



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.