

Texas Forensic Association Constitution and Contest Rules

Revised March 2016 to reflect changes from October 2015



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

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

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

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Constitution

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

Article I. Name

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

Article II. Purpose

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

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

Article III. Membership

All members of the Texas Forensic Association must also be members of the Texas Speech Communication Association and the National Federation of State High School Associations. Annual dues for these organizations must be sent with TFA dues to the Treasurer.

Section 1: Persons engaged in directing forensics and theatre arts shall be eligible for membership and shall become members upon payment of annual dues. This type of individual membership shall remain with the person rather than the institution during the membership term (i.e., if the person changes schools the membership will remain with the person). These members must represent a school, defined as an organization, institution, or group which grants a diploma or its equivalent as recognized by the Texas State Board of Education and/or Texas Education Agency to provide instruction for grades nine, ten, eleven, and/or twelve. **Directors of colleges and universities, recognized and accredited, by the U.S. Department of Education are allowed membership in the organization for purposes of hosting tournaments [ref. amendment 10/14].**

Section 2: Persons friendly to the aims of the organization: retired coaches,

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

Section 3: Institutional memberships shall be available for institutions by payment of annual dues. This type of membership shall remain with the institution during the membership period regardless of personnel changes. These members must represent a school, defined as an organization, institution, or group which grants a diploma or its equivalent as recognized by the Texas State Board of Education and/or Texas Education Agency to provide instruction for grades nine, ten, eleven, and/or twelve. **Colleges and universities, recognized and accredited, by the U.S. Department of Education are allowed membership in the organization for purposes of hosting tournaments [ref. amendment 10/14].**

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

Section 5: The membership period is from September 1 to September 1. Benefits for the current membership year shall be extended only to those paying membership dues on or before January 31. Schools hosting a TFA qualifier must become members before October 31, either through an individual membership or institutional membership.

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

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

Article IV. Executive Council

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

Section 2: The Executive Council shall act for the Association in the interim between annual meetings, but all of its actions shall be reported to the following annual meeting, and

such actions may be reversed by majority, provided a quorum is present.

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

Section 4: The Executive Council is empowered to recruit, hire, evaluate, and terminate paid personnel to serve the interests of the organization.

[added 10/15]

Article V. Meetings

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

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

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

Article VI. Committees

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

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

Article VII. Amendment

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

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

By-Laws

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

Section 1: ANNUAL DUES. The annual dues shall be established by the annual meeting and may vary from year to year.

Section 2: NOMINATING COMMITTEE. The President shall appoint, at least sixty (60) days prior to the annual meeting, a Nominations Committee of five members. Each region shall have at least one member on the committee. None of the five have been a member of the immediate past Nominations Committee. This Committee shall present the names of at least two members as nominees for each position: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. The committee shall ascertain that each nominee will serve, if elected. This slate will be made public at the earliest possible opportunity and will be presented at the annual meeting. There shall be an opportunity for nominations from the floor for names of additional nominees prior to the election of officers.

Section 3: ELECTION OF OFFICERS. The newly elected officers shall assume office on April 1 the year following their election. They shall hold office until their terms expire and their successors are elected. A candidate, to be elected, must receive a majority vote by secret ballot. In the event no candidate receives a majority on the first ballot, the second ballots shall be conducted with only the names of the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes in the first ballot in the consideration.

Section 4: SPECIAL ELECTIONS. In the case of a vacancy in any office due to death, resignation, or other cause, the President, with the consent of the Executive Council, shall appoint any eligible member to serve until the next annual meeting. In the event of a vacancy for the office of the President, the Executive Council shall appoint an eligible member to serve until an election will be held at the next annual meeting.

Section 5: DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. The Executive Council, under the leadership of the President, and with the aid of the standing and special committees, shall be responsible for the planning of policy, the best utilization of personnel, and the execution of policy once adopted.

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

B. **The Vice-President.** In addition to those duties assigned to him/her by the President or the Executive Council, the Vice-President shall be responsible for coordinating judging assignments at the State Tournament. The term of office shall be two years and will be elected in

even number years.

C. **The Secretary.** The Secretary shall be responsible for recording and reporting in the newsletter the minutes of all business meetings of the Executive Council. S/He shall also be responsible for newsletters and for correspondence of the Association and such other normal secretarial duties as may need to be done or are assigned to him/her by the President. The term of office shall be two years and will be elected in even number years.

D. **The Treasurer.** The Treasurer shall be responsible for directing all the day-to day business transactions of the organization. It shall be his/her duty to keep official account of all funds of the organization, to pay bills and accounts as prescribed by the President and the Executive Council or as prescribed by special action of the members at the annual meeting. In addition, s/he shall be responsible for sending out dues notices, receiving dues and applications for membership, maintaining up-to-date membership lists, publishing a directory, and for promptly forwarding all appropriate dues on to the Texas Speech Communication Association and the National Federation of State High School Associations. S/He shall serve as an *ex-officio* member of the Financial Committee. The term of office shall be two years and will be elected in odd number years. The Treasurer shall secure approval from a majority of the Executive Council for all expenditures over \$750.00 requested by the President of the organization.

E. **Past President.** The President from the preceding year shall serve as Past President and shall act as an advisor to the Executive Council. When the number of regions in the state is an odd number, the immediate past president shall be a non-voting member of the Executive Council. If the regions of the state are even, the Past President is a voting member of the Executive Council.

F. **Regional Representatives.** A Regional Representative shall be elected from each of five regions and shall serve on the Executive Council.

1. The composition of the regions shall be determined by the Executive Council with approval by the annual business meeting.

2. Proposed changes in Texas Forensic Association regions shall be distributed to the membership at least fourteen (14) days prior to the annual meetings.

3. Representatives from odd-numbered regions shall be elected in even-numbered years; representatives from even-numbered regions shall be elected in odd-numbered years. All Representatives shall be elected for two-year terms.

G. **IQT Coordinator.** The President shall appoint, by July 1, a member to serve as Invitational Qualifying Tournament (I.Q.T.) Coordinator. This individual shall be a non-voting member of the Executive Council and shall serve as a member of the State Tournament Committee. The duties of the IQT Coordinator shall include receiving, recording, and notifying qualified participants in the TFA State Tournament, finalizing entries in the State Tournament, and assisting in the planning and operation of the TFA State Tournament.

H. **Archivist.** The President shall appoint a member to serve as Archivist for two years on even-numbered years. It shall be the Archivist's duty to maintain such documents and items as the President and Executive Council prescribe. A report, including a listing, shall be made to the membership at the annual meeting. The Archivist will be a non-voting member of the Executive

Council.

I. **Social Media Correspondent.** This position will be appointed by the TFA President (at the same time and through the same process as the IQT Coordinator), and shall serve for one year. This individual will update and maintain the TFA website, update and maintain the TFA Facebook page, update and maintain the TFA twitter account, and shall be responsible for presenting social media opportunities to the body at the annual meeting. S/He will also be responsible for scanning ballots (if this option is available) at the TFA State Tournament. S/He will also be responsible for maintaining the purchasing and distribution of TFA merchandise. This person will be a non-voting member of the TFA Executive Council.

J. **Superintendent of Schools.** The TFA president shall appoint this person to serve as an advisor to the council and as an advocate for the organization. This person will be a non-voting member.

K. **Reports.** All members of the Executive Council, including the Regional Representatives shall make reports at the annual meetings, as necessary.

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

A. **Public Relations.** This committee shall plan and conduct a program of public relations in such a fashion as to best serve the interests of the Association and the profession, and to develop in the general public an appreciation, understanding, and awareness of the values of forensics and theatre arts.

B. **Professional Relations.** This committee shall be responsible for the development of high standards in training of speakers and in the conduct of tournaments. This committee shall also be responsible for ethical practices within the profession.

C. **Debate Topic Selection Committee.** This committee shall research topic areas for the National Federation of State High School Associations and to make recommendations as to the national debate topic. It should be noted that the Texas Forensic Association is not, however, a voting participant in the NFSHSA.

D. **Finance Committee.** This committee shall present an audit report at the annual meeting on odd-numbered years and additionally as necessary. A consultation with a CPA will be conducted each year beginning with fiscal year 2009-2010 and the results posted on the website immediately after the audit. If an audit is deemed necessary by the CPA, then the EC will authorize an audit of that fiscal year's records. The Chair of the Finance Committee is responsible for implementing this amendment and the Executive Committee is responsible for making sure that the results are posted. The Executive Council shall have the authority to release and disperse funds to a CPA and/or auditor. The President and Treasurer shall be *ex-officio* members.

E. **State Tournament Committee.** This committee shall plan and run the state

tournament. This committee shall be composed of the Executive Council and Tab Directors.

F. **State Tournament Judging Committee.** This committee shall supply a pool of judges from each region of the state to judge the TFA State Tournament. Beginning with preliminary rounds, the committee shall make all judging assignments during the TFA State Tournament. This committee is comprised of the Vice President and the Region Representatives.

G. **Scholarship Committee.** This committee shall send out scholarship applications by January 1. Completed applications shall be returned to the committee chairperson by February 1. The committee shall review all applications with school, name, and gender omitted. Four recipients shall be announced at the TFA State Tournament.

H. **Hall of Fame/Emeritus Membership Committee.** This committee shall consist of five former TFA Executive council members. It shall be their duty to designate honorees for the status of ~~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.

To be eligible for the emeritus membership, one must be retired from forensic and/or theater teaching, and shall have served the organization and his/her students in meritorious fashion. Upon retirement from forensic and/or theater teaching, a member of the Hall of Fame will automatically be designated emeritus. [ref. amendment 10/14]

I. **Congressional Debate Committee.** This committee 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.

J. **Regional State Tournament Hosting Committees.** This committee shall coordinate the local arrangements for hosting the TFA State tournament when it comes to their region. Members shall report to the State Tournament Committee as well as work with the State Judging Committee. The committee shall consist of 5 members appointed by the Region Representative of the hosting region and shall serve for a 2-year period.

K. **Standing Constitutional Committee.** This committee shall review the TFA constitution for discrepancies and general errors and recommend updates to the document in a fashion as to best serve the interests of the Association. The Constitutional Committee shall submit their recommendations at the annual meeting. (During the TFA competitive season, the Executive Council may refer constitutional discrepancies to the Constitutional Committee. The Constitutional Committee will then render a ruling in the form of a recommendation to the Executive Council. The Executive Council may then use the Constitutional Committee's recommendation in their final ruling.)

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

Section 8: QUORUM. A quorum for the annual meeting shall be 20% of the membership. A quorum

for a meeting of the Executive Council shall be a majority of its members. A quorum for a special meeting shall be 30% of the membership. A quorum for a mail vote shall be 40% of the membership.

Section 9: RULES OF PROCEDURE. The annual business meetings of the organization shall be governed in their procedure by *Robert's Rules of Order* (revised).

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

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

Section 12: REMOVAL FROM OFFICE.

A. **Grounds for Removal:** The Texas Forensic Association shall have the power to remove any of its officers as provided in this section. The valid grounds for such removal shall include 1) continued gross or willful neglect or the duties of the office 2) failure or refusal to disclose necessary information on matters of organization business 3) unauthorized expenditures or misuse of organizations funds 4) conviction of a felony.

B. **Removal Procedures:** The following procedures shall be followed in all proceedings leading to the possible expulsion of an officer and shall not exceed a 60-day time limit from the time of the resolution.

1. A resolution by the Executive Council to consider the removal of an officer can be introduced by any member of the Executive Council. The resolution must be accompanied by corroborating evidence and/or support of the resolution.

2. The accused and the accuser shall recuse themselves from voting in any of the proceedings.

3. If said resolution to consider the removal of an officer should pass the Executive Council by a simple majority, adequate defense shall be made by the officer, by telephone, by mail, or in person, to all those who shall vote on the question of his removal. No vote shall be taken to remove that officer until s/he has finished presenting his/her defense. The procedure for removing an officer must provide adequate notice to the accused officer, a fair hearing and the right to counsel.

4. After the officer in question has finished his 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 removal. If a two-thirds vote of the Executive Council is reached, the officer will be required to step down immediately. If it is an office that has control over funds of the Texas Forensic Association, they will be obligated to cede control over said funds in a timely manner as determined by the Executive Council.

5. An appeal may be brought forth before the membership by the officer in question. A vote requiring a two-thirds majority of the membership will be required to

reinstate the removed officer. The vote of the body will be conducted as soon as feasible (within the 60-day period outlined above). The vote may be electronic or by US mail.

Code of Professional Standards

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

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

1. Each member and institution shall adhere to the rules and regulations governing the TFA, TFA-sanctioned competition, and such provisions that regulate conduct at an institution hosting TFA competition.
2. The speech sponsor and administrator of a school hosting a TFA-sanctioned competition may choose whom to invite to the competition on their campus.
3. Violations of any TFA rule or regulation shall be the responsibility of both the student-participant, and of the adult member of TFA who serves as the student's sponsor.
4. During the TFA qualifying tournament competition, the enforcement of tournament and TFA rules shall be the specific responsibility of the tournament host. At the State Tournament such responsibility shall reside with the Executive Council. Any violation of a state rule or regulation of the TFA, TFA-sanctioned competition, or such provisions that regulate conduct at an institution hosting TFA competition may result in the disqualification by the host of the offending participant, school, or sponsor from that competition.
5. Any decision rendered by a tournament host that violates the TFA constitution, including but not limited to, rule violations, constitutional interpretations, and/or disqualifications of a participant, school, or sponsor, may be appealed to the Executive Council of the TFA. Responsibility for contacting and presenting the specifics of that appeal to the Executive Council rests with the appellant.
6. Hosts of TFA qualifying tournaments are responsible for meeting minimum TFA standards and offering at least four TFA events. Moreover, the speech sponsor or sponsors hosting a TFA-sanctioned competition are responsible for providing a competition that is fairly and competently administered and realistically scheduled. In the event of an official protest, the host is required to respond to protesting coaches/sponsors prior to subsequent rounds/awards. Upon receipt of proof of the failure of an Invitational Qualifying Tournament to adhere to these standards and meet acceptable administrative and scheduling guidelines, the TFA Executive Council shall be empowered to act on those appeals in a variety of ways, including but not limited to: rewarding/revocation of IQT qualifying points, contacting relevant school administrators, and revoking the ability of the host to host an IQT for at least one year.
7. All sponsors chaperoning students participating in a TFA-sanctioned competition are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner. Such conduct would include, but not be limited to, the following: paying entry fees at time of registration or demonstrating proof of intent to pay in the form of a purchase order or personal check. All outstanding fees are to be settled or received no later than sixty (60) days from the date of the tournament; (b) any additional judging, drop fees, or refunds must be paid or settled no later than thirty (30) days from the date of the tournament; (c) being present or having a principal-approved designee present so long as students from the sponsor's school are at the tournament site; and

(d) refraining from berating or intimidating judges, other coaches, and students.

8. Any member of the TFA may offer a formal complaint against violations of professional standards by a fellow member of the TFA. Such complaints must be signed by at least two other members of TFA who have witnessed the violations of professional standards detailed in the complaint. [In terms of payment of fees, the tournament sponsor, the principal, and the superintendent may sign the complaint.] Such complaints will be forwarded to the Executive Council of the TFA. If deemed a violation of professional standards, and necessary for an objective decision, the Executive Council shall refer the complaint to the Professional Relations Committee. The PRC will investigate the complaint, hear rebuttal by the accused member, and render an opinion on each complaint. The Executive Council may (a) dismiss the complaint; (b) dismiss the complaint and censure those making the complaint; (c) censure the offending member or institution; (d) remove membership from the offending member or institution; and/or I deny the school the right to participate in the current year's TFA State Tournament. Censure shall be a written reprimand addressed to the offending member or institution. Removal of membership shall be immediate, and suspension shall be for at least one school year. If the complaint involves a member of the executive council they may be removed from office.
9. All Executive Council members shall be promptly notified of any professional standards hearing. All professional standards hearings shall be by the full Executive Council. Any penalties shall be by a two-thirds vote of the voting members of the Executive Council.
10. 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. Under no circumstances should the Executive Council agree in advance to vote unanimously prior to discussion of issues that are contested.
11. Coaches/sponsors shall refrain from efforts to manipulate the outcome of competition. Encouraging students to not perform well, to not show up, or to "forget", in an effort to help other students gain a qualification would be considered manipulation. Coaches conspiring to determine placement or judging their own students in an effort to determine placing shall not be allowed unless only one school is represented in the elimination round.

TFA in Review (1972-2014)

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

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

In 1976-1977, Student Congress was added to the events of the TFA State Tournament. Participation in the event increased rapidly, and it was expanded to include a semifinal and final house at the State Tournament. Because of the increase in Invitational Qualifying Tournament, the method of approval for tournaments was changed. In addition, Regional TFA Tournaments were discontinued. Membership in TFA was originally tied to membership in AFA. At the 1978 convention, the membership unanimously voted to require membership in TSCA of all TFA members. The intent of this move was to cement relationships between TFA and TSCA and to emphasize the professional nature of TFA. The TFA began publication of the State Judging Philosophy Booklet. In 1978, TFA sent Virginia Meyers as a delegate to the NUCEA topic selection conference. TFA also assumed full partnership with TSCA in promoting speech curriculum concerns in the state.

In 1979, Lincoln Douglas Debate was added as a national qualifying event. A major constitutional revision was initiated, and in 1981, an AD Hoc Committee for TFA Scholarships was formed. In 1982, TFA voted to make the NUCEA Committee on Topic Selection a standing committee with the charge to prepare research studies each year for the topic selection process. A Lincoln-Douglas Topic Selection Committee was formed and charged with formulating L-D topics each year for use in TFA qualifying and State tournaments.

Many of the goals of the charter members of TFA were realized in its first ten years of existence. The focus of the association moved from that of providing a national qualifying tournament to that of becoming a force in the broad range of professional concerns: competitive, curricular, and professional.

1985-1986 provided new challenges for all student organizations with the passage of House Bill 72. Again, TFA weathered the storm of the new regulations by adapting the invitational tournament schedules and shifting the State Tournament from a three-day format to a two-day schedule. 1987-1988 saw the TFA taking a leadership

position in establishing the importance of forensics in Texas under state guidelines. As a result, speech was accepted as a fine art credit qualifying it for the advanced seal requirement set by the State of Texas. Domestic and Foreign Extemporaneous Speaking replaced the Men's and Women's divisions.

In 1988-1989, the State Tournament grew as Supplemental Events were added on a trial basis, and in 1989-1990, they became a permanent addition to the tournament schedule. On a national level, the debate topic drafted by the TFA representative to the NUCEA topic selection conference was adopted as the official national topic for 1989-1990. A constitutional revision in 1988-1989 established a committee to select Emeritus Life Members to be honored for significant contributions to the association. The first members of this select group were honored at the 1989 convention. Charter members named were Jean Boles, Ed Brower, Opal Hall, and Dell McComb. At the 1989 convention, the membership voted to no longer require members to join the AFA.

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

In 1997, the qualification procedure was changed to a point system in an effort to limit the size of entries. The points began at six, and then moved to eight. As participation in Student Congress continued to increase, a Semifinal Congress was added to the State Tournament.

The membership of the organization has grown steadily each year with more than 420 professional members in the 1997-1998 Silver Anniversary year. The Association continues to set high standards and strive to meet new goals for the benefit of Texas teachers and students. The model of the Texas Forensic Association has been recommended for other states where similar needs are felt.

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

Emeritus Life Members

Elected 1989

Jean Boles
Ed Brower
Opal Hall
Dell McComb

Elected 1990

Vernon McGuire

Elected 1994

Bill English
Maridell Fryar
Lee Polk

Elected 1995

Carl Adkins
Jackie Jarrett
Lanny Naegelin

Elected 1997

Linda Donnell
Judy Dorsett
Virginia Myers
Guy Paul Yates

Elected 1998

Ron Dodson
Sandy Lucaa
B.J. Naegelin
Mildred Peveto
Emerson Turner

Elected 1999

Anne Rains Hayden
Jim Long
Carla McGee
David Reins

Elected 2000

Ed Thompson
Horace Griffin
Debbie Dehlinger
Judy Carter
Paula Moeller Fisher

Elected 2001

Miff Mendoza

Elected 2003

Rita Harlan

Elected in 2006

Elizabeth White
David Johnson
Ira Evers
Tanya Evers
John O'Neill

Elected in 2007

Sandy Schneider
Cheryl Ryne
Dr. Kerry Moore

Elected in 2008

Roberta Grenfell
Bruce Garner
Barbara Garner
Sandra Greene

Elected in 2009

Connie Aufdembrink

Elected in 2010

Elected in 2011

Elected in 2012

Elected in 2013

Mary Green

Elected in 2014

Larry Balfe
Carolyn DeLaCoeur
George Grice
Charlotte English Joyner
Margo Kendrick
Johnny Mitchell
Paul Newman
Alan Shumate

Hall of Fame

Elected 2006

Randy Ellis
Cindi Timmons
David Baker
J.E. Masters

Elected 2007

Kandi King
Bill Schuetz

Elected 2008

Joe Trevino
Charlotte Brown
Ann Shofner

Elected 2009

Aaron Timmons
Dave Huston
Gary Boeger
Barbara McCain
Shawn Mena
Karen Wilbanks

Elected 2010

Elected 2011

Elected 2012

Robert Shepard
Kim Falco
Billye Lucas
Cheryl Potts

Elected 2013

Lee Ann Ince
Michael Merritt
Jane Boyd
Sammy Green

Elected 2014

Diane Forbes
Brent Hinkle
Eloise Blair
Dr. Rich Edwards

TFA Leadership

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1984-85: Margo Kendrick, President; Horace Griffin, Vice President; Debie Brantley, Secretary; Ron Dodson, Treasurer; Kandi King, IQT Coordinator; Bob Fennell, Sandy Lusas, Larry Balfe, Regional Representatives. State

Tournament – Roosevelt High School, San Antonio.

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

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

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

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

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

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

1991-92: Anne Raines, President; Randy Ellis, Vice President; Lois Davis, Secretary; Kandi King, Treasurer; Betsy Geery, IQT Coordinator; Roberta Grenfell, Archivist; Joe Willis, Debbie Ladis, Gay Hollis, Pam Hummel, Regional Representatives. State Tournament – Hanks High School, El Paso.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2012-2013: Heath Martin, President; Joseph Uhler, Vice President; Scott Baker, Secretary; Jason Warren, Treasurer; Grant Hahn, IQT Coordinator; Robert Shepard, Archivist; Mellessa Denny, Wendi Brandenburg, Kirsten Nash, Debbie Waddell, Yolanda Silva, Regional Representatives. State Tournament – Grand Prairie High School, South Grand Prairie.

2013-2014: Joseph Uhler, President; Kirsten Nash, Vice President; Scott Baker, Secretary; Jason Warren, Treasurer, Grant Hahn, IQT Coordinator; Robert Shepard, Archivist; Mellessa Denny, Wendi Brandenburg, John Mast, Debbie Waddell, Yolanda Silva, Regional Representatives. State Tournament – Cypress Creek High School, Cypress Fairbanks.

2014-2015: Kirsten Nash, President; Gay Hollis, Vice President; Scott Baker, Secretary; Jason Warren, Treasurer, Grant Hahn, IQT Coordinator; Robert Shepard, Archivist; Mellessa Denny, Wendi Brandenburg, John Mast, Debbie Waddell, Yolanda Silva, Regional Representatives. State Tournament – Franklin High School, El Paso.

TFA State Champions

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

Humorous Interpretation

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

Dramatic Interpretation

1974-77	No information available	
1978	Greg Baldwin	Spring HS, Spring
1979	Thomas Bruner	Jefferson HS, San Antonio
1980	Dee Dee Green	Newman Smith HS, Carrollton

1981	Janay Ferguson	Highland Park HS, Dallas
1982		
1983	Natalie Staley	Newman Smith HS, Carrollton
1984		
1985	Brian Hoffman	Newman Smith HS, Carrollton
1986	Lyra Barrera	Gregory-Portland HS, Portland
1987	Kent Lanier	Klein HS, Klein
1988	Sarah Fisch	Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio
1989	Bruce Smith	Duncanville HS, Duncanville
1990	Jennifer Mueller	Plano Senior HS, Plano
1991	Christy Vannoy	Newman Smith HS, Carrollton
1992	Jenny Hall	Westlake HS, Austin
1993	Jeni Seaman	Klein HS, Klein
1994	David Hornsby	The Kinkaid School, Houston
1995	Sue Cerreta	Klein HS, Klein
1996	Jared Coseglia	Newman Smith HS, Carrollton
1997	Nathan Frailing	South HS, Harlingen
1998	Angela Grovey	Elkins HS, Elkins
1999	Blake Walker	Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio
2000	Stephanie Cerreta	Klein HS, Klein
2001	Chris Grant	Denton Senior HS, Denton
2002	Meg Fee	The Kinkaid School, Houston
2003	Ashley Gay	Creekview HS, Carrollton
2004	Bianca Anderson	Duncanville HS, Duncanville
2005	D'Angelo Lacy	Creekview HS, Carrollton
2006	Ace Heckathorn	Plano Senior HS, Plano
2007	Alex Hardaway	James Martin HS, Arlington
2008	Lawryn LaCroix	Creekview HS, Carrollton
2009	Lawryn LaCroix	Creekview HS, Carrollton
2010	Jake McCready	Coppell HS, Coppell
2011	Keegan Latham	Plano Senior HS, Plano
2012	Robert Jackson	Alief-Hastings HS, Alief
2013	Aldean Pearson II	Mansfield HS, Mansfield
2014	Abigail Onwunali	Alief-Hastings HS, Alief

Extemporaneous Speaking (Men's and Women's)

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

Foreign Extemporaneous Speaking

1988	Michael Tomz	Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio
1989	Suzie Sprague	Plano Senior HS, Plano
1990	Christina Rodriguez	Robert E. Lee HS, San Antonio
1991	Alison Tedor	Robert E. Lee HS, San Antonio
1992	Michelle Ganow	Humble HS, Humble
1993	Robby Root	MacArthur HS, San Antonio
1994	Wade Coriel	Cypress Creek HS, Houston
1995	Jason Earle	MacArthur HS, San Antonio
1996	Caleb McDaniel	Clark HS, San Antonio
1997	Anjan Choudhury	Taylor HS, Katy
1998	Rajit Marwah	Alief-Hastings HS, Alief
1999	Sean Yom	Kingwood HS, Kingwood
2000	Bryan Gray	Lewisville HS, Lewisville
2001	Emily Scheer	Calallen HS, Calallen
2002	Lily Wang	Plano East Senior HS, Plano
2003	Jeff Geels	Carroll HS, Southlake
2004	Jeff Geels	Carroll HS, Southlake
2005	Jeff Geels	Carroll HS, Southlake
2006	Christine Halbert	Carroll HS, Southlake
2007	Samin Agha	Alief Taylor High School, Houston
2008	Dillon Huff	Carroll Senior HS, Southlake
2009	Kate Mozynski	Coppell High School, Coppell
2010	Dillon Huff	Carroll Senior HS, Southlake
2011	Lavanya Sunder	Lamar HS, Houston
2012	Arvind Venkataraman	Carroll Senior HS, Southlake
2013	Cyrus Ghaznavi	Parish Episcopal School, Addison
2014	Abhinav Sridharan	Plano Senior HS, Plano

Domestic Extemporaneous Speaking

1988	Steve Hill	Plano Senior HS, Plano
1989	Heath Dixon	Plano East Senior HS, Plano
1990	Stefanie Rosenthal	Robert E. Lee HS, San Antonio
1991	Christina Rodriguez	Robert E. Lee HS, San Antonio
1992	Matthew Whitley	Central HS, San Angelo
1993	K.C. Allen	Uvalde HS, Uvalde
1994	Lisa Tsai	Jersey Village HS, Houston
1995	Win Hayes	Klein HS, Klein
1996	Jim Hawkins	Dulles HS, Sugarland
1997	Ryan Cunningham	Robert E. Lee HS, San Antonio
1998	Justine Fisher	Robert E. Lee HS, San Antonio
1999	Jason Warren	Plano Senior HS, Plano
2000	Amanda Knight	Friendswood HS, Friendswood
2001	Amanda Knight	Friendswood HS, Friendswood
2002	Amanda Knight	Friendswood HS, Friendswood
2003	Weston Elkins	Lamar Consolidated, Lamar
2004	Weston Elkins	Lamar Consolidated, Lamar
2005	Joanna Smolenski	Plano West Senior HS, Plano
2006	Mark Alan Isaacson	Bay City High School, Bay City
2007	Tex Dawson	Plano West Senior HS, Plano
2008	Nick Cugini	Cypress Ridge HS, Houston
2009	Nick Cugini	Cypress Ridge HS, Houston

2010	Claire Daviss	Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio
2011	Shikha Garg	Plano Senior HS, Plano
2012	Zachary Stone	Plano West Senior HS, Plano
2013	Drew Huegel	Lamar Consolidated HS, Rosenberg
2014	Ash Malhotra	Plano Senior HS, Plano

Original Oratory

1974	Neal Amsden	Bellaire HS, Houston
1975-78	No Data	
1979	Henry Samelson	Jefferson HS, San Antonio
1980		
1981		
1982	Mike Chocon	Amarillo HS, Amarillo
1983	Bill Thompson	Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio
1984		
1985		
1986	Emily Stouffer	Newman Smith HS, Carrollton
1987	Debra Rodriguez	Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio
1988	Valerie Funkhouser	Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio
1989	Troy Wolverton	Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio
1990	David Greenstone	R.L. Turner HS, Carrollton
1991	Lauren Hodges	Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio
1992	Ryan Breidenbach	Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio
1993	Trevor Wood	Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio
1994	Allison Webster	The Kincaid School, Houston
1995	Matt Pierce	McCullough HS, Conroe
1996	Maya Buryakovsky	The Kincaid School, Houston
1997	Ashley Lucas	Bowie HS, El Paso
1998	Danny Lutman	Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio
1999	Ryan Short	Plano Senior HS, Plano
2000	Joe Williams	Cypress Falls HS, Houston
2001	Michael Woywood	South HS, Harlingen
2002	Melissa Messer	Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio
2003	Melissa Messer	Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio
2004	Kari Wohlschlegel	Kingwood High School
2005	Danny Carissimi	Carroll HS, Southlake
2006	Nicole Kreisberg	Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio
2007	Eddie Gamboa	Bel Air HS, El Paso
2008	Mario Nguyen	Plano Senior HS, Plano
2009	Morgan Booksh	McNeil HS, Round Rock
2010	Matthew King	Creekview HS, Carrollton
2011	Michael McBride	Plano Senior HS, Plano
2012	Paige LaNasa	Centennial HS, Frisco
2013	Billy Tate	Plano Senior HS, Plano
2014	Sana Moti	Grapevine HS, Grapevine

Duet Acting

1979	Ponce & Lopez	Jefferson HS, San Antonio
1980	Dee Dee Green & Kyndal May	Newman Smith HS, Carrollton
1981	Traci Milburn & Tiffany Tweldle	Newman Smith HS, Carrollton
1982	Daniel Escobar & John Matthews	McAllen HS, McAllen
1983	John Smith & Ivette Solar	Robert E. Lee HS, San Antonio
1984	Troy Wharton & Desi Doyen	Newman Smith HS, Carrollton

1985		
1986	Jernard Burks & Billy Griffin	Eisenhower HS, Houston
1987	Curtis Bay & Laurie Norton	Klein HS, Klein
1988	Wayne Rowe & Erin Ryan	Clear Lake HS, Clear Lake
1989	Kent Kubena & Marshall York	Clear Lake HS, Clear Lake
1990	Jennifer Kinard & Kent Kubena	Clear Lake HS, Clear Lake
1991	Gret McFadden & Michelle Courtney	Klein HS, Klein
1992	Brad Miles & Haley Akridge	Dumas HS, Dumas
1993	Phillip Gonzales & Adam McCormick	Klein HS, Klein
1994	David Hornsby & Brooke Herzstein	The Kincaid School, Houston
1995	Shauna Kinney & Hillary Smith	Plano Senior HS, Plano
1996	Jared Coseglia & Adron Ming	Newman Smith HS, Carrollton
1997	Andrew Fenack & Chris Cardenas	Madison HS, San Antonio
1998	Hunter Wood & Eric Steele	Highland Park HS, Dallas
1999	Hunter Wood & Eric Steele	Highland Park HS, Dallas
2000	Steven Leyva & William Cunningham	Booker T. Washington HS, Houston
2001	Chris Grant & Amy Windle	Denton Senior HS, Denton
2002	Coit Scharringhausen & Jennifer Lovell	Creekview HS, Carrollton
2003	Maggie Hope & Dylan Vandam	Westlake HS, Austin
2004	Patrick Morgan & Mike Pivowar	Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio
2005	Bridget Skaggs & Andrew Ryder	Carroll HS, Southlake
2006	Cortney Macneil & Natalie Baker	Harlingen South HS, Harlingen
2007	Lindsley Howard & Darry Hearon	Elkins HS, Missouri City
2008	Sarah Lavere & Forrest Weber	Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio
2009	Andrew Asper & Jennifer Tate	Ronald Reagan HS, San Antonio
2010	Nico Bonacci & Paige Kerr	St. Mary's Hall, San Antonio
2011	Lauren Rutherford & Travis Tope	Plano Senior HS, Plano
2012	Deshawn Weston & Anissa Torres	Grand Prairie HS, Grand Prairie
2013	Dakota Ratliff & Cody Vann	Ryan HS, Denton
2014	Andrew Hansen & Drake Lawson	Guyer HS, Denton

Duo Interpretation

2007	Jonathan Foster & Kelsi Tyler	Klein HS, Klein
2008	Sarah Lavere & Forrest Weber	Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio
2009	Patrick McDonald & Kathrine Daugherty	Mansfield HS, Mansfield
2010	Sarah Baston & Landry Ayres	Grapevine HS, Grapevine
2011	Julian Flores & Juan Martinez	Grand Prairie HS, Grand Prairie
2012	Devin Hunt & Beaven Waller	Mansfield HS, Mansfield
2013	Chris Jefferson & Keith Machekanyanga	South Grand Prairie HS, Grand Prairie
2014	Seis Steves & Emma Barnett	St. Mary's Hall, San Antonio

Impromptu

1990	Rajan Shah	Plano Senior HS, Plano
1991	Michael Day	Lamar HS, Arlington
1992	Michael Day	Lamar HS, Arlington
1993	Justin Deabler	Kingwood HS, Kingwood
1994	Katie Perkins	Cooper HS, Abilene
1995	Tejal Shah	Grapevine HS, Grapevine
1996	Hana Sharif	Cypress Creek HS, Houston
1997	Vairavan Subramanian	Alief-Elsik HS, Alief
1998	Steve Peterson	Kingwood HS, Kingwood
1999	Keith Leventhal	Robert E. Lee HS, Midland
2000	Megan Hall	South HS, Harlingen

2001	Ryan Lovell	Tascosa HS, Amarillo
2002	Katie Whidden	Abilene HS, Abilene
2003	Zach Summers	Monsignor Kelly High School, Beaumont
2004	Drew Pfanmiller	Frenship High School, Frenship
2005	Ben Briscoe	Pampa High School, Pampa
2006	Marin Mueller	Plano West Senior HS, Plano
2007	Nicholas Brown	Hightower High School, Missouri City
2008	Ryan Aguirre	Gregory-Portland HS, Portland
2009	Sachin Shah	Plano Senior High School, Plano
2010	Avis Rodriguez	Cypress Woods HS, Houston
2011	Nick Brown	Bishop HS, Bishop
2012	Alex Pustelnyk	Lake Travis HS, Austin
2013	John William VanDerSchans	Centennial HS, Frisco
2014	Sagar Segal	Summit International Prep., Arlington

Prose/Poetry

1990	Joe Walters (Prose)	Gregory-Portland HS, Portland
1991	Sophie Snodgres (Prose)	R.L. Turner HS, Carrollton
1992	Stacie Slaughter (Prose)	Amarillo HS, Amarillo
1993	Erin Greene (Poetry)	Sanford-Fitch HS,
1994	Robin Benson (Prose)	Duncanville HS, Duncanville
1995	Coung Nguyen (Poetry)	Central HS, San Angelo
1996	Kala Sanchez (Prose)	McNeil HS, Round Rock
1997	Kristin Kerbow (Poetry)	Central HS, San Angelo
1998	Andrea Gatelum (Prose)	Westlake HS, Austin
1999	Jennifer Frank (Poetry)	Gregory-Portland HS, Portland
2000	Trent Meyer (Prose)	Carroll HS, Southlake
2001	Katy Johnson (Poetry)	South HS, Harlingen
2002	Wayetu Moore (Prose)	Spring HS, Spring
2003	Nathan Barrientes (Poetry)	Bishop HS, Bishop
2004	Nathan Barrientes (POI)	Bishop HS, Bishop
2005	Alex Bergfors (Poetry)	Gregory Portland High School, Portland
2006	Grant Neal (Prose)	Bay City High School, Bay City
2007	Caitlin Taylor (Poetry)	Colleyville Heritage High School, Colleyville
2008	Sarah Mullinix (Prose)	Westlake HS, Austin
2009	Doha Hussein (Poetry)	Hanks High School, El Paso
2010	Tretitia Hobbs (Prose)	Hightower HS, Missouri City
	Casey Powers (Poetry)	Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio
2011	Elliot Garza (Prose)	Garland HS, Garland
	Deborah Corpening (Poetry)	St. Michael's Academy, Austin
2012	Katherine McDoniel (Prose)	Westlake HS, Austin
	Matthew Stone (Poetry)	Royse City HS, Royse City
2013	Cody Eilrich (Prose)	South Grand Prairie HS, Grand Prairie
	Mahalia Tutuwaa Agyepong (Poetry)	Hightower HS, Sugar Land
2014	Carly Suhr (Prose)	Centennial HS, Frisco
	Alonna Ray (Poetry)	Centennial HS, Frisco

Public Forum Debate

2009	Shreya Balhara & Hamsika Chandrasekar	Clements High School, Sugarland
2010	Shikha Garg & Akshay Narayanan (co-champ.)	Plano Senior HS, Plano
	Kushal Gulati & Shahid Ahmed (co-champ.)	
2011	Patrick Beckwith & Shyam Prasad	Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio
2012	Eric Diep & Brandon Daniels	Kempner HS, Sugar Land
2013	Cyrus Ghaznavi & Sahil Vanjani	Parish Episcopal School, Addison

Lincoln-Douglas Debate

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

Policy Debate

1974	Harold Dubinski & Kenneth Marks	Bellaire HS, Houston
1975	Brian Becker & Chris Hearn	Bellaire HS, Houston
1976	Tom Nichols & Charles Pyke	R.L. Turner HS, Carrollton
1977	Kathy Armstrong & Mark Moran	Notre Dame High School, Wichita Falls
1978	Chris Fairman & James Starr	Lanier High School, Austin
1979	Greg Ackels & Jeff Tillotson	Jesuit Preparatory School, Dallas
1980	Brian Pennington & Craig Couch	Burleson HS, Burleson
1981	Cliff Cary & Scott Edwards	Richfield HS, Waco
1982	Sam Paulos & Jeremy Ofseyer	St. Mark's School of Texas, Dallas
1983	David Oelman & Phillip Stevenson	The Kinkaid School, Houston
1984	Rui de Figueiredo & Mike Weiss	Bellaire HS, Houston
1985	Diane Martin & Melissa Miller	Coronado HS, Lubbock
1986	David Coale & Troy Ficklin	Allen HS, Allen

1987	Jay Hudkins & Mike Tomz	Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio
1988	Jeff Blum & Matt Drake	Robert E. Lee HS, San Antonio
1989	Jon Brody & Justin Shrader	The Kinkaid School, Houston
1990	Craig Ackerman & Drew Ungerman	St. Mark's School of Texas, Dallas
1991	Stapp Beeton & Brett Larson-Hendricks	The Kinkaid School, Houston
1992	Brandon Fletcher & Dan Kern	Newman Smith HS, Carrollton
1993	Brandon Fletcher & Emily Paramore	Newman Smith HS, Carrollton
1994	Doug Moore & Andy Szygenda (co-champ)	Greenhill School, Addison
	Jeremy Goldberg & Marci Norton (co-champ)	Greenhill School, Addison
1995	Jeremy Goldberg & Walter Luh	Greenhill School, Addison
1996	Lindsay Harrison & Dustin Marshall (co-Rashad Hussain & Josh Goldberg (champ.))	Greenhill School, Addison
1997	Arif Mawji & Orin Hoffman	The Kinkaid School, Houston
1998	Caitlin Talmadge & Andrew Bradt	Greenhill School, Addison
1999	Kate Eickmeyer & Caitlin Talmadge	Greenhill School, Addison
	Asher Haig & John Oden (co-champions)	
2000	Kiran Talluri & Michael Linford (co-champions)	Colleyville Heritage HS, Colleyville
	Ian Holmes & Thomas Keane (co-champions)	Jesuit Preparatory School, Dallas
2001	Racquel Bracken & Jordan Pietzsch	Greenhill School, Addison
2002	Sam Ackels & Anthony Jardina	Jesuit Preparatory School, Dallas
2003	Saad Hussain & Maggie Ahn	Greenhill School, Addison
	Aimi Hamraie & Justin Murray (co-champions)	Colleyville Heritage HS, Colleyville
2004	Brandi Villarreal & Sam Iola	Highland Park High School, Dallas
2005	Nick Miller & David Roosth	The Kinkaid School, Houston
2006	Stephen Polley & Mat Andrews	Greenhill School, Addison
2007	Bryant Huang & Matthew Andrews	Greenhill School, Addison
2008	Daniel Sharp & Ryan Beiermeister	The Kinkaid School, Houston
2009	David Mullins & John Baker	Westlake High School, Austin
2010	Carson Young & Sullivan McCormick (co-Joel Diamond & Ryan Gorman (champions))	Jesuit Preparatory School, Dallas
2011	Ryan Gorman & Sullivan McCormick	Jesuit Preparatory School, Dallas
2012	Zach Rosenthal & Ben Mitchell	The Kinkaid School, Houston
2013	Holmes Hampton & Tyler Shearer	Highland Park HS, Dallas
2014	Emma Pabst & Quaram Robinson	Cedar Ridge HS, Round Rock

Debate Speaker Awards

1989	Morton Barnett (CX)	St. Mark's School of Texas, Dallas
	Craig Fisher (LD)	Plano Senior HS, Plano
1990	Steven Sklaver (CX)	St. Mark's School of Texas, Dallas
	Tim Martin (LD)	Plano Senior HS, Plano
1991	John Paul Lunn (CX)	Memorial HS, Houston
	John Stearns (LD)	Miller HS, Corpus Christi
1992	Brandon Fletcher (CX)	Newman Smith HS, Carrollton
	Cody Morrow (LD)	Bridgeport HS, Bridgeport
1993	Collin Cox (CX)	Midway HS, Waco
	Meredith Armstrong (LD)	The Hockaday School, Dallas
1994	Miguel Duran (CX)	Carroll HS, Corpus Christi
	Denise Killian (LD)	Lewisville HS, Lewisville
1995	Julio Gonzales (CX)	Nikke Rowe HS, McAllen
	Autumn Smith (LD)	Midway HS, Waco
1996	Joel DeLaGarza (CX)	Nikke Rowe HS, McAllen
	Ryan Cunningham (LD)	Robert E. Lee HS, San Antonio
1997	Rashad Hussein (CX)	Greenhill School, Dallas
	Liz Durham (LD)	Klein Oak HS, Klein
1998	Caitlin Talmadge (CX)	Greenhill School, Dallas
	Steven Wilbur (LD)	Hays HS, Hays

1999	Jessie Stuckey (CX) Niraj Mehiratta (LD)	Sugarland HS, Sugarland Dulles HS, Dulles
2000	Asher Haig (CX) Amy Moffett (LD)	Greenhill School, Addison The Colony HS, The Colony
2001	Eddie Ahn (CX) Eric Wolfish (LD)	Greenhill School, Addison Greenhill School, Addison
2002	Laura Leigh-Nix (CX) Frances Schendle (LD)	Crosby HS, Crosby The Hockaday School, Dallas
2003	Adam Wright (CX) Tyler Bexley (LD)	McNeil High School Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio
2004	Josh Lively (CX) Neil Conrad (LD)	McCollough HS, The Woodlands Texas Military Institute, San Antonio
2005	Sam Iola (CX) David Wolfish (LD)	Highland Park HS, Dallas Greenhill School, Addison
2006	Sydney Vanberg (CX) Jeremy Dudley (LD)	Mercedes HS, Mercedes Mayde Creek HS, Houston
2007	Daniel Jung (CX)	Memorial HS, Houston
2008	Daniel Jung (CX) Andrew Badachhape	Memorial HS, Houston Clements HS, Sugar Land
2009	Steven Murray (CX) Devin Race (LD) Cody Orr/Raven McGuane (PF)	Westwood HS, Round Rock Westlake HS, Austin Lamar Consolidated, Lamar
2010	Layne Kirshon (CX) Megha Motgi (LD) Kevin King/Alejandro Martinez (PF)	The Kinkaid School, Houston The Hockaday School, Dallas Creekview HS, Carrollton
2011	Emily Wang (CX) Josh Roberts (LD) Shikha Garg (PF)	LASA/LBJ, Austin Northland Christian, Houston Plano Senior HS, Plano
2012	Zach Rosenthal (CX) Andrew McCormick (LD) Priyanka Rao (PF)	The Kinkaid School, Houston Strake Jesuit College Prep, Houston Plano West Senior HS, Plano
2013	Zach Rosenthal (CX) Jeremy Dang (LD) Kartik Sridhar (PF)	The Kinkaid School, Houston Strake Jesuit College Prep, Houston Plano Senior HS, Plano
2014	Quaram Robinson (CX) Shania Hunt (LD) Nazifa Mim (PF) Sana Moti (IE)	Cedar Ridge HS, Round Rock Northland Christian, Houston Cypress Falls HS, Cypress Grapevine HS, Grapevine

Congressional Debate

1979	Louis Bonham	Lamar Consolidated HS, Rosenberg
1982	Kerry Mooney	Coronado HS, Lubbock
1983	Steve Crawford	Westchester HS, Houston
1984-88	No DATA	
1989	Thomas Colyandro	Westfield HS, Houston
1990	Wendy Saltzman	Robert E. Lee HS, San Antonio
1991	Michael Lu	Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio
1992	Aaron Day	James Martin HS, Arlington
1993	Ashley Damron	Westlake HS, Austin
1994	Gene Bixler	Lewisville HS, Lewisville
1995	Chad Dunn	Klein Oak HS, Spring
1996	Tan-May Desai	Vines HS, Plano
1997	Liz Hong	James Martin HS, Arlington
1998	Jason South	Trinity HS, Euless
1999	Dan Forbes	Connally HS, Pflugerville
2000	Jared Tamez	Harlingen South HS, Harlingen

2001	Shahzeb Gaziani	Plano Senior HS, Plano
2002	David Wechsler	Langham Creek HS, Houston
2003	Isaiah Broussard	Cypress Falls HS, Houston
2004	Amber Ahmed (House) Priya Gupta (Senate)	Kingwood HS, Kingwood Shepton HS, Plano
2005	Jessica Ferguson (House) Will Chambers (Senate)	Sandra Day O'Connor HS, San Antonio Bellaire HS, Houston
2006	Jessica Ferguson (House) Holly Moore	Sandra Day O'Connor HS, San Antonio Carroll Senior HS, Southlake
2007	Samantha Shaw (House) Ian Jacoby (Senate)	Carroll Senior HS, Southlake Deer Park HS, Deer Park
2008	Kevin Eaton Mary Claire Parker	Duncanville HS, Duncanville Winston Churchill HS, San Antonio
2009	Louise Lu (House) Janus Pan (Senate)	Bellaire HS, Houston Johnson HS, Austin
2010	Sam Scott (House) Rebecca Kuang (Senate)	Plano Senior HS, Plano Flower Mound HS, Flower Mound
2011	David Engleman (House) Forrest Hebron (Senate)	Anderson HS, Austin Van HS, Van
2012	Esteban Rodriguez-Vazquez (House) Azhar Hussain (Senate)	La Vernia HS, San Antonio Carroll Senior HS, Southlake
2013	Diane Sun (House) Blake Seaman (Senate)	Clements HS, Sugar Land Allen HS, Allen
2014	Daniella Cohen (House) Sankalp Singh (Senate)	Carroll Senior HS, Southlake Plano Senior HS, Plano

Standing Rules: Competition Events Guide

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



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

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

Debate Overview

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

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

Evidence Rules

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

Required Documentation

1. **Oral Requirements:** Where a quotation is ascribed to a particular individual(s), the name of the author(s), a reference to the qualifications of the author(s) (e.g., professional title or level or expertise in the subject area), and the date of the publication are required. Where the quotation is ascribed to an institutional source, (e.g., studies by research organizations, reference books, journalistic sources) the name of publication and date are adequate. Should the same source of material be quoted more than once in a round of competition, subsequent uses may be presented with abbreviated citation.
2. **Written Requirements**
 - a. *Bibliographic Documentation:* All participants submitting evidence in competition shall possess and present upon demand such evidence in written form. This written form must display full bibliographic source citation, even if the full citation is not orally delivered. "Full citation" includes the following elements: Author's name, author's qualifications, complete source information, complete date, and page number. Evidence submitted from an internet source should include the URL site.
 - b. *Internal Ellipses:* Either no internal ellipses may be used in the written evidence form, or ellipses may be used in the written evidence form only if the original source or a copy of the original is present. The evidence may be read in the ellipsed form, but the entirety of the evidence must be available in one of the two ways cited. (Note: Ellipses are deletions after the first word of the quotation and before the final word.)
3. **Abrogation of Documentation Requirements:** Judges should be instructed that any evidence falling short of meeting these requirements should be afforded no legitimacy in supporting arguments.
4. **Reading of Evidence by the Judge:** Judges shall be strongly discouraged from examining evidence after round in the interest of expediting tournament operations and in the interest of maintaining the status of debate as an oral activity. Judges shall be instructed that evidence should not be reviewed if deficiency in the participants' delivery (e.g., excessive speed or unclear enunciation) caused the lack of comprehension involved. Examples of proper instances of post-competition review of evidence include question of legitimacy or authenticity of the evidence and instances in which lack of comprehension lies beyond the fault of the student (e.g., external noises or mental lapses on the fault of the judge). Judges shall be instructed that should they decide that a given situation justifies overcoming the strong presumption against reviewing evidence they should be certain both that only evidence actually read in the round is reviewed and that additional elements of the sources reviewed that were not orally presented (e.g., qualifications not delivered in the speech) should be disregarded.

Evidence Misrepresentation

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

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

Use of Computers During a Round

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

1. If the computer requires an insertable card in order to access a wireless connection, that card must be removed from the computer during the entirety of the round.
2. If the computer has built-in wireless capability, the wireless component must be inactivated during the entirety of the round.
3. If a judge or competitor observes a competitor in the round using a computer which has the wireless card inserted or the built-in component left active, the team which has possession of the computer shall automatically forfeit that round, with lowest ranks and zero speaker points being awarded for the round in question.
4. Electronic evidence must be as available to the opposition team/judge as paper evidence would have been. Teams will adapt to this new trend in a variety of ways but must keep in mind that the choice to read off of a computer cannot be an excuse to withhold evidence. If a team refuses to show evidence to an opposing team/judge in a timely manner (as determined by the judge), that evidence should not be considered in the judge's decision.

Policy Debate

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

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

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

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

Lincoln-Douglas Debate

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

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

2. **Order of Speeches:**

Affirmative Constructive Speech	6 minutes
Negative Cross Examination	3 minutes
Negative Constructive Speech	7 minutes
Affirmative Cross Examination	3 minutes
Affirmative Rebuttal	4 minutes
Negative Rebuttal	6 minutes
Affirmative Rebuttal	3 minutes
<i>Prep time</i>	<i>4 minutes per debater</i>

3. **Time:** No grace time is allowed beyond completion of a sentence. The judge may penalize for overtime through reduction in speaker points. Each debater shall be allowed a total of four minutes of preparation time per round.

4. **Conduct During the Round:** Only the specific speaker, witness or questioner should audibly participate in the cross-examination, constructive, or rebuttal phase of the round.

5. An entry consists of a single participant.

Public Forum Debate

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

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

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

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

Cross-Examination Guidelines

During cross-examination, the questioner shall control the use of time (except in Public Forum, where time shall be shared) and may interrupt the respondent, but may not comment on the answers or make any statement of his own views.

Congressional Debate

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

Congressional Debate 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.

A preliminary session is defined as including:

1. Minimum of 3 hours
2. 18-20 students as the optimum number for 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

Floor Debate

Following the first two speeches on legislation, the presiding officer will alternately recognize affirmative and negative speakers, who will address the chamber for up to 3 minutes, followed by 1 minute of questioning by other delegates. If no one wishes to oppose the preceding speaker, the presiding officer may recognize a speaker upholding the same side. When no one seeks the floor for debate, the presiding officer may ask the chamber if they are "ready for the question" at which point, if there is no objection, voting may commence on the legislation itself. There is no "minimum cycle." At the point at which 3 speeches are given unopposed the previous question will be immediately called.

1. In the event a student speaks on the wrong side called for by the presiding officer and the error is not caught, the speaker shall be scored and the speech shall count in precedence, but the speaker will receive no more than 3 points for not paying close attention to the flow of debate.
2. 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.
 - a. 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.
 - b. 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.
 - c. Members shall not yield any portion of his/her time for questioning.
 - d. Members may ask only one question per questioning period. No prefacing or multiple part questions are allowed. Members may ask only one question per questioning period. Speakers may request the rephrasing/repeating of a question, at the discretion of the parliamentarian. Members may ask additional questions if no members who haven't asked a question want to ask a question.
 - e. Members must speak only after being recognized by the presiding officer.

- f. Members may not suspend the rules in order to change rules stipulated in the TFA Constitution.
 - g. 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.
 - h. Two minutes of questioning shall follow the first pro and the first con speech, and all other speeches on legislation will be followed by 1 minute of questioning. At the State Tournament, the final round will include a direct questioning period, as described below. (Though not mandatory, Invitational Qualifying Tournaments are urged to use the direct questioning format in the final round.)
3. In the Final Round of Congressional debate, Speeches are four minutes, with two-minute questioning of speakers introducing legislation as well as the first negative, and one minute of questioning for subsequent speakers. Each questioner has 30 seconds within the one or two minutes to engage in direct questioning with the speaker. During direct questioning, all questioning periods are broken into 30-second segments, with one questioner per segment, who may ask multiple questions of the speaker during that segment. The Presiding Officer must track and select questionnaire based on recency the same way speakers are recognized. Recency for speaker should be tracked independently of questioners.
 4. Tournament directors must declare in their tournament invitations if direct questioning is being used.
 - a. 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.

Legislation

Legislation for Invitational Qualifying Tournaments in the regular season shall be available for all schools and participants on the website at www.txfa.org. 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.

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

Plagiarism and "extensive paraphrasing" are not allowed. While some legislative issues continue to merit legislative debate in Congressional Debate, the creation of legislation surrounding the issue should be the original work of the authoring school. Legislation from NSDA District contests, NSDA Nationals, and previously submitted TFA Congressional Debate legislation (not the work of the submitting school) are all reviewed when a challenge to originality is made. If at any point it is discovered that a school has submitted plagiarized work for the docket, the school will have the item of legislation on the docket removed. The school will also lose authorship of any other pieces of legislation they might have on the docket. The Congressional Committee will have the ability to add a new piece of legislation to the docket either by moving up an item that missed the cut or by pulling from other sources.

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

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.

Ballots and Forms

All Ballots and Forms for Congressional Debate will be available to all members on the TFA website.

Extemporaneous Speaking

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

1. There shall be two divisions: United States and International.
2. Topics are to be phrased in the form of a question.
3. Topics shall be from subjects discussed in standard periodicals of the current school year.
4. Thirty minutes before the contest is to begin, the first speaker shall draw three topics, choose one, and return the others. The other contestants shall draw in like manner, in their speaking order, at seven-minute intervals. A contestant drawing a topic on which s/he has spoken previously in the tournament shall return that topic and draw again.
5. After the contestant has chosen a topic, s/he shall withdraw to the preparation area and plan his/her speech without conferring or exchanging information with anyone. No prepared notes or outlines will be allowed in the preparation room. Contestants may refer to files containing books, book excerpts, periodicals, online retrievals from mass media publications, and/or photocopies of any of the above. Information retrieved from internet websites must include the URL citation. Cutting and pasting of multiple articles into a single document is not permitted. Once a contestant has chosen a topic, s/he may neither change from nor alter that topic. No visual aids may be used in the delivery of the speech. Contestants must present their topic slip to the judge(s) prior to speaking. Violation shall result in being disqualified from the event.
6. A note card may be used in preliminary rounds of Individual Qualifying Tournaments but is *not* permitted in any elimination rounds of these tournaments. Violation shall result in being ranked last in the round in which the violation occurred. *Note:* A note card may not be used in any round of the State Tournament.
7. Time limit is seven 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.~~ **Overtime violators SHALL NOT be ranked first in the round by the judge. Any other penalty is at the discretion of the judge. Judges may consider audience reaction and its impact on official time before enforcing any overtime penalty.** [as amended 10/15]
8. At the State Tournament, the final round will include a cross-examination period, as described below. (Though not mandatory, Invitational Qualifying Tournaments are urged to use the cross-examination format in the final round.)
 - a. *Cross-Examination Procedure:* Each speaker shall be assigned a position in the speaking order. Drawing shall take place at 12-minute intervals. Thirty minutes after Speaker 1 has drawn, Speaker last shall enter the contest room. Speaker 1 shall give his/her speech and Speaker last shall take notes and/or listen. At the conclusion of Speaker 1's speech, Speaker last 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. Speaker last 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.

9. Students can compete and qualify in both United States and International Extemporaneous Speaking, but s/he must choose one for TFA State.

10. The use of laptop computers by the competitors may be used during draw to retrieve information saved onto a storage device with the following provisions:
 - a. If the computer requires an insertable card in order to access a wireless connection, that card must be removed from the computer during the entirety of the round.
 - b. If the computer has built-in wireless capability, the wireless component must be inactive during the entirety of the round.
 - c. If a tournament official or competitor observes a competitor in the round using a computer which has the wireless card inserted or the built-in component left active, the student who has possession of the computer shall automatically be disqualified from that event for that tournament.
 - d. Laptops and any storage devices being used must be made available for review upon request of the tournament official.
 - e. Articles must be saved with the URL intact on the saved document.
 - f. All laptops and storage devices must be in compliance with the rules governing acceptable prep room materials.
 - g. Laptop computers may be used only for information retrieval.
 - h. Violation of any of the above conditions for the use of laptop computers in the extemp draw may result in the disqualification of any student(s) utilizing the laptop.

Original Oratory

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

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

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

1. The contestant may not use an oration which s/he used in any TFA contest prior to the current school year. The same oration shall be used for the duration of the tournament. Violation of this rule shall result in disqualification from the tournament.
2. Any appropriate subject may be used, but the orator must be truthful. Any nonfactual reference, especially a personal one, must be so identified. Violation shall result in ranking down in the round in which the violation occurred.
3. Not more than 150 words of the oration may be direct quotation from any other speech or writing, and such quotations shall be identified in the written copy of the speech. Extensive paraphrasing of any source is prohibited. Violation shall result in disqualification from the tournament.
4. A written copy of the oration must be available to the tournament director upon request. Violation of this rule will result in disqualification.
5. Each year, specific documentation will be required by the Executive Council for entry into the State Tournament. During the online registration process, coaches will be required to provide the oratory title. The competitor's typed oration is required to be submitted during the registration process.
 - a. All quoted material must be underlined and/or printed in red. Quoted material may not exceed 150 words.
 - b. A cover sheet with title, student's name and signature, coach's name and signature and the school name must be completed. The cover sheet form can be found online at www.txfa.org
 - c. Oratories need to be available for the duration of the tournament.
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.~~ **There is no minimum time required. Overtime violators SHALL NOT be ranked first in the round by the judge. Any other penalty is at the discretion of the judge. Judges may consider audience reaction and its impact on official time before enforcing any overtime penalty.** [as amended 10/15]
7. The oration shall be memorized and presented without the use of notes, visual aids or costume. Violation

shall result being ranked last in the round.

Duet Acting

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

1. Students may qualify in both Duet Acting and Duo Interp, and may compete at the state level in both events, but in this case, they may not perform the same selection for both categories and they may only compete in one other event in which they are qualified.
2. Selections used in Duet Acting shall be cuttings from a single source from a published printed novel, short story, play, poem or screenplay. Coaches and/or students must provide the original source, including ISBN if one exists to the tournament director upon request. A photocopy is acceptable. Violation of this rule will result in disqualification.
3. Each year, specific documentation will be required by the Executive Council for entry into the State Tournament. During the online registration process, coaches will be required to provide the Duet title and ISBN number. The competitors' original script and copied script is required to be checked at registration and must be available during the State Tournament.
 - a. A flat copy of the text with page numbers and all lines being performed highlighted is required.
 - b. A copy of the bibliographic information page is required.
 - c. A cover sheet with title, author(s), ISBN number, date of publication, number of transitional phrases, student's name, coach's name and signature and the school name must be completed. The cover sheet form can be found online at www.txfa.org
 - d. The original script, highlighted needs to be available for the duration of the tournament.
4. The selections may be serious or humorous works.
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.~~ **Overtime violators SHALL NOT be ranked first in the round by the judge. Any other penalty is at the discretion of the judge. Judges may consider audience reaction and its impact on official time before enforcing any overtime penalty.** [as amended 10/15]
6. Each selection shall include an introduction which shall set the scene and mood and include the title and author of the work. Time for the introduction shall be included in the time limit. Violation shall result in an adverse effect on the team's ranking in the round.
7. The selection shall be memorized and presented without the use of physical objects (notes, props, hand props, or scenery) or costume. Two chairs will be allowed. The two chairs may be used to create atmosphere and environment. Violation shall result in being ranked last in the round.
8. No student may use the same selection at a tournament in more than one event, but may change events with the selection during a tournament season. No student can use the same selection in more than one tournament year. In addition, a student may not qualify for nor compete with the same selection at the state meet.

9. A student may compete with one partner from the same school and one selection at a given tournament.
10. Transitional phrases may be used in Duet Acting but must meet the following word requirements. Violation will result in disqualification.
 - a. No selection may use more than 100 total transitional words.
 - b. These words cannot be used to write new scenes to any piece of literature.
 - c. The 100 words cannot all be used in one particular location within the selection.
 - d. All transitional phrases must be written in the margin, by hand, on the copy of the piece of literature for checking in case of protest. At TFA State, this will be used to check that the number does not exceed the 100 word limit.
 - e. Introductions do not count as part of the transitional phrases.

Duo Interpretation

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

1. Students may qualify in both Duet Acting and Duo Interp, and may compete at the state level in both events, but in this case, they may not perform the same selection for both categories and they may only compete in one other event in which they are qualified.
2. Selections used in Duo shall be cuttings from a single source from a published printed novel, short story, play, poem or screenplay. Coaches and/or students must provide the original source, including ISBN if one exists to the tournament director upon request. A photocopy is acceptable. Violation of this rule will result in disqualification.
3. Each year, specific documentation will be required by the Executive Council for entry into the State Tournament. During the online registration process, coaches will be required to provide the Duo title and ISBN number. The competitors' original script and copied script is required to be checked at registration and must be available at the State Tournament.
 - a. A flat copy of the text with page numbers and all lines being performed highlighted is required.
 - b. A copy of the bibliographic information page is required.
 - c. A cover sheet with title, author(s), ISBN number, date of publication, number of transitional phrases, student's name, coach's name and signature and the school name must be completed. The cover sheet form can be found online at www.txfa.org
 - d. The original script, highlighted copy need to be available for the duration of the tournament.
4. The selections may be serious or humorous works.
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.~~ **Overtime violators SHALL NOT be ranked first in the round by the judge. Any other penalty is at the discretion of the judge. Judges may consider audience reaction and its impact on official time before enforcing any overtime penalty.** [as amended 10/15]
6. Each selection shall include an introduction which shall set the scene and mood and include the title and author of the work. Time for the introduction shall be included in the time limit. Violation shall result in an adverse effect on the team's ranking in the round.
7. The selection shall be memorized and presented without the use of physical objects (script, props, hand props, or scenery) or costume. Violation shall result in being ranked last in the round.
8. In Duo Interpretation focus may be direct during the introduction and the performers may look at each other, but must be indirect (off-stage) during the performance itself.
9. Each of the two performers may play one or more characters, as long as performance responsibility in the cutting remains as balanced as possible. If the selection is prose or poetry and contains narration, either or

both of the performers may present the narration.

10. No student may use the same selection at a tournament in more than one event, but may change events with the selection during a tournament season. No student can use the same selection in more than one tournament year. In addition, a student may not qualify for nor compete with the same selection at the state meet.
11. A student may compete with only one partner from the same school and one selection at a given tournament.
12. Transitional phrases may be used in Duo Interpretation but must meet the following word requirements. Violation will result in disqualification.
 - a. No selection may use more than 100 total transitional words.
 - b. These words cannot be used to write new scenes to any piece of literature.
 - c. The 100 words cannot all be used in one particular location within the selection.
 - d. All transitional phrases must be written in the margin, by hand, on the copy of the piece of literature for checking in case of protest. At TFA State, this will be used to check that the number does not exceed the 100 word limit.
 - e. Introductions do not count as part of the transitional phrases.

Dramatic Interpretation

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

1. Selections used in Dramatic shall be cuttings from a single source from published printed novels, short stories, plays, poems, or screenplays. Coaches and/or students must have the original source, including ISBN if one exists to the tournament director upon request. A photocopy is acceptable. Violation of this rule will result in disqualification.
2. Each year, specific documentation will be required by the Executive Council for entry into the State Tournament. During the online registration process, coaches will be required to provide the Dramatic title and ISBN number. The competitor's original script and copied script is required to be checked at registration and must be available at the State Tournament.
 - a. A flat copy of the text with page numbers and all lines being performed highlighted is required.
 - b. A copy of the bibliographic information page is required.
 - c. A cover sheet with title, author(s), ISBN number, date of publication, number of transitional phrases, student's name, coach's name and signature and the school name must be completed. The cover sheet form can be found online at www.txfa.org
 - d. The original script, highlighted copy need to be available for the duration of the tournament.
3. The selection shall be memorized and presented without the use of physical objects (script, props, hand props, or scenery) or costume. Students should avoid movement in the presentation that would distract from the literature itself. Violation shall result in being ranked last in the round.
4. No student may use the same selection at a tournament in more than one event, but may change events with the selection during a tournament season. No student can use the same selection in more than one tournament year. In addition, a student may not qualify for nor compete with the same selection at the state meet.
5. The contestant shall name the author and the title of the selection being presented during his/her performance. Violation shall result in being ranked down in the round.
6. 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.~~ **Overtime violators SHALL NOT be ranked first in the round by the judge. Any other penalty is at the discretion of the judge. Judges may consider audience reaction and its impact on official time before enforcing any overtime penalty.** [as amended 10/15]
7. Transitional phrases may be used in Dramatic Interpretation but must meet the following word requirements. Violation will result in disqualification.
 - a. No selection may use more than 100 total transitional words.

- b. These words cannot be used to write new scenes to any piece of literature.
- c. The 100 words cannot all be used in one particular location within the selection.
- d. All transitional phrases must be written in the margin, by hand, on the copy of the piece of literature for checking in case of protest. At TFA State, this will be used to check that the number does not exceed the 100 word limit.
- e. Introductions do not count as part of the transitional phrases.

Humorous Interpretation

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

Judge Conduct

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

Standing Rules: Invitational Qualifying Tournament Operations Manual

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



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

your Tournament Director, Region Representative and Executive Council are available to adjudicate disputes regarding these rules.

Hosting an Invitational Qualifying Tournament

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

1. Sponsor at least four TFA events: Policy Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Public Forum Debate, Duet Acting, Duo Interpretation, Dramatic Interpretation, Humorous Interpretation, United States Extemporaneous Speaking, International Extemporaneous Speaking, Original Oratory and Congressional Debate. Tournament directors must follow TFA rules in all aforementioned events.
2. The designated tournament director must have experience in directing/coordinating a competitive tournament of a similar nature to the TFA qualifiers. If a school wishes to host a tournament, but doesn't have an experienced director, it may apply under the aegis of a group of two or more experienced directors, who may be from other schools. Letters of acceptance of responsibility from each experienced director must accompany the application. Approval is pursuant to the Executive Council's contact with these sponsors. This also applies to approved tournaments where the director leaves the TFA host school during the year.
3. The tournament shall be held between the dates of the weekend following the 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.
4. TFA members will be notified by March 15 of the availability of the IQT application on the TFA Website. Members wishing to host a tournament will complete the online application form and submit the document. Tournament hosts will be expected to print a copy of the form and submit the tournament fee to the TFA Treasurer no later than May 1. The website administrator will forward copies of the form to the TFA President, TFA Treasurer, and the appropriate Region Representative. Tournament dates will be established by the Executive Council. Applications received after May 1 will be considered, but may not be accepted. No applications will be considered after August 15.
5. The tournament dates shall be assigned according to the following priorities:
 - a. Those schools having previously hosted a qualifying tournament and who are requesting the same weekend as the previous year.
 - b. Those schools having previously hosted a qualifying tournament and who are requesting a different weekend from the previous year.
 - c. Anyone requesting to hold a qualifying tournament who had not hosted one the previous year.
 - d. Any application received after May 1.
 - e. Those schools who requested a tournament date the previous year and subsequently cancelled their tournament or moved their tournament date.
 - f. The Executive Council reserves the right to revoke or alter precedence for tournaments who were protested and sanctioned in the previous competitive year.
 - g. If two or more schools choose to host a tournament together (co-host), the co-hosting pair has precedence based on the guidelines stated above. If they co-hosting schools choose to apply separately in subsequent years, they qualify for priority c above.
6. By the third week in May, the Secretary shall notify all TFA members of the posting on the TFA website of the tentative list of tournaments which will be TFA qualifiers for the next school year. The tournament list will be

reviewed, amended, and given final approval in August. Petitions for changing approved tournament dates must be submitted to the TFA Executive Council prior to August 15th 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 15th will be brought before the members of TFA attending the business meeting at the TSCA convention and must be approved by that body for those changes and additions to occur.

7. The Tournament Director for any IQT must be a regular member of the school's faculty.
8. The tournament must have a minimum of ten schools participating in order for it to be a qualifier.
9. The host school must be a current school year TFA member at the time its tournament is held.
10. A maximum of two tournaments per region can be scheduled on the same weekend, **with the exception of tournaments being 150+ miles apart within a region. When 150+ miles apart, from the closest hosting school, a region may host up to four tournaments per weekend. [ref. amendment 10/14]** 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 them 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.
11. If more than two tournaments within any one region apply for the same date, the Executive Council shall attempt to accommodate the alternate dates on the tournament applications. If an alternative date cannot be found, the TFA Treasurer shall accept only the first two applications and return the other application(s) along with the registration fee.

Qualifying Numbers

1. Qualification to the State Tournament will be based on a twelve (12) point system. When an individual or team accumulates twelve points, they will qualify for the State Tournament.
2. Invitational Qualifying Tournaments must have ten (10) participating schools in attendance in order to award any qualification points. Minimum numbers in each event to award qualification points are: Policy-10 teams, PFD-10 teams, LD-10 entries, Congressional Debate-10 entries; all IE's (including Duo and Duet)-10 entries/teams. The Executive Council may modify this section at the beginning of the tournament season in order to make it consistent with any changes to the point system if the need arises.
3. Qualification points will be awarded as outlined in the current year's Qualifying Point Schedule on www.txfa.org.
4. A tournament director must certify that the number of entries at the tournament do not include "phantom" entries. The number must include only those students who actually participate in at least one round of the scheduled event at the tournament, compete using their own names, and are listed with the appropriate school affiliation. Tournament directors who do not follow accepted practices will be considered to be in violation of the Professional Code of Conduct and applicable procedures will then apply.
5. It will be the responsibility of the school's TFA coach of record to keep track of students' points. They will

notify the IQT coordinator of students' qualifications which will then be checked with the finalists list from the tournament.

6. The Executive Council may modify this point schedule at the beginning of the tournament season if the need arises.

Requirements

1. Separate divisions for men and women shall not be offered in any TFA event.
2. The specified qualifying events shall follow the rules, including time limits, of those events as outlined in the TFA Standing Rules.
3. Tabulation and tie-breaking procedures shall follow those specified in the standing rules.
4. TFA/AFA ballots should be used as available.
5. The minimum number of rounds for TFA-sanctioned individual events and Duet Acting or Duo Interpretation is at least one preliminary round, followed by semifinals and finals. For tournaments with single preliminary rounds, at least two competitors must advance from each preliminary section to semifinals, and at all tournaments at least two competitors must advance from each semifinal section to finals in all TFA events. At tournaments in which there are ~~16~~ **24 [ref. amendment 10/14]** or fewer entries in an individual event or duet acting/duo interpretation, the tournament may have two or more preliminary rounds, followed by a finals round.
6. Entries from the same school must not be assigned to compete in the same section or pairing in TFA events unless there are more entries from that school than there are sections or pairings.
7. No more than eight contestants may be scheduled to appear in any section of individual events/duet/duo in TFA events.
8. The minimum number of preliminary rounds shall be three in Policy, Public Forum and Lincoln-Douglas Debate. The last preliminary round shall be power-matched. The minimum number of elimination rounds for all divisions shall be semifinals and finals. Additional rounds may be required based on event entries.
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 tournament. Additional assistance can be found online at <http://www.txfa.org/help/iqt-how-to-submit-results.htm>.
- 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 the recording be deleted after the Judge has rendered a decision and ethics charges were not raised during the debate. [ref. amendment 10/14]**
11. In advance of the tournament, all non-member schools must be provided with a copy of TFA regulations for all TFA events.
12. TFA regulations must be followed in all TFA events. Only matters of rule interpretation or clarification may be made by the tournament director. Under no circumstances may event rules or time limits be altered.
13. Judges of any and all TFA events shall have already graduated from high school.

14. Texas students participating at TFA tournaments must be affiliated with and a representative of the schools they are attending.
15. Fees collected for judging must be used for payment of judges and not as tournament profit.
16. Dissemination of Ballots: Following the tabulation of preliminary rounds, and all subsequent rounds, except for finals, the ballots shall be made available to the coaches. A reasonable time and place shall have been designated for verification of preliminary results. This verification period must allow reasonable time for coaches to be made aware that a challenge is taking place and must occur in a location that is easily accessible to the coach. Challenge/verification for all divisions of a category of events (ex. all debate) must occur at the same location. An open tab room may not be substituted for the formal challenge period. Following this verification period, except for finals, results are to be considered final and any errors should stand. Following the beginning of the rounds for each subsequent elimination round, the results for the previous rounds are considered final. No challenge of judges' decisions is allowed. Once the school has been eliminated from the tournament, no ballots should be withheld from that coach.
17. No rounds of any TFA event may begin after midnight on Friday or Saturday. Any tournament in violation of this policy may, at the discretion of the Executive Council, forfeit status as a TFA State Qualifying Tournament in the following year.
18. No school may participate in elimination rounds at their own tournament.
19. A tournament must disclose in their invitation whether panels will be used in quarterfinals and beyond of debate events and finals of Individual Events, Duet Acting and Duo Interpretation.
20. Tournament hosts shall make their sweepstakes formula available in their invitation information or information given to participating schools at the beginning of the tournament.
21. No Texas Forensic Association Invitational Qualifying Tournament may offer a separate division in which all pre-qualified students must/are encouraged to compete.
22. Any team that concedes or forfeits an elimination round debate to a team from another school other than their own shall only be awarded points for the last elimination round they actually participated in. For example, a team that concedes in the semifinals in a tournament that would award them 4 points would receive 2 points for successfully participating in the quarterfinals. Another example, a team that concedes in the quarterfinals in a tournament without octofinals, would be awarded no points. Additionally, any tournament that arranges or encourages concessions may forfeit their TFA qualifying status in that debate event at the discretion of the Executive Council. The Executive Council may grant exceptions to this rule to accommodate unavoidable extenuating circumstances (such as weather).
23. Competitors who forfeit elimination rounds in finals of individual events will receive qualification points as if they had placed last in the I.E. round.
24. Any name changes must be submitted in writing to the tournament director prior to the end of the first round of that event.

Procedure for Processing Protests of Violations

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

year.

2. Any violation of the TFA Code of Professional Standards by a coach concerning an IQT should be reported to the TFA Executive Council, along with data to support such a charge. See *TFA Code of Professional Standards*.

Debate Tabulation

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

Pairing of Preliminary Rounds

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

Advancement

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

1. If Only 3 Prelim Rounds are Held:
 - a. Win-loss record
 - b. Total speaker points
 - c. Adjusted speaker points (drop highs and lows) per team

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

Elimination Brackets

1. If a tournament holds three preliminary debate rounds and 51 or more entries compete, elimination rounds must include an octofinal round; if 75 or more entries compete, elimination rounds must include a double octofinal round, if 120 or more compete, elimination rounds must include a triple octofinal.
 - a. If a tournament holds four preliminary rounds and 51 or more entries compete, elimination rounds must include an octofinal round; if 100 or more entries compete, elimination rounds must include a double-octofinal.
 - b. If 15 or fewer entries compete, quarterfinals do not have to be held.
 - c. Upon completion of the preliminary round portion of a tournament, all students with an undefeated record shall advance to the elimination bracket.
2. Entries will be seeded according to their prelim round record for the purpose of creating an elimination round bracket. This seeding shall not be changed, even if entries are removed from the bracket. New entries may not be pulled up into the bracket because of entry removal. The only exception to this rule shall be if an entry is designated prior to the final preliminary round in writing as not being eligible to break (they will not be considered in the seeding process).
3. If entries from the same school are meeting, brackets may be broken, at the discretion of the tournament director, in the following manner. Brackets will be broken unless an Invitational Qualifying Tournament's invitation stipulates that they will not be broken.
 - a. The lower seeded entry of the two will be moved up in the bracket (i.e., in a conflict between the 5th seed and the 12th seed, the 12th seed will be switched with the 11th seed). In the case where the initial switch does not resolve the conflict, additional switches may be made by moving the entry causing the conflict one place at a time until the conflict is resolved (i.e., in a conflict between 1 and 32, the 32nd entry would switch with 31, then 30, then 29, and so on until the conflict is resolved). Brackets shall be broken by working down the pairings in seed order (i.e., check the 1-32 pairings first, if it works, then move to the 2-31 pairing, the 3-30 pairing, etc.). In all cases where a switch is made, either by the tab room before a round or by a lower seeded entry winning a round, the new seed position will be assumed for purposes of breaking brackets in the next round (i.e., in a debate between 1-32, if the 32nd entry wins, it assumes the first seed position for the next round).
 - b. Brackets are broken only when a conflict occurs. Brackets are not broken in anticipation of conflict in future elimination rounds.
 - c. In the event that a conflict cannot be avoided, the entries involved will not be forced to debate. The

- coach of the squad involved will make the determination if there is to be a debate or which entry will advance.
- d. In the event that a school closes out both sides of the bracket, the coach (sponsor) may have the option of choosing any of the involved students to advance for the qualifying positions even if this involves two competitors or teams from the same side of the bracket.

Determining Speaker Points for Forfeit or Bye

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

Congressional Debate Tabulation

Entry Numbers and Requirements

Requirement	Number
Minimum number of entries for Qualifying Event	10
Maximum number of students per Preliminary House	20 (if 20 or fewer entries exist, then one chamber for the entire tournament may be used) [ref. amendment 10/14]
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). If only one Chamber is held, the minimum total debate time is 4 hours. [ref. amendment 10/14]
Preliminary Judges	1 Scorer 1 Parliamentarian* A minimum of 1 Judge (who scores speeches and serves as Parliamentarian) [ref. amendment 10/14]
Semis	A minimum of two judges (1 Scorer and 1 Parliamentarian) [ref. amendment 10/14]
Finals Judges	2 Scorers 1 Parliamentarian A minimum of THREE judges (2 Scorers and 1 Parliamentarian) [ref. amendment 10/14]
Presiding Officer Audition Time	Campaign speeches enumerating qualifications to preside, not to exceed one minute each.
Score per speech	0 min- 6 max

*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. [ref. amendment 10/14]

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. [ref. amendment 10/14]**

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. [ref. amendment 10/14]** 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

Speech and Interpretation Tabulation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

	Ranks	Converts to	Total	Place
Speaker A	1 3 3 = 7	1.00 .33 .33	1.66	2 nd
Speaker B	2 1 4 = 7	.50 1.00 .25	1.75	1 st

Speaker C	3 2 2 = 7	.33 .50 .50	1.33	3 rd
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In case of a tie in inverted fractions among 2 of the 3 tied speakers, revert back to judge preference to resolve the tie between the 2 tied speakers. See the example below:

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

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

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

Appendix A – Seeding Order for Debate Elimination Rounds



Standing Rules: State Tournament Operations Manual

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



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

General Rules

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

Location: Each year the State Tournament shall be held in a different region so that in five years each region shall have hosted it once. The year a region is to host, that Region Representative shall submit the region's choice for the site. If a region cannot host that year, the Executive Council shall open up bids for the site to the other regions.

- a. The Executive Council will consider proposals with precedence going to the region who has hosted state least recently.
- b. If a suitable host cannot be found in that region, the TFA Executive Council will consider proposals from the next least recent region, and so on and so forth.
- c. In such a case, the rotation will resume as if the region slated to host state had hosted state (e.g. if region IV declines to host, region V hosts the following year regardless of where the tournament was held during region IV's year).

Rotation: The order of regions to host State shall be as follows beginning with the 1997 State Tournament: (At the end of the cycle, the rotation will repeat.)

Region I	(Upper West Texas/Panhandle)
Region II	(North Texas)
Region IV	(East Texas)
Region V	(Far West Texas)
Region III	(Central/South Texas)

Deadline: The deadline for choosing the state tournament site shall be the annual TSCA Convention in October.

Recording of Rounds: The TFA Executive Council has the exclusive right to audio-record and/or videotape any and all rounds with all participants' or parents' permission.

Tournament Director: The current TFA president will serve as the State Tournament Director. The president will appoint Tab Room directors for Debate and Individual Events. The Tab Room Directors will be assisted by the state tournament committee.

Steps to Limit the Size of the TFA State Tournament

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

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

Entry and Eligibility

1. Students participating at the TFA State Tournament must be affiliated with and a representative of the Texas school they are attending as defined by article III, section 1.
2. A student may qualify for participation at the TFA State Tournament by earning the required number of qualification points as determined by the Executive Council at one or more of the designated Invitational Qualifying Tournaments across the state (see *Invitational Qualifying Tournaments* for greater details).
3. In order to participate at the State Tournament, the student's school or his coach must be a member of the Texas Forensic Association with membership dues paid on or before January 31st. The coach and/or a qualified adult must be in attendance with all contestants at the TFA State Tournament. Said coach or adult must be available to judge each round of competition. No single individual may represent more than one school. Failure of a school to comply will result in the disqualification of that school's entire entry. Appeals may be made to the Executive Council in cases of extenuating circumstances.
4. Qualification to the state tournament is on the basis of the team or individual rather than the school. A school may not substitute students.
5. For a debate team, duet acting or duo interpretation team to qualify for the state tournament they may accumulate the required number of points with the same partner during the school year.
6. The Executive Council may modify this point schedule at the beginning of the tournament season if the need arises.
7. A student is eligible to compete at the State Tournament only in the event(s) in which s/he has qualified (i.e., students qualified in debate only may not participate in other events).
8. Entries shall not compete in both Duet or Duo and debate at the State Tournament.
9. A student must be a currently enrolled high school student in grades 9-12 in order to qualify for the State Tournament. Graduation prior to the State Tournament does not prevent a student from participating in the State Tournament.
10. The Executive Council holds the right to establish conflict patterns at the State Tournament for purpose of scheduling.

Examples of Acceptable Qualifications

1. A & B have the required number of points; A & C have the required number of points; A & D have the required number of points.
 - a. Only one team is qualified from this combination.
 - b. The team qualified must include A (A and B, A and C or A and D)
 - c. An unacceptable combination is B and C, or B and D, or C and D because neither B, C, nor D have eight points, except with A.
2. A & B have the required number of points; C & D have the required number of points; E & F have the required number of points. There are three teams qualified.

3. A & B have the required number of points; B & C have the required number of points; D & E have the required number of points.
 - b. There are only two teams qualified (A and B or B and C and D and E)

4. A & B have the required number of points; C & D have the required number of points; E & F have the required number of points.
 - a. There are three teams qualified.
 - b. The three teams may be entered as follows (these are only a few of the possible combinations):

A and B	A and D	A and F	E and F
E and D			
C and D	C and F	C and B	E and B

Examples of Unacceptable Qualifications

1. A & B have the required number of points; A & C have the required number of points; A & D have the required number of points
 - a. An unacceptable combination is B and C, or B and D, or C and D because neither B, C, nor D have the required number of points except with A.

2. Coaches may switch partners of teams who have qualified as separate teams. In no case may a school's team entries exceed the total number of teams that have qualified as independent teams.

Documentation Requirements

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

Original Oratory

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

- a. All quoted material must be underlined and/or printed in red. Quoted material may not exceed 150 words.
- b. A cover sheet with title, student's name and signature, coach's name and signature and the school name must be completed. The cover sheet form can be found online at www.txfa.org
- c. Oratories need to be available for the duration of the tournament.

Interpretation Events

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

- a. A flat copy of the text with page numbers and all lines being performed highlighted is required.
- b. A copy of the bibliographic information page is required.
- c. A cover sheet with title, author(s), ISBN number, date of publication, number of transitional phrases, student's name, coach's name and signature and the school name must be completed. The cover sheet form can be found online at www.txfa.org
- d. The original script, highlighted copy and bibliographic information page need to be available for the duration of the tournament.

Judging

1. **Judge Panels:** Panels of three (3) or more judges shall be used in all elimination rounds.
2. **Judges' Fees:** The Executive Council shall appropriate a set sum to be used for the payment of judges by the State Tournament Judging Committee in a manner which they deem appropriate. Judges may be paid per round, or the money may be used for entertainment, hospitality, etc.

Tabulation of Events

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

Protests

- 1) All protests shall be submitted in writing to an Ombudsman, to be appointed by the tournament director. The Ombudsman shall have full power to adjudicate any protest, dispute, or interpretation of the rules. All protests must be submitted in writing and include the following information:
 - a) Name of the coach filing the protest.
 - b) Code and/or name of person/team being protested.
 - c) Round being protested, including section number, room number, and speaker number of person/team being protested.
 - d) Specific infraction being protested described with supporting details.
 - e) Signature of the protesting coach.

- 2) The Ombudsman will then review and render a decision on the protest. All involved parties will be notified of the decision.

- 3) Appeals of the Ombudsman's Decision: The Ombudsman's ruling may be appealed to the Executive Council members who shall review the protest and the appeal, retire to closed session, and render a decision that shall be final.

Debate Rounds

General Rules

1. **Postings:** Codes of competitors and elimination brackets in their normal order shall be posted and made available for coaches during preliminary and elimination rounds.
2. **Debate Topics**
 - a. *Policy Debate:* TFA shall adopt the current year National Forensic League’s Policy Debate topic as the topic for the State Tournament.
 - b. *Lincoln Douglas:* TFA shall adopt the National Forensic League’s Lincoln-Douglas Debate topic (current at the time) as the topic for the State Tournament. If the state tournament begins with a February date, the January/February topic will be used. If the state tournament begins with a date in March, the March/April topic will be used.
 - c. *Public Forum Debate:* TFA shall adopt the National Forensic League’s Public Forum Debate topic (current at the time) as the topic for the State Tournament. If the state tournament begins with a February date, the February topic will be used. If the state tournament begins with a date in March, the March topic will be used.
3. **Number of Rounds:** There shall be at least four (4) preliminary rounds of Policy, Public Forum and Lincoln-Douglas Debate followed by elimination rounds.
4. **Previously Met Teams:** Teams meeting for a second time during the tournament shall switch sides from those previously upheld.

Preliminary Rounds

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

Elimination Rounds Eligibility

Teams of high record shall meet teams of low record in the first elimination round bracket. Brackets shall be broken to prevent teams from the same school from meeting; this break will occur in the round in which the meeting is scheduled to occur. Brackets shall not be broken in an earlier round because a team may logically meet another team from the same school in a later elimination round.

At the state debate tournament, all teams or individuals (LD) with a record of 4-1 or better will participate in an elimination round. If the number of debaters with that record is greater than 16 or 32 (depending on the size of the tournament) then elimination rounds would begin with the partial pairing of the next appropriate elimination bracket. If a partial triple octofinals would be appropriate, then those individuals with the lowest 4-1 records would be paired against each other (32&33; 31&34; 30&35, etc.) until there were no other pairings. All individuals/teams with records equal to or greater than 4-1 with sufficient speaker points would receive a “bye” to the next elimination round. For example, the 1st seed in the above example would not have to debate until the double octofinal round. They would debate the winner of the 32 & 33 seed pairing.

Use of the Mutual Preference System of Judging

The TFA State Tournament will use a mutual preference system of assigning judges in Lincoln Douglas and Policy Debate. Mutual preference is defined as a system allowing individual schools and/or teams to assign available judges in pre-described categories within numeric parameters. At least one week prior to the beginning of the tournament, the Secretary or a designated representative, will make available to coaches of LD and Policy entries the list of judges scheduled to judge at the state tournament. The coaches will then have the opportunity to designate a pre-determined number of judges in one of the following categories: 1-(most preferred), 2-(preferred), 3-(acceptable), 4-(OK), 6-Strike. All remaining judges will be assigned a "5" (not preferred) rating.

Example: If there were 75 judges available to judge at the state tournament, teams might be asked to assign judges in the following manner: 1 judges -20; 2 judges-20; 3 judges-15; 4 judges -10; Strikes-5; 5 judges-5. The formula for how many judges will be assigned to each category will be pre-determined by the debate tabulation director.

Coaches would be required to return the mutual preference sheet to the Secretary or designated representative no later than the Wednesday prior to the beginning of the tournament. If returned by that time, the mutual preference system would be in place prior to Round 1 of the tournament. Coaches would also have the opportunity to complete and return the mutual preference sheet at the tournament registration. Those preferences would go into effect at the time that the tabulation room had the opportunity to input them.

It will be the responsibility of individual coaches to complete the mutual preference sheet. Tabulation room staff will verify the correctness of the mutual preference sheet with individual coaches at registration. Coaches who may have completed the sheet incorrectly will have the opportunity to complete the sheet correctly at that time. Coaches may only designate strikes if they choose. All other judges will then be designated as "1" judges in such instances. For those coaches who fail to complete the sheet correctly, the tabulation staff will reserve the right to randomly assign judges from one category to another to correct the sheet.

Congressional Debate

General Rules

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. Students qualified for the United States House at the State Tournament may compete in up to two Individual Events in which they have also qualified, at the discretion of the TFA Executive Council. 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.
3. **Chambers:** There will be preliminary houses as determined by the number of entries. Each chamber shall contain no more than 20 students and shall be regionally balanced.
 - a. *Preliminary Sessions:* There will be two 4 hour sessions aligned with 4 debate rounds. Parliamentarians shall be assigned to a chamber for the entire round. Scorers are reassigned each session (4 hours).
 - i. A preliminary round is defined as including:
 - ii. Minimum of 3 hours
 - iii. 18-20 students as the optimum number for a 3 hour session
 - iv. Election of a Presiding Officer
 - v. New seating chart
 - vi. Resetting of precedence/recency
 - vii. 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.

Procedural Rules

1. **Order of the Docket:** Docket order for State will be released following the conclusion of the IQT season.
2. **Floor Debate:** See section under IQT's.
3. **Presiding Officer:** A presiding officer shall be elected at the beginning of each House/Senate preliminary session. At the conclusion of the Prelim sessions, each chamber will vote for their outstanding P.O. This student will be presented with a gavel at the awards ceremony.
4. **Authorship speeches:** Schools, whose legislation is selected for the Preliminary round at State, are guaranteed an authorship speech. The author of the bill or resolution shall be recognized to open debate, but shall have no other preference in speaking on said bill or resolution. Amendments are not allowed authorship speeches. A brief statement of justification is allowed but will not be scored.
 - a. The authorship speech shall be a maximum of three minutes with an additional two minutes of

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 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.

Speech and Interpretation Rounds

General Rules

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

Individual Events, Duo, and Duet Acting Elimination Round Eligibility

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 rank. 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. 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.

AB11	1	4	5(5)	= 10	1.00	.25	.20	= 1.45
SD14	1	5(6)	4	= 10	1.00	.20	.25	= 1.45
GH8	2	5(7)	3	= 10	.50	.20	.33	= 1.03

If contestants AB11, SD14, GH8 were ties for 42nd place, AB11 and SD14 break. The total breaking would be 43.

GH8 would be eliminated because in the conversion, the 1.03 is lower than the 1.45.

If AB11 and SD14 were tied for the 56th slot, the AB11 would advance, because originally SD14 had a rank of 6 that was converted to a 5 in round two (GH8 would already be out of consideration.)

In quarterfinals there would be 6 sections with up to a maximum of 8 in each section.

Three from each section would advance from quarters to semifinals, with 3 sections of 6 in semi finals. Two would

advance from each section to finals, for 6 in finals.

Consolation Events

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

Entry Guidelines

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

Events

- A. **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.~~ **Overtime violators SHALL NOT be ranked first in the round by the judge. Any other penalty is at the discretion of the judge. Judges may consider audience reaction and its impact on official time before enforcing any overtime penalty.** [as amended 10/15]
- B. **Poetry (Offered in odd years only):** The rules shall be the same as Prose, except that the literature must be poetic in nature.
- C. **Impromptu:** The speaker will draw three topics, choose one, and take one minute to prepare. Topics shall be chosen from proverbs, quotations, current concerns, and famous people. The maximum time for the speech is five minutes with a thirty-second grace period. There is no minimum time. **Overtime violators SHALL NOT be ranked first in the round by the judge. Any other penalty is at the discretion of the judge. Judges may consider audience reaction and its impact on official time before enforcing any overtime penalty.** [as amended 10/15]
- D. **As a pilot program for the 2015-16 State Tournament, replace Prose Interpretation and Impromptu Speaking with Performance of Oral Interpretation and Informative Speaking. At the 2016-17 State Tournament, the events will return to Prose in odd years, Poetry in even years, and Impromptu Speaking unless otherwise amended.**
 - a. Rules and description of **Informative Speaking:**
 - b. Purpose: An informative speech is an original speech designed to explain, define, describe, or illustrate a particular subject. The general purpose of the speech is for the audience to gain understanding and/or knowledge of a topic. Any other purpose such as to entertain or to convince shall be secondary. The use of audio/visual aids is optional. (See # 4 on Aids.)
 - c. Contest: This contest comprises only memorized speeches composed by the contestants and not used by them during a previous contest season.
 - d. Subject: Effective speeches provide new information or perspectives on a topic, including those that are widely known. The responsibility for choosing a worthwhile topic rests with

the contestant. A fabricated topic may not be used. Any non---factual reference, including a personal reference, must be so identified.

- e. Aids: Audio/visual aids may or may not be used to supplement and reinforce the message. During the presentation, no electronic equipment is permitted. The use of live animals or any additional people as visual aids is not allowed during the speech. Items of dress put on and removed during the course of the presentation are considered costumes and may not be part of the contestant's presentation. Visual aids may not violate law (weapons, drugs, etc.) The host school is not responsible for providing any facilities, equipment, or assistance in a contestant's use of visual aids. Expedient set up and take down of aids is expected. If a visual aid displays published pictorial material, the source must be included in the work---cited page but does not need to be cited orally.
- f. Length: The time limit is ten minutes with a 30 second "grace period." If there are multiple judges in the round, all must agree that the student has gone beyond the grace period. Should a student go beyond the grace period, the student may not be ranked 1st. There is no other prescribed penalty for going over the grace period. The ranking is up to each individual judge's discretion. Judges who choose to time are to use accurate (stopwatch function) timing devices. No minimum time is mandated.
- g. Quotation: Not more than 150 words of the speech may be direct quotation and such quotations must be identified orally and in a printed copy of the speech supplied prior to registration.
- h. Script: Manuscripts must be available at all district tournament contests in the event of a protest. However, it shall be the choice of each individual District Committee whether or not to require these materials be submitted prior to the district contest. The script must identify the quoted materials, state the number of quoted words, include a work---cited page in APA or MLA format, and both the speaker and the coach must attest by signature that the speech is the original work of the contestant.

E. Rules and description of Performance of Oral Interp (POI)

- a. Purpose: POI is a program of oral interpretation of thematically---linked selections chose from two or three genres: prose, poetry, drama (plays). A primary focus of this event should be on the development of the theme or argument through the use of narrative, story, language, and/or characterization. Competitors are encouraged to devote approximately equal times to each of the genres used in the program.
- b. Literature requirements: At least two pieces of literature that represent at least two separate genres must be used.
- c. Script: The use of a manuscript is required.
- d. Time Limit: 10 minutes max with a 30 second grace period. Sources must meet all TFA Interp rules for publication.
- e. Program Oral Interpretation Judging Criteria: An introduction should set the stage, enhancing the interpretation of the literature to the audience, providing information and analysis to the chosen theme. All selections must be verbally identified by title and author. However, where, when, and how these are accomplished are the speaker's decisions. The intact manuscript may be used by the contestant as a prop so long as it remains in the contestant's control at all times. No costumes or props other than the manuscript are permitted. Adaptations may be used only for the purpose of transition. This is a contest in oral interpretation. The contestant should be evaluated on poise, quality, and use of voice, inflection, pronunciation, and the ability to interpret characters consistently. The contestant should also be evaluated on how effective their argument/theme is projected in the total program. In developing a creative, thematic program, attention should be given to the design and organization of a cohesive and carefully conceived whole by

linking authors and ideas inherent in the literature. There is an expectation to use at least two pieces of literature each presenting a different genre with approximately equal times devoted to each genre. This distinction pertains to these three genres as a whole, not types of literature within a genre, such as fiction/nonfiction. The contestant must address the script; however, introduction and transitional material may be memorized. [added 10/15]

Awards

- 1) Debate Speaker Awards: Speaker awards for Policy, Public Forum and Lincoln-Douglas Debate at the State Tournament shall be determined by the following criteria.
 - a) adjusted points
 - b) total points
 - c) total ranks win-loss record
 - d) opponents' win-loss record
 - e) opponents' speaker points
 - f) opponents' ranks
 - g) adjusted ranks
 - h) blind draw
- 2) Speech and Interpretation Event Awards: Awards will be given to all finalists. First, Second, and Third place awards will be presented to the top three placing students.
- 3) School Sweepstakes Awards: School sweepstakes will be presented to the top schools based on the following criteria:
 - a) Qualifying Events
 - i) Two points shall be awarded for advancing to debate double-octofinals and semifinal participation in the United States House.
 - ii) Four points shall be awarded for reaching quarterfinals in individual events, duo, and duet.
 - iii) Six points shall be awarded for reaching semifinals in qualifying events, finalists in the United States House not making the top 8, and non-advancing octofinalists in debate.
 - iv) Ten points shall be awarded for each non-placing finalist in qualifying events, 4th through 8th place finalists in the United States House, and non-advancing quarter-finalists in debate.
 - v) Fifteen points shall be awarded in qualifying events for each third place awarded, twenty points for each second place, and twenty-five points for each first place awarded.
 - b) Consolation Events (Prose, Poetry, Impromptu, and US Senate)
 - i) One point shall be awarded for semifinals participation in the United States Senate
 - ii) Two points shall be awarded for participating in semifinals in consolation events and finals in United States Senate not making the top 8.
 - iii) Five points shall be awarded for non-placing participants in finals in consolation events and 4th through 8th place in the United States Senate.
 - iv) Eight points shall be awarded for each third place awarded, ten points for each second place, and fifteen points for each first place awarded.
- 4) Sweepstakes points are not cumulative- students receive points based on highest placement in an event.
- 5) Individual Sweepstakes Awards- Individual sweepstakes awards will be presented to the top individuals based on the following criteria.
 - a) Students will receive the same number of points as they earn towards team sweepstakes.
 - b) The top five students will be recognized.
 - i) 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, and then 2nd place finishes, etc. Tied contestants after the above tie breakers are applied will remain tied.
- 6) Naming of Awards in Honor of Service to the Organization: The Executive Council shall be empowered to dedicate the awards and scholarships presented at the State Tournament to the honor of individual TFA members in recognition of service to this organization.
- 7) Breakfast of Champions: The first place winners and their coaches will be recognized at the Breakfast of

Champions following the tournament.

Appendix A – Seeding Order for Debate Elimination Rounds



Texas Forensic Association Change Log

**The following section chronicles changes voted upon by the general body and/or Executive Council housekeeping issues that arise. The purpose of this section is to document changes that occur over time. This section begins in October 2010, immediately after the annual convention.*

2010 Convention Amendments

By-Laws – Page 6

An Amendment Regarding Standing and Special Committees

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

- C. **Debate Topic Selection Committee.** ~~This standing committee shall consist of three members.~~ **Members shall be appointed by the President and** it shall be their duty to research topic areas for the National Federation of State High School Associations and to make recommendations as to the national debate topic. It should be noted that the Texas Forensic Association is not, however, a voting participant in the NFSHSA.
- G. **Scholarship Committee.** ~~This standing committee shall consist of six members from at least three different regions of the organization.~~ The committee shall send out scholarship applications by January 1. Completed applications shall be returned to the committee chairperson by February 1. The committee shall review all applications with school and student names omitted. Two male and two female recipients shall be announced at the TFA State Tournament.

By-Laws – Page 8

An Amendment Regarding TFA Officer Removal

Section 12. REMOVAL FROM OFFICE.

- A. **Grounds for Removal:** The Texas Forensic Association shall have the power to remove any of its officers as provided in this section. The valid grounds for such removal shall include 1) continued gross or willful neglect or the duties of the office 2) failure or refusal to disclose necessary information on matters of organization business 3) unauthorized expenditures or misuse of organizations funds 4) conviction of a felony.
- B. **Removal Procedures:** The following procedures shall be followed in all proceedings leading to the possible expulsion of an officer and shall not exceed a 60-day time limit from the time of the resolution.
 - 1. A resolution by the Executive Council to consider the removal of an officer can be introduced by any member of the Executive Council. **The resolution must be accompanied by corroborating evidence and/or support of the resolution.**
 - 2. **The accused and accuser shall recuse themselves from voting in any of the proceedings.**
 - 3. If said resolution to consider the removal of an officer should pass the Executive Council by a simple majority, adequate defense shall be made by the officer, by telephone, by mail, or in person, to all those who shall vote on the question of his removal. No vote shall be taken to remove that officer until he/she has finished presenting his/her defense. The procedure for removing an officer must provide adequate notice to the accused officer, a fair hearing and the right to counsel.
 - 4. After the officer in question has finished his defense, a two-thirds vote of the Executive Council shall be necessary to ~~bring the issue to the body~~ **remove the officer in question.** No officer shall be denied a response to proceedings aimed at his removal. **If a two-thirds vote of the Executive Council is reached, the officer they will be required to step down**

immediately. If it is an office that has control over funds of the Texas Forensic Association, they will be obligated to cede control over said funds in a timely manner as determined by the Executive Council.

5. ~~a vote will be called to ask for removal of the officer in question.~~ **An appeal may be brought before the membership by the officer in question.** A vote requiring a two-thirds majority of the membership will be required to ~~remove an officer from an elected position~~ **reinstate the removed officer.** The vote of the body will be conducted as soon as feasible (within the 60-day period outlined above. The vote may be electronic or by US mail.

Standing Rules: Competition Events Guide – Page 31-35

An Amendment Regarding Script Violations in Speech & Interpretation Events

Extemporaneous Speaking

11. A note card may be used in preliminary rounds of Individual Qualifying Tournaments but is *not* permitted in any elimination rounds of these tournaments. Violation shall result in ~~ranking down~~ **being ranked last** in the round in which the violation occurred. *Note:* A note card may not be used in any round of the State Tournament. **Violation shall result in being ranked last in the round.**

Original Oratory

4. A written copy of the oration must be available to the tournament director upon request. Violation **of this rule** shall result in ~~ranking down in the round in which the violation occurred~~ **will result in disqualification.**
7. The oration shall be memorized and presented without the use of notes, visual aids or costume. Violation shall result in ~~an adverse effect on the team's ranking in the round~~ **being ranked last in the round.**

Duet Acting

7. The selection shall be memorized and presented without the use of physical objects (notes, props, hand props, or scenery) or costume. Two chairs will be allowed. The two chairs may be used to create atmosphere and environment. Violation shall result in ~~an adverse effect on the team's ranking in the round~~ **being ranked last in the round.**

Duo Interpretation

7. The selection shall be memorized and presented without the use of physical objects (script, props, hand props, or scenery) or costume. Violation shall result in ~~an adverse effect on the team's ranking in the round~~ **being ranked last in the round.**

Dramatic Interpretation

8. The selection shall be memorized and presented without the use of physical objects (script, props, hand props, or scenery) or costume. Students should avoid movement in the presentation that would distract from the literature itself. Violation shall result in ~~ranking down~~ **being ranked last** in the round.

Standing Rules: Competition Events Guide – Page 33-35 & 58

An Amendment Regarding Time Limit in Speech & Interpretation Events Rounds

Original Oratory

6. Time limit shall be ten minutes maximum with a thirty-second grace period. [...] 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.

Duet Acting

5. Time limit shall be twelve minutes maximum with a thirty-second grace period. [...] 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.

Duo Interpretation

5. Time limit shall be ten minutes maximum with a thirty-second grace period. [...] 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.

Dramatic Interpretation

6. Time limit shall be ten minutes maximum with a thirty-second grace period. [...] 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.

Events

1. **Prose (Offered in even years only):** Selection must be from a published work and must be read from a folder. [...] 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 state tournament **elimination and** final rounds.

Standing Rules: Competition Events Guide – Page 33-35

An Amendment Regarding Transitional Phrases in Interpretation Events

Duet Acting

11. Transitional phrases may be used in Duet Acting but must meet the following word requirements:
Violation will result in disqualification.

Duo Interpretation

13. Transitional phrases may be used in Duo Interpretation but must meet the following word requirements:
Violation will result in disqualification.

Dramatic Interpretation

8. Transitional phrases may be used in Dramatic Interpretation but must meet the following word requirements:
Violation will result in disqualification.

Standing Rules: Competition Events Guide – Page 33-35

An Amendment Regarding Authorial Intention in Interpretation Events

Duet Acting

~~10. Cuttings should maintain the author's intent.~~

11. Transitional phrases may be used in Dramatic Interpretation but must meet the following word requirements:
 - f. No selection may use more than 100 total transitional words.
 - g. These words cannot be used to write new scenes to any piece of literature.
 - h. The 100 words cannot all be used in one particular location within the selection, ~~as to change the author's intent by adding excessive words/sentences.~~

Duo Interpretation

~~12. Cuttings should maintain the author's intent.~~

13. Transitional phrases may be used in Dramatic Interpretation but must meet the following word requirements:
 - a. No selection may use more than 100 total transitional words.
 - b. These words cannot be used to write new scenes to any piece of literature.
 - c. The 100 words cannot all be used in one particular location within the selection, ~~as to change the author's intent by adding excessive words/sentences.~~

Dramatic Interpretation

7. ~~Cuttings should maintain the author's intent.~~
8. Transitional phrases may be used in Dramatic Interpretation but must meet the following word requirements:
 - a. No selection may use more than 100 total transitional words.
 - b. These words cannot be used to write new scenes to any piece of literature.
 - c. The 100 words cannot all be used in one particular location within the selection, ~~as to change the author's intent by adding excessive words/sentences.~~

Standing Rules: IQT Operations Manual – Page 40

An Amendment Regarding Host School Participation

Qualifying Numbers

7. Invitational Qualifying Tournaments must have ten (10) participating schools in attendance ~~(not including the host school)~~ in order to award any qualification points. Minimum numbers in each event to award qualification points are: Policy-10 teams, PFD-10 teams, LD-10 entries Duo-10, Duet-10 teams, Congressional Debate-15 entries; all IE's-15 entries. The Executive Council may modify this section at the beginning of the tournament season in order to make it consistent with any changes to the point system if the need arises.

Allowing cross entries to the State Tournament in both Duo Interp and Duet Acting

On page 33-35 and of the TFA Constitution:

Duo Interpretation –

Specific rules governing this contest are:

“Students may qualify in both Duet Acting and Duo Interp, but MAY ONLY COMPETE at the state level in one or the other.”

Duet Acting – Specific rules governing this contest are:

“Students may qualify in both Duet Acting and Duo Interp, but MAY ONLY COMPETE at the state level in one or the other.”

CHANGE TO: *“Students may qualify in both Duet Acting and Duo Interp, and may compete at the state level in both events, **but in this case**, they may NOT perform the same selection for both categories, AND they may only compete in **one** other event in which they are qualified.”*

An Amendment Concerning Crossfire

On page 28, Section “Cross-Examination and Crossfire Guidelines”

1. Delete all references to Crossfire

On page 43, under “Elimination Brackets”:

1. Insert:
 - “1. Upon completion of the preliminary round portion of a tournament, all students with an undefeated record shall advance to the elimination bracket.”

Amendments which become effective in the 2011-2012 Competitive Year

The following underlined segments of rules concerning Congressional Debate found on page 28 of the TFA Constitution

Legislation

Legislation for Invitational Qualifying Tournaments in the regular season shall be available for all schools and participants on the website at www.txfa.org. 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 December 1 and May 1. The Congressional Debate Committee shall establish a docket of exactly 30 pieces of legislation for each two-month period (August-October; November-December; January-February) 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 in the regular season shall be anonymous. Therefore, all opening speeches on a given piece of legislation will be sponsorship speeches. There are NO guaranteed authorship speeches in the regular season, therefore, no mandatory 2-minute CX. Instead, a one-minute CX period will follow all speeches in accordance with NFL guidelines.

should be amended to read:

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). 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.

Additionally, these underlined words

Authorship in the regular season shall be anonymous. Therefore, all opening speeches on a given piece of legislation will be sponsorship speeches. There are NO guaranteed authorship speeches in the regular season, therefore, no mandatory 2-minute CX. Instead, a one-minute CX period will follow all speeches in accordance with NFL guidelines.

should be amended to read:

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. Questioning following these speeches shall follow NFL rules and procedures.

Allowing 8 to finals at the State Tournament in all Individual Events: Dramatic, Humorous, Duet, Duo, Oratory, International and Domestic Extemp

On page 57 of the TFA Constitution:

Individual Events Elimination Round Eligibility-

On Breaks to out rounds it states:

“In quarterfinals there would be 7 sections with up to a maximum of 8 in each section. If the break at 42 is clean, there will be 7 sections of 6. If ties force the number to 46, then there would be 7 sections–4 of 7, 2 of 6.

Three from each section would advance from quarters to semifinals, with 3 sections of 7 in semifinals. Two would advance from each section to finals, for 6 in finals.”

CHANGE TO: *“Four from each section would advance from quarters to semifinals, with 4 sections of 7 in semi finals. Two would advance from each section to finals, for 8 in finals.”*

2011 Convention Amendments

Professional Standards:

Add “ other coaches and students.” to 7(d) after intimidating judges to read:

7. All sponsors chaperoning students participating in a TFA-sanctioned competition are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner. Such conduct would include, but not be limited to, the following: paying entry fees at time of registration or demonstrating proof of intent to pay in the form of a purchase order or personal check. All outstanding fees are to be settled or received no later than sixty (60) days from the date of the tournament; (b) any additional judging, drop fees, or refunds must be paid or settled no later than thirty (30) days from the date of the tournament; (c) being present or having a principal-approved designee present so long as students from the sponsor’s school are at the tournament site; and (d) refraining from berating or intimidating judges, *other coaches and students*.

Congressional Debate:

Proposal: Page 28 #8

Delete the phrase....if the base system factors into the tabulation process.

p. 55 Scoring

Currently reads: The Best of Base System will be used for determining advancement and tabulation of all rounds at the TFA State Tournament

Amendment Proposed: Replace the above with:

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.

p. 56 – Semi-final Congress

Selection of Delegates

Delete # 1, 7 and 8 – No longer necessary if using Ranks of Top 8

p. 56 – Super Congress

Replace #2 – Selection for the Final Ballot: At the conclusion of Super Congress, the ranks of the Top 8 Legislators, provided by the 3 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.

Current Reading: p. 45 – Scoring and Advancement

2nd paragraph

The required method for determining advancement and tabulating final results in Congressional Debate is the Best of Base System. A student may give as many speeches as “precedence” will allow and all points will be recorded, however, BASE will determine the number of speeches counted in the final tabulation. (Ex: If the chamber completes base 4, and Representative Smith has given 6 speeches, his best 4 will be counted.)

New amendment: Replace the above paragraph with the following:

The required method for determining advancement and tabulating final results in Congressional Debate is ranking of the top 8 legislators. Speech points are recorded 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 and these ranks will used for tie-breaking purposes only. Parliamentarians will have NO scoring responsibilities. If more than one scorer is in a chamber, the ranks of all judges will be added together and the 8 members with the lowest cum will advance. Two scorers and a parliamentarian MUST be present in the final rounds.

FROM THE CONSTITUTION PG 28

4. Members shall not yield any portion of his/her time except for a question.

AMEND TO READ

4. *Members shall not yield any portion of his/her time for questioning.*

Prose and Poetry Amendment:

Selection of literature:

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.

2. **Poetry (Offered in odd years only):** The rules shall be the same as Prose, except that the literature must be poetic in nature.

Debate Evidence Amendment:

2. Written Requirements

a. *Bibliographic Documentation:* All participants submitting evidence in competition shall possess and present upon demand such evidence in written form. This written form must display full bibliographic source citation, even if the full citation is not orally delivered. "Full citation" includes the following elements: Author's name, author's qualifications, complete source information, complete date, and page number. Evidence submitted from an internet source (delete bold) **should include the following elements: an acknowledgment that the material was electronically retrieved, name of online source (Nexis, Internet, Dialogue, etc.), the date of access and the URL site.**

Professional Standards Amendment:

Pg 9, add to #6. After "Upon,"

"In the event of an official protest the host is required to respond to protesting coaches/sponsors prior to subsequent rounds or awards."

2012 Convention Amendments

Previous Wording, prior to 2012 changes:

Change # 1

Extemp speaking (p.31)

5. After the contestant has chosen a topic, s/he shall withdraw to the preparation area and plan his/her speech without conferring or exchanging information with anyone. No prepared notes or outlines will be allowed in the preparation room. Contestants may refer to files containing books, book excerpts, periodicals, online retrievals from mass media publications, and/or photocopies of any of the above. Information retrieved from internet websites must include the URL citation. Cutting and pasting of multiple articles into a single document is not permitted. Once a contestant has chosen a topic, s/he may neither change from nor alter that topic. No visual aids may be used in the delivery of the speech. Violation shall result in ranking down in the round in which the violation occurred.

Change # 2

Individual Events, Duo, and Duet Acting Elimination Round Eligibility (p. 57) In individual events, the top 42 contestants would advance to quarterfinals based on cumulative ranks in the first three rounds. If there is a tie at 42, that tie would be broken based first on converting scores to reciprocal fractions: 1st=1.00, 2nd=.50, 3rd=.33, 4th=.25, 5th=.20. The contestants with the highest total would advance. If there is still a tie for the 42nd spot, all contestants still tied for that slot would advance to quarterfinals up to 56 maximum. If, because of the tie, more than 56 would break, then the ties among those pushing the number over 56 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. In quarterfinals there would be 7 sections with up to a maximum of 8 in each section.

Four from each section would advance from quarters to semifinals, with 4 sections of 7 in semi finals. Two would advance from each section to finals, for 8 in finals.

Change # 3

Code of Professional Standards- Proposed Amendments

5. Any decision rendered by a tournament host that results in the disqualification of a participant, school, or sponsor may be appealed to the Executive Council of the TFA. Responsibility for contacting and presenting the specifics of that appeal to the Executive Council rests with the appellant.

Change # 4

6. Hosts of TFA qualifying tournaments are responsible for meeting minimum TFA standards and offering at least four TFA events. Moreover, the speech sponsor or sponsors hosting a TFA-sanctioned competition are responsible for providing a competition that is fairly and competently administered and realistically scheduled. In the event of an official protest, the host is required to respond to protesting coaches/sponsors prior to subsequent rounds/awards. Upon receipt of proof of the failure of an Invitational Qualifying Tournament to adhere to these standards and meet acceptable administrative and scheduling guidelines, the TFA Executive Council is empowered to restrict the offending institution from hosting a TFA-sanctioned competition for a period of at least one year.

Change # 5

Hosting an IQT

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.

Change # 6

Public Forum Debate

Strike (p.27): Rules for specific administration of this event shall follow those provided by the NFL.

Strike (p.28): 3. Time: Each team shall be allowed a total of eight minutes a preparation time per round.

Change # 7

Scholarship Committee. The committee shall send out scholarship applications by January 1. Completed applications shall be returned to the committee chairperson by February 1. The committee shall review all applications with school and student names omitted. Two male and two female recipients shall be announced at the TFA State Tournament.

Change # 8

1.School Sweepstakes Awards: School sweepstakes will be presented to the top five schools based on the following criteria:

a. Qualifying Events

i. Two points shall be awarded for advancing to octofinals in debate and semifinal participation in the United States House.

ii. Four points shall be awarded for reaching quarterfinals in qualifying events and final participants in the United States House not making the final ballot.

iii. Six points shall be awarded for reaching semifinals in qualifying events and non-placing finalists making the ballot in the United State House.

iv. Ten points shall be awarded for each non-placing finalist in qualifying events.

v. Fifteen points shall be awarded in qualifying events for each third place awarded, twenty points for each second place, and twenty-five points for each first place awarded.

b. Consolation Events

i. One point shall be awarded for semifinals participation in the United States Senate

ii. Two points shall be awarded for participating in semifinals in consolation events and finals in United States Senate not making the final ballot.

iii. Five points shall be awarded for non-placing participants in finals in consolation events and non-placing finalists making the ballot in the United States Senate

iv. Eight points shall be awarded for each third place awarded, ten points for each second place, and fifteen points for each first place awarded

Change # 9

Hosting an Invitational Qualifying Tournament

3. The tournament shall be held between the dates of August 15 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.

Change # 10

8. No portion of a work used by either student prior to the current school year or during the current year in another TFA event shall be used in TFA competition. The only exception will be that a student may use the same Duet Acting selection during the same school year in both Duo and Duet. The same selection shall be used for the duration of the tournament. Violation of this rule will result in disqualification.

10. No portion of a work used by either student prior to the current school year or during the current year in another TFA event shall be used in TFA competition. The only exception will be that a student may use the same Duo Interpretation selection during the same school year in both Duo and Duet. The same selection shall be used for the duration of the tournament. Violation of this rule will result in disqualification.

Change # 11

1) On page 28 under Congressional Debate:

Congressional Debate enables the student to gain a better knowledge of political science while utilizing the skills of public speaking, group discussion, debate, and parliamentary procedure. Students have the opportunity to qualify for the Texas Forensic Association State Tournament as a Representative in the United States House. Every TFA member School shall be granted one legislator in the United States Senate. Participation at the TFA State tournament requires that all schools submit legislation to the Congressional Debate Committee Chair by the December 15th deadline.

Change # 12

Floor Debate

1. 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.

2. Members shall claim the floor only if they wish to oppose the views of the preceding speaker so that debate shall alternate. (Violators shall be refused further recognition).

Proposed change: at the end of “refused further recognition” add “for debate on that piece of legislation.”

Change # 13

Current: **Congress Tabulation** (pg. 45)

Scoring and Advancement

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 and these ranks will be used for tie-breaking purposes only. Parliamentarians will have NO scoring responsibilities. If more than one scorer is in a chamber, the ranks of all judges will be added together and up to 8 members with the lowest cum will advance. Two scorers and a parliamentarian MUST be present in the final rounds.

Change # 14

Add to the chart/table on p. 44 of the TFA Constitution Minimum time requirements for each chamber containing the following number of individuals:

8-12 90 minutes (with the exception of the final chamber)

12-14 120 minutes

15-17 150 minutes

18-20+ 180 minutes (would include those tournaments with only one preliminary chamber)

Change # 15

The President and Regional Representatives will appoint a regionally balanced committee of at least 10 experienced coaches (2 from each region) and a chair to study, propose, and suggest for adoption by the TFA members general standards and norms for Individual Qualifying Tournaments. Such norms and standards would include, but not limited to: --Minimum rounds necessary for events dependent on the number of entries--Suggested tournament schedules for one day and two day tournaments--Judge recruitment and training--Tournament entry, school, and judge fees--Offering non-qualifying events (prose, poetry, impromptu) when choosing not to offer other qualifying events (debate)--Definition and accepted practices for “swing” tournaments--Electronic reporting of results (requirements for putting packet information on accepted website locations)

Change # 16

Page 28 under ‘Floor Debate’

- Strike item 1 “each bill or resolution shall be debated for a minimum of 45 minutes. If action has not been taken on the legislation by that time, an immediate vote shall be taken.”

- Add to item 3 “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.”

- Add to item 5 “Members may ask only one question per questioning period. 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.”

Change # 17

Page 44-45 amend the paragraph ‘If student are... breaking mechanism only’ to read:

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. In either case, 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 shall not be scored, will not count against precedence, and will not 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.

Change # 18

Page 55 under procedural rules item 3, presiding officer. Strike lines a-d. “a. Students wishing to run for presiding officer shall indicate such on the State Entry. b. Each candidate shall preside for fifteen minutes whereupon the members shall, by secret ballot, select a presiding officer.

c. The presiding officer should have an expert knowledge of parliamentary procedure, leadership ability, and a sense of fairness.

d. Please see the NFL Congress Manual or Handbook for Parliamentary guidelines. www.nflonline.org.”

Page 56 Semifinal Congress and Super Congress. Strike item 2 (semis) and 1b (Super Congress) and replace with “Presiding Officers will be elected from the floor following the same procedures as preliminary rounds”.

2013 Convention Amendments

Change # 1:

Page 59, Sweepstakes

Two points shall be awarded for advancing to debate double-octofinals and semifinal participation in the United States House.

Change # 2: added

Page 59, Sweepstakes

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

Change # 3: added

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.

Change # 4: added page 3

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.

Change # 5: Page 51, Added to item 1, "as defined by article III,section 1."

Change # 6: Date changed to January 31. Then added, " Schools hosting a TFA qualifier must become members before October31, either through an individual membership or institutional membership."

Change # 7: Added to page 57: "Ranks above 5 will be converted to 5 for the purposes of determining cumulative rank." Also "Ranks above 5 will be treated as 5s (.20) in determining the reciprocal total."

Change # 8: 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)

Change # 9: Add 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.

Change # 10:

Added to 2 on page 47.

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

Judge:	X	Y	Z
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 X and Y) 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.

Change # 11: Add to Code of Professional Standards

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.

Changes 12-26: Congressional Committee Recs, passed as a single piece of legislation

These are the recommendations of the Congressional Debate Committee at the conclusion of meetings held in Irving, Texas on Aug 30-31, 2013:

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.**

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

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.

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

- d. Legislation which does not conform to guidelines will be rejected from consideration for the Congressional Debate calendar.
- e. 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.
- f. Legislation Deadlines
 - iii. May 1 for August - December debate
 - iv. November 1 for January-March (including TFA State) debate

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

Pp. 46-48

Add the words "for Qualifying Tournaments" as demonstrated.

Congressional Debate Tabulation for Qualifying Tournaments

Entry Numbers and Requirements

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

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.

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
- pp.57-59

Congressional Debate

General Rules

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

4. **Entry:**

- d. 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.
- e. 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.
- f. 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.

5. **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 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.

6. **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.
 - d. *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
- e. *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.
- f. *Super Congress*: There will be one "finals" round of three hours which will be known as Super Congress.

Procedural Rules

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

6. **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.
7. **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.
8. **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.
9. **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".

See the Student Congress Manual or Parliamentary Procedure Handbook www.nflonline.org

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.

- d. 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.
- e. The Parliamentarian shall award the presiding officer a score at the conclusion of each hour of service.
- f. 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.

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.

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.

4. **Organization**
 - e. No more than 16 delegates shall be in the Super Congress
 - f. The assigned **P.O. Parliamentarians/**Scorers shall remain for the entire round.
 - g. **Adult PO may be assigned if available.**
5. **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.
6. **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.

Change # 27: Deletion of following sentence in plagiarism section: Schools found to be in violation shall be disqualified from participation in Congressional Debate at the next State Tournament.

Change # 28: Page 38, passage on direct questioning was added.

Change # 29: Term of Office/Term Limi for President was added.

Change # 30: Punishment for plagiarism was added to Congressional Debate legislation

Change # 31: Declaration of Direct Questioning in Congressional Debate in IQT invitation was added.

Change # 32: Allowing Repeating/Rephrasing of CX Question in Congressional Debate was added.

Change # 33: Amendment start date clarification was added.