



June 30, 2017

Dear National Tournament Coaches and Competitors,

I regretfully must share two tabulation errors that occurred during the National Tournament that have been confirmed through the final auditing process.

During the 12th round of Duo Interpretation, ballots were incorrectly recorded due to an accidental repairing of the round in the computer program. Unfortunately, tabulation staff did not catch this mistake during the recording or auditing process. As a result, two Duo teams (Doty and Sanders from Apple Valley High School, MN and Thomas and Santos from Democracy Prep, NY) were erroneously excluded from the final round of competition. Per National Tournament policy, the two teams impacted are to receive the same placement position they were in prior to this tabulation error (Doty/Sanders – 1st, Thomas/Santos – 6th). Therefore, the Board of Directors has unanimously decided to name two 6th place teams and two champions in Duo Interpretation. In addition, the results for 7th through 14th place in Duo have been adjusted. The complete results are listed in the official tournament results packet available online.

The final Top 6 results in 2017 Sandra Silvers Duo Interpretation are as follows:

Tied for 6th Place

Philip Clement and Gabriella Garcia
Saint Mary's Hall High School, Texas
Coached by Joseph Muller

AND

Tavan Thomas and Jesus Santos
Democracy Prep Bronx Preparatory Charter School, New York
Coached by Sarah Rosenberg, Luis Cardenas, and Norberto Troncoso

5th Place

David DeLaBarcena and Andrew Denton
South Grand Prairie High School, Texas
Coached by Forrest Denbow and Amanda Kay Hopkins

4th Place

Benjamin Marshall and Molly McDermott
Prospect High School, Illinois
Coached by Scott McDermott, Jonathan Kaminsky, and Michael Piccoli

3rd Place

Sam Hamerski and Maia Peterson
Roseville Area High School, Minnesota
Coached by Bret Hemmerlin

2nd Place

Manuela Reyes and Dieynaba Dieng
Democracy Prep Bronx Preparatory Charter School, New York
Coached by Sarah Rosenberg, Luis Cardenas, and Norberto Troncoso

National Co-Champions

Kerrington Anderson and Derek Collins
Hattiesburg High School, Mississippi
Coached by Raphael Scott Waldrop

AND

Claire Doty and Zakkiyah Sanders
Apple Valley High School, Minnesota
Coached by Dan Hodges

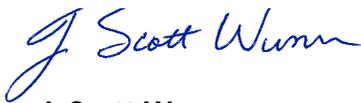
The tabulation error in Duo was discovered based on an official coach protest of the results. Following the confirmation of this error, we completed a full audit of all speech ballots from the National Tournament. During this process, an additional ballot entry mistake in Program Oral Interpretation from round 11 was discovered. Unlike in Duo, this error did not change which competitors would advance to finals; however, it did alter results for places 10th through 13th. This adjustment has been reconciled in the official tournament results packet available online at results.speechanddebate.org.

On behalf of the organization, I have personally apologized to the schools, coaches, and students directly affected by these tabulation errors. I am working personally with each team involved to ensure they are recognized for their outstanding accomplishments with the same accolades as their fellow competitors. Each championship Duo team will receive the same scholarships awarded at their placement level. Additionally, we will professionally film both Duo performances and make them publicly available for viewing as soon as possible.

I also apologize to our membership as a whole. I can assure you these errors are not taken lightly. The National Speech & Debate Association takes full responsibility for this oversight. On behalf of the Board of the Directors, national office staff, and countless volunteers at the National Speech & Debate Tournament, I deeply apologize to everyone impacted by this change. Please know that the Association is taking all necessary steps to adjust process, procedure, and personnel to ensure the highest quality standards of adjudication in the future.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me directly at (920) 748-6206 or director@speechanddebate.org. Thank you for your patience and understanding in this matter.

Sincerely,



J. Scott Wunn
Executive Director
National Speech & Debate Association

