

Proposal #3 – LD National tournament procedure changes

(requires majority to pass)

Justification: After consultation with the tabulation staff and tournament director for the 2021 NFA national tournament, these changes were recommended to streamline the tournament procedures and offer students more strikes of the judging pool at nationals.

This proposal would:

- (1) remove the region restriction for the first two rounds of debate
- (2) make a rule for pull-ups at nationals, and
- (3) increase the number of strikes

“Amend Bylaw VI.A. to read

A. Preliminary Rounds:

1. The National Championship Tournament shall consist of 6 preliminary rounds of competition in Lincoln-Douglas debate.
2. The first two rounds of the tournament will be pre-set with debaters randomly paired.
 - a. The debaters shall be randomly matched **with debaters outside their own geographical region** as determined by the tab room staff.
 - b. So far as possible, a judge should not judge a debater from a school within their own geographical region in all preliminary rounds.
3. Power matching should begin with the third round.
 - a. The odd number rounds should use a direct power match scheme (high/high) since there is not a problem with side constraints in the odd number rounds.
 - b. The even number rounds should use a high/low power match scheme within win/loss brackets to allow for side constraints.
 - c. **If there are an uneven number of teams within a win loss bracket, the tab room will pair the debater with the weakest opposition seed from the higher bracket against the debater with the strongest opposition seed from the lower bracket. The tab room will not pull up debaters more than one time per national tournament, and no debater should receive more than one pull up during each national tournament. The tab room will not pull any debater up or down more than one bracket above or below their win loss bracket.**
4. If the field consists of an odd number of entries the bye should be randomly assigned in rounds one and two. In rounds three through six the bye should be assigned to the lowest seed that has not already received a bye.
5. Under no circumstances should contestants from the same school meet in preliminary rounds.
 6. A single judge will be assigned to adjudicate each preliminary round. Judges will assign each contestant in the round a win or loss with between 1-30 speaker points. A judge should not judge the same contestant more than once in preliminary rounds.
7. All competitors in Lincoln-Douglas debate shall be allowed to “strike” **two five** judges from the judging pool. Struck judges will not judge rounds with competitors that have struck them. Judge strikes are restricted only to a list of judges provided by the tournament on the Monday prior to the start of the National Tournament. Judge strikes shall be privately submitted to the National Tournament Director and will not be released publicly. The strikes will only be known to the Tournament Committee and the Lincoln-Douglas tabulation staff.