ACTIVITY PROPOSALS

(Requires majority vote of those voting)

ACT 1 - SPEECH - MAXIMUM MEETS SCHOOL

(Centennial League)

AMEND THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS to read:

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Amend Bylaw by deleting 4830 Amend Bylaw 4820 by reading:

Yes

no

4820.

MAXIMUM MEETS SCHOOL

A school may be represented at no more than 18 22 meets a year, exclusive of regional, state and National Speech and Debate Association.

4830. MAXIMUM CONTESTS INDIVIDUAL

4830.1 A student may participate in no more than 14 contests exclusive of regional and state tournaments if competing in more than one event.

4830.11 ONE EVENT -- No contestant may participate in one event more than 12 times exclusive of state qualifying, state festival, state tournaments and National Speech and Debate Association qualifying contests.

4830.2 PRACTICE DEFINED -- A practice is defined as only one round per day with no decisions and no rankings per individual.

RATIONALE:

The length of the speech season is 18-19 weeks depending on the calendar year (not including the week of Thanksgiving or the week of Christmas). The current contest limit restricts schools to competing only once a week on average. In recent years, additional competition opportunities have been added through after school Congressional Debate and World Schools debate contests. These opportunities result in students participating in more than one contest during some weeks of the season. Increasing the contest limit allows schools to better help students prepare for success at the state and national level. Several sports with shorter seasons currently have a larger number of allowed contests than Speech and Debate. Increasing the maximum number of allowed contests does not require schools who currently compete in fewer than 18 contests to increase the number of competitions they attend, it simply provides an opportunity for schools that would like to participate in additional competition to do so.

Eliminating the individual competition restriction allows for students, parents and coaches to determine which contests a student competes in. Since participation in speech and debate does not take the same physical toll on a competitor's body that many sports take, excluding a student from a competition that his/her school attends is not required.

PROS:

Increased competitive opportunities for students increase the educational value of the activity and better prepare students for success on the state and national level. These changes allow for increased flexibility for schools and for individuals, which enhances opportunities for students and for schools.

The length of the Speech and Debate season is longer than any single sports season, but the number of competitions allowed currently (18) is fewer than those allowed in several sports. This bylaw change increases equity between sports and activities.

After school Congressional Debate competitions are a great way for beginning students to gain experience. Increasing opportunities for beginning students will help strengthen programs. Increasing the number of allowed competitions allows schools to attend after school competitions without sacrificing a weekend tournament. Eliminating the restriction that individuals can only compete 12 times in an individual event allows the most dedicated students to compete more often, again increasing their chance of success at the state and national level. The structure is already in place for these competitions. Allowing schools and students to attend more competitions may provide for a wider range of competitors, thereby increasing the educational value.

This does not require schools to attend more meets if they currently attend few than 18.

CONS:

The cost associated with attending an additional competition. These fees are minimal (\$5 per student) and are outweighed by the increased educational opportunities.

Also, the fees collected at these tournaments generate money for the school hosting the competition, which offsets the cost to attend other tournaments.