

Proposal for Gender-Neutral Pronouns in WFCB Handbook

Proposal: change any instance in the handbook of specified pronouns following a gender binary to gender-neutral pronouns

Rationale: This proposal would serve two purposes.

The first and more pertinent purpose is inclusivity. It acknowledges students and coaches who identify as non-binary, but is also all encompassing for students and coaches whose genders do fit within a binary. In essence, this is a simple step towards creating as inclusive of an activity and organization as possible.

The second purpose is an economy of words. Using a singular pronoun (they or their) is infinitely more concise than a slash being used to indicate “or.”

Replace Current: “he/she,” “his/her,” found throughout the handbook

1. *Section II, subsection C, rule 1 and 2:* “Each festival or tournament director has the freedom to offer categories of **his/her** choosing...” and “each festival or tournament director has the freedom to use category rules of **his/her** choosing...”
2. *Section II, subsection H, rule 2, 5, and 7:* “If a judge, coach, or tournament official suspects that some infraction of the rules warrants disqualification, **he/she** shall bring the concern to the tournament director...” “the coach whose entry is challenged shall inform **his/her** student of the committee's decision,” and “If a contestant is disqualified in any preliminary round of competition, **his/her** speaker points earned during that and any previous round will not be counted toward the school's final total.”
3. *Section IV, subsection C, rule 12:* “If a contestant is a “no show” in one or two rounds (for reasons other than disqualification), **he/she does** earn team points for the rounds in which **he/she** competed.”
4. *Section VI, subsection A, rule 1:* “Candidates must be active in WFCB, be supportive of the WFCB, demonstrate enthusiasm for forensic activities, have a high regard and respect for the students **he/she works** with... have acquired the respect of students **he/she works** with... through the strength of **his/her** own program”
5. *Section VI, subsection A, rule 3:* “It shall be the responsibility of the coach to declare on their annual registration the number of years for which **he/she has** served as a coach of forensics.
6. *Rules for Demonstration Speaking, Rule 4:* “...registration fees will not be assessed on this person, nor will **he/she** be eligible for an award.”

7. *Rules for Extemporaneous Speaking, Rule 2*: “The student may not speak on the same question more than once in any contest (of more than one round), and must replace any card drawn that contains a question **he/she has** already spoken on.”
8. *Rules for Impromptu Speaking, Rule 5*: “...a contestant should not be penalized for brevity unless **he/she fails** to cover the subject adequately.”
9. *Rules for Radio Announcing, Rule 2*: “The speaker must supply **his/her** own stopwatch and equipment...”
10. *The William Hintz Memorial Award... Nomination Form*: “...have acquired the respect of students **he/she works** with...”
11. *Student Congress Speech Rubric, Argument & Refutation*: “If the speaker fields questions, **he/she responds** with confidence and clarity.”
12. *Student Congress Rubric for Presiding Officer, Speaker Recognition*: “The P.O. needs to improve **his/her** communication with fellow delegates...” and “while the P.O. does not adequately explain **his/her** preferences for running the chamber in advance, **he/she does** clearly explain rulings, when necessary.” And: “The P.O. is universally respected and trusted by **his/her** peers...”
13. *Student Congress Rubric for Presiding Officer, Parliamentary Procedure*: “...**he/she shows** negligible effort to correct errors.”
14. *Student Congress Rubric for Presiding Officer*: “**his/her**” (in all three instances in the rubric)

With new wording: “they, “their,” and alter the sentence for consistencies with grammar

1. “Each festival or tournament director has the freedom to offer categories of **their** choosing...” and “Each festival or tournament director has the freedom to use category rules of **their** choosing...”
2. “If a judge, coach, or tournament official suspects that some infraction of the rules warrants disqualification, **they** shall bring the concern to the tournament director...” “the coach whose entry is challenged shall inform **their** student of the committee's decision,” and “If a contestant is disqualified in any preliminary round of competition, **his/her** speaker points earned during that and any previous round will not be counted toward the school's final total.”
3. “If a contestant is a “no show” in one or two rounds (for reasons other than disqualification), **they do** earn team points for the rounds in which **they** competed.”
4. “Candidates must be active in WFCA, be supportive of the WFCA, demonstrate enthusiasm for forensic activities, have a high regard and

- respect for the students **they work** with... have acquired the respect of students **they work** with... through the strength of **their** own program”
5. It shall be the responsibility of the coach to declare on their annual registration the number of years for which **they have** served as a coach of forensics.
 6. “...registration fees will not be assessed on this person, nor will **they** be eligible for an award.”
 7. The student may not speak on the same question more than once in any contest (of more than one round), and must replace any card drawn that contains a question **they have** already spoken on.
 8. “...a contestant should not be penalized for brevity unless **they fail** to cover the subject adequately.”
 9. The speaker must supply **their** own stopwatch and equipment
 10. “...have acquired the respect of students **they work** with...”
 11. “If the speaker fields questions, **they respond** with confidence and clarity.”
 12. “The P.O. needs to improve **their** communication with fellow delegates...” and “While the P.O. does not adequately explain **their** preferences for running the chamber in advance, **they do** clearly explain rulings, when necessary.” And: “the P.O. is universally respected and trusted by **their** peers...”
 13. “**They show** negligible effort to correct errors.”
 14. *Student Congress Rubric for Presiding Officer*: “**their**” (in all three instances in the rubric)