

NOTES FROM THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

ANNOUNCEMENTS & NOTES RELATED TO THE 2011-12 SEASON

October 2011

SUMMARY

In the spirit of joy and inspiration that generally marks the beginning of the collegiate forensics season, I wanted to connect with every program interested in, and/or planning to attend, the 2012 National Forensic Association National Championship. As you are engaging in strategic planning and event development for the season, I thought it would be helpful if I passed along some important notes about this year's national championship tournament.

NFA 2012

Ohio University--Athens, Ohio

DOF: Dan West

April 19-23, 2012

Note that there will be substantial changes to the NFA qualification reporting system during 2011-12. The changes are not intended to be an experiment with new processes and procedures. Rather, the system will be the official qualification record that validates entries to the NFA National Championship. In any event (which is an amusing pun in the forensics community), I hope you find the information helpful and informative as we move forward into another exceptional season.

NFA 2011: REVIEW

During the course of the NFA 2011 National Championship a number of challenges related to event rules were raised in relationship to entrants at the tournament. The Executive Council (EC) was convened for meetings during the course of the NFA tournament to review the challenges. The complaints centered on issues related to perceptions of event requirements based on the descriptions in the NFA governing documents. Following a thorough review of each complaint, the Executive Council took no action on any of the complaints except for one. A complaint related to entrants performing a duo script that drew from multiple literature sources was taken into consideration. After exhaustive review and the Executive Council's recognition of some of the vague

language in the event descriptions of the NFA, the EC opted to include a copy of the event description for DUO INTERPRETATION on each of the outround ballot packets for the event. The issue had been decided resolved by the interpretation of the event descriptions possessed by adjudicators up to that point in the tournament. Therefore, the EC determined to allow that same process to govern outrounds. The EC determined that the vagueness that exists in some the language of the event descriptions prevented the possibility of further action.

The Executive Council engaged in a multi-day retreat over the summer to attempt to address issues of clarity in the constitution and bylaws in order to provide a clearer path forward for the organization.

QUALIFICATION PROCEDURES

The reporting system for NFA qualifications has been fully revised. I have provided an outline of the new procedure in this document. Please keep in mind that entries to the 2012 NFA National Championship will only accepted if each slot has been verified as a qualification through this official reporting system. Unverified slots will not be entered into the national championship tournament.

QUALIFICATION REPORTING

Available on the NFA website is the TOURNAMENT RESULTS REPORTING FORM. In an effort to make the qualification processing procedure substantially more efficient, please adhere to the following processes:

Each qualification application must be submitted to the Tournament Director with written proof of meeting the requirements stated above.

(Article III, Sec. C of NFA bylaws)

1. Tournament Directors: Please send along a copy of tournament results as a regular, concluding procedure for a tournament host. The TOURNAMENT RESULTS

REPORTING FORM is available on the NFA website to assist you in accomplishing this task. I will plan on celebrating your consideration, kindness and high degree of other-centeredness accordingly.

2. Program Directors (DOF): Once you have qualified a slot, please go to the NFA QUALIFICATION REPORTING FORM to register the qualification. Each slot qualification will require individualized reporting (i.e. 1 form for each slot qualified). This process formalizes the qualification procedure for the NFA so that verification of qualifications is made a more efficient and productive process.

Keep in mind that if a tournament director has not submitted the results of a tournament to me to verify the validity of a qualification, then the responsibility of tournament results reporting will fall upon the program director. Note: no slot will be entered into the NFA National Championship with verification of qualification through the reporting system.

Note: links and web addresses for all forms are listed on the last page of this letter.

QUALIFICATION PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS

(excerpt of NFA governing documents)

A. A student may qualify for any of the events in Section II (except L-D) of the By-laws by being in a final round or in the top 10% of that event at a tournament that had at least seven schools participating. The tournament must have had at least two preliminary rounds and at least 12 contestants in the event. When an event has less than 12 contestants in preliminary rounds, the top 50% (rounding up) of the finalists will qualify for I. E. Nationals.

B. In Lincoln-Douglas Debate, tournaments, which employ the NFA L-D topic and rules, will qualify for nationals. There must be a minimum of 3 schools in attendance and a minimum of four preliminary rounds. Elimination rounds are encouraged but are optional. Students qualify for nationals based on their placement according to the following formula:

Entrants	Qualifiers
5-8	2
9-16	4
17-32	8
33+	16

C. Each qualification application must be submitted to the Tournament Director with written proof of meeting the requirements stated above.

D. Regardless of event size, only one set of finalists per event may qualify for the National Championship Tournament.

E. Events that restrict entry to only those who have not yet qualified for the National Championship Tournament shall not be accepted as qualifying events.

F. Students who graduate during the academic year may compete in those events in which they qualified between September and the date of graduation.

G. The third Monday prior to the beginning of the National Championship Tournament shall be the tournament qualification

deadline. The third Wednesday prior to the beginning of the National Championship Tournament shall be the mail entry deadline.

EXPERIMENTAL EVENT

A new experimental event, Forensics Criticism, will be featured at the 2012 NFA National Championship.

Event Rules:

Students will deliver a performance, critical in nature, written by the student(s). Students will address trends, issues, or shortcomings of forensics competition (considered broadly), with an emphasis on suggesting changes or solutions. Students are encouraged to utilize a variety of forms of support, including, but not limited to, personal experience, surveys, textual analysis of ballots, and/or interviews, in addition to more traditional forms of supporting evidence. The time limit is 10 minutes. Audio and/or visual aids are permitted.

Event Rationale:

Forensics Criticism is an attempt to develop more civic engagement among students with a particular focus on public discourse within the forensics community. Our activity encourages productive critical comments about performances, but there is no real venue in which to voice critical commentary of the activity as a whole. This event will provide students with an opportunity to address "local" issues within a community, providing a forum of advocacy.

Students will develop rhetorical strategies that are sensitive to an audience who may be responsible for the very acts that are being criticized. Students are not only addressing a topic that is akin to local advocacy but indicts the status quo and proposes an alternative. Hopefully it will give students the kind of experiential learning they need to address important civic issues in their home communities.

LINKS

TOURNAMENT RESULTS REPORTING FORM:

www.nationalforensics.org/resultssubmission.xls

NFA QUALIFICATION REPORTING FORM:

<https://docs.google.com/a/uwf.edu/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dFpCSmw1VEM3ZUo4RXRMbGFrQ3lranc6MQ>

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