

CONSTITUTION

DISTRICT IV COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL DEBATE TOURNAMENT

Adopted April 20, 1976, by 29 votes of 32 subscribers. Amendments through January 17, 1986 are incorporated.

1. NATURE AND PURPOSE. District IV is a geographical subdivision of the National Debate Tournament organization composed of the states of Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. Its principal purpose is to certify teams qualifying from among its member schools to participate in each year's National Debate Tournament, and to conduct other activities relevant to that purpose.
2. MEMBERSHIP. Membership in District IV is open to all colleges, universities, and two-year colleges located in the states listed in Article I. The chairperson will endeavor to compile as complete a mailing list as possible of such schools for mailings prior to November 10th of each academic year.
 - A. SUBSCRIBERS. All members are eligible to become subscribers by payment of the District IV and NDT subscription fee, as determined each year by the district committee, prior to November 1st. All subscribers are eligible to send two teams to the district qualifying tournament and to participate in other methods for qualifying teams to compete in the National Debate Tournament which may be determined by the National Debate committee.
3. DISTRICT COMMITTEE. The governing body of the district is the district committee. The committee is composed of six elected members and the chairperson.
 - A. ELIGIBILITY. Any person who is a faculty member or graduate student at a subscribing school during the term of office is eligible for nomination to the committee. Not more than one person from a single school may serve on the committee at any one time.
 - B. NOMINATION. Any eligible person may be nominated for the district committee. The chairperson shall conduct nominations by mail to all subscribing schools during April and early May. Each subscribing school may nominate up to six persons.
 - C. ELECTIONS. The chairperson shall compile an alphabetical list of the twelve persons receiving the greatest number of nominations. In the event of a tie in number of nominations determining the twelfth listed person, the list will be expanded to include all persons with that number of nominations. The chairperson shall conduct an election by mail to all subscribing schools, distributing a ballot with the alphabetical list of nominees. Each subscribing school may return one ballot, ranking up to six of the nominees. The chairperson shall determine election of the six other committee members on the

basis of (a) total number of votes, irrespective of rankings, and (b) in the event of a tie in the number of votes, the lowest total ranking.

- D. TERM. The term of office for the six elected members shall be one academic year, beginning with the announcement of election results by the chairperson and terminating with the announcement of the following year's election results. No member may serve more than five consecutive terms.
 - E. VOTING. All members of the district committee shall have one vote. All actions of the committee will require simple majority. A quorum consists of four members.
 - F. VACANCIES. Vacancies during the term of office shall be filled by an election conducted among the remaining members of the committee, applying the eligibility standards listed in Article III, Section A.
 - G. STAND-IN. A member may designate a stand-in if he or she is unable to attend a committee meeting. Stand-ins will enjoy full membership rights.
 - H. DUTIES. Duties of the committee include establishing specific procedures to implement policies contained in this document, assisting the chairperson in planning and administering the district qualifying tournament, and any other activities relevant to the purpose stated in Article I.
4. DISTRICT CHAIRPERSON.
- A. ELECTION. The chairperson shall be elected by district committee members from among district committee members in the spring of odd-numbered years. The chairperson becomes a member of the next year's district committee.
 - B. TERM. The term of office is two years, beginning May 1st in the year of election. No chairperson may serve more than two consecutive terms.
 - C. NDT REPRESENTATIVE. The chairperson shall be the district's representative to the National Debate Tournament committee.
 - D. DUTIES. The chairperson shall be responsible for convening meetings of the committee, for directing the district qualifying tournament, for performing the duties of the NDT representative which may be designated by the NDT committee, and for executing other actions stipulated elsewhere in this document.
 - E. REMOVAL. The chairperson may be removed from office by a vote for removal on the part of 5 or more members of the district committee.

5. DISTRICT VICE-CHAIRPERSON

- A. ELECTION. The position of vice-chairperson shall be filled by that committee member receiving the largest number of votes in the May election.
- B. TERM. The term of office shall be one year.
- C. DUTIES.
 - 1. The vice-chairperson shall perform tasks as assigned by the chairperson.
 - 2. If the chairperson is unable to serve, the vice-chairperson shall assume the duties of the chairperson for the duration of the absence of the chairperson.

6. DISTRICT SECRETARY.

- A. ELECTION. The secretary shall be elected from among committee members by committee members at the first meeting of the committee following election.
- B. TERM. The term of the secretary shall be one year, beginning at the date of the election.
- C. DUTIES. The secretary shall be responsible for recording and distributing minutes of all meetings of the district committee and for preserving those minutes and any other documents which the district committee shall produce.

7. COMMITTEE MEETINGS. The chairperson will call meetings of the committee as needed throughout the year to conduct necessary business. One meeting will normally be held around the start of the debate season; and a second will normally be held shortly before the district qualifying tournament.

8. DISTRICT QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT. The qualifying tournament is held for the purpose of determining which teams will receive the invitations to attend the National Debate Tournament which are allocated to District IV. The number of invitations which each district receives is determined by the National Debate Tournament Committee. All subscribing schools may enter one or two debate teams in the tournament. Specific rules for the tournament are included in the By-Laws.

9. RATIFICATION. This document will become effective when approved by two-thirds vote of subscribing schools.

10. AMENDMENT. This document may be amended by a two-thirds vote of current members who vote on the amendment. Amendments may be initiated by the committee or any subscriber.

11. By-Laws. By-Laws may be adopted or amended by a majority vote of the district committee.

BY-LAWS OF THE DISTRICT IV NDT COMMITTEE

Adopted by majority vote of the District Committee, February 27, 1976; includes incorporated amendments through January 17, 1986.

1. DISTRICT QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT

A. PARTICIPANTS. The committee will determine recommended standards for entrants, which are:

1. \$30 NDT subscription Fee and \$5 District IV Subscription Fee paid by November 1st of previous year.
2. Participation in at least five tournaments during the current academic year, either individually or as a team.
3. A 50% win-loss record should be used as a general guideline as to whether a particular team should be competing.
4. Submission of complete record by postmark deadline (approximately one month before the district tournament), which deadline will be determined and announced by the committee during the fall of the previous year. A complete record will include: name, address, and telephone numbers of director of forensics; names of team members; tournament name, dates, and division in which the team debate (either together or individually); a round-by-round record of side, win-loss, and opponents' school and individual names for both preliminary and elimination rounds; summary of win-loss totals and percentages for team members (together and individually). Submission by postmark deadline of a form certifying judges (2 per team) and a one-page judging philosophy for each judge.
5. Each school entering the district tournament is expected to provide two qualified persons per team entered who have judged at least 20 rounds of debate on the current intercollegiate debate proposition; certification for judges should list tournament names and number of rounds judged. Hired judges should be requested well in advance of the tournament; fee for hired judges will be determined and publicized by the district committee.
6. Payment of registration fee for the District Tournament, which is \$65 per team. Payment of hired judge fee (if a hired judge has been requested), which is \$100 per hired judge.

B. APPLICATIONS. Directors shall submit a detailed record of competition for their team or teams to all members of the committee. Forms for submitting the record shall be supplied to all subscribing schools by the chairperson, and he or she will stipulate a deadline for submission of the forms. Each committee member will rank-order the teams, applying his or her own criteria, and report these ranks to the chairperson, who will determine a composite rank-order. Committee members will not rank their own teams; the chairperson will insert an average of the other committee members' rankings. Rankings will not be revealed until the tournament is completed.

C. RESULTS. Highest ranked teams will be certified to compete in the National Debate Tournament. First and second runner-up teams will be designated, in the event that a certified team is unable to attend the National Debate Tournament. Winners of the tournament will be determined by application of the following criteria:

1. Win-loss record.
2. Number of ballots.
3. Run-off debate or debates, using this format:

If two teams tie for one slot: these teams should meet in a run-off round. If they have previously met in the Tournament, sides would be reversed; if not, they would flip for sides.

If three teams tie for one slot: a bye should be given to the high point team initially. The other two teams should debate. The winner would meet the bye team and the winner of this round would advance to the NDT. Dropping of high/low would be used in determining the bye team in the initial round.

If four teams tie for one slot: a semi-final bracket would be created. Winners of the semi-final rounds would meet in a final round with the winner advancing to the NDT.

If three teams tie for two slots: a bye be given to the low point team. The first and second seed teams meet with the winner gaining one NDT slot. The loser of this initial round then debates the bye team with the winner securing the second NDT slot.

If four teams tie for two slots: a semi-final bracket be created. The two winners of the semi-final round would advance to the NDT.

IF four teams tie for three slots: a semi-final bracket would be created. The two winners of the semi-final rounds would earn two of the NDT bids. The losers of those rounds would then debate with the winner of that round earning the third NDT bid.

Any other scenario would be resolved by the District IV Committee (absent the members who have teams involved in the tie) using the philosophy of the system delineated above.

Furthermore, that judges for run-off rounds be determined as follows: That quality ranking system be utilized to select 11-judge panels. That each school involved in the run-off debate have the option of striking as many as four judges from the panel of 11 selected by the District IV Committee using the quality ranking system.

D. PROCEDURES.

1. Under no circumstances will two teams from the same school debate each other.
2. A team which meets two teams from another school will debate them on opposite sides of the topic. This is an advisory rule with the integrity of power matching a higher priority and shall not be used in run-offs.
3. If there are fewer than 20 teams, the following procedures will be used:
 - a. Use of the current district committee ranking procedure.
 - b. Use of the current quartile pairing procedure.
4. In the event that two teams from the same school are tied for the final qualification slot, no run-off will be held; the team will be selected by the coach of that school.
5. If there are 20 or more teams, the following procedure will be used:
 - a. Use of the current district committee ranking procedure.
 - b. A three-member tabulation committee will be selected by the district committee. It will consist of the District Chair, plus two members of the district committee, selected by written ballot at the meeting prior to the tournament. The term is for one tournament only.
 - c. The district chair will pre-pair the first four rounds. Pairings will be based on the current quartile system.
 - d. If there is an odd number of teams, one team will receive a bye in each of the four pre-set rounds; these four teams will then be paired against each other in a fifth round at the end of the first day.
 - e. Procedures for the power-paired rounds:
 - (1) Rounds 5 and 7 will match teams with closet corresponding records (Constrained for prior teams debated and Rule 1, above). Pairings will be based on ballots first and total speaker points second. In Round 5, the team with the better record will be affirmative, while in Round 7, the team with the better record will be negative.
 - (2) Rounds 6 and 8 will compensate for sides: all teams which have been affirmative in Rounds 5 and 7 must be negative in Rounds 6 and 8 and vice versa.
 - (3) In Rounds 6 and 8, teams will be quartiled, with the top team in each quartile meeting the bottom team in that quartile, the next highest team meeting the next lowest team, etc. (again, compensating for sides, previous opponents, etc.). If, because of constraints, a team cannot meet the team fitting this formula, it will meet the next available team from within the quartile; if that is not possible, it will meet the top team from the next lower quartile, or other teams moving successively through that quartile.
 - (4) Byes: if there is an odd number of teams, during Rounds 5 through 8, the team with the worst record (number of ballots, ties to be broken by speaker points) will receive a bye. For purposes of power matching, the bye will be counted as winning all ballots in the round, with an average of speaker points

for that round (final points assigned will be based on an average of all seven rounds debated). The bye will be counted as an affirmative round. No team can receive more than one bye.

6. Judge procedures:
 - a. Each team must be accompanied by two qualified judges or provision must be made by the school to fulfill the requirement.
 - b. The team rankings of judges (an equal number of "A's," "B's," and "C's") will be used to determine judges which would be used in run-off rounds.
7. Judge assignment procedures will utilize the following:
 - a. Make the matches for each round according to the instructions for that particular round. For Rounds I, II, V, & VI lay the matches out in alphabetical order with the affirmative team on top. For the other rounds lay the matches out in reverse alphabetical order with the affirmative on top. This will tend to equate who strikes in the first group.
 - b. Determine the maximum number of panels that can be made for the first striking session. Since five judges are needed per match this will be determined by dividing the judging pool by 5. For example, if twelve teams are in the tournament a pool of 24 judges should be available. A total of four matches can be made utilizing 20 judges and leaving four in reserve.
 - c. Shuffle the judge cards carefully. For the matches in Group 1 lay one judge card on each match in order and repeat the process until all matches have five judges. Lay the remaining judge cards aside. The only criteria for not placing a card on a match is that he or she will not fit because of being his or her own team or a previously agreed upon restriction. Do not pick up a card because the judge has been offered before, or heard the team before, or been struck before. If a judge fits he or she should be placed in the match. If a judge won't fit look at the next card and then the next until one fits. It is possible that some adjustments will have to be made for the last match if the last card will not fit. Try to move the cards as close to that match as possible.
 - d. After the matches with five judges have been made, write the names of the judges on a "strike card" for each team. Call the coaches and have them strike. In the event that neither coach strikes, or only one coach strikes, or both strike the same person, the tab room should reduce the panel to three judges. The method of tab room strike should be determined in advance. For example, remove the first non-struck judge in Round I, the second in Round II, and so forth.
 - e. Two judges from each panel will thus be freed and should be put in the judging pool for the next group. Shuffle these cards carefully, but place the reserve judges (those who were not offered to Group I) on top of the judging cards. For most numbers of teams there will be

sufficient judges remaining to complete the rest of the matches. For the 12 team example, four Group I matches were made utilizing 12 judges and leaving a pool of 12 for the last two matches where only ten are actually needed for the initial panels. Repeat the process above for the Group II matches. There are some numbers of teams where three groups may be needed.

- f. It is important that the tab room follow predetermined procedures. The tab room should not put cards on top because a judge has not heard many rounds or put a card on the bottom because that judge hasn't had a round off. When the tab room strikes it should be done by a predetermined method and not a judgment as to who would be the best judge for that match.
 - g. Insofar as possible, a judge will not be assigned to hear a team for a fourth time.
- E. JUDGES. Each team entered must be accompanied by two qualified judges who have judged at least twenty rounds of debate on the current national intercollegiate topic. Qualifications for judges are to be certified by listing the name of tournament and the number of rounds judged; certification beyond twenty rounds is not necessary. Schools may hire judges by prior arrangement with the chairperson and on payment to him or her of the fee determined by the committee. Each judge must provide a one-page judging philosophy to the chairperson for distribution before the tournament to competing schools. No judge at the District IV Tournament shall be allowed to judge a debater that he or she coached previously; nor shall a judge judge a debater who once was a member of the same debate squad as the judge. Participating schools shall be limited to four judges per school except in an emergency; exceptions will require a majority vote of the District IV Committee.
- F. HIRED JUDGES. The chairperson will hire the number of judges requested plus an additional number to be determined by the committee, to free the committee members for tabulation and administration of the tournament. Hired judges will be selected from a list of judges recommended by the committee, to the extent possible. Whenever possible, preference will be given to judging personnel from subscribing schools. Hired judges must meet the qualification standards announced by the committee and must submit the judging philosophy statement.
- G. FORMAT. The tournament will use whatever debate format has been selected for use in that year's National Debate Tournament.
- H. FEES. Each entering school shall pay the tournament entry fee established by the committee. The fee will be designed to cover necessary tournament expenses, excluding those assumed by the host school.
- I. TROPHIES. Appropriate trophies will be presented to the winning schools and individual team members at the conclusion of

the tournament.

- J. LOCATION. Tournament location will be determined by the committee one year in advance, whenever possible. Subscribing schools will be invited to submit invitations to host the tournament early in each calendar year. Prospective hosts should be able to provide sufficient numbers of classrooms for the debates (preferably in one building), tabulation facilities and equipment, dining and lodging facilities, coaches' party, timekeepers, and airport transportation; hosts assume the costs (if any) of all items except dining and lodging. A \$100 stipend will be paid to the host institution to offset costs.
 - K. DATE. The tournament date will be determined by the committee in consultation with the tournament host within the period designated by the National Debate Tournament Committee for qualifying tournaments. The tournament is normally held the first weekend in March.
 - L. OPEN MEETINGS. Open meetings of the district debaters and of district judges and directors will be held at the district tournament.
 - M. SECRET BALLOTS. Ballot envelopes, sealed at the conclusion of each debate, will not be opened until the last day of the tournament for tabulation by the district committee. Judges are asked not to reveal their decisions to anyone prior to the announcement of results.
- 2. RATIFICATION. This document will become effective when approved by a majority vote of the district committee.
 - 3. AMENDMENT. This document may be amended by a majority vote of the district committee. Amendments may be initiated by any committee member.