

## Debate

**Submitted on:** Tue, 02/21/2023 - 7:19 PM

**Indicate the category of the proposed recommendation**

Regular Season and Section Tournament Format Recommendations

**Authors of the Proposal**

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**Activity/Activities (Check all that apply)**

Debate

## Current Rule/Policy

**State the rule/policy as it appears in the current MSHSL Handbook or Activity/Sport Specific Rules and Policies.**

The following proposal has been reviewed by the Minnesota Debate Teachers Association, its members, and the Urban Debate League and all organizations and its members fully support this change. We spoke with 36 different schools across both organizations and any concerns have been addressed. Additionally, there is consensus that this change, if possible, would be appropriate for the 2023-2024 school year.

This rule impacts the Section Tournament format and Pairing Protocols of the MSHSL State Tournament.

Specifically in the rule book:

- 2.B.2
- 2.D (added)
- 3.B.1

### Rationale for Change

This change makes all forms of debate use the same qualifying process that has been used for the previous six years in Congressional Debate. It simplifies running the Section Tournament and has a positive cost impact for the league and regions.

### Participation Summary

Based on our experience with Congressional Debate, it is believed this new format would increase participation among member schools and non-member schools. This can be empirically seen through the usage in Congressional Debate. Our analysis with schools who have participated in Congressional debate and also the other forms of debate, shows that this format decreases

confusion among member-schools, increases equity and is considered a positive change.

### Cost Summary

Overall, the per-entry cost should be decreased with this new format. There are three factors we see with this:

- The section tournament would always be held at a singular location, removing the need for multiple location hosts, saving on building rental and other costs.
- The section tournament would no longer require four tournament managers, a single tournament manager and assistant, who would cover the full costs of running the tournament.
- The section tournament would be able to better manage and utilize hired judges, resulting in a decrease of hiring of judges.
- There should be no change in costs of the MSHSL with regards to the MSHSL State Debate Tournament.

Again, it should be noted that we believe this format will see a net increase in participation which may impact overall costs, but per-entry costs would be decreased.

## Proposed Recommendation

### **Submit your proposed change to the above-stated rule/policy.**

The proposal can be broken down into the following changes at a high-level:

- Update the qualification method for Lincoln-Douglas, Public-Forum and Policy debate to match the same format used by Congressional Debate for the last six years
- Update the number of qualifiers to match in all four events
- Update the pairing process for rounds one (1) and two (2) to account for the updated process

### **Include any other policies that are impacted by this proposal.**

Updates the qualification process to the MSHSL to match is all four debate events.

## Rationale

### **What is the history of the proposal?**

This proposal has been studied for the past six years with the Minnesota Debate Teachers Association and Urban Debate League. Both organizations agree this is a net-positive change for all activities impacts.

### **How does your proposal benefit education-based opportunities and MSHSL Mission and Beliefs for all Minnesota students?**

Updates the process to ensure an equal number of students qualify to the MSHSL State Tournament. Currently, some forms of debate qualify fewer students than others.

**What other policies are significant in this proposal?**

See above.

**Provide evidence of support for the proposal from other groups**

This proposal has been studied for the past six years with the Minnesota Debate Teachers Association and Urban Debate League. Both organizations agree this is a net-positive change for all activities impacts.

## **Impact**

**How does your proposal affect this activity, including its impact on all classes, areas of the state, and variety of schools**

There is no impact on classes. Based on historical analysis of Congressional Debate, we expect to see an increased participation at the Section level.

## **Administration**

**How does your proposal impact section and state tournaments?**

Updates the qualification process so all forms of debate now are uniform. Updates the number of participants at the MSHSL State Tournament so each activity has the same number of participants.

## **Length of Tournament**

**How does your proposal impact the needed competition time for section and state tournaments?**

The section tournaments will be easier to run, require fewer locations, and fewer overall cost-per-entry. There is no impact to the state tournament for time or cost.

## **Participants**

**How does your proposal impact the number of participants/teams?**

Historical analysis shows a broader group of participants at the section level and more schools advancing to the state tournament. This was used by looking at Congressional Debate and comparing it to the other forms of debate.

**How does your proposal impact the percentage of participants/teams that would qualify for the state tournament?**

Updates the qualification process so it matches in all forms of debate.

## Facilities

**How does your proposal impact the facilities needed to accommodate your recommendation at both the section and state level?**

Sections will now require a single locations. Reducing costs for facilities and judges. The MSHSL State Tournament would see no additional changes.

## Awards

**How does your proposal impact the number of awards at both section and state?**

There are no changes.

## Other

**Provide any other pertinent information not included in this proposal**

An updated version of the rules can be found below with changes highlighted:

<https://1drv.ms/w/s!Ap-DVaUGsnvX7qBgkHo80C9UbswJVQ?e=K7CjKl>

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