



Texas Forensic Association

Constitutional Amendment Form

The following must be provided before your proposal will be accepted by the Executive Committee.

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Region: 2

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Rationale for Amendment:

Speech and Debate need to be like every other competitive activity in our schools that participates in tournaments they host. As we navigate the 2023 world of declining student participation, parent and community buy-ins, administrative travel, budget issues, etc. we need “home games” and the ability to earn IQT points at host schools. Many schools are facing limitations on weekends and travel as well as needing more opportunities for our administrators, parents, etc. to see our students compete, and allowing elimination round participation provides the best opportunity. Elimination rounds usually have more opportunities for audiences than preliminary rounds. This was previewed in the 2022 – 2023 competitive season an Executive Council initiative. To be clear, no school is REQUIRED to allow their students to compete in their own tournaments to give Directors the autonomy to make decisions for their students.

The Executive Council at their summer 2023 retreat acknowledged that regions that utilized the initiative to allow host schools to compete found no examples of cheating, and the advantages of this model of participation outweighed the disadvantages. We know that some tournaments cannot utilize this model given the unique nature of their teams or tournaments, but as the initiative in 2023 proved, the Executive Counsel feels the advantages outweigh the disadvantages and supports this amendment.

Section of the Constitution where Change occurs:

- Constitution
- Bylaws
- Code of Professional Standards
- Standing Rules: Competition on Event Guide
- Standing Rules: IQT Operations Manual
- Standing Rules: State Tournament Operations Manual

Page number of change: 91

Select One of the Following: **Add Language** Delete Language **Amend Language**

Implementation Time Frame: Immediately

Proposed Change(s) *(List the change/add here. Changes should include any language you are replacing from the existing constitution along with the proposed new language.)*

Delete current language Page 91 Section 18: No school may participate in elimination rounds at their own tournament.

Replace with:

Schools will have the option to allow their students to compete in tournaments in which they are hosting whether in person or virtually, including in elimination rounds of the tournament. All tournaments **MUST** indicate in the initial draft of their invitation that students from that school may compete in that tournament and will be eligible to compete in elimination rounds. Failure to include the information in the invitation will preclude the host's students from participating in elimination rounds.

It would be the affirmative duty of the host school to have tournament tab room staff not affiliated with the host school make decisions regarding the host school's competitors during elimination rounds (for example adjustments to speaker order, judge placement, etc.). A second tab room person from a school not affiliated with the host school will double-check all pairings, sectioning, and judge placement/concerns. Any protest dealing with a host school's student who is competing must be heard by tournament tab room staff not affiliated with the host school. Ideally, a group of three coaches from other schools would hear, and then rule, on the protest if it involved a host school student. If the host school's coach disagrees with the ruling of the protest regarding their students, they may appeal to the Executive Council.

At the start of round 1 of a tournament, no more than fifty percent of competitors of an event can be filled by the host school. At least two schools must compete for the tournament's entries to receive IQT points. Host schools should prioritize schools other than their own when removing students from the waitlist. If entries are limited for an event, the host school should not have more entries than other schools are allowed.