

2025 Debate Meeting Agenda – March 11 2024 – 6:00pm(CT)

Zoom Meeting

1. Call meeting to order

Brooks Bowman called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Committee members present were Patrick Pope, Mike Larson, Travis Dahle, Laura Raeder, and Andrew Stewart.

2. Dates for the 2025-26 Debate & Individual Events program

a. First Allowable Debate & Individual Events Competition – November 3, 2025

b. State Debate & I.E. Tournament - March 6-7, 2025 at Aberdeen Central HS

3. Dates and site for the 2025 State Debate Tournament - March 6-7, 2027 at Huron HS

4. Consider changes to ADM school classifications

top 15 ADM schools are AA, all others are A. Starting in 2026-27.

Motion: Mike motioned to classify the 14 schools with the largest ADM as class AA. All other schools would be classified as class A, with option to petition up to class AA. This new classification system would be implemented in the 2026-27 school year.

Second: Andrew

Pass 5-0

5. Discuss the use of AI in debate rounds

Motion: Travis motioned to include the following in the Debate Handbook,

Generative Artificial Intelligence: *At the SDHSAA State Debate Tournament, in events in which speeches must be the original created work of a competitor, students are prohibited from quoting or paraphrasing text directly from generative AI sources. Generative AI should not be cited as a source. The exception is that a student delivering a speech about the topic of AI may quote AI to illustrate their points about AI, in accordance with existing quoted word limits. While generative AI may be used to guide students to articles, ideas, and sources, the original source of any quoted or paraphrased evidence must be available if requested.*

In debate events, generative AI should not be cited as a source; while generative AI may be used to guide students to articles, ideas, and sources, the original source of any quoted or paraphrased evidence must be available if requested.

Second: Patrick

Pass 5-0

6. Discuss the use of phones/texting by competitors during competition rounds

No motion

7. Consider changing total point range from 0-30 to 20-30

Motion: Mike motioned to change the point range used for IE's to 20-30 points.

Second: Travis

Pass 5-0

8. Consider dropping the worst rank in IE's or change to a composite score rather than taking each individual score

Motion: Mike motioned to move to a composite score, pending a successful testing of the use of composite scores using tabroom.com. If the test is unsuccessful, we would drop the lowest rank in IEs in prelim rounds.

Second: Patrick

Pass 5-0

9. Discuss policies regarding byes and pull-up

Motion: Mike motioned to replace Chapter 3, Article 4, Section 3.C.5 with the following wording: ~~The pull up should be the highest seed in that bracket it is being pulled from. Do~~

~~not avoid pulling an entry up because they have been previously pulled up. Pull ups are~~

~~re-seeded into their new bracket as they would be based on the tiebreakers other than~~

~~win/loss. For example, if a pull up has the 10th most ballots out of the 12 entries in the~~

~~bracket, they are given the 10th position despite having fewer wins. Repeat the pull up~~

~~process for each division as needed. The pullup will be randomly drawn by tabroom.com.~~

Second: Andrew

Pass 5-0

10. Consider proposal to adjust the entries, qualifications and sweepstakes for the State Debate & IE Tournament

1. Motion: Accept IE proposal #1 Official Proposal – Mike (see attached page for proposal details)

Second: Laura

Pass 5-0

2. Motion: Accept official proposal for debate – Travis (see attached page for proposal details)

Second: Patrick

Pass 5-0

3. Motion: Travis - Keep sweepstakes as-is, but only the top 2 entries from each school in each event will count towards sweepstakes.

Second: Mike

Pass 5-0

11. Discuss the use of the February PF topic during the state tournament.

No motion was made on this agenda item.

12. Nominations for open positions on Debate Advisory Committee. One position for a class AA rep, one position for a class A rep, and an administrator rep position are open after the 2024-25 school year. Brooks will seek out nominations to fill these positions on the committee.

13. Other items the committee would like to consider

Clarification on out of state competitions – Travis asked about the sanctioning of debate contests that have rounds on a Sunday. He asked if schools are allowed to compete in those contests if their students would not be competing in the contest categories that are taking place on the Sunday of the contest. Brooks explained that the SDHSAA will not sanction a contest that holds competition rounds on a Sunday, regardless of whether a team did not compete on the Sunday of the competition.

14. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14pm.

**see attachments*

Agenda Item #10, motion #1

1. Each school continues to be guaranteed 2 in each IE event
2. A third entry may be added if all three entries qualified through 1 of 3 ways
 - a. State Finalists the prior year, or
 - b. 1st or 2nd at Northern or Rushmore NSDA Qualifiers OR 1st or 2nd SD representative at Hole in the Wall NSDA Qualifiers
 - c. Earned 3 “bids” during the forensic season at an in-person tournament. A Bid is earned at the following levels
 - i. 0-19 Contestants - 1st Place (no finals required)
 - ii. 20-34 Contestants - 1st, 2nd or 3rd Place (no finals required)
 - iii. 35+ Contestants - Finalist or top 6 if no final is held
3. If a team has earned an additional entry, the coach must email the director(s) of the State Debate and Individual Events Tournament by the entry deadline and data to verify entry. The entry will be waitlisted until qualifications have been verified by tab staff.

Agenda Item #10, motion #2 (Below is the original proposal, with detailed information about changes. The official proposal is at the end)

Each school is guaranteed a minimum of one entry in each division.

An additional 2nd or 3rd entry may be eligible to qualify to the State Tournament based upon a team's record during the course of seven tournaments chosen by their coach.

On Feb 1st, schools will fill out a form with their Varsity competitors that they be inputting for possible State competition (max 4 teams in PF and 4 LDers) and the Name of the tournaments they went to. The form will close at midnight on the 6th.

A representative from the SDHSAA Debate Advisory will compile the data into a new form and sent to each head coach.

Each school will be given from Feb 8th through the 3rd Friday in February to enter the competition results they want counted into the form (one for LD, one for PF).

The form will ask for:

- Tournament
- School-Competitor Team (from the drop-down menu)
- Prelim rounds at Competition

- Wins at that tournament
- Placing (if in top 8 or a quarter-finalist and higher)

Each entry will be given a score for each tournament entered using the following formula (note - PF teams can use separate tournament results):

Prelim win Percentage x Number of Competitors (max 30) x Competition Multiplier x School Multiplier x Placings Multiplier (explanations below)

Competition Multiplier - Each tournament, based on entries, will be either:

Fewer than 10 entries = .8 multiplier

11-25 entries = 1.0 multiplier

26-30+ entries = 1.2 multiplier

School Multiplier - Each tournament, based on number of schools competing, will be either:

Fewer than 5 school = .8 multiplier

6 - 24 schools = 1.0 multiplier

25+ schools = 1.2 multiplier

Placings Multiplier - Each team, based upon their success in the break rounds/placings, will be either:

1st Place = 1.5 multiplier 3rd or 4th or Semi Finalists = 1.3 multiplier

2nd Place = 1.4 multiplier 5th-8th or Quarter Finalists = 1.2 multiplier

The Speech Advisory Committee will then set up the tournament based upon the entries and records based upon the winning records of each entry.

The cap on the number of entries in each division shall be:

28 in AA PF 24 in AA LD

20 in A PF 14 in A LD

Each entry will then be ranked 1 through the total number of entries added.

Official Proposal:

1. Each school continues to be guaranteed 2 in each debate event
2. A third entry may be added if all three entries qualified through 1 of 3 ways
 - a. State Semi-Finalists the prior year, or
 - b. 1st or 2nd at Northern or Rushmore NSDA Qualifiers OR 1st or 2nd SD representative at Hole in the Wall NSDA Qualifiers

c. Earned 3 “bids” during the forensic season at an in-person tournament. A Bid is earned at the following levels

i. 0-19 Contestants - Finalists or top 2

ii. 20-34 Contestants - Semi-Finalists or top 4

iii. 35+ Contestants - top 8 or quarter-finalists

3. If a team has earned an additional entry, the coach must email the director(s) of the State Debate and Individual Events Tournament by the entry deadline and data to verify entry.