

Bylaws for Connecticut Debate Association
Adopted May 22, 2003

Article I: Organization

Section 1 The association shall be called The Connecticut Debate Association

Section 2 Hereafter The Connecticut Debate Association shall be referred to as the CDA in these bylaws.

Section 3 The fiscal and operational year of the CDA shall begin on July 1 of each calendar year.

Section 4 CDA operates under the jurisdiction of the Student Activities Board of Control (SABC) an arm of the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS).

Article II: Mission Statement

The CDA exists to promote informed debate among Connecticut's high school students.

Article III: Membership

Section 1 Membership in the CDA shall be open to all Connecticut high schools and their representatives.

Section 2 Membership shall be initiated and maintained by payment of annual dues through the sponsoring high schools.

Section 3 Annual dues shall be set at the May meeting payable at the beginning of the following fiscal year.

Section 4 All members shall be invited to any general meetings of the CDA.

Section 5 Members may have their membership suspended by the Executive Board for non-payment of dues or for other good cause.

Article IV: Meetings of the Members

Section 1 The CDA will meet the third Thursdays in May and September. The September and May meetings dates can be changed as necessary by the Executive Board due to unforeseen circumstances. Additional meetings will be held as needed.

Section 2 The Executive Director or the Executive Board shall notify members of meeting dates and times at least two weeks prior to the scheduled meetings.

Article V: Voting

Section 1 Voting at the CDA meetings shall be by school, with each school present eligible to cast one vote. A majority vote shall determine the issue under question.

Section 2 Representatives from at least five schools shall be present before any matter may be called for a vote.

Section 3 Votes shall be cast either by show of hands or by written ballot at the discretion of those present.

Article VI: Executive Board

Section 1 The business of the CDA shall be managed by an Executive Board of not less than five members, including the Executive Director and the Assistant Executive Director (~~TAB Room Director~~).

Section 2: Three members of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum.

Section 3 Board members shall serve one year, renewable terms.

Section 4 Each director shall have one vote, and such voting may be done by proxy.

Section 5 Minutes of Executive Board meetings must be provided to CDA members within two weeks of said meetings.

Section 6 The Executive Board shall meet at least four times between July and June of each year. The September and May meetings may be counted as two of the four regular meetings of the Executive Board.

Section 7 Board members who are absent from three meetings in any fiscal/operational year without due cause reported to the Executive Director will be considered resigned from the Board and their position shall be considered vacant.

Article VII: Elections to the Executive Board

Section 1 Elections of the Executive Board shall be by vote of the members present at the May meeting of the CDA.

Section 2 Nominations shall be from the floor at the May meeting.

Section 3 Elections of the Executive Board at the May meeting shall be by plurality of those present with no proxy voting allowed.

Section 4 The Executive Board shall be empowered to fill any vacancies in its membership with the exception of the Executive Director. In the event that the Executive Director's position is open, the Assistant Executive Director shall become the Executive Director. The board shall notify CDA members within one week if there is a change in the composition of the Board.

Article VIII: Officers

Section 1 The officers of this organization shall be as follows: An Executive Director, an Assistant Executive Director, and not less than three at-large board members.

Section 2 The Executive Director shall:

- A. Preside at all meetings
- B. Present an annual report at the May meeting
- C. Coordinate and monitor the activities of any subcommittees
- D. Accurately maintain CDA records and files
- E. Keep CDA members informed
- F. Have such powers as may be reasonably construed as belonging to the chief executive of any organization.

Section 3 The Assistant Executive Director shall:

- A. Preside in the absence of the Executive Director
- B. Succeed to the Executive Director's position in the event that that position is open.
- C. ~~Serve as the TAB Room Director~~ **(Reserved.)**
- D. Have such powers as may be reasonably construed as belonging to the assistant chief executive of any organization.

Section 4 At-large Board Members shall:

- A. Serve as chairs of committees as determined by the Executive Board
- B. ~~Assist in the facilitation of the TAB room as needed~~ **(Reserved.)**
- C. Assist the Executive Director in formulating policy
- D. One of the at-large board members shall act as secretary at all meetings

Section 5 The Officers shall see to the organization and operation of the CDA debate tournaments.

Article IX: Finances

Section 1 The Executive Board shall manage the finances of the CDA.

Section 2 The Executive Board shall make a financial report to the members of the CDA at both the May and September meetings.

Article X: Compensation

Section 1 The Executive Director and Assistant Executive Director shall receive stipends to be determined at the May meeting for the following year.

Article XI: Committees

Section 1 Committees may be established at the discretion of the Executive Board.

Article XII: Changes to the Bylaws

Section 1 Member schools shall be notified of proposed changes to the bylaws at least two weeks in advance of a meeting.

Section 2 These bylaws may be amended or repealed by an affirmative vote of 2/3 of the member schools present.

Article XIII: Other Procedural Problems

All procedural problems not specifically addressed in these bylaws shall be resolved by the most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order*.

Article XIV: Ratification

These bylaws shall go into effect upon an affirmative vote of 2/3 of the member schools present at a meeting.

Unanimously ratified on May 22, 2003

Amended September 17, 2008