# Constitution Discussions/Proposals

## Email Voting

### Bylaws – 5.62

**PROPOSED**

5.62 All amendments to the GFCA By-Laws may be made with the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of voting members of its association. To ensure all members have opportunity to vote, ballots will be sent to all members via email. Votes must be submitted to at least two members of the Executive Committee within a period of no more than five (5) days of the original date email was sent or the vote will not be counted. All approved amendments are to be attached to Article V of the GFCA Constitution for written record.

**OLD**

5.62 All amendments to the GFCA Constitution may be made with the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the voting members of its association. All approved amendments are to be attached to Article V of the GFCA Constitution for written record.

## Executive Committee

### Constitution – Article IV, Section 1 & 2

**PROPOSED:**

Section 1. Number. The leadership of the association shall consist of a Chair of the Committee, four directors and five coordinators. The primary officers shall consist of the Chair of the Committee, Director of Operations, Director of Programs, Director of Communications and Director of Finance. The secondary officers of the association shall consist of the Curriculum Coordinator, State Tournament Issues Coordinator, and Awards Coordinator. In addition, there may be such other subordinate officers, as the association may deem advisable from time to time. No multiple offices may be held simultaneously by the same person, or persons representing the same school.

Section 2. Term of Office. Each primary officer shall serve for the ensuing two years or until her/his successors shall have been elected and qualified, or until her/his death, resignation, or removal. Each secondary officer will serve one year terms.

**OLD:**

Section 1. Number. The leadership of the association shall consist of a Chair of the Committee, four directors and five coordinators. The primary officers shall consist of the Chair of the Committee, Director of Operations, Director of Programs, Director of Communications and Director of Finance. The secondary officers of the association shall consist of the Online Presence Coordinator, Coach Development Coordinator, Curriculum Coordinator, Membership Coordinator, and Awards Coordinator, representing each area. In addition, there may be such other subordinate officers, as the association may deem advisable from time to time. No multiple offices may be held simultaneously by the same person, or persons representing the same school.

Section 2. Term of Office. Each officer shall serve for the ensuing year or until her/his successors shall have been elected and qualified, or until her/his death, resignation, or removal. All officers are limited to four consecutive terms in each office.

### Bylaws – 5.41

**PROPOSED**

5.41 Elections will be held annually following the spring meeting for the association. Primary officers are elected to two-year terms. In odd calendar years, elections will be held for Director of Operations and Director of Finance. In even calendar years, elections will be held for Chair of the Committee, Director of Programs, and Director of Communications. Secondary officers shall be elected annually to a one-year term.

**OLD**

5.41 Elections will be held on an annual basis after the annual spring meeting for the association.

### Constitution – Article IV, Section 7(f) 1 &2

**PROPOSED**

1. The Membership Coordinator shall assist the Director of Operations and Chairperson of the Committee by serving as the Ombudsperson at both State Tournaments and chair of the hardships committee before the State Tournaments.

2. The Curriculum Coordinator shall assist the Director of Programs by assisting with the development of resources. The Curriculum Coordinator shall develop an online inventory of resources for all events.

3. The Awards Coordinator shall assist the Director of Operations with the ordering of awards for all State championships. The Awards Coordinator shall oversee any voting process for any Association awards including but not limited to Coach of the Year, Hall of Fame, and Administrator of the Year.

**OLD**

1. The Online Presence Coordinator shall assist the Director of Communications with the online image of the Association including its social media accounts, website management, and any other online material.

2. The Coach Development Coordinator shall assist the Director of Programs by assisting with the planning for the annual Fall Workshops. The Coordinator shall ensure that the content would continue to be emphasized throughout the season with potential follow up workshops at tournaments.

3. The Curriculum Coordinator shall assist the Director of Programs by assisting with the development of resources. The Curriculum Coordinator shall develop an online inventory of resources for all events.

4. The Membership Coordinator shall assist the Director of Finance and Director of Communications with the tracking of student and coach involvement in association events.

5. The Awards Coordinator shall assist the Director of Operations with the ordering of awards for all State championships. The Awards Coordinator shall oversee any voting process for any Association awards including but not limited to Coach of the Year, Hall of Fame, and Principal of the Year.

### Constitution – Article IV, Section 7 (g) - new

(g) The primary officers of the Association hold voting power for all Executive Committee matters. Matters that involve a primary officer's school shall lead to that officer recusing himself/herself from [discussion and?] voting on that issue. If the remaining primary officers determine the need to replace recused members with secondary officers in order to prevent tied votes, secondary officers will be granted voting power in the following order: Membership Coordinator, Curriculum Coordinator, and Awards Coordinator.

## Special Awards

### Bylaws – 5.53

**PROPOSED**

5.53 Every year, the GFCA will honor an individual with a Richard Bracknell Service Award for service to the organization and community.

**OLD**

5.53 Every year, the GFCA will honor an individual with a Service Award for service to the organization and community.

### Bylaws – 5.54

**PROPOSED**

5.54 Every year, the GFCA will honor a current middle school or high school administrator of a Georgia Forensic Coaches Association member school for their support of the organization and community.

**OLD**

5.54 Every year, the GFCA will honor a current middle school or high school principal and/or headmaster of a Georgia Forensic Coaches Association member school for their support of the organization and community.

### Bylaws – 5.55 - new

5.55 Every year, the GFCA will recognize a school with the Bruce Rogers President’s Cup. The President’s Cup is awarded for one-year possession to the member school participating in the present tournament whose total number of rounds is highest at the conclusion of the tournament. The total number of rounds for all student entries accumulate from year to year. The winning school each year will be set back to zero and the records for other schools carried forward to the next year. A tie will be broken in favor of the school whose students were in the largest number of rounds in the present tournament.

### Bylaws – 5.56 – new

5.56 Every year, the GFCA will recognize member schools for the achievements in qualifying students to the Varsity State Championships with the School of Excellence awards.

[a] Member schools will be broken into six balanced, even classifications based on school size. These classifications should be set every two years by the Executive Committee. The awards will be given to one school in each classification who earns the most qualifiers to the Varsity State Championship.

(1) The Helen McClellan School of Excellence award will be presented to the member school with fewer than 600 students enrolled.

(2) The Sandra Silvers School of Excellence award will be presented to the member school with 600 to 1,200 students enrolled.

(3) The Ted Wolf School of Excellence award will be presented to the member school with 1,201 to 1,600 students enrolled.

(4) The Philip Wertz School of Excellence award will be presented to the member school with 1,601 to 1,900 students enrolled.

(5) The Martha Dye School of Excellence award will be presented to the member school with 1,901 to 2,200 students enrolled.

(6) The Leslie Watkins School of Excellence award will be presented to the member school with more than 2,201 students enrolled.

(7) Enrollment numbers will be calculated from data received from the Georgia High School Association.

[b] The award will be presented by the Executive Committee at the GFCA State Tournament.

## Proxy Voting

### Constitution – Article III, Section 4

Section 4. Proxy Voting at Meetings. Schools are encouraged to attend the business meetings of the GFCA, however, general Proxy voting is allowed by the following process when a member school's coaching staff cannot attend:

a)       A general proxy gives the proxy holder the right to vote as he or she sees fit on any business that may come up at a meeting. All proxy votes will be recorded and may be reviewed by the absent member, however, by designating a Proxy, the member cannot “undo” or “change” the votes put forth by that proxy.

b)       Member school head coach must notify the Director of Programs about the choice to use “general proxy voting” via email by the close of business the day before the scheduled meeting.  The email must include to whom the member is giving the voting rights and the designated person must be copied on the email.

c)       On the day of the meeting, the designated person must sign in with the Director of Programs or designee and receive a proxy voting placard which will be used to signify all votes for the absent school.

# State Tournaments Discussions

## Congressional Debate

### Bylaws – 4.12

3.12 Congressional Debate

(a) Congressional Debate is defined as individual debate in a large group setting. Congressional debaters research and write pieces of Congressional legislation that they determine to be in the best interest of society.

(b) Debaters will speak on the legislation while using proper and sanctioned parliamentary procedure. The State Congressional Debate will utilize parliamentary procedure as determined by the National Speech & Debate Association.

(c) Judges score each competitor based on argumentation ability, speaking technique, knowledge of parliamentary procedure and overall participation.

(d) The GFCA will follow all National Speech & Debate Association rules outlined in their league manual for Congressional Debate.

### Bylaws – 4.22

(b) Congressional Debate Regular Season Qualifier

(1) For a Congressional Session to be counted as a GFCA qualifying tournament, it must meet the following regulations

1) At least three (3) schools (excluding the host school) must be represented

2) A session is defined as at least two hours of floor debate.

3) The session should follow the rules in outlined in by law 4.45

(2) A bid to the Congressional State tournament awarded to students in a Congressional Session as follows:

(a) Sixty (60) or more entries, the top eighteen (18) competitors.

(b) Thirty (30) to sixty (60) entries, the top twelve (12) competitors.

(c) Twenty-one (21) to twenty nine (29) entries, the top six (6) competitors.

(d) Ten (10) to twenty (20) entries, the top three (3) competitor.

(e) Nine (9) or less entries will have no qualifiers.

(f) If an entry already has a bid to the state tournament and meets the qualifications a second time, the bid does not defer to the next entry not yet qualified.

(g) Competitors receiving a qualifying bid through an invitational tournament must attend two in state invitationals in Congressional Debate.

(2) Each member schools receive two (2) automatic entries for the Senate chamber.

(a) Competitors receiving a bid through this method must have attended a minimum of two (2) in state invitationals.

(3) For every two (2) fully qualified students to the Varsity State Championship, each member school may receive one (1) entry to the House of Representatives up to ten (10)

### Bylaws – 4.36(c)

Congressional Debate preliminary rounds: The Congressional Debate State Championship will be split into two divisions: House of Representatives and Senate. The Senate division should be collapsed if fewer than eight schools are represented.

(1) Schools can enter up to twelve (12) students in the House of Representatives and Senate chambers as follows:

(a) Schools can choose to enter zero (0), one (1), or two (2) students to participate in the Senate.

(b) Schools can choose to enter up to ten (10) students in the House of Representatives.

(2) Each qualifying school will be required to submit at least two (2) bills or resolutions no later than ten (10) days prior to the scheduled Congress.

(3) All legislation presented shall meet required formatting criteria as set by the invitation, and must be original work of students from the submitting school.

(4) The GFCA Executive Committee will attempt to accept at least one bill or resolution from each school submitting legislation. The GFCA Executive Committee may deny bills or resolutions from being offered from the floor at the State Tournament.

(5) The Director of Communications will send a copy of the bills and resolutions at least one (1) week before the official Congress date. The Legislation will include no more than ten (10) bills or resolutions so that no more than two (2) bills or resolutions from any single school.

(6) If necessary, bills or resolutions may be obtained from outside sources or written by the GFCA Executive Committee in order to fill the legislation. Authorship privilege will be waived for these bills or resolutions.

(7) Each qualifying school will be required to bring one (1) judge per division entered.

(8) Pairing the Congressional Debate Tournament

(a) There will be at least two (2) preliminary sessions and at least one (1) elimination session.

(1) Each chamber must have a minimum of ten (10) students to be seated and no more than thirty (30) students.

(2) Each session is at least two (2) hours and includes:

(a) Election of a presiding officer

(b) New seating chart (necessary accommodations for students with special needs may be made).

(c) Resetting of precedence

(d) New legislation that has not been debated in a previous session at the tournament

(b) Each preliminary and elimination session will have three judges

(1) The tab room should avoid using affiliated judges in chambers.

(a) If the tab room cannot avoid using affiliated judges, the affiliated judge will not score or rank their own students. Scores and ranks will be based on the average of the other scores and ranks given by the other two judges.

(2) The tab room should avoid using judges from the same school on the same panel.

(3) Each session can have different judges.

(4) One judge will serve as parliamentarian and scorer.

(c) The number of chambers for a single division should be divided as follows

(1) Twenty Nine (29) or fewer entries should have at least one (1) chamber.

(2) Thirty (30) to sixty (60) entries should have at least two (2) chambers.

(3) Sixty (60) to ninety (90) entries should have at least three (3) chambers.

(4) Ninety one (91) or more entries should have at least four (4) chambers.

(d) Chamber assignments shall be made by the Tournament Director at registration and are final.

(1) When registering for the House of Representatives, schools can determine the grouping of individual students from their schools as long as the number of entries in each house is approximately equal (i.e., three houses 3-3-2 or two houses 4-3)

(a) Placement of a schools groups into specific chambers will be done randomly by the computer, but the tournament director may adjust placement of individual school groupings so that chambers are approximately equal in size.

(2) Seating charts should be created using tabulation software.

(9) Tabulating Congressional Debate

(a) Each judge should assign up to eight (8) points per speech, considering answers to questions in the awarding of points.

(b) Presiding officers should receive not less than four (4) or more than eight (8) speaker credit points for each full hour of presiding.

(c) At the end of the each judge’s commitment in preliminary and elimination rounds, s/he should rank his/her top eight (8) preferred legislators (which may include presiding officers).

(d) The most mutually preferred congresspersons will advance to elimination rounds as per By Law 4.43. Ties will be broken as follows using all three judges scores:

(1) Drop Low

(2) High/Low Total Speech Points

(3) Total Speech Points

(4) Total Number of Speeches

(5) Random Draw

### Bylaws – 4.37(c)

4.37

(c) Congressional Debate:

(1) If only one chamber is used in preliminary rounds, the top twelve (12) advance to the Final Session.

(2) If more than one chamber is used in preliminary round, proceed as follows

(a) For two (2) chambers, the top eight (8) students should advance from each preliminary chamber.

(b) For three (3) chambers, the top six (6) students should advance from each preliminary chamber.

(c) For four (4) chambers, the top four (4) students should advance from each preliminary chamber.

(3) Each event will recognize all students placing in the top six (6) in the House of Representatives and Senate, including Champions in those events.

### Bylaws – 4.39(c)

PROPOSED

(1) Speech Sweepstakes include Dramatic Interpretation, Humorous Interpretation, Extemporaneous Speaking, Program Oral Interpretation, Impromptu and Duo Interpretation; Debate Sweepstakes include all divisions in Policy Debate, Public Forum Debate, and Lincoln-Douglas Debate; Overall Sweepstakes includes all events sanctioned by the GFCA.

(2) Sweepstakes formula is determined as follows:

(a) Debate

(1) Policy/Public Forum/Lincoln Douglas: 25 points for Championship entry; 20 points for runner-up entry; 15 points for semi-finals (non-advancing); 10 points for quarter-finals (non-advancing); 5 points for octo-finals (non-advancing) 2 points for double octo-finals (non-advancing).

(3) Winner is determined by the summation of the total points, the school with the highest point named Champion, the school with the second highest points named Runner-up, etc.

OLD

(1) Speech Sweepstakes include Dramatic Interpretation, Humorous Interpretation, Extemporaneous Speaking, Program Oral Interpretation, Impromptu and Duo Interpretation; Debate Sweepstakes include all divisions in Policy Debate, Public Forum Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate and all Congressional Debate divisions; Overall Sweepstakes includes all events sanctioned by the GFCA.

(2) Sweepstakes formula is determined as follows:

(a) Debate

(1) Policy/Public Forum/Lincoln Douglas: 25 points for Championship entry; 20 points for runner-up entry; 15 points for semi-finals (non-advancing); 10 points for quarter-finals (non-advancing); 5 points for octo-finals (non-advancing) 2 points for double octo-finals (non-advancing).

(2) House/Senate Chambers: 10 points for Championship entry; 8 points for runner-up entry; 5 for 3rd place; 3 points for finalists; 1 point for semi-finalists (non-advancing).

(3) Winner is determined by the summation of the total points, the school with the highest point named Champion, the school with the second highest points named Runner-up, etc.

## Informative Speaking

### Bylaw 3.26

3.26 Informative Speaking

(a) Informative Speaking is defined as an original speech designed to explain, define, describe, or illustrate a particular subject. The general purpose of the speech is for the audience to gain understanding and/or knowledge of a topic. Any other purpose such as to entertain or to convince shall be secondary. The use of audio/visual aids is optional.

(b) Effective speeches provide new information or perspectives on a topic, including those that are widely known. The responsibility for choosing a worthwhile topic rests with the contestant. A fabricated topic may not be used. Any non-factual reference, including a personal reference, must be so identified.

(c) Audio/visual aids may or may not be used to supplement and reinforce the message. If used, the audio/visual aids should enhance or support the message rather than distract from the overall effectiveness of the presentation. During the presentation, no electronic equipment is permitted. Electronic equipment is defined as any object requiring an electrical cord, battery, or solar power to operate it (projectors, cell phones, radios, iPads, computers, etc.). The use of live animals or any additional people as visual aids is not allowed during the speech. Items of dress put on and/or removed for illustration during the course of the presentation are considered costumes and may not be part of the contestant’s presentation. Visual aids may not violate policies as dictated by local and state law (weapons, drugs, etc.) The host school is not responsible for providing any facilities, equipment, including tables, chairs, or easels, or assistance in a contestant’s use of visual aids. Expedient set up and take down of aids is expected. If a visual aid displays published pictorial material, the source must be included in the work-cited page but does not need to be cited orally.

(d) The contestant may not use an informative speech which s/he used in any contest prior to the current school year or during the current school year in another forensic event. The contestant also may not use an informative speech from a previous school year.

(e) Not more than 150 words of the speech may be direct quotation and such quotations must be identified orally and in a printed copy of the speech supplied prior to registration.

(f) A written copy of the oration must be available to the tournament director upon request. Failure to present a written copy of the oration upon request will result in the ranking-down of said contestant in one (1) round.

(g) The time limit is ten (10) minutes maximum with a thirty (30) second grace period.

## State Tournament Qualification

### Bylaws – 4.22(d)

**PROPOSED**

(d) Host school entries will not count towards qualification level and/or qualification eligibility for the Varsity State Tournament.

**OLD**

(d) Host school entries will not count towards qualification level for the Varsity State Tournament.

## State Tournament Tabulation

### Bylaws – 4.37(b)

**PROPOSED**

4.37

(b)       Speech: At least twelve (12) entries require a final round (6 competitors, 1 section); 24-47 entries require a semifinal round (12 competitors, 2 sections); 48+ entries require a quarterfinal round (24 competitors, 4 sections).

(1)       Advancement of teams/speakers shall be determined after preliminary rounds by the following order:

            [a] Ranks, drop low

            [b] Ranks, total

            [c] Judge preference

[d] Points, drop low

            [e] Points, total

(2)       Advancement of teams/speakers in elimination rounds shall be determined in each elimination section. In elimination rounds, advancement of six entries per section is ideal.  For elimination rounds, if the choice is between five and seven entries, seven shall advance.  If the choice is between four or eight entries, the choice is four.

            [a] In each Quarterfinal section, the top three (3) based on ranks should advance to the semifinals.   In case of ties, the tiebreakers shall be in the following order:

                        [1] Ranks, total

                                                [2] Judge preference

                                                [3] Points, total

            [b] In each Semifinal section, the top three (3) based on ranks should advance to the final round.  In case of ties, the tiebreakers shall be in the following order:

                        [1] Ranks, total

                                               [2] Judge preference

                                                [3] Points, total

            [c] In the Final round, the judge rankings will determine final placements.   In case of ties, the tiebreakers shall be in the following order:

                        [1] Ranks, total

                                                [2] Judge preference

                                                [3] Points, total

**OLD**

(b) Speech: At least twelve (12) entries require a final round (6 competitors, 1 section); 24-47 entries require a semifinal round (12 competitors, 2 sections); 48+ entries require a quarterfinal round (24 competitors, 4 sections).

(1) In a quarter-final round of speech, each section should have between 4-7 entries per section for a total of no more than twenty entries but not more than half of the total entries in the event. Entries advance to the semi-final round based upon the total of ALL scores (including individual judge scores), dropping the low score.

(2) Twelve entries should ideally advance to the semi-final round. The semi-final round of speech must have at least nine (9) entries. Entries advance to the final round based upon the total of ALL scores (including individual judge scores), dropping the low score. In the event of a tie either from preliminary rounds or a quarter-final round, the tie should NOT be broken if the total number in semi-finals does not exceed fourteen (14). If not breaking from quarter-finals, and a tie resulting from preliminary rounds advances more than 14, the tie shall be broken by using, in order:

[a] total judge scores if advancing from a quarter-final round;

[b] total of ALL scores from preliminary rounds;

[c] total number of 1’s, total number of 2’s, etc. until tie is broken

[d] if the two entries met previously, the entry that placed above the other;

[e] if the entries have not previously met, use reciprocal fractions;

[f] coin flip with coaches from concerned schools present.

(3) At least four (4) entries must be in the final round of an Individual Event/Duo Interpretation; the goal should be six (6). Advancement of entries is determined from all previous scores, including all individual judge scores if quarter-final and/or semi-finals are held. The low-score is dropped in determining advancement to the final round. Advancement of six entries is ideal. Ties are not to be broken to advance to the final round unless the tie causes fewer than four or more than eight entries to be in the final round. For the final round, if the choice is between five and seven entries, seven shall advance. If the choice is between four or eight entries, the choice is four. In the event that a tie does not allow criteria of number of participants in the final round to be met, the following tie-break system should be used TO DETERMINE FINALISTS IN INDIVIDUAL EVENTS/DUO INTERPRETATION, continuing until the tie is broken:

[a] add up ALL scores from all judges;

[b] total number of 1’s, total number of 2’s, etc.

[c] entry with higher score of previously met in competition at the State Tournament

[d] conversion of scores to reciprocal fractions;

[e] coin flip with coaches from concerned schools present.

(4) Winners shall be determined by adding up all scores of ALL judges and dropping low score through the final round. The student with the lowest total will be named Champion; the students with the next lowest score will place 2nd, etc. Tie breaks broken by, in order,

[a] rank in final round only; if tied, then by judge preference in the final round;

[b] total of ALL scores

[c] total number of 1’s, total number of 2’s, etc.

[d] reciprocal fractions of all scores;

[e] if unbreakable, then the tie shall stand and both entries will receive the placement. Placement shall remain in order; placement will not skip in order to accommodate the tie.

## Speech Elim Pairings

### Bylaw 4.37(b)

b) Speech: At least twelve (12) entries require a final round (6 competitors, 1 section); 24-47 entries require a semifinal round (12 competitors, 2 sections); 48+ entries require a quarterfinal round (24 competitors, 4 sections).

(1) In a quarter-final round of speech, each section should have between 4-7 entries per section for a total of no more than twenty entries but not more than half of the total entries in the event. Entries advance to the semi-final round based upon the total of ALL scores (including individual judge scores), dropping the low score.

(2) Twelve entries should ideally advance to the semi-final round. The semi-final round of speech must have at least nine (9) entries. Entries advance to the final round based upon the total of ALL scores (including individual judge scores), dropping the low score. In the event of a tie either from preliminary rounds or a quarter-final round, the tie should NOT be broken if the total number in semi-finals does not exceed fourteen (14). If not breaking from quarter-finals, and a tie resulting from preliminary rounds advances more than 14, the tie shall be broken by using, in order:

[a] total judge scores if advancing from a quarter-final round;

[b] total of ALL scores from preliminary rounds;

[c] total number of 1’s, total number of 2’s, etc. until tie is broken

[d] if the two entries met previously, the entry that placed above the other;

[e] if the entries have not previously met, use reciprocal fractions;

[f] coin flip with coaches from concerned schools present.

(3) At least four (4) entries must be in the final round of an Individual Event/Duo Interpretation; the goal should be six (6). Advancement of entries is determined from all previous scores, including all individual judge scores if quarter-final and/or semi-finals are held. The low-score is dropped in determining advancement to the final round. Advancement of six entries is ideal. Ties are not to be broken to advance to the final round unless the tie causes fewer than four or more than eight entries to be in the final round. For the final round, if the choice is between five and seven entries, seven shall advance. If the choice is between four or eight entries, the choice is four. In the event that a tie does not allow criteria of number of participants in the final round to be met, the following tie-break system should be used TO DETERMINE FINALISTS IN INDIVIDUAL EVENTS/DUO INTERPRETATION, continuing until the tie is broken:

[a] add up ALL scores from all judges;

[b] total number of 1’s, total number of 2’s, etc.

[c] entry with higher score of previously met in competition at the State Tournament

[d] conversion of scores to reciprocal fractions;

[e] coin flip with coaches from concerned schools present.

(4) Winners shall be determined by adding up all scores of ALL judges and dropping low score through the final round. The student with the lowest total will be named Champion; the students with the next lowest score will place 2nd, etc. Tie breaks broken by, in order,

[a] rank in final round only; if tied, then by judge preference in the final round;

[b] total of ALL scores

[c] total number of 1’s, total number of 2’s, etc.

[d] reciprocal fractions of all scores;

[e] if unbreakable, then the tie shall stand and both entries will receive the placement. Placement shall remain in order; placement will not skip in order to accommodate the tie.

The NSDA has written language for power matched rounds and how to snake to prioritize school balance.   Here are my thoughts:

- we should adopt this language if we adopt new speech rules where only elim rounds factor into advancement.  REASON:  Every kid has the same chance to advance to elimination rounds.

- we should NOT adopt this language if we keep the same speech rules where prelims factor into final placement.  REASON:  Not every kid has the same chance to advance to elimination rounds - moving kids from section to section now unfairly unbalance sections.

Here is the language from NSDA:

Entries are to be moved from sections only under the following conditions:

 1. To avoid an imbalance of schools. The higher seeded entry from a school must remain in the original section. The lower seeded entry (Entry B) from the same school must be placed in the next available section in the snaking pattern until school balance occurs. The next seeded entry (Entry C) is placed in Entry B’s original location.

 2. If placement of Entry B results in a school imbalance, place Entry B in the next available section in the snaking order until school balance occurs. If a school conflict is unavoidable, place the entry in the original seeding location. The next seeded entry (Entry C) is placed in Entry B’s original location.

 3. To balance power, entries may be moved from a suboptimal pairing to an optimal pairing if it does not result in entries with the lowest composite ranks (equal to the number of sections in the round) meeting each other or an imbalance of schools. The balance of power is determined by the sum of the composite ranks in each section if sections have the same number of entries. If uneven sections exist, power is determined by the average of the composite ranks in each section.

## Sweepstakes Proposal 1

### Bylaws - 4.39(c)3

**PROPOSED**

(3) The Overall Championship is determined by adding Debate and Speech sweepstakes categories. A school must actively participate in both debate and speech with at least three entries in each area.

**OLD**

(3) The Overall Championship is determined by adding Debate and Speech sweepstakes categories.

### Bylaws – 4.39(c)4

**PROPOSED**

(4) The top five speech and top five debate entries per school will count towards its sweepstakes calculation. The top three schools in all categories will be recognized at the Awards Ceremony. Schools may only win one Sweepstakes Award per category.

**OLD**

(4) The top three schools in all categories will be recognized at the Awards Ceremony. Schools may only win one Sweepstakes Award per category.

**PROPOSED**

5) In the event of a tie in sweepstakes, the following serves as the tie-break formula, in order until tie is broken.

[a] Add the 6th speech and the 6th debate entry per school.

[b] Total 1st places in the specific category, then total of 2nd places, etc.

[c] Add the 7th speech and the 7th debate entry per school.

[d] Add the 8th speech and the 8th debate entry per school.

**OLD**

(5) In the event of a tie in sweepstakes, the following serves as the tie-break formula, in order until tie is broken.

[a] Total 1st places in the specific category, then total of 2nd places, etc.

[b] If not determined by [a], ties in Sweepstakes ARE allowed.

## Sweepstakes Proposal 2

### Bylaws – 4.39(c)

(c) Sweepstakes shall be awarded in the following categories: Speech, Debate, and Overall.

(1) Speech Sweepstakes include Dramatic Interpretation, Humorous Interpretation, Extemporaneous Speaking, Program Oral Interpretation, Impromptu and Duo Interpretation; Debate Sweepstakes include all divisions in Policy Debate, Public Forum Debate, Lincoln Douglas Debate and all Congressional Debate divisions; Overall Sweepstakes includes all events sanctioned by the GFCA.

(2) Sweepstakes shall also be awarded for the school with the most sweepstakes points in the following divisions, based upon number of entries actually competing at the Varsity State Championships: Division A: 1-10 entries; Division AA: 11-18 entries; Division AAA: 19-25 entries. Schools with more than 25 entries competing at the Varsity State Championships are not eligible for Division Sweepstakes awards. Additionally, any school who wins a Speech, Debate and/or Overall Sweepstakes award is not eligible for the Division Sweepstakes awards. Sweepstakes formula is determined as follows:

(a) Debate:

(1) Policy/Public Forum/Lincoln Douglas: 25 points for Championship entry; 20 points for runner-up entry; 15 points for semi-finals (nonadvancing); 10 points for quarter-finals (non-advancing); 5 points for octo-finals (non-advancing) 2 points for double octo-finals (nonadvancing).

(2) House/Senate Chambers: 10 points for Championship entry; 8 points for runner-up entry; 5 for 3rd place; 3 points for finalists; 1 point for semi-finalists (non-advancing).

(3) Winner is determined by the summation of the total points, the school with the highest point named Champion, the school with the second highest points named Runner-up, etc.

(b) Speech:

(1) 15 points for 1st Place, 10 points for 2nd place, 5 points for 3rd place, 3 points for finalists; 2 points for semi-finals (non-advancing) and 1 point for quarter-finals (non-advancing).

(2) Winner is determined by the summation of the total points, the school with the highest point named Champion, the school with the second highest points named Runner-up, etc.