

## WDCA STANDING RULES

### 100 DUES, ARREARS, , AND MEETING FORMAT

#### 100.10 DUES

- (1) Annual dues shall be \$75.00. These dues shall not apply to a school competing that has never previously registered for an event in the WDCA.

#### 100.20 ARREARS

- (1) Those members failing to pay dues for two consecutive years shall have no voice or vote at meetings.
- (2) The Treasurer shall provide a list of those schools three weeks prior to each regular meeting and

#### 100.30 MEETING FORMAT

- (1) Each regular meeting shall have a hybrid or virtual attendance option.
- (2.) The President-Elect shall establish this option and publicize the link to the membership. the WSDT.

### 200 TOURNAMENT PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES

#### 200.10 SANCTIONING OF TOURNAMENTS

- (1) Criteria for Establishing Tournament Dates:
  - A. The tentative schedule will be set at the WSDT. To host a tournament, a school must have attended three sanctioned WDCA tournaments in the immediately preceding year. A school may keep their “traditional” weekend if the school’s Tournament Director completed the required steps outlined in 200.30. “Traditional” weekend is defined as a weekend in which a tournament was hosted in the immediately preceding year. This does not refer to previous or past years.
  - B. Schools should get contracts for their building(s) by September 1.
  - C. The schedule is set at the spring meeting and posted on the website.
  - D. “First come-first served” shall be the policy for filling open dates in the schedule after the President has announced it to the membership.
  - E. Schools wishing to host a sanctioned tournament on an occupied weekend should send their written request to the WDCA President for consideration. The President will consult with the tournament directors whose tournaments are already on the calendar to determine if another tournament may be added.
  - F. No school should be allowed a second date on the original schedule until the Spring Meeting. Schools should request one date with alternative suggestions.

#### 200.20 MAVERICK DEBATERS

- (1).Maverick debaters in team events may be permitted to debate by the tournament director and may also win the round they debate in. A maverick debater’s performance may count towards their qualifications for state. However, mavericks are not permitted to compete at the WSDT.

#### 200.30 TOURNAMENT RESULTS

- (1) Tournament Directors are required to post a list of debaters earning a leg to the WSDT within one week following their tournament in a manner prescribed by the WSDT Director.
- (2) Completing this step is required to retain sanctioned status for the following year and to keep

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the “traditional weekend” as outlined in 200.10.

#### 200.50 TOPICS AND TIME LIMITS

- (1) The topic for policy debate shall be the current national high school policy debate topic. The topic for Public Forum and Lincoln Douglas debate shall be the current National Speech and Debate Association topics.
- (2) All debate divisions will use the current speech time limits and speech order of the National Speech and Debate Association.
- (3) Preparation time in Policy Debate shall be 8 minutes. Preparation time in Public Forum and Lincoln Douglass shall follow the NSDA established times.

#### 200.51 NOVICE POLICY DEBATE ARGUMENT LIMITS

- (1) Plan texts in the novice division are restricted to those in the official packet. Until a date
- (2) determined by the Executive Committee, the counterplan and kritik may not be run. Negative teams may use only one counterplan and kritik in a round, even when multiple counterplans or kritiks are contained in the novice packet. Negative teams may not alter the text of the counterplan, the concept being critiked, nor the alternative text of the kritik. The penalty for reading two counterplans or two kritiks in the same debate round is a loss per (2) below.
- (3) In the event that a negative counterplan text or kritik is presented from outside the novice packet, the judge should not consider that argument in their decision, regardless of whether the issue is raised in the debate. If the affirmative team presents a plan text that is not found in the novice evidence packet they should receive a loss. It is not required for the opposing team to make this claim to the judge. Judges must notify the Tournament Director who will enter the appropriate result into the computer system. The Tournament Director or Novice Packet committee chair will
  - a) notify all involved coaches.
- (4) Until a date determined by the Executive Committee, novice teams are limited to arguments found in the packet. Teams are permitted to use different evidence provided the evidence contains the same warrants as the original evidence.

#### 200.60 DELINQUENT TOURNAMENT FEES

- (1) Tournament directors not receiving payment of entry fees or proof of postmarked entry fees within two months of the conclusion of the tournament should first inquire with the coach of record. If an expedient resolution cannot be found, the director should write the principal of the nonpaying school requesting payment. If this yields no response, then they should write the superintendent of the school district.
- (2) Teams in their first year of competition with the WDCA that need assistance in paying tournament directors may ask the WDCA Executive Board for financial help in doing so. The Board shall set aside a fund each year for this exact purpose. The size of this fund is up to the discretion of the Board based on resources and number of new teams. The treasurer shall make new teams aware of this fund.
- (3) If tournament fees have not been paid after completing the above steps, the host school will have the option of reporting the delinquent payment to the WDCA Executive Committee. This could result in the delinquent school being ineligible for that year’s WSDT.

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### 200.70 -Belonging

(1) All sanctioned WDCA tournaments are required to name one or more Belonging Ombuds that will act in that capacity for their tournament. Tournament directors should not operate as ombuds advocates. It is preferable if ombuds have completed training courses shared by the Belonging Committee chairperson.

(2) Belonging Ombuds shall have the responsibility to listen to and assist anyone involved in the tournament (competitors, judges, coaches, etc.) with any Belonging issues that may arise during the tournament. If a complaint is made involving competition, and not Belonging, the Belonging Ombuds will forward the complaint to the tournament director.

(3) Belonging Ombuds should follow best practices for listening to concerns/complaints and resolving any which do not impact tournament operations. The Belonging committee will provide a framework for responding to issues consistent with best practices.

(4) If the Belonging Ombuds determine that a sanction against a competitor or judge is required, the tournament director must concur and endorse the sanction.

(5) If a party believes their issue has not been resolved by the tournament, they may appeal in writing to the WDCA Belonging committee. Said committee will review the situation and make a recommendation to the WDCA Executive Board, which may act in accordance with standing rule 330.60(1).

(6) Belonging Ombuds at tournaments are required to report a record of issues raised to the WDCA Belonging committee by emailing the chairperson. The Belonging committee will retain these records, which are only viewable by the committee, the chair of the TPP committee, and the WDCA Executive Board. The Belonging committee may make recommendations to the WDCA Executive Board, which may act in accordance with sanding rule 330.60(1).

### 210.10 EVIDENCE STANDARDS

#### (1) Definitions:

A. Evidence is any statistic, idea, example, conclusion, etc., that is attributable to another person or persons.

B. Source Citation. Debaters must, at a minimum, orally provide the author's last name and date when introducing evidence in a round. After introducing the evidence, students may reference the evidence by using the author's name and year, or argument position within the contention (or a combination thereof) to specifically indicate which arguments are attributed to which author. Full written citations must be available and presented if requested by the opponent and/or judge. Providing the actual article satisfies this requirement.

C. Written source citation. A written source citation must contain all information provided in the original source material, including but not limited to:

Full name of the primary author(s) and qualifications

Publication Date

Source

Title

Date accessed (if digital evidence)

Full URL if applicable

Page number(s)

- D. Paraphrasing. If a debater chooses a parenthetical reference for evidence, the same evidence standards apply as to quoted evidence.
- E. Original source(s) defined. Understanding that teams/individuals obtain their evidence in multiple ways, the original source for evidence may include, but is not limited solely to, one of the following:
  - i) Accessing the live or displaying a copy of a web page (teams/individuals may access the Internet to provide this information if requested).
  - ii) A copy of the pages preceding, including, and following or the actual printed (book, periodical, pamphlet, etc.) source.
  - iii) Copies or electronic versions of published handbooks (i.e., Baylor Briefs; Planet Debate, etc.).
  - iv) Electronic or printed versions or the webpage for a debate institute or the NDCA sponsored Open Evidence Project or similar sites.
  - v) Regardless of the form of material used to satisfy the original source requirement, debaters are responsible for the content and accuracy of all evidence they present and/or read.
  - vi) Generative artificial intelligence cannot be cited as a source. While it may be used to guide students to articles, ideas, and sources, the original source of any quoted or paraphrased writing must be available if requested.
- F. Evidence Accessibility. Text in evidence should be provided in an accessible format
  - (i) All font sizes, including non-highlighted text, should be size 8 or larger.
  - (ii) Text color should be high contrast and readable.
  - (iii) Highlighting should be readable and high contrast with text.
  - (iv) A digital copy may be considered accessible if the text is able to be altered to meet the aforementioned guidelines.

## (2) Types of Violations

- A. Distortion occurs when the evidence contains added and/or deleted words that substantially alters the original conclusions of the author(s).
- B. Nonexistent evidence is one or more of the following:
  - i) The debater citing the evidence is unable to produce it when requested by the opposing team, judge or tournament official. In Public Forum debate, teams have a reasonable time, to produce the evidence in accordance with 210.10 (1) E. The time required to find the evidence is not counted as prep time and should not be excessive.
  - ii) The source provided does not contain the evidence cited.
  - iii) The evidence is referenced parenthetically but lacks an original source to verify the information.
  - iv) The debater has the original source but refuses to provide it to their opponent, the judge or a tournament official, in a timely fashion as outlined in these rules.
  - v) The debater fails to present a full citation when requested.
  - vi) When a team is debating paperless, the team must provide only the pieces of evidence that the debater reasonably plans to read in the speech (not entire files). This evidence should be provided in the order the debater intends to read it.

- vii) Clipping. When a debater claims to have read more of a piece of evidence than was actually read in the round.
  - viii) Straw Argument. Intentionally reading evidence that argues a position that the primary author(s) presents for the purpose of refuting it, while, in fact, advocating for a different position.
- C. Inaccessible Evidence is when the debater refuses to or cannot produce an accessible version of evidence as defined in (1)F Evidence Accessibility.

(3) Penalties

- A. In the case of a violation of rule (2), B (nonexistent evidence), the violating team has 10 minutes to produce the evidence for the Tournament Director or their designee upon notification of the violation. If the team does not produce the evidence in that time period, that team will be disqualified from the tournament.
- B. If a nonexistent evidence violation occurs due to a paperless team providing an excessive amount of evidence in Novice Policy debate while the argument limitations are in effect, the judge will provide feedback to the students in violation of the evidence sharing requirements and notify the Tournament Director immediately. The judge will then continue the round. The Tournament Director shall talk to both coaches to provide education and training as needed, and an explanation that a second violation at the same tournament by the same entry will result in a loss.
- C. In the case of an inadvertent violation of (D) (Straw Argument) above, the judge must disregard the evidence presented, however the offending team does not forfeit the round.
- D. Results from previous rounds will not be reversed if an evidence violation results in a loss/disqualification to a team.
- E. A second evidence violation in a subsequent round during a tournament will result in an automatic disqualification for that team.

(4) Formal Allegation

- A. A team may make a formal allegation of an evidence violation during any of their speeches by indicating to the judge(s) that they are making an allegation and state the specific violation(s) they believe the other team to be guilty of. The following procedures must be used by the judge.
  - i) Once a team has made a specific allegation the judge must stop the round. Judges should ensure that those making a formal allegation understand the possible results of doing so.
  - ii) After verifying that a formal allegation is being made, the judge must examine the evidence in question and render a decision regarding the allegation.
  - iii) If the judge determines that the allegation is legitimate and a violation has occurred, the team committing the violation receives a loss by forfeit and zero speaker points.
  - iv) If the judge determines that the allegation is not legitimate and no violation has occurred, the team making the allegation receives a loss by forfeit and zero speaker points.
  - v) After rendering a decision, the judge must inform both teams of the decision as well as the Tournament Director. The Tournament Director will enter the appropriate result into the computer system; the judge should not enter a result on the ballot. The coaches of both teams will be notified of the decision before the start of the next round.
- B. A team may question the credibility or value of a piece of evidence without making a formal allegation. These informal allegations do not require the judge to end the round and are evaluated the same way as any other argument presented.

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(5) Appeals

- A. Coaches may only appeal a decision on the grounds that the judge has ignored, misapplied and/or misinterpreted a rule in deciding evidence violation raised in the round. If there is an appeal based upon something specific to the host site or technical failure, that should follow the protest process and/or be taken to the Tournament Director. An evidence violation appeal should not be filed.
- B. Coaches may not make an allegation of a violation that was not made by the debaters in the round.
- C. Upon notification of a violation from the Tournament Director, coaches have 10 minutes to submit an appeal in writing.
- D. A three-person appeals committee will read the appeal and interview the judge as soon as possible and render a decision within 10 minutes of beginning the interview. If the appeals committee cannot render a decision in that timeframe, the judge's decision will stand. The appeal committee's sole responsibility is to decide if the judge ignored, misapplied, and/or misinterpreted the evidence violation rules. The appeals committee may, at their sole discretion, choose to interview teams (with coaches).
  - i) If a judge's decision is overturned and a formal allegation upheld, the challenged team receives a forfeit loss. If a judge's decision is overturned and a formal allegation is not upheld, the challenging team receives a forfeit loss.
  - ii) At the WSDT, the appeals committee is comprised of the WDCA President, President Elect, and Chair of the Judging Standards and Ethics Committee.
- E. If the evidence violation and appeal happen during elimination rounds, a final decision must be made before the next elimination round may begin.
- F. If the evidence violation occurs in the final round, all debaters, coaches and judges are asked to remain for 10 minutes following the announcement of the decision in case an appeal is filed.
- G. The decision of the appeal committee is final and binding.
- H. At the WSDT, if any member of the appeals committee has a conflict of interest (coach of one of the teams, hiring coach of the judge, etc.), members of the Executive Committee will be substituted in this order: Secretary, Treasurer, New Coaches Committee Chair, Media and Communications Committee Chair, WSDT Tournament Director.

220.10 ADJUDICATOR GUIDELINES

- (1) At all WDCA sanctioned events including the Wisconsin State Debate Tournament, the following expectations will be met in addition to those detailed within the Bylaws and Standing Rules of the WDCA.
  - A. Any judge who finds themselves in a conflict of interest including, but not limited to, judging a student from a school with which the judge is affiliated, shall notify the tournament director immediately. A judge would be conflicted if they personally know or coach a student or for the school in the round. An alumnus of a school is considered affiliated unless they have been out of high school for four or more years without coaching or knowing any students on the team. Whenever possible, these conflicts should be expressed prior to the registration period ending.
  - B. A judge shall neither shorten rounds nor render a decision on the ballot until the completion of the round. The judge shall listen to the entire round in a fair and impartial manner before making a decision.
  - C. The judge should decide the round based upon the arguments presented in the round and not upon their personal beliefs or biases.

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- D. The judge shall not provide assistance to competitors of the round except for time signals.
  - E. The review of evidence by a judge is not allowed unless there is a dispute by the opposition regarding the meaning, context, or validity of the evidence, or suspicion by the judge of falsification. If a judge chooses to be on the email chain, the document should not be examined until the evidence has been disputed, there is a falsification concern or there is a concern clipping is occurring.
  - F. A judge is expected to adapt expectations and award speaker points appropriate to the level of debate being judged. A judge should not give speaker points lower than 20.
  - G. A judge shall fill out the ballot completely. Comments for individual speakers and a written justification for the decision shall be provided. Comments on ballots are to be instructive and constructive. The school of any judge that does not provide a written justification for decisions, as prescribed by the Tournament Director, will be required to pay \$15 to the WDCA Scholarship Fund for each round where no written justification was provided. The first notice would be sent by the tournament host to the coach of said school. Failure to respond and remit payment within one month will result in a letter being sent to the school's principal by the WDCA President. Repeated violations could result in disqualification from WDCA sponsored tournaments by Executive Committee decision.
  - H. While oral critiques may be of educational value, lengthy oral critiques are unacceptable. A judge should, therefore, fully communicate their decision on the ballot and allow the tournament to proceed as close to the scheduled time as possible. To limit tabulation errors, judges must communicate their decision as to the team receiving the win to the debaters at the conclusion of the round.
  - I. Judges who are still obligated to potentially judge in any division are not permitted to observe any rounds. This includes coaches observing their own students if that coach is actively in the judge pool at the WSDT.
  - J. No high school student may be used to judge any round at the Wisconsin State Debate Tournament nor at any WDCA sanctioned tournament.
  - K. If while judging a round, the judge leaves to go and confer with their team, the team conferred with takes a loss. Any judge who leaves a round for any other, non-emergency reason shall be fined \$20 per round.
  - L. Judges who are in violation of the Adjudicator Guidelines may be fined, blocked against certain teams or schools, and/or removed from the judge pool by the tournament director. The hiring school is responsible for compensating the tournament for judging fees, providing a replacement judge, or removal of an appropriate number of their teams.
  - M. Debaters shall not leave a debate round for any non-emergency reason or else they shall forfeit the round.
  - N. Novice policy debate has specific plan texts, counterplan texts, and kritik alternatives that cannot be altered at any WDCA sanctioned tournaments.
- (2) At the Wisconsin State Debate Tournament, judges in all divisions must disclose their decision before exiting the room to the competitors. Judges should complete their ballot before disclosing. When disclosing, judges must indicate the side and entry code of the winning team. If there is a mistake or possibility of mistake, the judge should notify the tabroom immediately. Judges do not have to defend their decision or provide an oral critique but may do so at their own discretion. If a judge does not disclose the school who hired the judge will be immediately assessed a \$15 fine.

#### 230.10 ETHICS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

- (1) The concerned parties shall discuss the problem fully and settle the issue with the aid of the Tournament Director, if necessary, regarding issues not addressed within the Evidence Standards section.
- (2) If the issue cannot be settled in accordance with the above, then the concerned parties and the Tournament Director shall file written statements with the WDCA Executive Committee. The committee shall evaluate the issue, contact the concerned parties, and mediate a settlement. The committee shall then draft written documentation of the mediated settlement and issue copies to the concerned parties involved and the WDCA Executive Committee.
- (3) If a satisfactory settlement still cannot be reached, then the WDCA President shall inform the principals of the parties involved of the issue via a written summary of the situation and issue a statement of expected conduct from all involved parties moving forward.
- (4) If any of the concerned parties or the tournament director is a member of the Judging Standards and Ethics Committee or the WDCA Executive Committee, that individual shall not participate in committee duties in direct regard to their issue involved.

#### 240.10 TECHNOLOGY USE

- (1) Computers and similar digital technology may be used in all rounds by both judges and debaters with the following:
  - (1) A. Once the debate has begun, Debaters may not receive electronic assistance from outside sources during the course of a debate. Following notification by the judge that a competitor has received outside assistance, the WSDT Tournament Director will convene with the three-person appeals committee. This committee will then determine whether or not the team using the digital communication technology shall receive a warning, lose the round or be disqualified from the tournament. A second violation results in immediate disqualification. After rendering a decision, both coaches of the teams involved and the judge will be notified of the decision.
  - (2) i) At the WSTD, the Tournament Director's committee will consist of themselves, the WDCA President, and Judging Standards and Ethics Chair. If any members have a conflict of interest (coach of one of the teams, hiring coach of judge, etc.) members of the
  - (3) Executive Committee will be substituted in this order: President-elect, Secretary, Treasurer, New Coaches Committee Chair, Media and Communications Chair.
- (4) Tournament hosts are not responsible for, or required to, provide electronic resources during the tournament.

#### 240.20. EVIDENCE VIEWING

- (1) Paperless teams have an obligation to provide a copy of the evidence read in the round to their opponents. The paperless team can provide this copy on a viewing computer, a hard copy if available, or a provided electronic file, if the provided file is acceptable to the opposing team and they have a computer from which to access it. A viewing computer is defined as an extra device with at least a 7" screen that the document can be viewed on or the speaker giving their opponents the computer used during the speech in which the evidence is presented and/or discussed. If the latter is executed, the laptop must be handed to their opponents at the conclusion of each of their speeches.
- (2) Time to provide speeches is a part of the prep time allotted to each entry.. The WDCA does not recognize "off time prep" as a valid, appropriate, acceptable, or actual practice. Prep time ends when the evidence is given to the other team or when the next speaker is ready to begin their

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- speech.. If all planned pieces of evidence are not provided before the speech, then the time to facilitate this transfer after the speech will be deducted from the speaking team's prep time.
- (3) Wireless communication to file share with individuals in the round is acceptable between teams and/or judges. Other use of wireless communication shall be considered a violation of 240.10 Technology Use Guidelines. Violations of this rule will be treated with the same methods outlined in 240.10.1
  - (4) Only pieces of evidence that the debater reasonably plans to read in the speech should be provided (not entire aff or neg files). This evidence should be provided in the order the debater intends to read it before the round or speech begins. Egregious violations of this rule may be grounds for the judge to decrease the weight given to that team's arguments. It is also grounds for the opposing team to make a formal allegation of nonexistent evidence. Failure to share read evidence is also grounds for a formal allegation of nonexistent evidence. At a minimum, evidence should be shared before the speech in which it is read. Evidence may be shared before the round begins. If evidence is not shared before the speech, the time required to compile and share evidence shall be deducted from the speaking team's allotment of preparation time.
  - (5) It is not required that paperless teams share the text of their plan (if applicable) with the other team. It is not required that a team share texts of plans, logical or analytical arguments, analysis or anything other than evidence. However, any evidence utilized, whether by quotation or parenthetical reference, must have proper citations available and follow all evidence rules. It is strongly suggested that each narrative case includes a works cited page.
  - (6) Any computer, including viewing computer, malfunction and any technical failure shall immediately cause speech or prep time to stop. If the malfunction or failure is not resolved within five minutes, then the affected team may decide whether to
    - (1) continue to attempt to resolve said issue while using speech or prep time;
    - (2) resume the round without the use of such malfunctioning device (in the event of a malfunctioning viewing computer, a replacement viewing computer would satisfy this requirement); or
    - (3) forfeit the round.

### **300 WISCONSIN STATE DEBATE TOURNAMENT**

#### **300.10 SITE AND DATE**

The site and date of the Wisconsin State Debate Tournament will be chosen by the Executive Committee.

#### **300.20 ELIGIBILITY**

- (1) Schools whose dues are up to date in the WDCA as of December 1 and have met the qualification procedures for any of the WDCA sanctioned divisions of competition (Varsity Policy Debate, Novice Policy Debate, Varsity Lincoln Douglas Debate, Junior Varsity Lincoln Douglas Debate, Varsity Public Forum Debate, and Junior Varsity Public Forum Debate) are eligible to compete in the Wisconsin State Debate Tournament.
- (2) A school must compete at three or more sanctioned tournaments in the current season to compete in the Wisconsin State Debate Tournament.

#### **300.21 PARTICIPATION**

- (1) The WSDT Tournament Director shall post registration information and forms on the Web

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site by December 1.

- (2) In order for a school to compete, all appropriate forms and tournament entry fees or a school voucher must be submitted by the date established by the WSDT Tournament Director.
- (3) A school must compete at three sanctioned tournaments to be eligible to compete in the WSDT.

### 300.22 STUDENT PARTICIPATION

- (1) Any debater who qualifies for the Wisconsin State Debate Tournament in the varsity policy division and has competed in the varsity policy division at three or more WDCA-sanctioned tournaments during the season is not eligible to compete in the corresponding novice or junior varsity division of the Wisconsin State Debate Tournament.
- (2) Debaters that qualify in novice or junior varsity may enter into the corresponding varsity division at state. Debaters that have exactly one qualification from a novice or junior varsity division and one qualification from a varsity division may enter either state division.
- (3) In team events, one substitution or additional debater per division is allowed provided the debater attended two or more sanctioned tournaments in any division and the student fits the criteria for the division (e.g. a novice substitute meets the novice definition).
- (4) In preliminary rounds, observers are allowed unless one of the teams' competing objects. A coach of one of the teams competing may always observe. Active participants cannot observe a round in their division. Once a school has no active teams in the division, its students are always allowed to watch any elimination rounds.

### 300.23 JUDGE PARTICIPATION

- (1) In order to be eligible to judge during the WSDT, a judge must be certified in the division they are registered to judge in., e.g., a judge in PF must complete PF certification, even if they have completed LD certification previously.
- (2) Training and assessment will be developed and maintained by the TPP and Judging Standards and Ethics committees.
- (3) The WSDT Director and/or JSE committee shall be responsible for maintaining a list of certified judges judges who have completed the certification requirements and publishing that list by the WSDT entry registration deadline
- (4) The Executive Committee shall decide, by majority vote, on the method of assessment for certification before the Fall Meeting each year . Rewrite as "If the Executive Committee desires to change the method of assessment for certification, it may do so by majority vote prior to the Fall Meeting each year."
- (5) Once a judge is certified, their certification shall not expire except as provided below.
  - A. A judge violating the adjudicator guidelines during a sanctioned WDCA tournament may be required to be recertified in order to judge at the WSDT.
  - B. The Judging Standards and Ethics Committee shall be responsible for evaluating judge violations and determining if certification should expire as a consequence.
- (6) Any uncertified judge registered for the WSDT will not be permitted to judge until they are certified. The school of such a judge will incur a fine equal the missing judge fee for each round the judge is unable to judge.
- (7) A judge may complete certification during the WSDT and be eligible to enter the judging pool at that point.
- (8) Any individuals who have been a part of the division they are judging, either as a competitor, judge, or coach for two years or more are automatically certified and do not need to complete certification unless they have been sanctioned.

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- (9) Judges in LD and PF must have judged a minimum of 5 rounds in the style of debate they are registered to judge at the WSDT. Judges in Policy debate divisions must have judged a minimum of 3 rounds to be eligible to be registered. This requirement is met by judging rounds and not by being entered into a judge pool. Under extraordinary circumstances, the WSDT Director may waive this requirement for a single judge from a school.

### 310.10 TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR AND ORGANIZATION

#### (1) Organization and Responsibilities

- A. The Wisconsin State Debate Tournament will be run by a three-person committee consisting of a WSDT Tournament Director, who is the chair of the Tournament Practices and Procedures Committee, the Host, and the Judging Standards and Ethics Committee Chair.
- B. The WSDT Tournament Director may name members of the Executive Committee, members of the Tournament Practices and Procedures Committee, or former WDCA/WHSFA coaches to assist in running the state tournament.
- C. Individuals named to the state Tournament Committee should be published two weeks prior to the tournament and will be approved by the Executive Board.

#### (2) Tournament Director

- A. The responsibilities of the WSDT Tournament Director shall include: recording and verifying all qualifiers and entrants; coordinating and distributing all tournament information, including judge preference statements; making tab room assignments; covering tab room workers' judging assignments; coordinating and conducting the awards ceremony; publishing results; organizing the registered judges for preliminary and elimination rounds; screening judge qualifications (experience, years out, number of rounds, etc) and making adjustments to individual assignments where necessary; ordering awards; maintaining a round-by-round paper trail and back up of pairings and results; creating tournament site on the appropriate software utilizing settings outlined by the WDCA.
- B. The WSDT Tournament Director shall receive compensation no less than five hundred and ninety-nine dollars upon completion of the State Tournament.

#### (3) Host

- A. The responsibilities of the Tournament Host include providing: the site, food service, hospitality for coaches and judges at all sites (near the tab room), tab room, computer room, results consolidation room (stuffing envelopes), duplication services, computer set up, room availability with clear labeling, registration area, a list of qualified judges from the local area, and hall monitors/runners.

### 310.20 TAB ROOM

- (1) The WSDT Tournament Director shall operate an efficient tab room.
- (2) The Executive Committee may serve in the tab room in a capacity determined by the WSDT Tournament Director, as well as others chosen by the WSDT Tournament Director with the consent of the WDCA President. If a member of the Executive Committee is not serving in the tabroom, they cannot be in the judge pool.
- (3) The Executive Committee shall determine whether or not the tab room will be closed to all individuals not associated in running the tournament.
- (4) Coaches will not be able to request changes in the teams or judges assigned to the rounds unless there is a concern a tabulation error or an unknown judge conflict occurred, which should then be brought to the WSDT Director.

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### 310.30 FEES

- (1) Fees for the Wisconsin State Debate Tournament should be adequate to cover the cost of the tournament.
- (2) If the WDCA annual membership dues are not paid prior to December 1, a fine equal to the amount of the annual dues will be assessed in addition to a school's annual dues.
- (3) Schools with judge changes after the judge registration deadline may be charged a \$35 fee per change at the discretion of the WSDT Director. The school of a judge missing a preliminary round assignment may be fined \$35. The school of a judge missing an elimination round may be fined \$50. A school whose judge is late for a round may be fined \$15. All fines are at the discretion of the WSDT Director.

### 310.40 BAD WEATHER POLICY

- (1) In the event of inclement weather, the following policy will apply:
  - A. Any decision affecting the Wisconsin State Debate Tournament will be made three hours prior to the scheduled start of rounds for each division.
  - B. The following are some, but not all, of the options affecting the Wisconsin State Debate Tournament.
    - i) Simple cancellation
    - ii) Postponement of the first round in a/all division(s).
    - iii) The number of preliminary and/or elimination rounds may be reduced.
  - C. Final determination shall be by mutual agreement between the WSDT Tournament Director and the WDCA President.

### 320.10 TEN-MINUTE FORFEIT RULE

- (1) Any team which is 10 or more minutes late for the announced round start time shall forfeit that round.
- (2) Any team which receives a win as a result of a forfeit will be treated as if it had received a bye.

### 330.10 DIVISIONS

- (1) Varsity divisions are offered in Policy, Lincoln-Douglas, and Public Forum.
- (2) Junior Varsity divisions are offered in Lincoln-Douglas and Public Forum. Junior Varsity is defined as a student debating in their first or second high school season.
- (3) Novice divisions are offered in Policy. Novice is defined as a student debating in their first high school season.
- (4) Students with identified exceptional education needs may remain a Novice or Junior Varsity division beyond that division's experience limits at the discretion of the coach. Should this rule be invoked, the coach must notify the WSDT Tournament Director by the registration deadline.
- (5) In the event that the State Tournament Director, in consultation with the Executive Board, decides that a division is not viable due to a low number of entries or teams, they may combine the non-varsity and varsity divisions of a type of debate. In such a situation, separate trophies may be given to the top-ranked non-varsity teams if deemed appropriate.

### 330.20 QUALIFICATION PROCEDURES

- (1) Debaters shall qualify for the WSDT by competing in two or more sanctioned tournaments in that season. Qualification is not transferable to a different style of debate (e.g., PF to LD). In PF and LD, a debater must meet any other requirements defined for that division (see section 330.10). Qualification runs with the debater, not the pair, in

partnership events.

(2). Schools may qualify an unlimited number of debaters.

(3). Schools who have not qualified at least two entries for the Wisconsin State Debate Tournament in a particular division may qualify two entries for that division by each student attending any two WDCA sanctioned tournaments in the division.

### 330.30 WSDT OPERATIONS PROCEDURES

(1) The following criteria will be used to run the WSDT. Unless specified, these procedures apply to all divisions.

- A. During a time announced by the WSDT Tournament Director, all coaches must telephone, or register in person online to verify their entries, judges, and preferences/strikes. Those who fail to comply may be given a \$35 fine as a consequence.
- B. Judge preferences should be entered and verified for all teams using a 3-tiered system. Coaches/Teams will preference judges with the following percentages:
  - 1. (A) 34% minimum
  - 2. (B) 33% maximum
  - 3. (C) 25% maximum
- C. First Year out judges shall be appropriately labeled by the hiring school in its registration.
- D. Electronic tabulation software as determined by the tournament director will be used.
  - i. In the event that computer technology is unavailable to schedule and tabulate any division, every effort shall be made to adhere to the below criteria using team and judge cards.
- E. Preliminary rounds will adhere to the following:

Preliminary rounds will adhere to the following based upon the number of active entries between the registration deadline and round 1. Should the WSDT Director determine that other alterations are necessary, they should follow the appropriate standing rules in consultation with the President.

  - i. Divisions with less than 4 entries will be canceled. All impacted entries will be offered to debate in a higher division, should one be available.
  - ii. Divisions with 4-8 entries will be scheduled as a round robin with no elimination rounds and school-school debates scheduled as close to the beginning of the tournament as possible.
  - iii. Divisions with 9-15 entries will be scheduled for five preliminary rounds and elimination rounds. Rounds 1 and 2 shall be randomly assigned by the computer program. Rounds 3, 4, and 5 should be power paired high-low (based on speaker points) in brackets by the computer program. In Lincoln Douglas and Policy Debate, side constraints will also be considered by the computer program when pairing.
  - iv. Divisions with 16 or more entries will be scheduled for six preliminary rounds and elimination rounds. Rounds 1 and 2 shall be randomly assigned by the computer program. Rounds 3, 4, 5, and 6 should be power paired high-low (based on speaker points) in brackets by the computer program. In Lincoln Douglas and Policy Debate, side

constraints will also be considered by the computer program when pairing.

- v. Where applicable, an incomplete bracket is filled by the tabulation software based upon a setting chosen by the WSDT Tournament Director.
- vi. Judges should be randomly assigned by the computer using only the established judge preferencing system. If the computer leaves a judge slot blank, the next possible judge (as determined by the preferences) should be used. If multiple judges are available, the judge should be picked randomly.
- vii. No judge should see a team previously seen during the preliminary rounds.
- viii. No rounds may begin after 9:30 p.m.
- ix. In extraordinary circumstances that prevent any of these criteria to be followed, the WSDT Tournament Director, Judging Standards and Ethics Chair and WDCA President may convene to make necessary changes for the tournament to run.

F. Elimination rounds will adhere to the following:

- i. All teams with a winning record are eligible to compete in elimination rounds. If the bracket is incomplete as a result, higher seed teams are advanced without debating in order to preserve the integrity of the competition. If the novice policy division would run substantially longer than the varsity policy division, the WSDT committee is empowered to modify the length of the tournament by curtailing preliminary rounds or elimination rounds.
- ii. A coin toss by the two teams will determine the sides to be debated. The winner of the coin toss will decide on which side they will debate. If teams meet a second time, they must reverse sides if it occurs in Lincoln Douglas or Policy Debate.
- iii. Teams who are from the same school will be allowed to debate each other or the head coach may determine who wins.
- iv. Panels of not fewer than three judges will be used in each round. A judging panel of at least five judges is required for the final round.
- v. In elimination rounds, judge preferencing ought to be maintained for division utilizing ordinal ranks. This includes repeat judging. In Public Forum, the following guidelines should apply to judge placements: clean judges should be assigned as much as possible; judges can then be used to see debaters that they issued wins to on the opposite side; judges can then be used to see debaters that they issued losses to on opposite sides.

G. Individual awards will be presented to all teams who participated in the elimination rounds. In addition, awards will be presented to the top five speakers in each division; if the division had thirty or more individual competitors by the registration deadline, awards will be presented to the top ten speakers.

- i. Policy team tie-breakers used by the computer program should be used in the following order: wins, total points, rank high-low points, high-low ranks, double high-low points, double high-low ranks, opposition wins, a random variable. Lincoln Douglas and Public Forum team tie breakers used by the computer program should be used in the following order: wins, total points, high-low points, double high low points, opposition wins, a random variable.

- ii. Policy Debate speaker tie-breakers used by the computer program should be used in the following order: Total points, Total ranks, high-low points, high-low ranks, Judge Variance, Double High/Low points, and double high-low ranks. Lincoln Douglas and Public Forum speaker tie-breakers used by the computer program should be used in the following order: high-low points, total points, double high-low points. If a tie still exists, duplicate awards will be given.
- H. Schools with fewer than 10 active entries as of the start of Round 1 will be eligible for Rising Program awards. There will be two categories of Rising Program awards – small school and medium school. A small school is defined as schools with one or two entries. A medium school is defined as schools with three to nine entries. These should be the default categories, but the WSDT Tournament Director may redivide the categories as needed for a balanced division amongst the schools with fewer than 10 entries.
  - i. Wins will be worth 6 points, Byes will be worth 3 points, and Losses will be worth 2 points. Each category will have a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place award to the school based upon the average points earned per entry across preliminary rounds only.

#### 330.40 JUDGING OBLIGATIONS

- (1) The WSDT Invitation will list judging obligations that school must fulfill as there are no tournament hired judges. Schools not fulfilling their judging obligation may be forced to reduce their entries until judging obligations are met.
- (2) Paradigm definition: A paradigm statement's purpose is to provide debaters with information regarding a judge's preferences for style, argumentation, speed, etc., their debating/judging background and other pertinent information. As such, it must be specific to the division and style of debate a judge is entered in.
- (3) In a manner and by a deadline prescribed by the WSDT Tournament Director, judges in preferred divisions must submit a paradigm for the division in which they will be judging. Failure to submit a paradigm by the deadline may result in the hiring school's inability to preference judges in that division, at the discretion of the WSDT Tournament Director. The WSDT Tournament Director may require a judge/coach to edit a paradigm which does not meet the definition in (B) above.
- (4) Judges in the novice divisions must submit their ballot and conclude any comments given to debaters within two hours of the announced start time for preliminary rounds, or two hours and fifteen minutes for elimination rounds. Judges in the Lincoln Douglas or Public Forum divisions must submit their ballot and conclude any comments given to debaters within one hour of the announced start time for preliminary or elimination rounds. Schools whose judges do not abide by this rule are subject to a fine of \$15. A judge may be removed from the judging pool for repeated violations, following the procedures in the adjudicator guidelines.

#### 330.50 JUDGE PREFERENCING CONTINGENCY

- (1) When the WSDT Director determines that judge preferencing for that division to be unworkable, the tournament director, with the approval of the executive board, may replace judge preferencing with a judge strike system for that division at the Wisconsin State Debate Tournament.

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### 330.60 Harassment, Discrimination, and Belonging Ombuds

- (1) (1) WDCA Harassment and Discrimination Policy. The Wisconsin Debate Coaches' Association is committed to providing its participants, judges, coaches, and staff the opportunity to pursue excellence in their endeavors. This opportunity can exist only when each member of our community is assured an atmosphere of mutual respect. The WDCA prohibits all forms of harassment and discrimination. Accordingly, all forms of harassment and discrimination, whether written or oral, based on race, color, religion, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, citizenship, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected by any applicable federal, state, or local law are prohibited, whether committed by participants, judges, coaches, or observers. Individuals who are found to have violated this policy will be subject to the full range of sanctions, up to and including removal from the tournament premises and banning from WDCA sanctioned events.
- (2) (2) The Belonging Chair shall appoint or hire individuals skilled in responding to relevant issues to serve as Belonging Ombuds for the WSDT. Hired individuals shall be remunerated at the same rate as judges hired by the tournament. The Executive Committee, shall, by majority vote, approve all Belonging Ombuds.
- (3) (3) Belonging Ombuds shall have the responsibility to listen to and assist anyone involved in the WSDT (competitors, judges, coaches, etc.) with any Belonging issues that may arise during the tournament. If a complaint is made involving competition, and not Belonging, the Belonging Ombuds will forward the complaint to the WSDT Director.
- (4) (4) Belonging Ombuds should follow best practices for listening to concerns/complaints and resolving any which do not impact tournament operations. The WDCA will provide a framework for responding to issues consistent with best practices.
- (5) (5) If the Belonging Ombuds determine that a sanction against a competitor or judge is required, the WSDT Director must concur and endorse the sanction. The WDCA Executive Board has the responsibility to endorse a sanction against a team as outlined in the WDCA Constitution and/or Standing Rules.

### 330.70 Protest Procedure

- (1) Only coaches or an adult designated by the coach before the tournament begins may protest the decision of a round. Evidence allegations are handled with separate rules and not subject to this rule.
- (2) Within 15 minutes of the conclusion of the round, a protest may be submitted to the WSDT Director, following a process published before the start of the tournament. The protest should be in writing/digital format.
- (3) A decision may only be protested on grounds that the judge violated one or more adjudicator guidelines in a way that rendered their decision impartial. The protesting coach must identify the guideline they believe was violated and indicate why they feel a change in the decision is merited.
- (4) The WSDT director will convene a protest committee of 3 adults to evaluate the protest and render a decision to uphold the original decision, reverse the decision, or award a double win. A double win may not be awarded in an elimination round. Members of the WDCA Executive Committee should be utilized first, to the extent possible. Unless conflicted, the WSDT Director chairs the protest committee.
- (5) The decision of the Protest committee is final, binding, and may not be appealed.

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- (6) The Protest Committee should attempt to complete their work within 30 minutes of receiving the protest.

#### **400 AWARDS**

##### **400.10 AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

- (1) The Executive Board shall solicit and receive Coach of the Year, scholarship, and Hall of Fame nominations. The Executive Board shall then determine winners following procedures outlined in the by-laws.

##### **410.10 HALL OF FAME AWARD**

- (1) Definition

- A. The WDCA shall bestow upon a worthy recipient membership in the Coaches Hall of Fame on an annual basis. An individual can only be inducted into the Hall of Fame once in their life.

- (2) Selection Process

- A. The WDCA President will notify the membership when the nomination form is available for completion, due date, and the mechanism for submission.
- B. After receiving the nominations no later than April 1, the Executive Board shall make the final determination of the recipient.

- (3) Selection Criteria

- A. The selection criteria shall include, but not be limited to:
- B. Consistent program
- C. Consistent ethical standards
- D. Professionalism: cares for students and upholds educational standards.
- E. Promotion of debate as an educational and communicative tool.
- F. Commitment and dedication to the cause of interscholastic debate in the State of Wisconsin

- (4) Presentation

- A. The WDCA shall award the recipient with a plaque of recognition at the Spring Meeting. In the event that the recipient is unable to attend the Spring Meeting, the plaque may be presented at the Fall Meeting.

##### **420.10 COACH OF THE YEAR**

- 1) Definition

- A) Each year, the WDCA shall bestow upon a worthy recipient, a Coach of the Year Award.

- 2) Selection Process

- A) The WDCA President will notify the membership when the nomination form is available for completion, due date, and the mechanism for submission.
- B) After receiving the nominations no later than the due date set by the WDCA President, the Executive Board shall select three worthy candidates to be placed on a ballot for general membership voting at the Wisconsin State Debate Tournament. Student nominations are not accepted.
- C) At the WSDT tournament registration desk, coaches shall receive a ballot containing the top three nominees.
- D) Coaches (one per school) shall cast their ballots on the Saturday of the WSDT with the WDCA President.
- E) The WDCA President or an appointed Executive Board member shall be

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responsible for tallying the votes.

F) The Coach of the Year Award shall be presented at the WSDT Awards Ceremony.

G) The award shall be a plaque in the shape of the State of Wisconsin (or equivalent) and shall not exceed \$20.00 in cost.

H) No coach shall be eligible to receive the award more than once in a five-year period of time.

3) Selection Criteria

The Executive Board will select the three candidates according to the following weighted criteria:

A) The coach must be a member in good standing of the WDCA (i.e. dues paid, no other outstanding issues, etc.)

B) The coach exhibits a strong commitment to the educational value of debate. (20%)

C) The coach exhibits a strong commitment to students of all levels and backgrounds. (20%)

D) The coach exhibits a strong commitment to the WDCA organization and the ideals that it serves to promote. (20%)

E) The coach demonstrates a willingness to lend assistance to other debaters, coaches, and tournament hosts and directors. (20%)

F) The coach's team had demonstrated reasonable success in WDCA sanctioned tournaments. (10%)

G) The coaches team members distinguish themselves in debate, attitude, and conduct. (10%)

H) The nomination should outline the reasons for honoring the outstanding efforts of this coach.

#### 430.10 STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

(1) Definition

A. Each year, the WDCA shall bestow upon three two or more worthy recipients a post-secondary scholarship award.

(2) Selection Process

A. The WDCA President will notify the membership when the scholarship application form is available for completion, due date, and the mechanism for submission.

B. After receiving the nominations no later than the due date set by the WDCA President, the Executive Board shall make the final determination of the recipients.

(3) Selection Criteria

The Executive Board will select the recipients according the following weighted criteria:

A. Three-year involvement in Policy, Lincoln-Douglas, or Public Forum debate at the high school level (requirement).

B. Overall grade-point average of 2.75 or better (requirement)

C. Each member of the Executive Board shall rate all of the applicants from first place to last place. The applicants with best ratings shall receive the scholarships. If a member of the Executive Board nominated or currently coaches a nominee, they should not rank that nominee. The average rank from the other members of the Executive Board will be utilized as the rank given by the conflicted member. These rankings shall be submitted to the WDCA President by the due date set by the WDCA President.

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- D. Rankings shall be established by completing the WDCA Scholarship Rubric. This rubric evaluates quality performance in debate, leadership qualities, and involvement in other activities. The student's character and integrity is also evaluated. Any ties should be broken by the evaluator's evaluation on which student best fits the scholarship criteria. There can not be ties in the rankings.
- (4) Presentation
- A. The WDCA shall present the scholarship awards to the student recipients at the Wisconsin State Debate Tournament.