

Texas Forensic Association *NEWS*

Fall Newsletter

August 2007

Welcome Back!

Once again, it is time to start a new school year. Hopefully everyone has had an opportunity to take a short break and is renewed and refreshed. This newsletter contains important information to help you get back into the swing of things. You'll also find updates on activity in TFA since the State Meet.

If you haven't already done so, it is time to update your TFA membership. Dues are \$150 if you are attending convention or \$120 if you are not attending convention. The membership application process is online this year. You can signup and select your membership options; you can even pay online if you want to do so! Go to www.txfa.org now to signup and/or register for convention.

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CONVENTION DETAILS

DATES

October 3-6, 2007

LOCATION

Omni Hotel

9821 Colonnade

San Antonio, TX 78230

(210) 699-0073

HOTEL

\$110 per night; *reserve by September 12*

COST

If you are attending convention, your dues will be \$150.

If you are NOT attending convention, dues are \$120.

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IMPORTANT DATES

30-DAY NOTICE AMENDMENT DEADLINE

September 2

CONVENTION HOTEL RESERVATIONS DUE (GROUP RATE)

September 12

PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR CONVENTION

September 17

CONVENTION

October 3-6

MEMBERSHIP DEADLINE

October 31

Why join?

Membership in TFA allows your students to qualify for the State Meet. Your participation in TFA will foster learning about forensics, and your dues go toward providing scholarships and awards for deserving seniors.

Additionally, when you join TFA, you also become a member of the National Federation of Speech Coaches Association. This association carries a liability policy that protects you whenever you transport students to and from tournaments. This policy alone is worth the membership dues.

Convention

Convention is rapidly approaching. Each year, TFA holds annual meetings in conjunction with the Texas Speech Communication Association convention. This year, convention will be in San Antonio, October 3-6 at the Omni Hotel.

TFA sponsors several workshops in debate, public speaking, interpretation, and student congress. TFA also holds an annual meeting where rule changes, constitutional amendments, and tournament calendar changes are proposed and voted on.

Amendments

Speaking of convention, if you intend to submit an amendment, the early notice deadline is September 2. Amendments proposed prior to that deadline require only a simple majority for approval. Amendments proposed after that date will require a 75% majority.

To submit an amendment, send a copy to Brent Hinkle

(brent@joyoftournaments.com)

and to Rhonda Bell

(Rhonda.Bell@humble.k12.tx.us).

You will receive an acknowledgment within 24 hours of your submission.

If you do not receive an acknowledgment, assume that the submission has been lost in cyber-space and follow up.

TXFA.ORG

Please make sure that you bookmark the TFA website <http://www.txfa.org>. The website serves as a focal point for communication within our organization. The website is updated regularly with important information. You can easily stay “in the loop” by watching for announcements on the website. Features of the website include:

Official Documents: You may download the Constitution and By-Laws, ballots for use at tournaments and scholarship applications, as well as many other useful documents.

Tournament Calendar: The tournament schedule is now official. A listing of the tournament schedule is provided at the end of this document, but you can always view an electronic copy of the calendar on the website.

IQT Reports: Throughout the year, results from the various IQT tournaments are submitted online and are available for you to view. Most of the reports will be available on the Monday following each tournament, although occasionally there may be a slight delay. You’ll want to refer to the website to double-check the accuracy of your student’s points throughout the season. As each tournament is completed, a 7-day period is allowed for corrections and then the results become official.

Contact Information: If you need to contact someone within the organization, that information is always available to you on the website. Officers are easily located. You may not know it, but you can also obtain contact information for other TFA members on the website. Use the “Member Login” option on the website to view contact information about any active member of the organization.

Updates: The website is your lifeline to the latest news. When new information is added, your region representatives will contact you. As the state meet approaches, the website may be updated on a daily basis. Please check it often.

IQT Point System Updated

If you haven't already seen it, there is a new point system posted on the TFA website. At the Executive Council meeting in May, the system for qualifying for the state meet was again considered. The State Tournament at Creekview in 2007 was one of the largest in recent history. Very few facilities are able to accommodate the size requirements of the state meet. Last year, Region 1 was unable to host due in large part to a lack of facilities of appropriate size. This year, we are again having trouble locating a suitable facility within region 2 (where the scheduled rotation is to occur). As such, the Executive Council has taken another step toward limiting the size of the state tournament.

Event	2004	2005	2006	2007
DX	113	93	129	114
FX	97	102	116	117
OO	129	124	127	124
DI	124	115	135	135
HI	117	124	115	125
DA	127	114	127	106
DUO				24
LD	187	200	204	198
CX	136	129	138	144
House		69	123	130
Senate	105	98	92	106
Totals	1135	1168	1306	1323
# Schools	122	155	186	207
Impromptu	113	134	123	135
Prose			90	
Poetry		95		96
POI	63			

As you will notice, even with the adjustments to the point schedule in May 2006, the state tournament continued to gain size.

As an overview, three main changes have been made to the point schedule. (1) The varied point schedules based on number of tournaments in each region have been removed; *a single point scale will now be used for all regions.* (2) The point schedule for Duet Acting and Duo Interpretation has been aligned more closely with the other events. (3) Qualification for the state meet now requires 10 points. Yes, this does mean that a student that wins 1st place at a tournament no longer automatically qualifies to attend the state tournament.

C-X Debate

# of entries	10-15	16-50	51+
Triples			
Doubles			
Octafinals			2
Quarterfinals		2	3
Semifinals	2	4	4
Second	3	6	8
First	4	8	8

L-D Debate

# of entries	10-15	16-74	75+
Triples			
Doubles			
Octafinals			2
Quarterfinals		2	3
Semifinals	2	4	4
Second	3	6	8
First	4	8	8

Individual Events

# of entries	15-24	25-50	51+
8 th			1
7 th			1
6 th	1	1	2
5 th	1	2	2
4 th	1	3	6
3 rd	2	4	6
2 nd	4	6	8
1 st	6	8	8

Duet Acting/Duo Interp

# of entries	10-15	16-29	30+
8 th			1
7 th			1
6 th	1	1	2
5 th	1	2	2
4 th	1	3	6
3 rd	2	4	6
2 nd	4	6	8
1 st	6	8	8

Student Congress

# of entries	10-20	21-60	61-90	91+
8 th		1	1	1
7 th		1	1	1
6 th	1	1	1	2
5 th	1	2	2	4
4 th	1	2	4	6
3 rd	2	4	6	6
2 nd	4	6	8	8
1 st	6	8	8	8

Tournament Calendar

The official 2007-08 IQT Calendar is now available. There have been multiple updates over the summer. You may view the tournament calendar on the TFA website. Options are available to view all of the tournaments or to narrow the listing by region. The official calendar is also included at the end of this newsletter.

Except for extenuating circumstances (fire to building, coach turnover, cancellations due to weather), new tournaments may not be added at this time. Changes to the tournament calendar now require a vote of attending members during the meetings at convention in San Antonio.

2008 State Tournament

We are in need of a school to host TFA State in 2008. If your school might be able to host the tournament, please contact a member of the Executive Council. The normal rotation would have Region 2 serve as host for the state tournament, but at this point, the Executive Council has been unable to arrange for a suitable host in Region 2. The bid process will now be opened up to any interested school until we are able to secure a location. If you have questions about the requirements for hosting TFA State, please consult the website. Rhonda Bell has created a document which will answer common questions. If you need additional information, contact a member of the Executive Council.

Dates for the State Tournament

The State Tournament has been tentatively scheduled for the "traditional" weekend which falls on February 28, 29, and March 1 this year. The Executive Council is currently considering how the change in TAKS testing dates to the first week in March will impact the State Tournament. If you have any input regarding your district's ability to travel (or host) on either of the 2 weekends - the last weekend in February (Feb 28 – Mar 1) or the first weekend in March (Mar 6-8) – please contact your region representative by the end of August. Watch the website for updates on the final date for the State Tournament.

Tournament Hosts / IQT Process

If you are hosting a tournament, please make sure that you read the following.

1. IQT Reports are due on the Monday following your tournament. Results must be uploaded to the TFA website by Monday at 5:00pm. The IQT coordinator will verify results after you have submitted them. Results will be "unofficial" for 7 days but available for review.
2. IQT Reports are posted on the TFA website. Coaches are responsible for checking the accuracy of results as they are posted.
3. If you do not meet the Monday deadline, you will be fined \$150.00 plus \$25.00 per day if you do not submit your report by the Wednesday following your tournament. A letter to the host's principal will be sent explaining why the host was fined.
4. The results of each tournament will be unofficial, and the points earned by the competitors will not count towards the state meet. Qualified students from the host school will also be prohibited from participation in the State Meet until fines are paid.
5. Once the reports are in and the fines are paid, students will be allowed to compete.
6. Please make sure to check the IQT reports regularly. Submit corrections (name changes, spelling changes) to the IQT coordinator. Corrections must be made within 7 days. Changes (except spelling errors) will not be accepted once the 7 day review period has expired.

2007-08 Committees

Nomination Committee

Region 1: Melissa Locke (chair)
Region 2: Cheryl Potts
Region 3: Kirsten Nash
Region 4: Vicky Beard
Region 5: Sara Corlett-Roberts

Scholarship Committee

Ann Hayden (chair)
Region 1: Melissa Locke
Region 2: Tracy McFarland
Region 3: Annie Smith
Region 4: Deanne Christensen
Region 5: Corina Vasquez Favela

Public Relations Committee

Region 1: Carol Hildebrand
Region 2: Jack Nelson
Region 3: Charlene Dietrich
Region 4: Debbie Waddell
Region 5: Cindy Wiebusch

Finance Committee

Region 1: Jennifer Zinn
Region 2: Eric Mears
Region 3: Kandi King

Ad-Hoc State Size Committee

Region 1: Melissa Locke
Region 2: David Huston (Alt: Glenda Ferguson)
Region 3: Jonathan Williams
Region 4: Deanne Christensen (Alt: Russell Rach)
Region 5: Shawn Mena (Alt: Kim Falco)
2007 State Host: Robert Shepard
2007 State Tournament Director: Aaron Timmons

Officer Nominations

The nominating committee announces the following candidates for office. Elections will be held during the business meeting at Convention.

Treasurer

David Gardiner – Region 3

Vice President

Carol Hildebrand – Region 1
Karen Wilbanks – Region 2
Erin Stage – Region 3

President

Rhonda Bell
Atascocita HS
Rhonda.bell@humble.k12.tx.us

Vice President

W.E. Scheutz
Gregory-Portland HS
wschuetz@g-pisd.org

Treasurer

David Gardiner
King HS
dlgardiner@ccisd.us

Secretary

Brent Hinkle
Joy of Tournaments
brent@joyoftournaments.com

Archivist

Sammy Green
Spring HS
sammyg@springisd.org

IQT Coordinator

Alicia Dunson
Creekview HS
dunsona@cibisd.edu

Region 1 Representative

Carol Hildebrand
Caprock HS
Carol.hildebrand@amaisd.org

Region 2 Representative

Jason Sykes
Grapevine HS
Jason.sykes@gcisd.net

Region 3 Representative

Erin Stage
Hays HS
stagee@hayscisd.net

Region 4 Representative

Gary Boeger
The Woodlands HS
gboeger@conroeisd.net

Region 5 Representative (interim)

Yolanda Silva
Burges HS
yxsilva@episd.org

Past President

Aaron Timmons
Greenhill School
timmonsa@greenhill.org

Executive Council Meeting

The Executive Council met in Houston on May 12, 2007. Here is a summary of items discussed at the meeting.

1. Sammy Green was welcomed as the new Archivist.
2. Roberta Grenfell has been asked to serve as Ombudsman for the 2008 State Tournament.
3. Rosemary Kincaid has moved from Region 5 to Region 2, so Yolanda Silva is stepping in to fill that position until a new election can be held at convention.
4. Recap of issues that arose at the 2007 State Tournament.
 - a) Needed more stand-by judges for debate in the early rounds
 - b) Triple-flighting L-D made the rooms work, but this is probably not a good long-term solution
 - c) Changes will be made to the interpretation verification process for next year.
5. The Congress committee met in conjunction with the EC and made a preliminary report. Full report is attached to the end of this newsletter.
6. The EC is trying to find additional avenues for corporate funding for portions of the TFA State Tournament.
7. The IQT point system was revised. See page 3 for more details.

All regions should use a consistent point system, regardless of entries (Motion by Schuetz passed unanimously)

Duet Acting/Duo Interpretation point scale needs to be adjusted for consistency with other events. (Motion by Sykes passes unanimously after reconsideration)

Change qualification points to 10 (Motion by Sykes; passes 8-1).

8. State Size

Authorize expenses for 2 meetings of a state tournament size committee. Committee will report at convention. (Motion by Schuetz; passes unanimously)

9. Miscellaneous

- a) \$750 spending limit will continue
- b) David Gardiner will provide monthly financial reports
- c) Voted to sponsor a breakfast/coffee bar at TSCA Convention for a maximum of \$1500 (Motion by Sykes; passes on voice vote).
- d) website needs to be enhanced to aid "new" members
- e) membership application will be online this year for convention

10. State 2008

Possible hosts were discussed. We need to develop a host manual listing requirements and TFA agreements for hosting state.

March 6-8 had been tentatively scheduled for the state tournament. Motion by Sykes to keep that date fails. Discussion about conflicts with Spring Break, SAT, ACT, Mock Trial. Motion by Hildebrand to schedule state Feb 28-Mar 1 passes.

11. Congress Committee Report

- a) The rules need to be more user-friendly.
- b) Want to revise the constitutional wording in multiple places.
- c) Plan to defer to NFL rules listing exceptions.
- d) Want to move congress section of the constitution to the "debate" portion.
- e) Does the laptop ruling in "debate" apply to Congress?
- f) Recommend elimination of preferential balloting in state finals.
- g) Recommend the preferred method for state tabulation to be the best of base.
- h) Want to require legislation for participation in either House or Senate

Official 2007-08 IQT Calendar

September

7 th & 8 th	2	Grapevine	Jane Boyd, Jason Sykes
7 th & 8 th	4	Deer Park	Lisa Edwards
14 th & 15 th	2	Southlake Carroll	Diane Forbes, Eric Melin, Dorothy Cassetta
14 th & 15 th	3	Lee	Maribel Castellon
14 th & 15 th	3	Flour Bluff	Pamela Pailes, Linda Vegh, Vicki Lugo, Kelly Kimball
14 th & 15 th	4	Elkins	Bonnie Bonnette
22 nd	1	Borger	Cody Duncan
21 st & 22 nd	2	Mansfield Timberview	Jack Nelson, Tara Mullin
21 st & 22 nd	2	Naaman Forest	Rhonda Hill
21 st & 22 nd	3	Texas A&M-Corpus	Kelly Russell, Dr. Shawn Wahl
21 st & 22 nd	3	Sandra Day O'Connor	Annie Smith, Raul Ruiz
21 st & 22 nd	4	James Taylor	Gay Hollis, Nancy Gallmore
21 st & 22 nd	4	The Woodlands	Gary Boeger, Carlin Gilseth
21 st & 22 nd	5	EPCC-Valle Verde	Keith Townsend
28 th & 29 th	2	Newman Smith	Robert Martin, Chris Agee
28 th & 29 th	3	Hendrickson	Leeann Solice, Michael Fisher
28 th & 29 th	3	John Jay	Amy Moeller
28 th & 29 th	4	Memorial	Cecil Trent
28 th & 29 th	4	Ross Sterling	Dr. Fain, Yvonne Phillips, Evette Mason Ferguson,, Jhacole LeGrande
28 th & 29 th	5	Americas	Elissa Contreras

October

12 th & 13 th	2	Plano West	Nancy Lewis, Janice Cordrey
13 th	2	R.L. Turner	Michael Hollomon, Denton Davies
12 th & 13 th	3	Ronald Reagan	Heather Hayes Keith, Brooke Blevins
12 th & 13 th	3	Bishop	Joe Trevino
12 th & 13 th	4	Elsik	John LeMaster, Darell Yarbrough
12 th & 13 th	4	Univ. Houston	Dr. Michael Fain
12 th & 13 th	5	Odessa Senior	Aaron Cox
12 th & 13 th	5	Eastwood	J. Rodriguez
19 th & 20 th	1	Muleshoe	Dr. Kerry Moore
19 th -21 st	2	St. Mark's	Tim Mahoney
19 th & 20 th	3	Georgetown	Terri Robinson, Julie Triana
19 th & 20 th	3	Mary Carroll	Sandra Wooley, Kathy Tower
19 th & 20 th	4	Alief Hastings	Lillian Ogunbanjo
19 th & 20 th	4	Clear Lake	Martin Klein
19 th & 20 th	5	Lee	Cindy Wiebush
19 th & 20 th	5	Loretto Academy	Denicka Martinez
27 th	1	Caprock	Carol Hildebrand
26 th & 27 th	2	Plano East	Richard Kincaid, Rosemary Kincaid, Barbara McCain
27 th	2	Mansfield	Chris Knight & Kristy Thomas
26 th & 27 th	3	John Paul Stevens	Katie Scott, Sandi Wainscott
27 th	3	Gregory Portland	Charlotte Brown, Bill Schuetz
26 th & 27 th	4	Lamar Consolidated	Jeremy Hill, Connie Aufdembrink
26 th & 27 th	4	Bellaire	Jay Stubbs, Russell Rach
26 th & 27 th	5	Big Spring	Jennifer & Clint Adams

Official 2007-08 IQT Calendar

November

2 nd & 3 rd	2	Univ. North Texas	Brian Lain, Calum Matheson, Julian Gagnon
2 nd & 3 rd	3	S.F. Austin	John Mast, Lori Eggleston
2 nd & 3 rd	3	Roy H. Moody	Aileen Everett
2 nd & 3 rd	4	Westside	Heath Martin
2 nd & 3 rd	4	Pasadena Memorial	Yvonne Sobhani-Bedru
2 nd & 3 rd	5	Del Valle	Mack Cador, Irene Gardea
2 nd & 3 rd	5	Midland	Deb Morton
9 th & 10 th	1	West Texas A&M	Connie McKee
9 th & 10 th	2	Hockaday	Stacy Thomas, Tom Evnen
9 th & 10 th	3	MacArthur	Amanda White, Marisol LeSelva
9 th & 10 th	3	Harlingen South	Lee Ann Ince, John Farr
9 th & 10 th	4	Klein	Ryan Hennessey, Tina Domino, Amy Bruce
9 th & 10 th	4	Cinco Ranch	Perry Beard
9 th & 10 th	5	Cooper	Carolyn Thomas
16 th & 17 th	2	Williams	Pam Ballow, Jana Fry
17 th	2	Fossil Ridge	Liz Barnes
16 th & 17 th	3	Round Rock	Debbie Johnson
16 th & 17 th	3	W.B. Ray	Douglas Holcomb
16 th & 17 th	4	G.C. Scarborough	Dr. Michael Fain
16 th & 17 th	5	Hanks	Daniel Pecquet
30 th & 1 st	1	Amarillo	Mellessa Denny
30 th & 1 st	2	South Garland	Keith Haney
30 th & 1 st	3	Univ. Texas	Dr. Randy Cox, Dr. Joel Rollins
30 th & 1 st	4	Cy Ridge	Scott Baker
30 th & 1 st	4	Bay City	Magda Mirelez, Troy Holland

December

7 th	1	Lubbock	Michelle Pittman
8 th	1	Coronado	Melissa Locke
7 th & 8 th	2	Coppell	Maleda Kunkle, Glenda Ferguson
8 th	2	Guyer	Darlene Kent, Eleshia Crotwell
7 th & 8 th	3	Westlake	Michael Harlan & Christy Trussell
7 th & 8 th	4	Spring Woods	Victoria Beard
7 th & 8 th	5	Ysleta	Ryan Tune, Susan Telehany
14 th & 15 th	2	Plano Senior	Karen Wilbanks, Cheryl Potts, Sheri Wise
14 th & 15 th	3	Richard King	David Gardiner, Ina Jensen
14 th & 15 th	3	Tom C. Clark	Cassandra Zuniga, Stephanie Garcia
15 th	5	Canutillo	Richard Jeffery

Official 2007-08 IQT Calendar

January

4 th & 5 th	2	Univ of Texas at Dallas	Chris Burk
4 th & 5 th	3	Stony Point	Richard Colling, Brandi Boyd
4 th & 5 th	4	Westfield	Kaye Magill, Lauren Shelley
5 th	2	Arlington	Jonni Davis, Liz Martin
11 th & 12 th	2	Colleyville Heritage	David Huston, Steffany Oravetz
11 th & 12 th	3	Jack C. Hays	Erin Stage, Jeremy Martin
11 th & 12 th	3	Calallen	Charlene Dietrich
11 th & 12 th	4	Foster	Patrick Ralls, Larry Balfe
11 th & 12 th	4	Katy	Robert Powell
11 th & 12 th	5	Seminole	Danny Stottlemyre, Carol Ann Moose
18 th & 19 th	1	Texas Tech Univ.	Joe Gant
18 th & 19 th	2	Grand Prairie	Wendy Bramlett, Orlando Flores
18 th & 19 th	3	Winston Churchill	Kandi King, Brian Eanes, Andy Thornton
18 th & 19 th	4	Magnolia	Cindi Havron
18 th & 19 th	4	Aldine Senior	Shauna Mayes
26 th	1	Hereford	Jennifer Zinn, Lana Hall
26 th	2	Creekview	Robert Shepard, Alicia Dunson
25 th & 26 th	3	Earl Warren	LeNita Smith, Nichole Chatman
25 th & 26 th	3	W. Charles Akins	Katie Delmore
25 th & 26 th	4	Atascocita	Rhonda Bell, Adam Woodward, Erin Ledet
25 th & 26 th	4	Eisenhower	Angela Ford
25 th & 26 th	5	Snyder	Ron Hester

February

1 st & 2 nd	1	Tascosa	Ann Shofner
1 st & 2 nd	2	Flower Mound	Eric Mears, Jon Rhodes
1 st & 2 nd	3	L.C. Anderson	Joseph Uhler
1 st & 2 nd	3	Pharr-San Juan-Alamo	Ofelia Pena, Cindy Almaguer
1 st & 2 nd	4	Alief Taylor	Allen Stewart
1 st & 2 nd	5	San Elizario	Cookie Laffler, Michael Warfield
8 th & 9 th	2	Nimitz	Gwendolyn Cowen, Bruce Hermans
8 th & 9 th	3	McNeil	Matthew Murrell
8 th & 9 th	3	Madison	Christopher Gloge
8 th & 9 th	4	Lamar	Eloise Blair
8 th & 9 th	5	Rankin	Adrian Gallardo
8 th & 9 th	5	EPCC-Transmountain	Keith Townsend & Patricia Islais
28 th , 29 th & 1 st	2	TFA State: Location TBA	

Congress Committee Report

The following report has been submitted by the Congress Committee for consideration at Convention in San Antonio. Changes to the constitution are indicated in italics. The committee plans to submit the entire set of changes as a single amendment. The committee will present a rationale and then discussion/amendments will be allowed from the floor.

STUDENT CONGRESS

Student Congress 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 House. Every TFA Member School shall be granted one legislator in the Senate. *Participation at the TFA State Tournament requires that all schools submit legislation to the Congress Director by the December 15th deadline.*

Student Congress shall not be run as a Consolation Event at Invitational Qualifying Tournaments. Congress may be run in any pattern at the discretion of the tournament director, and Tournament Directors may limit cross-entries.

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

ENTRY NUMBERS AND REQUIREMENTS

Requirement	Number
Minimum number of entries for Qualifying Event	10
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 advancing to Semifinals	16 per chamber
Maximum advancing to Super Congress	16 with a minimum of 8
Minimum total hours of debate (all sessions together)	5 hours, <i>w/a minimum of 2 for finals</i>
Preliminary & Semis Judges	1 Scorer, 1 Parliamentarian*
Finals Judges	2 Scorers, 1 Parliamentarian*
Presiding Officer Audition Time	15 minutes max per candidate
Score per speech	1 - 6

**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, a separate scorer and parliamentarian are required. In Finals, one of the scorers may also act as parliamentarian if there is a student Presiding Officer. If no student serves, 2 scorers and an additional Parliamentarian are required.*

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.

Congress Committee Report

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 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. Scorers should not score Presiding Officers for their service. ***When one adult is serving as both Scorer and Parliamentarian, they will have multiple responsibilities. It is the duty of the tournament director to make sure that the appropriate ballots are available and marked accurately. When 2 or more adults are assigned to a chamber, the adult acting as a Scorer and Parliamentarian must score speeches, award points to the PO, and rank all members (including the PO) at the end of the session. The additional adult(s) simply score speeches. The Parliamentarian's ranks are used as a tie breaking mechanism only.***

If no PO candidates are running or are permitted to run, the designated Presiding Officer shall be an adult Parliamentarian designated to conduct the session. This adult will not have scoring responsibilities, ***but will rank all participants at the end of the session.***

Floor Debate

- 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.
- b. 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).
- c. Speeches shall last no longer than three minutes ***with one minute of cross-examination time.***
- d. Members shall not yield any portion of his/her time except for a question.
- e. Members may ask only one question per questioning period. ***No prefacing or multiple part questions are allowed. Questions cannot be repeated.***
- f. Members must speak only after being recognized by the presiding officer.
- g. Members may not suspend the rules in order to change rules stipulated in the TFA Constitution ***and/or the NFL Congress Manual.***
- h. ***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.***

Congress Committee Report

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 TFA member schools to submit up to five (5) pieces of legislation for consideration. A minimum of 60 pieces of legislation shall be selected and posted for use by all schools equally. 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 authorship speeches in the regular season, therefore, no mandatory 2 minute CX. ***Instead, a 1 minute CX period will follow all speeches in accordance with NFL guidelines.***

Tournament Directors shall designate in their invitation which pieces of legislation will be considered for the calendar for a specific tournament. (For example, Amarillo High may designate 1-30 while Nikki Rowe may designate odd-numbered bills from 45-75.) ***Legislation should be divided according to Prelims, Semis, and Finals.***

Plagiarism and “extensive paraphrasing” are addressed under the Oratory rules in the TFA Constitution, and these rules apply to legislation submitted for Student Congress. While some issues continue to merit legislative debate in Congress, 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 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 Student Congress at the State Tournament for *that* year.

Guidelines

- a. Legislation which does not conform to guidelines will be rejected from consideration for the Student Congress calendar.
- b. Bills or resolutions are to be typed, double spaced, and no longer than one page in length.
- c. The first words of a bill shall be “Be it enacted”; following any whereas clauses, the first words of a resolution are “Be it resolved.”
 - a. Each line of a bill or resolution must be numbered.
 - b. A resolution may be preceded by one or more whereas clauses, but bills never have them.
 - c. The language of the bill or resolution must be in the imperative mood; that is, it must state exactly what is to be done and by whom.

See the NFL Congress Manual for further explanation and examples. www.nflonline.org

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

It is necessary for all Student Congress participants to have a working knowledge of parliamentary procedure. The Parliamentarian shall be the final authority on both parliamentary and Student Congress rules.

Please see the NFL Student Congress Manual or Handbook. www.nflonline.org

BALLOTS AND FORMS

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

Congress Committee Report

TABULATION PROCEDURES

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 Parliamentarian*. If a student receives a score from both the scorer, for speaking, and the parliamentarian, for service, these scores shall be added together for the student's total.

Advancement should be determined according to one of the following methods:

1. The preferred method for determining advancement and tabulating final results in Student Congress is a modified system that combines both total points awarded by the scorer(s) and parliamentarian with the 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 speeches will be counted.

2. If a tournament provides 9 or more hours of on-floor debate, either Base or this Modified System can be used. (ex. Grapevine, St. Mark's, UT)

Unless otherwise stipulated in the tournament invitation, the Modified System shall be used.

(TFA STATE)

STUDENT CONGRESS

For any rules not addressed, those established by the National Forensic League Student Congress will be followed. (see both the Student Congress Manual and the Congress Handbook at: www.nflonline.org)

GENERAL RULES

Entry

Entries in the House shall be based upon qualifications at IQT's that offer Student Congress. The students' names shall be submitted on the entry form for the State Tournament.

Each member school may enter one contestant in the Senate. These students may not have qualified in any other event and will compete in a separate division from the House.

All schools planning to participate at the State Tournament must submit legislation to the Student Congress Director by December 15, regardless of current qualifications.

Students qualified for the 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 Senate may not compete in any other event.

Judging

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

Congress Committee Report

LEGISLATION

IF A SCHOOL PLANS TO ATTEND TFA STATE IN STUDENT CONGRESS, the school *must* submit *one* piece of legislation to the Congress Director by the December 15th deadline in order to participate. Failure to submit legislation by the deadline renders a school ***INELIGIBLE*** to participate at TFA State for that year *in the House or the Senate*.

The required format for legislation is outlined under the IQT section of this document.

Accepted legislation

A regionally balanced Congress Committee, reporting to the Student Congress Director and 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) creativity. If necessary, outstanding pieces of past legislation may be used to round out the calendar. ***By February 1st, the Student Congress Director shall submit the State Calendar to the webmaster for posting on the TFA website.***

CHAMBERS

There will be preliminary houses as determined by the number of entries. Each chamber shall contain no more than 30 students and shall be regionally balanced.

Preliminary Sessions

The number and length of preliminary sessions shall be determined by the State Tournament Director and the Congress Committee. ***Parliamentarians and Scorers shall be assigned to a chamber for the entire round.***

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.

Super Congress

There will be one “finals” ***round*** of three hours which will be known as Super Congress.

Congress Committee Report

PROCEDURAL RULES

Order of the Calendar

The first five pieces of legislation, *on all calendars*, must be debated in order.

Floor Debate

See section under IQT's.

Presiding Officer

A presiding officer shall be elected *at the beginning of each House/Senate preliminary session. At the conclusion of the Prelim Round, each chamber will vote for their outstanding PO. This student will be presented with a gavel at the awards ceremony.*

- 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.

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

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 guaranteed an authorship speech.

- a. The authorship speech shall be a maximum of three minutes with an additional two minutes of cross-examination time.
- b. If an 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 only one minute of cross-examination.

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

Scoring

Speaker points shall be awarded by the official scorers ranging from 1-6 with 6 being the highest score. Presiding officers shall be awarded points by the parliamentarian ranging from 1 to 6, with 6 being the highest score.

- a. Points shall be awarded for speeches *with Cross-examination also being a factor.*
- b. The parliamentarian shall award the presiding officer a score at the conclusion of each hour of service.
- c. The Parliamentarian and Scorer will be assigned to a chamber for the entire Preliminary Round.

The Modified Base System will be used for determining advancement and tabulation of all rounds at the TFA State Tournament.

Congress Committee Report

SEMIFINAL CONGRESS

Selection of Delegates

At the conclusion of each *preliminary round*, the Parliamentarian and Scorer in each house shall nominate one delegate to advance to Semifinal Congress. High point representatives added to the nominees for a total of seven (7) shall also advance. If there are 4 prelim houses, there will be 28 in semis (2 of 14). With 5 houses, there will be 35 (1 of 17 and 1 of 18).

Sectioning

Semifinal chambers shall be sectioned by:

- a. Regional balance, followed by
- b. Previous seating in a particular house

Seating

Seating shall be reassigned

Presiding Officer

Presiding officers shall be appointed by the State Tournament Judge Committee and shall not have served as Parliamentarians or Scorers in preliminary sessions. Presiding officers must have previous student congress experience.

Judges

Parliamentarians and Scorers shall not have judged in preliminary sessions *and shall be assigned to a chamber for the entire round.*

Number of Members

Semifinal houses shall not contain more than thirty persons each.

Minimum Preliminary Rounds

If there are less than three preliminary chambers, no Semifinal Congress shall be held.

Selection of Super Congress

The Parliamentarian and Scorer(s) shall each nominate *one delegate at the conclusion of the Semifinal Round.* High point representatives added to the nominees for a total of eight (8) shall also advance.

(Selection of Delegates to Super Congress when no Semi-Final Congress is held)

At the conclusion of *the preliminary round*, the scorer and the parliamentarian in each house shall nominate one delegate to advance to Super Congress. The highest point representatives not otherwise nominated, up to 4 per house, shall also advance.

Congress Committee Report

SUPER CONGRESS

Organization

- a. No more than 24 delegates shall be in the Super Congress
- b. The presiding officer of Super Congress shall be a former congress participant or a qualified coach.
- c. *The assigned PO/Scorers shall remain for the entire round.*

Selection for the Final Ballot

At the conclusion of Super Congress, *the Modified Base System will be used to determine the winners.*

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.