action or of a TFA rule, the Executive Council should have the opportunity to make judgment calls about extenuating circumstances that contributed to the violation. For example, if a deadline was missed and extenuating circumstances exist that justify the oversight, the Executive Council may make the decision to allow an exemption in that situation. This gives both the EC and members a mechanism to ensure due process is given and unique or unusual situations can be taken into consideration when ensuring that applications of penalties are just.
3. Some issues are black and white, but occasionally, this is not the case. Our federal, local, and state laws recognize and take mitigating circumstances into consideration. This amendment allows for the same from TFA.

Amendment XIX- Breaking Ties

Breaking ties for advancement to debate elimination rounds

I propose that “e” be placed as “b.” Opponent’s win-loss record seems like a better indication of who the better debater is. Though the debater has little control of who they debate, they also have little control of who judges them. Judge discretion of speaker points seems more arbitrary than opponent-win loss for the purpose of breaking ties regarding who will advance to outrounds.

The change would read as follows:

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

A. If Only 3 Prelim Rounds are Held:

- a. Win-loss record
- b. Opponent’s win-loss record
- c. Total speaker points
- d. Adjusted speaker points (drop highs and lows) per team
- e. Total speaker ranks
- f. Opponent’s speaker points
- g. Opponent’s ranks
- h. Adjusted ranks
- i. Blind draw

B. If More than 3 Prelim Rounds are Held:

- a. Win-loss record
- b. Opponent’s win-loss record
- c. Adjusted speaker points (drop highs and lows) per team
- d. Total speaker points
- e. Total speaker ranks
- f. Opponent’s speaker points
- g. Opponent’s ranks
- h. Adjusted ranks
- i. Blind draw

Amendment XX- Congressional Debate Committee Recommendation # 1

P. 7 Under **I. Congressional Debate Committee**, strike the last sentence of the first paragraph.

- I. **Congressional Debate Committee.** A regionally balanced committee appointed by the TFA President shall select the best 30 pieces of submitted legislation through a blind review to create the calendar for all sessions. Legislation will be selected according to the following criteria: (a) grammatical structure and style, (b) legislative intent, (c) need for the plan and feasibility, and (d) formatted in the prescribed template, and (e) national in scope. By June 1st the committee shall post the Fall docket, and by December 1st the committee shall submit the Spring docket (January through March) to the webmaster for posting on the TFA website.

Amendment XXI- Congressional Debate Committee Recommendation # 2

pp. 27-31

Congressional Debate

Strike the last sentence of the first paragraph

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. Participation at the TFA State Tournament in the United States Senate as well as the House requires that all schools requesting to participate submit legislation to the Congressional Debate Committee Chair by the May 1st deadline or November 1st deadline.

Congressional Debate shall not be run as a Consolation Event at Invitational Qualifying Tournaments. 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 time for floor debate must be met.

Strike the following sentences.

It is the goal of the Congressional Debate Committee and the Executive Council to align our Congress as closely as possible with the National Forensic League Congressional Debate policies and procedures. Due to our unique circumstances, any special distinctions will be addressed under IQT and/or State Meet guidelines.

Add the following:

A preliminary session is defined as including:

1. Minimum of 3 hours
2. 18-20 students as the optimum number for a three-hour session.
3. Election of a presiding officer
4. New seating chart
5. Resetting of precedence/recency
6. New legislation that has not been debated in a previous session in the tournament

Amendment XXII- Congressional Debate Committee Recommendation # 3

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 three minutes, followed by one 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 rule. At the point where three 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 must be but the speaker will receive no more than three 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.

Strike the next sentence and remove the parenthesis enclosing the next sentence.

1. Members shall claim the floor only if they wish to oppose the views of the preceding speaker so that debate shall alternate. (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).

Strike the first word of the next sentence and capitalize the word Speeches.

2. Membership 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.
3. Members shall not yield any portion of his/her time for questioning.

Strike the words "multiple questions" and "if all other members have been recognized and time is still available".

Add the words "only one question" in the first sentence as demonstrated.

Add the sentence beginning "Members may ask additional questions"

4. Members may ask multiple questions only one question per questioning period. if all other members have been recognized and time is still available. No prefacing or multiple part questions are allowed. Questions cannot be repeated. Members may ask additional questions if no members who haven't asked a question want to ask a question.

5. Members must speak only after being recognized by the presiding officer.

Strike the words "and/or the NFL Congressional Debate Manual"

6. Members may not suspend the rules in order to change rules stipulated in the TFA Constitution. and/or the NFL Congressional Debate Manual.

Strike the sentence beginning "Precedence must be enforced". Add next two sentences beginning with "Authorship shall be attributed".

7. Precedence must be enforced unless there are no members wishing to speak. 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.

Strike the first sentence beginning "Questioning following these speeches".
Add the next three sentences as demonstrated.

8. Questioning following these speeches shall follow NFL rules and procedures.
Two minutes of questioning shall follow the first pro and first con, and all other speeches on legislation will be followed by one minute of questioning.
9. Each bill or resolution shall be debated for a maximum of 45 minutes. If action has not been taken on the legislation by that time, an immediate vote shall be taken.

Amendment XXIII- Congressional Debate Committee Recommendation # 4

Legislation

Add the sentence beginning “No more than 2 pieces” as demonstrated.

Delete the sentence beginning “Authorship shall be attributed” as demonstrated.

Legislation for Invitational Qualifying Tournaments in the regular season shall be available for all schools and participants on the website at www.txfa.org. 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 1st for debate in the months of August-December, and due by November 1st for debate in the months of January-March (including TFA State competition). **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. 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. **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.**

Tournament Directors shall designate in their invitation which pieces of legislation shall be used in Prelims, Semis and Finals.

Strike the words “are addressed under the Oratory rules in the TFA Constitution, and these rules apply to legislation submitted for Congressional Debate” and add “not allowed” as demonstrated.

Add the word “next” before “State Tournament” and delete “for that year” as demonstrated.

Plagiarism and “extensive paraphrasing” **are addressed under the Oratory rules in the TFA Constitution, and these rules apply to legislation submitted for Congressional Debate 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 NFL District contests, NFL 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. Schools found to be in violation shall be disqualified from participation in Congressional Debate at the **next** State Tournament **for that year.**

Requirements

- a. Legislation which does not conform to guidelines will be rejected from consideration for the Congressional Debate calendar.
- b. Bills or resolutions are to be typed using the template provided on the NFL website. Links are located on the TFA Congress page at www.txfa.org.
- c. Legislation Deadlines
 - i. May 1 for August – December debate
 - ii. November 1 for January-March (including TFA State) debate

Amendment XXIV- Congressional Debate Committee Recommendation # 5

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.

Strike the sentence beginning "Please see the NFL Congressional" as demonstrated.

Please see the NFL Congressional Debate Manual or Handbook for additional assistance.
www.nflonline.org

Amendment XXV- Congressional Debate Committee Recommendation # 6

Pp. 46-48

Add the words “for Qualifying Tournaments” as demonstrated.

Congressional Debate Tabulation for Qualifying Tournaments

Entry Numbers and Requirements

Amendment XXVI- Congressional Debate Committee Recommendation # 7

Adjust the chart as demonstrated beginning row 15.

Requirement	Number
Minimum number of entries for Qualifying Event	15
Maximum number of students per Preliminary House	20 (if total entries are 20-30, 1 chamber is acceptable)
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 (all sessions together); recesses do not count as floor debate time	5 hours, with a minimum of 2 for finals depending on the number of contestants in each chamber
Preliminary Judges	1 Scorer 1 Parliamentarian*
Semis & Finals Judges	2 Scorers 1 Parliamentarian
Presiding Officer Audition Time	15 minutes max per candidate
Score per speech	0 min- 6 max
Minimum number of minutes for each chamber with 8-11 contestants	90 minutes (exception of the final chamber which must be a minimum of 2 hours)
Minimum number of minutes for each chamber with 12-14 contestants	120 minutes
Minimum number of minutes for each chamber with 15-17 contestants	150 minutes
Minimum number of minutes for each chamber with 18+ contestants	180 minutes
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 competitors—not to exceed 16 competitors)
Preliminary Judges	1 Scorer 1 Parliamentarian*
Semis & Finals Judges	2 Scorers 1 Parliamentarian
Presiding Officer Selection Process	Campaign speeches enumerating qualifications to preside, not to exceed one minute each
Score per speech	0 min- 6 max

Amendment XXVII- Congressional Debate Committee Recommendation # 8

Strike the words "separate", "and", and "an additional" as demonstrated.

Add the words "a", "and an adult (high school graduate) Presiding Officer", "a", and "in addition to an adult (high school graduate) Presiding Officer" as demonstrated.

*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 separate scorer, and 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 an additional a Parliamentarian are required in addition to an adult (high school graduate) Presiding Officer.

Add the sentence beginning "The Parliamentarian scores" as demonstrated.

The Parliamentarian scores only the student PO and ranks all competitors in the room.

Amendment XXVIII- Congressional Debate Committee Recommendation # 9

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.

Strike the words "it is advisable that the time for auditions be limited in order to maximize time for debate. Tournament director may also opt for" and "instead of audition periods (the preferred method). In either case"

Add the words "not to exceed one minute may be given" as demonstrated. Strike the word "auditions" following "Candidate" and add "speeches" as demonstrated.

If students are permitted to run, it is advisable that the time for auditions be limited in order to maximize time for debate. Tournament directors may also opt for brief speeches of qualification instead of audition periods (the preferred method). In either case, 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 auditions 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.

Add "PO" following "This adult" and "or ranking" as demonstrated and strike the words "but will rank all participants at the end of the session"

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 or ranking responsibilities. but will rank all participants at the end of the session.

Scoring and Advancement

In all sessions, the Scorer(s) shall be responsible for evaluating every student speech given. Elected POs shall receive one score per hour of service from the Scorer. 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.

Strike the word "no" in the sentence beginning "Parliamentarians will have" and add "only for the presiding officer" and "as outlined in the IE Tab section" as demonstrated.

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 NO 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 as outlined in the IE tabulation section.
3. Rank by the parliamentarian

Amendment XXIX- Congressional Debate Committee Recommendation # 10

pp.57-59

Congressional Debate

General Rules

Strike the first section c beginning "All schools planning to participate" as demonstrated.

1. Entry:

- a. Entries in the United States House shall be based upon qualifications at IQT's that offer Congressional Debate. The students' names shall be submitted on the entry form for the State Tournament.
- b. Each member school may enter one contestant in the United States Senate. These students may not have qualified in any other event and will compete in a separate division from the United States House.
- c. All schools planning to participate at the State Tournament must submit legislation to the Congressional Debate Committee Chair by May 1st or November 1st of the calendar year before the year the State Tournament takes place regardless of current qualifications. (So, if the State Tournament is held in 2013, the legislation must be sent in by May 1, 2012, or November 1, 2012.)
- c. 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 Committee.
Students in the United States Senate may not compete in any other event.

2. **Judging:** Parliamentarians and Scorers will be selected by the Congressional Debate Committee prior to assigning judges for other events. All schools entering students in Congressional Debate will automatically be placed in the pool to serve as either a scorer or a parliamentarian if needed.

Strike Item 3 pertaining to "Legislation" as demonstrated.

3. **Legislation:** IF A SCHOOL PLANS TO ATTEND TFA STATE IN CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE, the school must submit at least one piece and up to three (three maximum) of legislation to the Congressional Debate Committee by the November 1st deadline in order to participate. Failure to submit legislation by the deadline renders a school INELIGIBLE to participate at TFA State for that competitive year in the United States House or the United States Senate. A regionally balanced Congressional Debate Committee appointed by the TFA President shall select the best pieces of submitted legislation through a blind review to create the calendar for the all sessions. 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) (d) formatted into the prescribed template, and (e) national in focus. By December 1st, the Congressional Debate Committee shall submit the docket to the webmaster for posting on the TFA website.

Make "Chambers" become Item 3. In section a strike the sentence beginning "The number and length" and add "There will be two 4 hour sessions aligned with 4 debate rounds." and information beginning "scorers are reassigned each session" as demonstrated.

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:** The number and length of preliminary sessions shall be determined by the State Tournament Director and the Congressional Debate Committee. There will be two 4 hour sessions aligned with 4 debate rounds. Parliamentarians and Scorers shall be assigned to a chamber for the entire round. Scorers are reassigned each session (4 hours).
A preliminary session is defined as including:
 1. Minimum of 3 hours
 2. 18-20 students as the optimum number for a three hour session.
 3. Election of a presiding officer
 4. New seating chart
 5. Resetting of precedence/recency
 6. New legislation that has not been debated in a previous session in the tournament
 - b. **Semifinal Congress:** In the event that there are three or more preliminary chambers, two semifinal chambers will be created for a round which shall be no less than four hours in length.
 - c. **Super Congress:** There will be one "finals" round of three hours which will be known as Super Congress.

Amendment XXX- Congressional Debate Committee Recommendation # 11

Procedural Rules

Strike the sentence beginning “The first five pieces” and add the sentence beginning “Docket order for State” as demonstrated.

1. **Order of the Docket:** The first five pieces of legislation, must be debated in order for all rounds of competition at TFA State. Docket order for State will be released following the conclusion of the IQT season.
2. **Floor Debate:** See section under IQT's.

Strike the word “Round” and add sessions in the sentence beginning “At the conclusion of the Prelim” as demonstrated.

3. **Presiding Officer:** A presiding officer shall be elected at the beginning of each House/Senate preliminary session. At the conclusion of the Prelim Round 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 with an additional 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.

Add section 5 as demonstrated

5. Tiebreaking Procedures

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

Strike the sentence beginning “See the Student Congress Manual”.

Amendment XXXI- Congressional Debate Committee Recommendation # 12

Scoring

In section c strike the words "and Scorer" and "Round" and add "sessions" as demonstrated.

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 question/responses to questions.
- b. The Parliamentarian shall award the presiding officer a score at the conclusion of each hour of service.
- c. The Parliamentarian and Scorer will be assigned to a chamber for the entire Preliminary Round sessions.

The Ranking of the Top 8 Legislators by the scorers in each chamber will be used for determining advancement and tabulation of all rounds at the TFA State Tournament.

Amendment XXXII- Congressional Debate Committee Recommendation # 13

Semifinal Congress

1. **Sectioning:** Semifinal chambers shall be sectioned by:

Strike sections b and c and add " b. Rank balance between houses while maintaining regional balance.

b. Regional balance, followed by

c. Previous seating in a particular house

Rank balance between houses while maintaining regional balance.

1. **Judges:** Parliamentarians and Scorers shall not have judged in preliminary sessions and shall be assigned to a chamber for the entire round.
2. **Number of Members:** Semifinal houses shall not contain more than 16 persons each.
3. **Minimum Preliminary Rounds:** If there are less than three preliminary chambers, no Semifinal Congress shall be held.

Amendment XXXIII- Congressional Debate Committee Recommendation # 14

Super Congress

Strike "PO" in section b and add "Parliamentarians" as demonstrated.

Add section c "Adult PO may be assigned if available".

In section 2 strike "only" in the last clause.

1. **Organization**

- a. No more than 16 delegates shall be in the Super Congress
- b. The assigned P.O. Parliamentarians/Scorers shall remain for the entire round.
- c. Adult PO may be assigned if available.

2. **Selection for the Final Ballot:** At the conclusion of Super Congress, the ranks of the top 8 legislators, provided by the three scorers, will be used to determine the winners. The cum rank of the top 8 will be tallied and the lowest cum will receive 1st, next lowest 2nd; and so on to determine the top 8, The Parliamentarian will rank everyone in the chamber, and these ranks will only be used for tie-breaking purposes only.

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