February 6, 2024

Dear NPDA Colleagues:

On behalf of President Ashley Nuckels-Cuevas, the Executive Council, our host, the University of Utah's John R. Park Debate Society, and the National Parliamentary Debate Association, I am pleased to invite you to the 31st annual NPDA National Championship Tournament on Thursday, March 14 through Sunday, March 17, 2024 at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, UT. We anticipate a fine weekend of education and competition, culminating with the awarding of the 2024 National Championship.

Please note the following deadlines for entry and ensure that all materials **arrive** in the proper location **on time**. **All forms must be electronically submitted following the enclosed instructions.** Faxes will not be accepted.

- By **Monday, February 26**, The following items need to be completed
  - **Entry:** Tournament entry will be collected using Forensics Tournament. A complete entry includes the names of all debaters and critics.
  - **Fees**: Tournament fees must be paid. Payment can be made through Forensics Tournament or by check. If you are sending a check, it needs to **arrive** at the NPDA Treasurer's office by February 26. No personal checks are accepted.
  - **Student Eligibility**: Student eligibility forms are **due** by email (weilerba@whitman.edu) to the tournament director. The documents must include the signature of the program's director, the signature of the college/university Registrar, and the seal of the institution.
  - **Critic Certification**: Critic certification forms due by email (weilerba@whitman.edu) to the tournament director.
  - **Judge Philosophies**: Critic philosophy statements are due to Forensics Tournament. Philosophy statements must meet the minimum standard for acceptance (see Critics section of this document). Critics must enter the email addresses where they will receive ballots during the tournament.
  - **Responsibility Forms**: Program Responsibility forms due by email (weilerba@whitman.edu) to the tournament director.
  - **Title IX Training:** All observers, judges, coaches, critics, and other attendees must have completed Title IX training. If you have not completed a training through the institutions with which you are associated, please use this link to access training. We prefer you use your home institution for certification if possible.
- On **Monday, March 11, 2024**, the critic strike page will be enabled (if numbers allow for strikes). Each critic's judging philosophy will be available via Forensics Tournament prior to March 11, but strike submission will begin on March 11th.
- On **Thursday, March 14, 2024** programs need to:
  - Finalize strikes and submit strikes. Any strikes that are submitted late cannot be guaranteed.
  - Submit any ADA accommodation requests.
  - Register in-person. Teams failing to register will be removed from the tournament.

Failure to meet any of these deadlines will result in the removal of teams from the Championship Tournament and the surrender of all registration fees.

Note: For all tournament-related communication, please contact me ONLY at weilerba@whitman.edu or 417-684-3888. For payment-related questions, please contact NPDA Treasurer, Shannon LaBove, at sdl6@rice.edu or 903-503-2907. *Please read this document completely.* I look forward to seeing each of you at the tournament as we celebrate the year and crown the NPDA champion.

For the NPDA,

Baker Weilert-Pekar
Tournament Director

TOURNAMENT RULES

The Constitution, Bylaws, Tournament Operating Procedures document, and the Rules for Debating and Judging of the NPDA will govern the Championship Tournament and shall take precedence over any errors in this document.

REGISTRATION FEES

It is your responsibility to ensure that entries arrive on time. Uncovered fees are per team and in addition to the team entry fee. In addition to a school fee and a per person hospitality fee, the following schedule will be employed:

ON-TIME FEE SCHEDULE (received by February 26, 2024)

- TEAM ENTRY – $125 per team
- UNCOVERED TEAMS – $175 additional

LATE FEE SCHEDULE (entry after February 26th, but by March 11th)

- TEAM ENTRY – $200 per team
- UNCOVERED TEAMS – $250 additional

LAST MINUTE FEE SCHEDULE (entry after March 11th)

- TEAM ENTRY (includes uncovered fee) – $750 per team

FORM OF PAYMENT: The NPDA can accept either a check (NO personal checks) or credit card payment

1. **Credit Card:** Forensics Tournament has a "Tournament Fees" link that can be used for credit card payment. Please note that credit card payments incur a 2.35% charge.
2. **Check:** Either a cashier's check or a College/University check are acceptable, but NPDA CANNOT accept personal checks. The Tournament Fee Schedule (included in this document) must also be included with your school's check.

   NPDA's tax ID number is: EIN 81 0543496. Checks should be made payable to *National Parliamentary Debate Association* (not the tournament director) and sent to: Shannon LaBove, NPDA Treasurer, Rice University, MS36, 6100 Main St., Houston, TX 77005.

Unless space limitations prevent a school from entering all the teams for which they have paid, registration fees are non-refundable. If more teams apply to compete than the campus can accommodate, the procedure from the NPDA Championship Tournament Operating Procedure Section B.4 shall be followed.

CRITIC RESPONSIBILITIES

Each entering school is required to bring a minimum of one qualified critic. Two schools with an odd number of teams may share a full-commitment judge. Judges for the Championship Tournament are r**equired** to certify (using the Critic Certification form included in this document) that they will follow the Rules for Debating and Judging, which can be found on the critic certification form. Judges who fail to follow these rules will be removed from the tournament, and their schools will be charged appropriate judging fees, as determined by the Tournament Director.

If your school is bringing extra judges/judges without a full commitment, and you would like to donate that judging to student-run programs or programs with limited support, please contact the tournament director.

All judges must have a computer, smartphone, or other device with which to observe rounds as well as to receive and send ballots. Judges MUST include their email address on the critic certification form and must enter it when registering on Forensics Tournament.

Length of Service - Unless given special permission from the Tournament Director, **ALL** critics must be available through two rounds past the elimination of their teams. If any teams from a school qualify for the octofinal round, **all** critics from that school must remain available through the semifinal round.

Ballot Distribution and Responsibility – The Championship Tournament will use an electronic ballot system. A fee of $50.00 for each preliminary round and $100.00 for each elimination round will be imposed against judges who fail to be available to judge all rounds for which they are obligated. Fines must be paid promptly, as determined by the Tournament Director. **Teams from schools who have not paid penalties for their judges failing to pick up assigned and/or pushed ballots will not be allowed to advance to elimination rounds**. Furthermore, until fines are paid the judge's affiliated or hiring school will be suspended from NPDA membership.

JUDGING PHILOSOPHIES

All critics need to submit a judging philosophy to Forensics Tournament. These philosophies should substantively represent the critic's understanding of how debate works, and they should be written in plain language. Critics who submit philosophies past the deadline or whose philosophies are insufficient will not be counted when calculating a school's commitment. The affected school will be charged an uncovered judge fee. Failure to complete philosophy statements for a judge will result in charging schools for uncovered teams, late fees, and/or disqualification of two teams.

HIRED CRITICS

According to NPDA tournament operating procedures, the Tournament Director may secure additional hired critics. Any hired critic must be sponsored by a member school participating in the tournament. If you are bringing qualified critics who wish to be hired, please contact the Tournament Director no later than the entry deadline. Qualified judges must submit complete philosophies and proof of Title IX training (either from their sponsoring institution or via NPDA online training) on time and are hired for the first two days of the tournament for a $200.00 stipend, or $20.00 per round. If a hired judge is retained for the third day, they will be paid $20 per round judged.

TOURNAMENT OPERATION

PAIRING PROCEDURES

PRELIMINARY ROUNDS – The first two rounds will be randomly paired. The third through eighth rounds will be power-matched, high-low within each win-loss bracket. Except for teams receiving a BYE, teams will debate four times on each side, debating the opposite side of the motion in even numbered rounds from the side they debated in the previous odd-numbered round. No judge may render a decision that awards a win to both teams or a loss to both teams. If a judge refuses to render a decision, the tab room will assign a winner by coin toss. A complete listing of the pairing procedures is available in the NPDA Championship Tournament Procedures document.

ELIMINATION ROUNDS – Following round eight, all teams with five wins will advance to single elimination debates. Each team will be ranked by (1) wins, (2) adjusted speaker points, (3) total speaker points, (4) strength of opposition record, (5) double adjusted speaker points and (6) judge's variance.

If the number of teams advancing is less than a full elimination round, a partial round will be held. Those teams holding the lower seeds will debate while the teams with the highest seeds will receive a bye into the next round. The computer will randomly assign sides until the quarterfinal round unless the teams have previously debated. For the quarterfinal round and all following rounds, a coin toss will determine sides. The team listed first will call the side in the coin toss. If the two teams have debated previously, the two teams will debate on the opposite sides that they debated in the preliminary round. Teams will debate in single elimination round debates until one team remains undefeated in the elimination rounds. The team with a majority of the ballots in a panel will be declared the winner.

In the event that two teams from the same school meet in elimination rounds, brackets will be broken according to the following criteria: (1) protecting the highest seed; (2) changing the fewest number of brackets; (3) preserving original bracket order. In a partial round where both teams are represented by the same program we will not break the bracket in a way that would pull another team, who has broken, into the partial round. In this scenario, the director may choose which team walks the other.

NOVICE BREAKOUT: Teams in which both debaters qualified for novice status at the start of the Fall 2020 semester, provided the tab room is informed of their status prior to the tournament, will be eligible for a novice semifinal and final breakout round to be held during elimination rounds three and four of the open bracket. Teams of novice status who are eliminated from the tournament prior to the beginning of the second elimination debate, including any novice teams who debate but fail to win the first elimination round, will be eligible for the novice breakout.

ASSIGNMENT OF CRITICS

Assignment of Judges—The Tournament Director has final authority over judge assignments and/or removals from preliminary rounds and elimination round panels.

Judge Strikes – Each team may strike up to 15% of the judging pool (depending on judge availability)

Judge Conflicts – All judging assignments will be made at random from a pool that excludes judges who, according to both the perception of participants and the Tournament Director, have a legitimate conflict of interest. Judges may not adjudicate teams from their own school (**or the team's school for the past four years**), teams from other schools they

may be prepping with, former students, or anybody who that critic may not be able to objectively and fairly evaluate. Should a judge conflict arise during the tournament, tab should be notified 30 minutes prior to the release of pairings. At registration or before, judges are **required** to inform the Tournament Director of any teams they should not judge. Failure to notify the Tournament Director in advance of the tournament may result in the assessment of missed rounds fees in the event of an improperly assigned ballot. Any constraints entered by a team for the tournament will be considered by the Tournament Director if based on the following categories: former coaches, former team members, romantic relationships, or other cases as approved on a case-by-case basis. Instructions for submitting constraints will be available with the critic strike page.

Elimination Rounds – Each preliminary round will be adjudicated by one judge. Each elimination round prior to the quarter final round will be adjudicated by no fewer than three judges. The quarterfinal and semifinals will be adjudicated by no fewer than five judges. The final round will be adjudicated by no fewer than seven judges. At the discretion of the Tournament Director, each team in the semifinal and final round of debate may be allowed to remove one or more judges from a tentative panel. In this case, the Tournament Director has the right to name one judge who cannot be removed by either team. The team will be given up to five minutes to return the judge strike card or forfeit their right to strike judges. From the remaining potential judge panel, the tab room will randomly assign judges to the debates. The final judge panel will then be announced to the teams debating.

TIMELY ARRIVAL AND START OF DEBATES

PREPARATION AND TRANSIT TIME - NPDA operating procedures indicate that the specified preparation and transit time shall be twenty minutes plus the amount of time needed to walk to the furthest building where debates are being held, as determined by the Tournament Director. Debaters must be in the debate chamber, ready to debate, **30 minutes** after the topic has been announced (subject to change depending on weather)..

PENALTIES FOR LATENESS – At the expiration of preparation time, the judge will begin a timer. The team(s) who is/are not present will have the total of that time deducted from the speaking time of their first speech. If the late team(s) is/are not present by the expiration of their first speech's total time, they will receive a forfeit with zero speaker points. If neither team is present by 8:00 after prep time has expired, both shall be forfeited and both teams shall receive 0 speaker points. Refusal by a judge to do this will result in the removal of the judge from the judging pool and an uncovered judge fee will be assessed to the team who the judge is representing.

NOTE: The judge does NOT have discretion about whether to enforce this rule and their decision may be overturned by the Tournament Director if they refuse to enforce it. If a judge refuses to enforce this rule, the affected team should contact the tab room immediately.

Furthermore, **judges are also bound by the prep clock** and must arrive at their debates on time. Debaters shall be afforded the opportunity to inform the tab room of judges who are late to their rounds. The Tournament Director shall have the discretion of imposing penalties, equivalent to those imposed for a missed round, for lateness.

TOURNAMENT AWARDS

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

TEAM AWARDS – Each member of a team that advances to elimination rounds will receive an award. Placing will be determined by the round of a team's elimination or their placing in the championship debate (for first and second). Additionally, the members of the top three (3) novice teams at the tournament will receive an award. Per NPDA rules, ANY form or length of high school or college debate (but not individual events) competition excludes competitors from consideration for novice awards (Even participation in JUST ONE tournament in high school disqualifies a competitor from novice standing). Novice placing will first be determined by a team's placing in elimination rounds. If a tie still exists, the seeding of the tied teams after preliminary rounds will determine placing.

SPEAKER AWARDS – Based upon the speaker points assigned by the eight critics in the preliminary debates, the top twenty speakers will receive awards. The top speaker in the tournament receives the James "Al" Johnson top speaker trophy, named after one of NPDA's founders. Rank ordering of speakers is determined by (1) adjusted speaker points, (2) total speaker points, (3) double adjusted speaker points and (4) judge variance. Awards will be given to the top five novice debaters as well.

NOVICE BREAKOUT AWARDS – In addition to the awards described above, participants in the novice breakout will be awarded appropriate trophies based on their finish in the novice elimination breakout debates.

SCHOOL AWARDS

TOURNAMENT SWEEPSTAKES – The top twenty schools will receive tournament sweepstakes awards. Two points are awarded for each preliminary round win for the top four teams from each school. Additionally, two points are awarded for each elimination round won (including BYEs) for the top four teams from each school – these need not be the same teams as those in preliminary rounds. The tournament champion receives an additional two points for its school. Hybrid teams divide points equally between their respective squads. The top five community colleges will receive awards.

SEASON SWEEPSTAKES – The top twenty schools in the season long sweepstakes standings will receive awards, along with the top five schools in the Novice, Junior, and Open divisions. The top five community colleges will also receive awards.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

ADA ACCOMMODATIONS – If you or one of your students needs ADA accommodations, please contact the tournament director as soon as possible and no later than the day that strikes are due.

OPENING ASSEMBLY – Important information about tournament logistics will be provided during the opening assembly. Each school is responsible for this information, so one person from each participating school should be present at the opening assembly.

PREPARATION ROOMS – Each school will be assigned a 'team' room by the tournament director. These rooms may be used for preparation, but need to be kept clean and usable for competition. If a team fails to keep their preparation room in good condition, the school will lose access to a preparation room for the remainder of the tournament.

SMOKING: The University of Utah is a smoke-free campus. Please do not smoke on campus. Participants failing to comply with this request will be removed from campus at the request of the University.

DRUG FREE STATEMENT

A. The unlawful manufacture, distribution, possession, or use of a controlled substance as defined by the Controlled Substances Act of 1970 while on property owned and/or operated by the host institution for the NPDA championship tournament is prohibited.
B. The distribution, possession, or use of alcohol, marijuana, tobacco or other substances in violation of a host institution's policies or procedures is prohibited.
C. Violation of these rules will result in the following penalties.
    1. The first offense will result in the disqualification of the competitor from the current tournament and prohibited entry into the subsequent championship tournament. In the case of a judge, the individual will be removed from the current tournament and prohibited from judging the subsequent championship tournament. In the case of an observer, the individual will be removed from the current tournament.
    2. On the second offense, the competitor will be disqualified from the current tournament and prohibited entry into subsequent championship tournaments. In the case of a judge, the individual will be removed from the current tournament and prohibited from judging in all subsequent championship tournaments. In the case of an observer, the individual will be removed from the current tournament and prohibited from attending subsequent championship tournaments.
    3. The Executive Council shall determine what, if any, additional sanctions may be taken. Depending on the nature of the incident, the Executive Council may issue a written reprimand to be sent to the Director, Dean and/or Provost of the associated institution, order the removal of NPDA points, or enact the suspension of a program from membership in NPDA.

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, March 14, 2024

12:00-1:30	Championship Tournament Committee Meeting
1:30-3:30	Tournament Registration (Open) to all Schools
3:45-4:30	**Opening Assembly**
4:30-5:00	Title IX/Sexual Harassment Prevention Training
5:00-7:00	**NPDA Business Meeting**

FRIDAY, March 15, 2024

8:30	Release Round 1 Pairings
8:45	Topic Announce: Round One
10:25	Ballots Due to Tabroom
10:45	Release Round 2 Pairings
11:00	Topic Announcement: Round Two
12:40	Ballots Due to Tabroom
12:30-1:45	**LUNCH BREAK (on your own)**
1:45	Release Round 3 Pairings
2:00	Topic Announced: Round 3
3:40	Ballot Due to Tabroom
4:00	Release Round 4 Pairings
4:15	Topic Announced: Round Four
5:55	Ballots Due to Tabroom
6:15	Release Round 5 Pairings
6:30	Topic Announced: Round Five
8:10	Ballots Due to Tabroom

SATURDAY March 16, 2024

8:30	Release Round 6 Pairings
8:45	Topic Announced: Round Six
10:25	Ballots Due to Tabroom
10:45	Release Round 7 Pairings
11:00	Topic Announced: Round Seven
12:40	Ballots Due to Tabroom
12:30-1:45	**LUNCH BREAK (on your own) DISTRICT MEETINGS**
1:45	Release Round 8 Pairings
2:00	Topic Announced: Round Eight
3:40	Ballots Due to Tabroom
3:40-4:20	**NATIONAL STUDENT MEETING**
4:20	Release Double Octofinal Pairing
4:35	Topic Announced: Double Octofinals
6:15	Ballots Due to Tabroom
6:35	Release Octofinal Pairings
6:50	Topic Announced: Octofinals
8:30	Ballots Due to Tabroom

SUNDAY March 17, 2024

8:30	Release Quarterfinal Pairings
8:45	Topic Announce: Quarterfinals
10:25	Ballots Due to Tabroom
11:00	Release Quarterfinal Pairings
11:15	Topic Announce: Semifinals
12:50	Ballots Due to Tabroom
12:45-1:45	**LUNCH BREAK (on your own)**
1:45	Release Final Round Pairings
2:00	Topic Announce: Finals
3:40	Ballots Due to Tabroom
4:00	**AWARDS CEREMONY**

RULES FOR DEBATING AND JUDGING

The purpose of these rules is to define goals and procedures of the debates so everyone will enter the debates with shared expectations. These rules are designed to apply to the framework for debate rather than the substance and are framed in an attempt to preserve debater creativity.

These rules apply to the NPDA Championship Tournament. Sanctions for violating Section 4 of the Rules of Debating and Judging (rules that apply during the debate) shall be the province of the judge. In the case of a dispute regarding a judge's interpretation of the rules, enforcement of the rules, or adhering to the procedures of the tournament, one or both debate teams may appeal a judge's decision regarding sanctions to the Ombudsperson for a final decision.

Enforcement of all other sections of the NPDA Tournament Rules shall be the responsibility of the Tournament Director in consultation with the Championship Tournament Committee. Appeals of decisions made by the Tournament Director will be directed to the Championship Tournament Ombudsperson.

RULES OF DEBATING AND JUDGING

I. RESOLUTIONS

A. A different resolution for each round will be presented to the debaters at a specified time prior to the beginning of each debate.

B. The topic of each round will be about current affairs or philosophy. The resolutions will be general enough that a well-educated college student can debate them. They may be phrased in literal or metaphorical language.

II. OBJECTIVE OF THE DEBATE

The proposition team must affirm the resolution by presenting and defending a sufficient case for that resolution. The opposition team must oppose the resolution and/or the proposition team's case. If, at the end of the debate, the judge believes that the proposition team has supported and successfully defended the resolution, they will be declared the winner - otherwise the opposition will be declared the winner.

III. DURING THE DEBATE

A. Materials: Any published information (dictionaries, magazines, etc.), which may have been consulted before the debate, cannot be brought into the debating chambers for use during the debate. Except for notes that the debaters themselves have prepared during preparation time and a copy of the NPDA"Rules of Debating and Judging," no published materials, prepared arguments, or resources for the debaters' use in the debate may be brought into the debating chambers.

B. Format of the debate

First Proposition Constructive: 7 minutes
Opposition Flex Time: 2 Minutes
First Opposition Constructive: 8 minutes
Proposition Flex Time: 2 Minutes
Second Proposition Constructive: 8 minutes
Proposition Flex Time: 1 minute
Second Opposition Constructive: 8 minutes
Opposition Rebuttal by First Speaker: 4 minutes
Proposition Flex Time: 1 Minute
Proposition Rebuttal by First Speaker: 5 minutes

C. Flex Time: Flex time may be used by the controlling team to prepare arguments, drink water, set up stands, ask questions of their opponents, etc. Flex time may not be used as additional speech time.

D. Constructive and Rebuttal Speeches - Introduction of new arguments is appropriate during all constructive speeches. However, debaters may not introduce new arguments in rebuttal speeches except that the proposition rebuttalist may introduce new arguments in his or her rebuttal to refute arguments that were first raised in the Second Opposition Constructive. New examples, analysis, analogies, etc. that support previously introduced arguments are permitted in rebuttal speeches.

E. Points of Information - A debater may request a point of information-either verbally or by rising-at any time after the first minute and before the last minute of any constructive speech. The debater holding the floor has the discretion to accept or refuse points of information. If accepted, the debater requesting the point of information has a maximum of fifteen seconds to make a statement or ask a question. The speaking time of the debater with the floor continues during the point of information.

F. Points of Order - Points of order can be raised for no reason other than those specified in these Rules of Debating and Judging. If at any time during the debate, a debater believes that his or her opponent has violated one of these Rules of Debating and Judging, he or she may address the judge with a point of order. Once recognized by the judge, the debater must state, but may not argue for, the point of order. At the discretion of the judge, the accused may briefly respond to the point of order. The judge will then rule immediately on the point of order in one of three ways: point well taken, point not well taken, or point taken under consideration. The time used to state and address a point of order will not be deducted from the speaking time of the debater with the floor. A point of order is a serious charge and should not be raised for minor violations. In elimination rounds, points of order will be taken under consideration and each judge will make their own determination on its merit as they render their decision.

G. Points of Personal Privilege - At any time during the debate, a debater may rise to a point of personal privilege when he or she believes that an opponent has personally insulted one of the debaters, has made an offensive or tasteless comment, or has grievously misconstrued another's words or arguments. The judge will then rule on whether or not the comments were acceptable. The time used to state and address a point of personal privilege will not be deducted from the speaking time of the debater with the floor. Like a point of order, a point of personal privilege is a serious charge and should not be raised for minor transgressions. Debaters may be penalized for raising spurious points of personal privilege.

H. Flowing: In accordance with NPDA Bylaws, electronic/laptop flowing by debaters in a round is acceptable for the national tournament. This excludes cutting and pasting previously prepared material as well as flowing done by anyone not in the round on a shared document.

IV. AFTER THE DEBATE

A. After the final rebuttal, the judge will dismiss the teams, complete the ballot and submit it to the Tournament Director via email. The judge should not give oral comments before the ballot is completed and submitted to the Tournament Director.

B. After submitting the ballot, the judge may, at her or his discretion, give brief constructive comments to the debaters. Such conversations should, if possible, take place in the established "warm room" area if one is designated by the tournament. No one may be required to enter the "warm room" or participate in discussions. Judges should refrain from checking the records of teams they are about to judge should such information be available.

C. Debaters or coaches will refrain from arguing with judges' decisions or comments. Debaters or coaches who harass judges may be withdrawn from the tournament on a 2/3 vote of the Tournament Committee.

V. A NOTE ON APPEALS

All appeals pertaining to tournament rules in a particular round must be made before the topic is announced for the subsequent round. This requirement can be initially fulfilled by notifying the Tournament Director verbally of a pending appeal; however, a written appeal will be required within the time limit established by the Tournament Director and before a decision will be issued. If the Tournament Director requires more information or documentation, the Tournament Director will inform the team filing the appeal of an appropriate time limit for gathering those materials.

CRITIC CERTIFICATION FORM

EVERY critic adjudicating at the Championship Tournament must sign a copy of these rules, thereby indicating their knowledge of the rules and an agreement to abide by them. Refusal to comply will result in that judge being removed from the Championship Tournament and their affiliated team being assessed the costs of hiring an additional critic or the removal of teams from the offending judge's school.

These rules are intended to define basic goals and procedures so that debaters and judges will enter rounds with shared expectations. The Tournament Rules attempt to allow freedom in debaters' creativity.

– PART ONE: TIMING AND LOGISTICS –

Preparation Time: Judges will follow timing guidelines stated in the invitation under "Penalties for Lateness."

Timing of the Debate: The Judge should serve as official timekeeper, giving time signals (if needed) that indicate the number of minutes of speaking time remaining. During constructive speeches, judges should be prepared to alert debaters if needed when one minute has elapsed and when one minute remains. There is no preparation time between speeches. Speeches should not exceed the following time limits:

First Proposition Constructive: 7 minutes
Opposition Flex Time: 2 Minutes
First Opposition Constructive: 8 minutes
Proposition Flex Time: 2 Minutes
Second Proposition Constructive: 8 minutes
Proposition Flex Time: 1 minute
Second Opposition Constructive: 8 minutes
Opposition Rebuttal by First Speaker: 4 minutes
Proposition Flex Time: 1 Minute
Proposition Rebuttal by First Speaker: 5 minutes

Pre-Prepared and Published Materials: Any published information, prepared arguments, or other resources may be consulted before the debate; however, such materials may not be used during the debate, with two exceptions: (1) notes made during preparation time by the debaters competing in that round may be used during the debate, and (2) a copy of the NPDA "Rules of Debating and Judging" may be used.

Specific Information: Debaters may refer to any information within the realm of knowledge of liberally educated and informed citizens. If a debater believes that certain cited information is too specific, he or she may request that his or her opponent explain the information. In the event that further explanation of specific information is requested, the opponent should provide details sufficient to allow others to understand the connection between the information and his or her claim. Judges will disallow specific information only in the event that no reasonable person could have access to the information, e.g., information from the debater's personal family history.

New Arguments in Rebuttals: New arguments are appropriate during all constructive speeches. Debaters may not introduce new arguments in rebuttal speeches, except that the Proposition rebuttalist may introduce new arguments to refute arguments first raised in the Second Opposition Constructive. New examples, analysis, analogies, etc. that support previously introduced arguments are permitted in rebuttals.

Flex Time: Flex time may be used by the controlling team to prepare arguments, drink water, set up stands, ask questions of their opponents, etc. Flex time may not be used as additional speech time.

– PART TWO: PARLIAMENTARY POINTS –

Points of Information: A debater may request a point of information (either verbally or by standing) at any time after the first minute and before the last minute of any constructive speech. The debater holding the floor may accept or refuse points of information. If accepted, the debater requesting the point of information has a maximum of fifteen seconds to make a statement or ask a question. The speaking time of the debater with the floor continues during the point of information. There is no requirement that a point of information be phrased in a particular format—question, statement, or otherwise.

Points of Personal Privilege: At any time during the debate, a debater may rise to a point of personal privilege when he/she believes that an opponent has personally insulted one of the debaters, has made an offensive or tasteless comment, or has grievously misconstrued another's words or arguments. **The judge will then rule on whether the comments were acceptable.** The time used for a point of personal privilege is not deducted from the speaking time of the debater with the floor. Points of personal privilege should not be raised for minor issues. Debaters may be penalized for raising spurious points of personal privilege.

Points of Order: Points of Order may be raised for no reason other than those specified in the NPDA Rules for Debating and Judging. If at any time during the debate, a debater believes that her/his opponent has violated one of these rules, he/she may address the judge with a point of order. Once recognized by the judge, the debater must state, but may not argue for, the point of order. At the discretion of the judge, the accused may respond to the point of order. The judge will then rule immediately on the point of order in one of three ways: "point well taken," "point not well taken," or "point taken under consideration." In elimination rounds, points of order will be taken under consideration and each judge will make their own determination on its merit as they render their decision. The time used to state and address a point of order will not be deducted from the speaking time of the debater with the floor. A point of order is a serious charge and should not be raised for minor violations.

– PART THREE: COMPLETION OF THE BALLOT –

Written Comments on Ballots: Judges are encouraged to provide constructive comments on each ballot instead of merely writing "oral critique." You may resend ballots afterward with further comments.

After the Debate: The judge should complete the ballot and submit it via email by the time indicated in the tournament schedule, but preferably immediately after the decision is made. Judges should not confer with ANYONE prior to making a decision and awarding speaker points. After submitting the ballot, the judge may, at their discretion, give brief constructive comments to the debaters. **Debaters or coaches may not argue with a judge's decision or comments. Debaters or coaches who verbally abuse judges will be removed from the tournament**. Judges should take care to make comments in a way that respects their role as professionals, as educators, and as holders of power in the debate. This means they should be respectful of the students in the debate and should not denigrate, demean, or insult the students. **Judges who verbally abuse students will be removed from the tournament, and their school will be charged a judging fee.**

CRITIC CERTIFICATION FORM

– PART FOUR: ADJUDICATOR RESPONSIBILITY –

Sexual Harassment Policy: The NPDA maintains that parliamentary debate should be a contest of knowledge, wit, and argumentation conducted in a setting of civility and mutual respect. The organization maintains that all eligible members should have access to debate activities without regard to race, creed, age, sex, national origin, sexual or affectional preference, or non-disqualifying difference in ability. These principles should guide the behavior and conduct of all members and participants of the organization. The full NPDA Sexual Harassment Policy is available at the end of this document and will be made available at tournament registration.

Abuse of Power by Judges: Judges should enact their role with the highest degree of responsibility. This includes arriving at the round on time, listening to the round closely, and making a decision to the best of one's ability at the completion of the debate round. Judges who flow on a laptop or other device should not be working on anything else during the debate and SHOULD NOT be communicating with people outside of the round. Judges should also treat competitors, fellow judges, coaches, and hosts with respect. Judges should never use their position to impose inappropriate or artificial demands on debaters and should never endorse rules violations. Judges who refuse to carry out their duties in a responsible manner, both inside and outside of debate rounds, will be removed from the tournament.

– PART FIVE: ADJUDICATOR ACCOUNTABILITY –

I have read this document and I agree that the rounds under my jurisdiction will be governed by these rules.

Name of Critic	School Affiliation	Signature of Critic	Date	E-mail address

PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITY FORM

Name of Participating School: _____

Director of Forensics: _____

The NPDA expects all participants to act responsibly throughout the tournament. Failure to have appropriate identification could lead to removal from campus. Any behavior deemed disruptive, threatening, or damaging to others, including behavior that damages tournament facilities, risks immediate removal of those responsible from the tournament and the host school. In addition, participants are expected to comply with the rules, policies, and regulations of the NPDA, including Title IX Compliance. The NPDA Executive Committee and/or the host school will assess an appropriate response, including fines or judging fees to associated programs to cover judging obligations, and, if applicable, bill the associated program for costs incurred to replace, repair, or clean (beyond normal expectations) campus property, including property in assigned prep rooms or elsewhere on campus. Should damage be documented before the end of the tournament, teams may be prohibited from competing until payment has been arranged. Failure to pay fines and/or costs will mean that a program will not be allowed to compete at the NPDA Championship Tournament again until these fines and/or costs are paid. As appropriate, failure to observe these conditions of participation, including Title IX policies, will result in formal reporting by the NPDA to responsible academic institutions.

DIRECTOR OF FORENSICS CERTIFICATION

My signature below indicates that I have read the Statement for Program Responsibility. I will inform participants associated with my program of their responsibilities and I will abide by disciplinary decisions made by the NPDA Executive Board, Tournament Director, or host school, to participants who are associated with my squad, including debaters, observers, judges, and coaches.

_____ _____

Director of Forensics (signature) Date

_____ _____

Current email address cell number

_____

Name of Senior Coaching member at the Championship Tournament

_____ _____

Current Email cell number

_____ _____

Signature (if different from DOF) Date

NPDA STUDENT ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS

Please make sure your students fulfill these guidelines. Questions regarding eligibility should be addressed to the Tournament Director BEFORE submitting an entry.

A. Participation in NPDA is open to officially enrolled undergraduate students in good standing at the college or university they are representing and meeting the criteria below.
    1. A student must represent a recognized degree granting institution that is a member of the NPDA and participate with the full knowledge and approval of that institution, its officials, and any existing NPDA affiliated organization operating within that institution.
    2. A student should be seeking a baccalaureate degree at the institution they are representing unless competing for a two-year school, in which case, pursuit of associate's degree or equivalent two-year certification at their institution is sufficient.
    3. Possession of one of the aforementioned degrees precludes further competition for those respective honors at the championship tournament.
    4. "Good standing" and definition of degree pursuit are defined by the institution the student is representing.
    5. A student is limited to competition in four NPDA Championship Tournaments.

B. Midyear graduates may compete in the NPDA Championship tournament in the spring after graduation. The NPDA will not accept points accrued by mid-year graduates at regular season tournaments after their graduation.

C. In unusual cases, graduate students who possess a baccalaureate degree may petition for one "tournament year" of eligibility. A "tournament year" shall include any year in which the student attends any national speech and/or debate tournament.
    1. Graduate students making such a request must have no previous experience in intercollegiate speech and/or debate activities of any kind, and must require involvement in competitive speech and debate for a specific type of degree, certification, or other professional requirement.
    2. Coaches who have a student deserving of consideration must submit a request in writing to the NPDA President prior to entering the student in competition. The request should explain the student's specific degree-related need, certify that the student has no previous experience or provide a detailed description of the student's previous experience, and outline the student's prior academic associations including other schools he/she attended and degree(s) earned. The President, in concert with the Executive Council, will consider each request and issue the "tournament year" of eligibility in writing if satisfied that the request is appropriate.

Note: Hybrid teams are allowed to compete, but three person teams may not participate. A school may not enter more than one hybrid team. No individual may debate without a partner.

ENROLLMENT VERIFICATION FORM

Date: _____

From: _____

To: Name Here, NPDA Championship Tournament Director

RE: Eligibility to participate in NPDA Championship Tournament

I certify that the students listed below are registered for the Spring 2024 semester, considered in good standing, and are pursuing an undergraduate degree at _____, or graduated at the end of the Fall 2023 semester. To attest to this, I hereby affix my signature and the seal of the institution.

_____ _____

School Registrar Date

— STUDENT NAMES —

DIRECTOR OF FORENSICS CERTIFICATION

_____ _____

Director of Forensics Date

_____ _____

Current email address cell number

TOURNAMENT FEE SCHEDULE

If you are paying by check, include this form when mailing payment.

School Name:_____ **Director's Name:**_____

Director's Email:_____ **Director's Cell #:**_____

SCHOOL ENTRY SECTION

Each College and University entering the Championship Tournament must be a member school of the NPDA. Membership is $50.00 per year. Additionally, each school is required to pay a 75.00 fee to support the administrative costs of the tournament. District/area schools that wish to support the host school program can help by paying the District Fee.

__1__ School Entry Fee at $75.00 $____75.00_____

_____ Hospitality Fee at $30.00 (per person - including judges and coaches) $_____

_____ District Fee at $250.00 (optional, supports hosting expenses) $_____

_____ 2022-2023 NPDA membership at $50.00 $_____

_____ 2023-2024 NPDA membership at $50.00 $_____

TEAM ENTRY SECTION

Fees charged for each school depend on the date (1) the entry is posted to tabroom.com and (2) arrival date of registration materials.

_____ Each On-Time Debate Team at $125.00 $_____

_____ Each Late Entry Debate Team at $200.00 $_____

_____ Last Minute Debate Teams at $750.00 (must pay as uncovered) $_____

JUDGING SECTION

Every school **must bring a minimum of one critic.** Beyond this, a school is responsible for bringing a full-time critic for every two teams entered. Teams will only be allowed to buy out of their commitment as the tournament is able to find additional hired critics.

_____ On-Time Uncovered Teams at $175.00 $_____

_____ Late Entry Uncovered Debate Teams at $250.00 $_____

TOTAL FEES FOR SCHOOL **$**_____

REMINDER – NPDA's tax ID number is: EIN 81 0543496. Payment can be made via Forensics Tournament. Payment can also be made through Checks or Cashier's Checks. Checks must be a University Check or Cashier's Check and made payable to the National Parliamentary Debate Association.

AUDIO/VIDEO CONSENT FORM

If you advance to elimination rounds and consent to audio/video recording please fill out the below form for EACH team in out-rounds. The NPDA National Championship will abide by two party consent.

School Name:_____

Team Members:_____

Option 1:
By signing this document you hereby consent to the National Parliamentary Debate Association recording your image and voice. In addition, I waive any right to inspect or approve the finished video recording. I understand that this consent is perpetual, that I may not revoke it, and that it is binding. I understand that these images may appear publicly as part of the NPDA's website and/or other educational materials.

Option 2:
By signing this document you hereby consent to the National Parliamentary Debate Association recording your image and voice. Additionally, I consent to the recording to be shared with only those competitors in round and their coaches and waive any right to inspect or approve the finished video recording.

Team Member #1 Signature: _____

Team Member #2 Signature: _____

Date:_____

Sexual Harassment and Violence Policy:

A. **Introduction—Preamble:** The National Parliamentary Debate Association (NPDA) promotes parliamentary debate as a contest of knowledge, wit and argumentation conducted in a setting of civility and mutual respect. All eligible, qualified members should have access to debate activities without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, use of a service animal, or any other NPDA Bylaws, characteristic or trait protected by state or federal law. These principles should guide the behavior and conduct of all members of and participants in the organization. While this policy is largely directed at sexual discrimination, sexual harassment and/or sexual violence, the principles herein shall be considered a model for dealing with all forms of harassment and/or violence. This policy is intended to eliminate specific behaviors and address concerns which may arise while participating in NPDA events and activities and to provide a forum for resolution of conflicts. This policy supplements, but does not replace the institutional policies of each participant's school and the applicable federal and state laws.

1. **Debate, Free Expression and Harassment:** Academic debate provides a forum for the expression, criticism and discussion (and for the tolerance) of a wide range of opinions. Participants are encouraged to develop skills in reasoned and supported argument while avoiding the pitfalls of faulty argument. Academic debate is not a license for demeaning actions and the NPDA does not tolerate harassment. Any participant who suffers discrimination or harassment as part of an NPDA event or activity is denied an equal opportunity to work, learn and grow in the arena of academic debate.
2. **Sexual Harassment and/or Sexual Violence:** Sexual Harassment is unwelcome verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature that is sufficiently severe or persistent or pervasive such that it unreasonably interferes with, limits or deprives someone of the ability to participate in or benefit from participating in NPDA's educational events and activities. The unwelcome behavior may be based on power differentials (quid pro quo), the creation of a hostile environment, or retaliation. A single instance of sexual assault may be sufficient to constitute a hostile environment. The NPDA will rely on the OCR's definition and other relevant legal definitions of harassment to guide its implementation of this policy. The complainant's perceptions are an important factor in determining whether specific conduct meets the definition listed above. In addition, it is important to recognize that other factors (e.g., supervisory authority, power relationships, etc.) may affect the relationships between the complainant and the accused and that these factors can compound the degree of threat or potential harm perceived in a situation.
3. **Other Forms of Harassment:** Like sexual harassment, harassment because of a race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, use of a service animal, or any other characteristic or trait protected by state or federal law will not be tolerated. In general, slurs, jokes and other verbal or physical conduct relating to a person's race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, use of a service animal, or any other characteristic or trait protected by state or federal law constitute harassment when they are sufficiently severe or persistent or pervasive such that it unreasonably interferes with, limits or deprives someone of the ability to participate in or benefit from participating in NPDA's educational events and activities.

B. Addressing and reporting harassment and/or violence at the NPDA National Championship Tournament or concerning members of the NPDA Executive Council.

1. The NPDA harassment policy shall apply to discrimination and harassment complaints that arise during the NPDA Championship Tournament or from actions taken by officials or employees of NPDA acting at any time in their official capacities.
2. Participants in the NPDA Championship Tournament who are affiliated with an

academic institution are also subject to that institution's policies, procedures, rules, and regulations related to harassing conduct, reporting such conduct, and/or addressing such conduct and taking steps to eliminate its recurrence.

3. Individuals who believe that they are being discriminated against or harassed and cannot or do not wish to resolve the matter informally should promptly report the complaint to the Title IX Officer, who shall be appointed annually by the President of the National Parliamentary Debate Association. The name and contact information for the Title IX may be found on the Association's website.
4. Individuals who witness another individual being discriminated against or harassed should inform the Title IX Officer. NPDA officers, judges, and employees who witness another individual being discriminated against or harassed are required to inform the Title IX Officer.
5. If reporting the matter to the Title IX Officer would prove to be uncomfortable or if the individual is not satisfied with the Title IX Officer's handling of the complaint, the individual should promptly bring the matter to the attention of any other member of the NPDA Executive Council (including the NPDA President, Vice-President, Treasurer, or Executive Secretary).
6. The Title IX Officer and/or a member of the Executive Committee (in cases where the party advancing the complaint is uncomfortable reporting to the Title IX Officer, or the Title IX Officer has a conflict of interest) shall promptly investigates all allegations of discrimination and/or harassment in as confidential a manner as possible. An appropriate institutional representative of the complainant's institution and the institution of the accused will be informed of the investigation.
7. The Title IX Officer , or the designated member of the Executive Committee, shall, in consultation with the NPDA President, determine what, if any, remedial action should be taken. Depending on the totality of the facts, possible sanctions may include, but not be limited to, any of the following: constructive efforts that assure the offense behavior does not reoccur; oral reprimands; written reprimands to be sent to directors of forensics and/or Deans of Faculty or Students and/or College or University Presidents; removal from future participation at the National Tournament and/or other NPDA events and activities (including competing, judging, or observing such events); removal of NPDA points; or suspension of membership in NPDA.
8. Under no circumstances will an officer, agent, employee or member of the Association be allowed to threaten or retaliate against anyone who in good faith alleges unlawful harassment or discrimination or who participates in the investigation of such a complaint.
9. In the event of a report of harassment, including a report received under the procedures outlined in Section C of this policy, care shall be taken, guided by the totality of the facts, during and after the investigatory process to reduce the potential for future incidents of harassment as defined above, as well as to ensure that complainants and accused are not forced in proximity to one another as part of the competitive experience. These measures include, but are not limited to:
    a. The tabulation room will automatically grant a constraint to ensure that complainants are not judged by an accused individual.
    b. The tabulation room will take care to ensure that, inasmuch as possible, complainants are not forced to debate against an accused individual.
    c. The President of NPDA may also issue "no contact" orders at the National tournament, with which participants must comply to maintain eligibility at the tournament. Those who willfully violate the no contact order at the tournament may be subject to sanctions as outlined in B.7.
10. Appeals of NPDA decisions regarding sexual harassment complaints are limited to questions of proper process. Such appeals shall be directed in writing to the full Executive Council. Such appeals are not automatic.

C. Addressing and reporting harassment and/or violence that has occurred outside of the NPDA National Championship Tournament.

1. Individuals who believe that they are being discriminated against or harassed outside the NPDA National Championship tournament, and cannot or do not wish to resolve the matter informally, should promptly report the complaint by submitting a formal complaint utilizing the form available here: http://www.parlidebate.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/NPDACOMPLAINT-FORM.pdf
    a. Upon receipt of a formal complaint, NPDA will transmit the complaint to the Title IX offices/coordinators or appropriate officer of all schools relevant to the complaint (including the host school if an alleged event occurred at an invitational tournament).
    b. NPDA will also contact the institution of the individual accused of misconduct requesting further information on the ability of that individual to represent the institution in intercollegiate parliamentary debate competitions (a "verification of clearance"). This verification request will not provide or solicit information about the substance of the complaint, but will require the institution to verify that the individual is cleared to participate in intercollegiate debate events on behalf of the institution. Verification of Clearance Document available here: http://www.parlidebate.org/wpcontent/uploads/2016/11/NPDA-VERIFCATION-OF-CLEARANCE-FORM-FINAL.pdf
    c. These, and all other actions described below, shall be the responsibility of the NPDA President or their designee. NPDA officers involved in such proceedings will exercise care to maintain, where possible, the confidentiality of individuals involved in such actions.
2. Investigatory responsibility for a complaint of harassment that has occurred outside of the NPDA National Championship Tournament will rest with the Title IX compliance offices/compliance coordinators or appropriate officer of relevant home institutions.
    a. After 14 business days have elapsed from the time that NPDA transmitted the complaint to the institution, NPDA will again contact the Title IX compliance offices/compliance coordinator or appropriate officer at the institution of the individual accused of misconduct. NPDA will request that the verification of clearance request be completed and returned Verification of Clearance Document (Available Here: http://www.parlidebate.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/NPDA-VERIFCATIO N-OF CLEARANCE-FORM-FINAL.pdf
    b. Unless a written verification of clearance has been signed and transmitted to NPDA by an appropriate representative of the home institution, individuals accused of misconduct will not be allowed to attend or participate in parliamentary debate activities beginning 14 business days after the complaint has been sent to the institution.
    c. Should a Title IX compliance office/compliance coordinator or appropriate officer not respond to the request of NPDA, NPDA will presume that clearance has not been authorized and individuals accused of misconduct will not be allowed to attend or participate in parliamentary debate activities beginning 14 business days after the complaint has been sent to the institution.
    d. Directors shall be notified of the individual's status immediately after the 14 days have elapsed or after other information has been received from the Title IX compliance office/compliance coordinator or appropriate officer indicating that the individual is ineligible to represent the institution in intercollegiate parliamentary debate activities. Should the complaint be against a director of a program, the notification shall be provided to the department chair.
    e. Because Title IX investigations and/or other investigations of harassment should occur within a 60 day time period, NPDA will resend the verification of clearance request 70 business days after

the complaint has been sent to the institution of the accused to determine if the individual has been cleared to represent the institution in intercollegiate parliamentary debate activities.

f. An individual's ability to attend and participate in intercollegiate parliamentary debate activities and events can be reinstated at any point once the verification of clearance has been received from the institution. If no verification of clearance is received for an individual who is the subject of a complaint under the processes listed above, the individual shall not be eligible to attend or participate in parliamentary debate competitions until a verification of clearance has been received by the NPDA.

3. In the event that a complaint is made against an individual who is no longer affiliated with an institution at the time the complaint is made, a record will be kept of the complaint.

a. Should the individual accused affiliate with an institution at a later date, NPDA will confirm with the complainant whether he or she wishes to proceed with his or her complaint.

b. If the complainant wishes to proceed, the organizations will start the process as stated above and transmit the complaint to the relevant Title IX compliance offices/compliance coordinators or appropriate officer.

4. Individuals under this section for whom no verification of clearance has been received, and their affiliated programs as specified below, will be subject to the following sanctions until a verification of clearance has been received by the NPDA.

a. Individuals under this section for whom no verification of clearance has been received shall not be eligible to attend or participate in NPDA debate competitions in any capacity, including, but not limited to, administering, competing, judging, on-site coaching and/or observing as a spectator.

b. Individuals under this section for whom no verification of clearance has been received will not be allowed to attend the NPDA Championship Tournament in any capacity and will be asked to leave the premises if they attempt to attend.

c. Programs that bring an individual against whom a complaint has been made and for whom no verification of clearance has been received to any parliamentary debate tournament in any capacity shall not receive NPDA sweepstakes points for any of their teams attending the tournament.

d. Should it come to the attention of the NPDA that an invitational tournament is hiring an individual against whom a complaint has been made and for whom no verification of clearance has been received as a judge, the NPDA will communicate the status to the invitational tournament. Should the judge not be removed from the judging pool, the host school shall not receive NPDA points for any of their teams attending the tournament and shall not be eligible for NPDA sanctioning in the next academic year.

5. NPDA sanctioned tournaments may consult the NPDA to create accommodations similar to those identified in Section B.9 of this policy.

D. Documenting Instances of Concern

1. Documenting instances of concern which do not rise to the legal standard of sexual harassment, sexual discrimination, and/or sexual violence can be directed to the Executive Council and/or the Sexual Harassment Officer of NPDA. All members are encouraged to document instances of concern.
2. Reporting Requirements
    a. Members of the Executive Council and the Sexual Harassment Officer are required to report all formal complaints as outlined in this policy to relevant Title IX offices.
    b. Members of the Executive Council and the Sexual Harassment Officer

must disclose that they are required to report all formal complaints as outlined in this policy to relevant Title IX offices.

c. Should the instance of concern rise to the legal standard of sexual harassment, sexual discrimination, and/or sexual violence further action may be required on the part of the Executive Council and the Sexual Harassment Officer, with or without the presence of a formal complaint.

E. **Organizational Cooperation:** In the event that NPDA receives a complaint pursuant to this policy, information, including complaints and verification of clearance, will be shared as necessary and legally permitted with the National Parliamentary Tournament of Excellence. Each organization will make independent determinations regarding appropriate sanctions.