

Overview

The idea is that we will have two separate packets for the season. Students would submit legislation that the board would edit and form into each packet that is used for WFCAsanctioned tournaments.

Rationale

Many states with strong congress programs (for example Texas, Minnesota) use a packet format for their tournaments to allow for more accessibility for students. Packets have a limited amount of legislation in them that has been properly edited and vetted to ensure quality debate. It also takes the guesswork out of what will be debated and allows teams to focus on preparation of quality arguments. This also means that tournament hosts no longer need to solicit their own legislation and format a packet.

Proposal

The WFCAs will solicit congressional legislation from students throughout the year to create two packets.

Content:

- Each packet will contain a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 12 pieces of legislation.
- Legislation will follow appropriate formatting and length restrictions as required by the WFCAs.
- All submitted legislation will bear the original author's name and school
- Any submissions may be edited by the WFCAs board and state congress chair to ensure clarity and debatability.
- All submissions are not guaranteed to be put into the packet depending on the number of submissions or the debatability of the legislation.
- Bills cannot appear in multiple packets without substantive changes.

Deadlines & Dates:

- Legislation can be submitted year-round, but in order to be considered for the first packet, it must be submitted by the 2nd Wednesday of January, and for the 2nd packet by the 2nd Wednesday in February.
- Legislation packets will be posted to the WFCAs website and emailed out by the 3rd Friday in January and February respectively.
- The first packet would be "in effect" or useable from the beginning of the congress season (the 4th Friday in January) until the end of February, and the second packet would be "in effect" from the beginning of March until the State tournament.

Submission, Editing, and posting:

- The WFCAs will accept legislation emailed to the WFCAs board **president-elect** and the WFCAs **state congress director**.
- The legislation should be emailed as a document (not a PDF or image) to allow for editing.
- The President elect and state congress director will work together to edit the legislation and create a PDF packet that can be uploaded to the WFCAs website and emailed out to the Association.
- The State congress director will send the packet to the webmaster *at least* 24 hours prior to the posting deadline above to post.

Rules & norms adjustments

- In moving to a packet system, the “authorship” would no longer be guaranteed to the author of the bill or the school. Students from any school would all have the ability to sponsor any legislation in the packet.
- Dockets committee will no longer school representation on the docket, as there is no authorship speech guarantees
- At the State congress tournament, students will have the opportunity to vote on the best piece of legislation from the year, and the winning author will be recognized during awards.