

Tom Jackson, England's National Universities Debating Council representative, has posted a [proposal to reconsider the break reform measure passed at last year's Council meeting in Manila](#). He proposes to overturn the 18+ Points break scenario approved in Manila and replace it with a 48 team break for the Berlin Worlds. He indicates, and I have confirmed, that Berlin have agreed to defer to the will of Council regarding this issue. Berlin is able to accommodate any of the previously-discussed break reform scenarios: 18+ points; 32 teams; 48 teams; or 64 teams.

To reconsider this issue would require that Council amend the Constitution immediately prior to the opening of competition; Tom indicates that he hopes this will be raised in the pre-Council meeting scheduled for December 28.

I don't believe we can raise this issue in pre-Council *per se*, but I believe we can consider it before Berlin. Regarding the substance of meetings, the Constitution enumerates among the Chair's duties:

Article 10

2. Convening at least two meetings of the Council. The first meeting shall be a preliminary meeting which shall determine the eligibility of competitors and institutions and the voting rights of nations. The second meeting will be the main meeting of Council and may determine any other issue.

That "first meeting" has come to be known as pre-Council. The issues that may be contemplated in that meeting are limited to the eligibility of competitors/institutions and the voting rights of nations.

Though I don't believe we can consider such an issue in pre-Council, I do think we're able to convene a special session of Council to immediately follow pre-Council to do so. The Constitution empowers me, as Chair, to call such a session. In Article 10, the Constitution includes among the Chair's duties:

Article 10

3. Convening such other meetings of the Council as are in his/her opinion necessary, provided that there be not fewer than one meeting per calendar year;
4. Giving notice to the other members of the Council of any meeting of the Council. Such notice shall be given in writing at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting and shall include an agenda containing all details of any proposed amendments to this Constitution.

I plan to determine if a special session is warranted by offering a motion at the end of pre-Council to convene a special session. That motion, like other procedural motions in

Council, will be subject to the approval of $\frac{2}{3}$ of the representatives present (in non-weighted voting). In the special session, the floor would be open to proposals that would amend the constitution to specify a 32, 48 or 64 team break. If $\frac{2}{3}$ of those present indicate their desire to hold a special session, we will do so.

This message shall serve as notice to member of Council (required by Article 10.4) that such a meeting may be called.

Given that we've had a great deal of discussion on this issue over the years, I think it's wise to limit the scope of that session; I would propose that the session would last no more that 1 hour.