## NDT Rules Amendment Proposal – Speeches

NDT Committee Meeting – 11-18-17

### Current Rules

#### Rule IV. A. 1 (Speech times)

A. Timing Regulations.

1. Speech format. The following speaking format shall be employed in all debates:

9 minute first affirmative constructive

3 minute either negative speaker cross-examines first affirmative

9 minute first negative constructive

3 minute either affirmative speaker cross-examines first negative

9 minute second affirmative constructive

3 minute other negative speaker cross-examines second affirmative

9 minute second negative constructive

3 minute other affirmative speaker cross-examines second negative

6 minute first negative rebuttal

6 minute rebuttal by an affirmative speaker

6 minute second negative rebuttal

6 minute rebuttal by other affirmative speaker

#### Rule II. A. 4 (Forfeits)

4. Should a debater or a team be unable to participate in any debate at the National Debate Tournament, the team shall forfeit the round and receive zero points.

### Proposed Rules

#### Rule IV. A. 1 (Speakers, Speech times)

A. **Debate Format Regulations**

1. Speech format. The following speaking format shall be employed in all debates:

* 9 minute first affirmative constructive
* 3 minute either negative speaker cross-examines first affirmative
* 9 minute first negative constructive
* 3 minute either affirmative speaker cross-examines first negative
* 9 minute second affirmative constructive
* 3 minute other negative speaker cross-examines second affirmative
* 9 minute second negative constructive
* 3 minute other affirmative speaker cross-examines second negative
* 6 minute first negative rebuttal
* 6 minute rebuttal by an affirmative speaker
* 6 minute second negative rebuttal by other negative speaker
* 6 minute rebuttal by other affirmative speaker

Each debater will deliver only one constructive speech and only one rebuttal speech, and participate in one cross examination period as the primary questioner, and one cross examination period as the primary respondent to the opponent’s questions (except in circumstances in which the debate ceases due to an evidence challenge).

#### Rule II. A. 4 (Forfeits, speaker points)

4. Should a debater or a team be unable to participate in any debate at the National Debate Tournament, the team shall forfeit the round and receive zero points. Such speaker point assignment is also applicable in instances in which a debater does not fulfill the speech and cross examination roles described in Rule IV.A.1.

### Rationale

Debate is a two-person activity. The role of each debater in a debate has typically included delivering one constructive speech and one rebuttal speech, and participating in 2 cross examination periods in each debate. When a partner has been unable to participate due to illness, the other partner has not been allowed to continue as a maverick, and the team has typically been withdrawn from competition.

If we allow a debater, for whatever reason, to not fulfill the previously described roles, it opens the door to potential for abuse by debaters for strategic purposes. Examples that come to mind:

* Arguments – One debater is better at a particular argument, so delivers the 2AC after having already delivered the 1AC
* Speaker points – One debater giving majority of speeches because they are the better speaker
* Flowing – The debater with the better flow of the 1AR delivers the 2NR

Debaters also have little incentive to work on teamwork skills if they know they can keep debating through the elimination rounds even if they taunt their partner into quitting mid-tournament.

We should be encouraging both students on teams to avail themselves of the full education opportunities offered by participating in debates – not participating in speeches and cross examinations undercuts those opportunities.