

Amendments concerning Prose /Poetry. Submitted by Sammy Green and Karen Wilbanks.

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Prose (Offered in even years only): Selection must be from a published work and must be read from a folder. Selections cannot be taken from plays. A memorized introduction stating the title and author is required. Maximum time is seven minutes 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 state tournament elimination and final rounds.

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

Replace with: Selections must meet the criteria of UIL categories for the current year. Competitors must choose and perform only ONE of the categories for the duration of the tournament. Documentation will be checked at registration. Time limit will be 7 minutes with no grace. If the student goes overtime and time signals are given, the contestant will be ranked last in the round.

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1. **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 at registration and must be available at the State Tournament.
 - a. A bring 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 placed in a manila envelope with the cover sheet form stapled to the outside of the envelope.

Change to: During the online registration process, **coaches will be required** to provide the title and ISBN number (if available). This information will be verified during registration.

Replace with

- a. A flat copy of the text with the page numbers and header (if there) visible, all lines being performed highlighted and all transitional words (not to exceed 100) written in the margins. Does not have to include the entire text, only pages that are used in the performance
- b. A copy of the copyright/bibliography page
- c. A cover sheet with title, author(s), ISBN number (if available) 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 and the cover sheet need to be brought to registration
- e. Proof of purchase for electronic manuscripts.

Prose and poetry also will be checked at registration and must comply with the same documentation process. The documentation must also include the UIL documentation necessary for the category restrictions
Failure to comply with any of the documentation requirements will result in disqualification of the student.

An Amendment to the TFA Code of Professional Standards

Currently the TFA Constitution states:

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.

AMENDMENT

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.**

Reasoning:

In order to be better sportsmen and better example to our students, we should apply the same standard of professional behavior that is expected towards judges to our fellow coaches and their students. In past experience, I have had students brought to tears by coaches who have bombarded them with questions about cases or contest material, and this is simply unacceptable behavior. Coaches should respect judges, other coaches and students.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Roy R. Rodriguez
Director of Forensics
A&M Consolidated High School
College Station, TX

An Amendment to add Extemp Commentary as an alternating consolation event at the State
Tournament

Amend "Consolation Events" Section of the State Tournament Manual in the TFA
Constitution:

Amend

3. Impromptu to read

3. Impromptu (Offered in even years only): 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.

Add: After Impromptu section

4. Extemporaneous Commentary (Offered in odd years only): The rules of Extemporaneous Commentary shall follow the same guidelines as stated in the TFA Constitution for Extemporaneous Speaking EXCEPT for the following.

- 1. DRAWING:** Twenty 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.
- 2. TIME:** Contestants shall not speak for more than 5 minutes with a 30 second grace period.
- 3. PRESENTATION:** The commentary must be presented behind a desk or table.

Rationale:

Interpretation has two consolation events, which alternate in odd and even years; it makes sense that there should be an additional speech consolation event as well. This would give more opportunities for speech contestants and could be run simultaneously with draw for out rounds of Foreign and Domestic Extemp.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Roy R. Rodriguez

Director of Forensics

A&M Consolidated High School

Abolition of the Base System for Congressional Debate Tabulation

Justification: Since the current system of base does not recognize those students who are superior legislators, but only recognizes the students who give one good speech if they are on base 1; and does not recognize those students who further debate through the use of cross-examination; the base system should be dissolved. The Congress Committee has established on page 28 of the TFA Constitution that the goal is to align our Congress as closely as possible with the NFL Congressional Debate policies and procedures. Since the NFL no longer uses the base system.

Current Wording: Page 28 #8

As per NFL rules, if the base system factors into the tabulation process, no limit is placed on the number of speeches given by a participant. Therefore, TFA places no such limit. Precedence must be enforced unless there are no members wishing to speak.

Proposal: Page 28 #8

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

Respectfully Submitted

Diane Forbes

Southlake Carroll

Congressional Debate Procedural Rules

(only to consider if Base has been abolished for tabulation)

Housekeeping Items to remain consistent

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.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Forbes

Southlake Carroll

Ranking of Legislators for Advancement

Justification: Since the current system of base fails to recognize the holistic performance of legislators, the NFL has devised a system of ranking in order to determine advancement. This allows scorers to reward those who enhance the chambers ability to conduct legislative business and not focus on the minutia of procedures and competitive framework in order to deny their peers the ability to speak. Presiding officers are eligible to be included in the ranking of the scorers.

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.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Forbes

Southlake Carroll

An Amendment to clarify Congressional Debate yielding of time

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.

REASONING

Some schools are adding unused speech time to extend the questioning period (i.e.: a student gives a 1:30 min speech and then yields his/her time to the floor--and then questioning can last 1:30 plus the normal 1:00 min questioning time). This extended period of questioning is not necessary. When a speaker is done with his/her speech, they only should have one minute of questioning.

Additional cx periods are not added on for short speeches in CX/LD/PF and should not be added to Congressional speeches.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Roy R. Rodriguez

A&M Consolidated High School

College Station, Texas

TFA Constitutional Amendment Regarding Prose & Poetry Rules

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.

Rationale: As Prose & Poetry are not TFA State Qualifying events and are offered as a means to prepare students for UIL competition, it only stands to reason that students should be allowed to perform the programs they can use in UIL competition. UIL now allows students weave or stack literature in both Prose & Poetry. Therefore, TFA should make both permissible as well.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Ixba

Lake Travis High School

TFA Constitutional Amendment Regarding Adding POI as a TFA State Qualifying Event

Program Oral Interpretation

This contest enables the student not only to develop skills common in all speech contests, but also to select and condense worthy literature **from multiple genres** that is suitable to the contestant's personality and maturity, and to convey orally the meaning of that 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 **Program Oral Interpretation shall be cuttings from two or more published printed novels, short stories, plays, poems, screenplays, or news articles. Performances must contain at least two genres of literature and focus on a central theme.** Coaches and/or students must provide the original sources, including ISBN if one exists, to the tournament director upon request. A photocopy is acceptable. **News articles retrieved from internet websites must include the URL citation. Cutting and pasting of news articles into a document is not permitted.** 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 titles and ISBN number(s). The competitor's original manuscripts 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 titles, author(s), ISBN number(s), date(s) 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 scripts, highlighted copy and bibliographic information page need to be placed in a manila envelope with the cover sheet form stapled to the outside of the envelope.

3. The selections **shall be presented with the use of a script in a folder or notebook**, but without props, hand props, scenery or costume. Students should avoid movement in the presentation that would distract from the literature itself. Violation shall result in ranking down in the round.

4. The contestant may not use a cutting from the same source which s/he used in any TFA event prior to the current school year or during the current school year in another TFA event. The same selections shall be used for the duration of the tournament. Violation of this rule will result in disqualification.

5. The contestant shall name the author(s) and the titles of the selections 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 final rounds.

7. Cuttings should maintain the author's intent.

8. Transitional phrases may be used in Program Oral Interpretation but must meet the following word requirements:

a. No performance may use more than 100 total transitional words.

b. These words cannot be used to write new scenes to any piece of literature.

c. These words cannot be used to write a new piece of literature in an effort to unify the program.

d. The 100 words cannot all be used in one particular location within a selection, as to change the author's intent by adding excessive words/sentences.

e. 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.

f. Introductions do not count as part of the transitional phrases.

*Upon passage, POI would immediately become a TFA state-qualifying event.

Rationale: Program Oral Interp requires students to use higher-level thinking skills by requiring students to identify themes in literature and create an argument using multiple literary genres. It is also important to note that all college-level interpretation events are notebook events. In an effort to prepare our students for competition on the college & university level we should offer a state-qualifying notebook event.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Ixba

Lake Travis High School

TFA Constitutional Amendment Concerning The Power of the EC

Article IV

Section 3. The Executive Council is not authorized to change, add to, or detract from event rules. This includes, but is not limited to, documentation requirements. Only a vote at the annual meeting may change, add to, or detract from event rules. The Executive Council cannot disqualify a student or prevent a qualified student from participating at the TFA State Meet if the student is in compliance with the current TFA Constitution.

Rationale: Unfortunately, in the past the EC has altered the TFA Constitution concerning event rules (specifically documentation requirements) for the State Meet. These alterations have gone as far as preventing qualified students from participating at the TFA State Meet. Effectuated schools were told that the EC has the constitutional power to do whatever they want. This is an abuse of power that should not be constitutionally allowable as it has a direct negative impact on students. This amendment will allow the EC to retain the power to make important decision about budget, State Meet logistics, etc. without allowing the EC the power to alter event rules.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Ixba

Lake Travis High School

Amendment regarding evidence (p 30)

I propose removing the struck through text.

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 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.~~

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.)

Rational:

Evidence requirements are necessary to allow competitors to go to the original source cited to determine if the quoted evidence is accurate and in context. Additional requirements present a gotcha which can be used to eliminate good evidence. (When was the last time you recorded the date you accessed the internet?)

Submitted by Greg McGee and Gay Hollis