

Committee Resolution 114-__

Resolved that, the Committee on House Administration adopts the following regulations:

Sec. 1

Committee Resolution 113-6 is hereby repealed.

Sec. 2

In the regulations collectively known as the “Members’ Congressional Handbook” in the section “Advertisements,” strike “House STEM Competition,” and replace with “Officially-sanctioned Competitions.”

Sec. 3

Insert the following as a new section after “Official Meetings” in the regulations collectively known as the “Members’ Congressional Handbook”:

Officially-sanctioned Competitions

Officially-sanctioned competition means an academic or civic competition designed for participation by each congressional office, in which entry is limited to the district constituents of each respective participating congressional office; and that meets the requirements described below, as determined by the Chair and Ranking Member of the Committee on House Administration at the beginning of each Congress. Note: Nothing in these regulations changes the status of the Artistic Discovery Competition.

The Chair and Ranking Member of House Administration shall maintain a list of officially-sanctioned competitions for use by Members and available for public inspection.

Requirements for Determination as an Officially-sanctioned Competition

The Chair and Ranking Member of House Administration may determine that an academic or civic competition is an officially-sanctioned competition if the following guidelines and restrictions are met:

- 1) A bi-partisan request for an officially-sanctioned competition must be submitted in writing by the leadership of a registered Congressional Member Organization to the Chair and Ranking Member of House Administration.
- 2) The competition must be sponsored by non-congressional person or organization (sponsor). The sponsor and participating Member agree that the winner of a participating Member's competition may not be a relative of that Member, or a relative of any official employee of that Member. For purposes of this prohibition, "relative" is defined in the same manner as House Rule XXIII, clause 8(c) (3).
- 3) The sponsor agrees not to use the Official Seal of the U.S., the U.S. House of Representatives, or the U.S. Congress in its communications.
- 4) The sponsor agrees that all technical assistance with the competition provided to the sponsor shall be available equally to all entrants of the competition.
 - a. Technical assistance with the competition may include equipment for use by and mentoring of entrants of the competition.
 - b. Technical assistance shall *not* be directed to the participating Member's office; instead, it should be directed to the entrants of the competition.
 - c. Technical assistance provided directly to each entrant must be equally available to each entrant regardless of the number of individual entrants per participating Member.

- 5) The sponsor agrees that all prizes for the entrants and winners of the competition provided to the sponsor shall be distributed equally to all competition entrants and winners, respectively.
 - a. Prizes for the entrants and winners of the competition may include travel expenses for the winner and a parent/guardian to attend an unveiling or awards ceremony in Washington, D.C., scholarships, tangible items, and cash or cash equivalents.
 - b. Prizes shall *not* be directed to the participating Member's office; instead, it should be directed to the entrants and winners of the competition.
 - c. Prizes provided directly to each entrant must be equally distributed to each entrant regardless of the number of individual entrants per participating Member.
- 6) The sponsor agrees that all other assistance provided to the sponsor for support of the competition shall be made available equally amongst the participating Member offices.
 - a. Other assistance may include advertising or other promotional activities.
 - b. All other assistance shall *not* be directed to the participating Member's office; instead, it should be directed to the competition entrants or businesses involved in the competition.
- 7) Each participating Member must retain ultimate control over the determination of a winner of a competition in his or her name, or in the name of his or her congressional district.
- 8) Each participating Member must agree to direct any donations in the form of (a) technical assistance with the competition, or (b) prizes for the entrants and winners of the competition, to the sponsor if the value of the donation or donations from a single source is more than \$50. The sponsor is obligated to distribute such donations equally to the competition entrants and winners of all participating Member offices.
- 9) Participating Members may not use principal campaign funds to support an officially-sanctioned competition.

Use of Official Resources to Support an Officially-sanctioned Competition

A Member may use the MRA in a limited fashion to support officially-sanctioned competitions.

The following resources may be used in support of an officially-sanctioned competition:

- 1) The Frank, provided the content of such communication is frankable;
- 2) Advertisements that are otherwise compliant with Handbook and Franking regulations;
- 3) Food and Beverage expenses that are otherwise compliant with Handbook regulations;
- 4) Rental of rooms, chairs, and audio systems that are otherwise compliant with Handbook regulations;
- 5) Gifts and donations that are otherwise compliant;
- 6) Staff time and the use of incidental resources;
- 7) Use of letterhead and official seal of the House by the Member Office, provided such letterhead and seal are not used for solicitations;
- 8) Mileage; and
- 9) Member official web site and social media.

Solicitation of Donations to Support an Officially-sanctioned Competition

A Member may only solicit donations (including in-kind) on behalf of the officially-sanctioned competition if the Member first receives written approval from the Committee on Ethics.

Resolved Further, the Chairman of the Committee is authorized to make technical and conforming modifications to the Members Handbook, and to make other modifications with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee and notification to all members of the Committee. In the event changes

are made pursuant to this clause, the Chairman shall notify all congressional offices by suitable means.