

NATIONAL CATHOLIC FORENSIC LEAGUE BY-LAWS

Up-Dated by R. Burdett, After Fall Executive Committee Meeting, 2012

ARTICLE I - LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP DUES

The annual membership dues payable to the Secretary/Treasurer of the LEAGUE shall be determined at the Fall Meeting of the Executive Committee and announced in the Fall **Newsletter**.

ARTICLE II - GRAND NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

Section A - Eligibility

1. **Diocesan Leagues:** All Diocesan Leagues which are represented at the Fall Executive Committee Meeting shall be eligible to enter the Grand National Tournament. All Diocesan Directors/Moderators are strongly encouraged to attend the Fall Executive Committee Meeting. Diocesan Directors/Moderators must notify a member of the Executive Council of their intended absence from a Fall Executive Committee Meeting, and must contact a member of the Executive Council by December 1 of the year that they missed a Fall Executive Committee Meeting to preserve their dioceses' eligibility to enter the Grand National Tournament. The Executive Council shall have the authority to waive such representation for a given diocesan League, should extraordinary circumstances exist. (This provision shall become effective beginning with the Fall Executive Committee Meeting of 2004.)
2. **Schools:** All schools which are members of a Diocesan League and the LEAGUE shall be eligible to enter the Grand National Tournament. The Diocesan League shall be responsible for determining the manner in which the selection of entrants is made at the local level within the general guidelines of LEAGUE policies. Schools which are not members of a Diocesan League, but are members of the LEAGUE, may enter the Tournament as an Independent School for one year only. Entry after the first year must be made within the complement of a Diocesan League. Schools which enter as a single unit for one year must be members of the LEAGUE.
3. **Students:** Students who enter the Tournament as contestants must be current high school undergraduate students who have not attended a secondary school during more than 9 semesters. Graduate students are permitted to enter only in the academic year of graduation. All 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th year secondary school students may be members of the LEAGUE. Ninth and 10th graders in junior high schools may participate either with their local high school or as members of the junior high school.
4. Home schools are eligible to join a Diocesan League and the LEAGUE according to all established rules of the Diocesan League and the LEAGUE. Regardless of the number of home schools as members of a Diocesan League, only one Home School will be counted for determining entry quotas into the Grand National Tournament.

Section B - Registration

1. **Quotas**
 - a. **Contestants:** Entries from Diocesan Leagues in the tournament shall be governed by the following quota system based upon school membership in the LEAGUE:

2 Schools:	03 entries with no more than 1 in any event
3 Schools:	04 entries with no more than 1 in any event
4 Schools:	05 entries with no more than 1 in any event
5 Schools:	10 entries with no more than 1 in any event
6-10 Schools:	20 entries with no more than 2 in any event
11-15 Schools:	30 entries with no more than 3 in any event
16-20 Schools:	40 entries with no more than 4 in any event
21-25 Schools:	50 entries with no more than 5 in any event
26 + Schools:	60 entries with no more than 6 in any event

NOTE: Each debate team and each Duo Interpretation team counts as one entry. The maximum number of entries from any one Diocesan League will be 60, regardless of total school membership. An individual school may have one entry as an Independent School for one year only.

- b. **Judges:** Each Diocesan League unit entry must be accompanied by a complement of judges, each of whom has had previous experience judging the general area (i.e. Speech, Team Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, and/or Student Congress) to which they are being assigned. The number of judges provided by the Diocesan League is based upon the following quota system:

Speech events: One judge for every 2 entries

Team Debate:

1 team: 2 judges
2 teams: 3 judges
3 teams: 5 judges
4 teams: 6 judges
5 teams: 8 judges
6 teams: 9 judges

Lincoln-Douglas Debate:

1 debater: 1 judge
2 debaters: 2 judges
3 debaters: 3 judges
4 debaters: 4 judges
5 debaters: 5 judges
6 debaters: 6 judges

NOTE: Whenever possible, judges for Lincoln-Douglas will come from a separate pool.

Public Forum Debate:

1 Team: 1 Judge
2 Teams: 2 Judges
3 Teams: 3 Judges
4 Teams: 4 Judges
5 Teams: 5 Judges
6 Teams: 6 Judges

Note: Whenever possible, lay judges for Public Forum Debate will be preferred over experienced debate coaches, judges, or college competitors.

Student Congress:

A League must identify one judge with Student Congress judging experience if entering Congress contestants.

c. **Tournament Staff:**

- 1) One person per Diocesan League. Any Diocesan League which does not have a person as a representative on the Tournament Staff will pay a fine of six hundred dollars (\$600.00). The League will not be allowed to participate in future Grand National Tournaments unless it is paid by January 1 in the year in which they chose to participate. The fine will not be imposed if all entries from the Diocesan League are dropped by 2 weeks before the Grand National Tournament.
 - 2) The total complement of judges from a Diocesan League shall include at least one judge from each member school represented in its student registration for the Tournament and every judge must have a designated affiliation with a participating member school(s). No Diocesan League will be permitted to drop registered judges without substitution later than 2 weeks prior to the Tournament, nor to provide judges without the required previous judging experience. The penalty for a violation of this rule will be a fine of four hundred dollars (\$400.00). In addition, there will be a fifty dollar (\$50.00) fine for each round of the assignment that cannot be covered by a judge from that League. This fine will be levied against the school in question and such school will not be allowed to participate in future Grand National Tournaments if the fine is not paid by January 1 in the year in which they choose to participate. No hired judges will be made available for the Tournament except in case of emergency.
2. **Fees:** A registration fee will be levied for each student entered in competition at the Tournament. The fee will be determined by the Executive Committee at the Fall meeting and will be payable to the LEAGUE at the time of registration. The fee levied for registration in the NCFL Grand National Tournament shall be \$50 per student staying in the designated NCFL Tournament Hotel Blocks. For students not staying in the designated NCFL Tournament Hotel Blocks the fee will be \$100 each. The League shall have the ability at the Fall Executive Committee Meeting to waive this additional fee on a year-by-year basis. After satisfaction of expenses, the Secretary/Treasurer will deposit the balance of monies with the LEAGUE.

3. **Forms:** No later than 45 days prior to the date of the Tournament, the Host Director, with the assistance of the Secretary/Treasurer of the LEAGUE, shall provide each member League and Independent School member with the appropriate information and necessary forms for official Tournament registration. These shall include, but not be limited to the following: Contestant and judge master registration forms, individual events tabulation cards, tentative schedule, and lodging information. Failure to register a Diocesan League for the Grand National Tournament by mail postmarked the date set and communicated by the Secretary/Treasurer will result in a fine of fifty dollars (\$50.00) per day up for up to 7 days. The fine is assessed to the Diocesan League. After the 7th day, the League may not register for the Tournament and therefore may not compete that year. The postmark on the envelope containing registration materials will be used to determine the number of days. The tardy Diocesan League may not compete in future Grand National Tournaments until the fine is paid. No change in registration of students except a cancellation or the substitution of one student for another in the same event is permitted. After May 1, each change to a Diocesan League's judge assignments shall be assessed a fine of \$10.

Section C - Events: Definitions and Procedures

1. Speech Events Definitions

a. Oratorical Declamation:

- 1) A selection used in Oratorical Declamation must have been originally delivered as a speech by its author, a person other than the present speaker. The speaker must have an introduction which is at most one minute and names the work, author, and describes the circumstances under which the speech was originally presented. The original speaker's words may not be altered for the presentation with the exception that cutting is permitted. Material being performed at the NCFL tournament must match the student's original script. Selections may include professional speeches, public orations, eulogies, and sermons.
- 2) The selection must be memorized.
- 3) The speaker should develop the ability to convey the message in a sincere, honest, and realistic style. The mechanics of speech must be observed faithfully: poise, quality of voice, effectiveness and ease of gesture, emphasis, variety, and enunciation. In addition, the speaker must be able to interpret the meaning of the speech and be able to carry the interpretation over to the minds of the listeners. The speaker must be able to interest the listeners and to hold their attention.
- 4) No particular style should be demanded of the speaker; rather, the contestant should be free to select and to develop a personal style and be judged according to the degree of perfection attained and the effectiveness in influencing the listeners. While the specifics of the speech and any style of delivery which the speaker adopts should be judged in light of the purpose of the speech, artificiality is to be discredited. This event is an interpretation, not an impersonation.
- 5) This event is limited to freshman and sophomore students.
- 6) Time limits: Maximum - 10 minutes, including at most a 60 second introduction to the selection. If the speaker goes over a 30 second grace period, that contestant may not be awarded first place. No minimum time.

b. Dramatic Performance:

- 1) The speaker shall offer a memorized dramatic presentation.
- 2) The presentation must be from a single published play, single published script, or single fictional or non-fictional work. (Not poetry.) The intent of the NCFL is that all materials presented in interpretation events must be available and readily accessible to all members of the league. At the NCFL tournament, coaches should bring an original script with an ISBN, ISSN, or IFFN, or eBook Number and Library Name. If the script does not have an ISBN, ISSN, or IFFN, or eBook Number and Library Name, the coach or supervising adult must be able to show that the script was purchased or obtained commercially; ie. from a literary agent or publisher or bill of sale or is publicly available by internet URL and retrieval date. Lines which are attributed to one character in a published play or script may not be attributed to another character in the performance. The author's words as published in the literature may not be altered for the presentation with the exception that cutting is permitted. Material being performed at the NCFL tournament must match the student's original script.
- 3) The presentation may be either serious or humorous and should have some literary merit. Important consideration should be given to the quality of the selection.
- 4) Scenes from musicals are acceptable provided that the singing be limited to a maximum of thirty (30) seconds total within the presentation.

- 5) Single or multiple character cuttings will be allowed. When doing a multiple-characterization the performer should create effective interaction between the characters.
- 6) Although this is primarily a display of vocal ability, body language will play a part in the overall performance, and since it is a drama, more vocal and physical suggestion may be required in order to portray characters, conflict, and story. However, no physical action should be performed that will distract the listeners' attention from the drama being presented. The performance should display another world outside the performance setting.
- 7) No properties or costumes of any kind may be used.
- 8) Time limits: Maximum - 10 minutes, including introductory and transitional material other than the author's words. Material thus used should be limited to one minute. If the speaker goes over a 30 second grace period, that contestant may not be awarded first place. No minimum time.

c. Extemporaneous Speaking:

- 1) The speech should be an original synthesis by the contestant of the current fact and opinion on the designated topic as presented by numerous sources.
- 2) Topics concerning events within the second semester of the academic year of the Tournament should be used.
- 3) Selection of the general topic areas and preparation of 12-15 topics in each area should be made by the Second Vice President of the LEAGUE.
- 4) The contestant should be held accountable for strict adherence to the precise statement of the topic selected and should be penalized for any obvious shifting to a quite different topic.
- 5) Information presented should be well-chosen, pertinent, and sufficient to support the central thought of the topic.
- 6) The speaker is permitted a personal opinion or interpretation of the subject.
- 7) Material should be organized according to some logical plan to produce a complete speech within the time allowed. The speech must be extemporaneous and delivered without notes.
- 8) Speakers shall be allowed to bring to the preparation room the following printed materials and only these: magazines, newspapers, dictionaries, thesaurus, reference indices, newspaper and/or magazine clippings - files organized under general headings, almanacs and appropriate reference books, books and/or pamphlets. Participants in Extemporaneous Speaking are given the option of using battery operated lap top computers when in the Preparation Room. Materials can be on files on their computers or retrieved from an attached flash drive. Broadband or internet connectivity, and prepared speeches will not be allowed.
- 9) All material brought into the preparation room by speakers will be subject at any time to scrutiny of the Tournament Committee and staff responsible for this event.
- 10) Speakers may share reference materials; however, any collaboration on speech preparation is forbidden.
- 11) When the speaker's code number is called, s/he draws 3 questions from among those prepared for the specific round. After consideration, the speaker returns 2 and gives the Director of the event the number of the question s/he has chosen to answer. The Director notes the topic and time, and the contestant begins to prepare the speech. The speaker should remain in the preparation room until sent to the competition room by the Director of the event.
- 12) Speakers will have thirty (30) minutes of preparation time. Upon leaving the preparation room speakers must relinquish all preparation materials except the drawn question. During the preparation for, and during the competition round, students may not access any research materials, oral, written, or electronic, outside of the preparation room.
- 13) Time limits: Maximum - 7 minutes. If the speaker goes over a 30 second grace period, that contestant may not be awarded first place. No minimum time.

d. Oral Interpretation of Literature:

- 1) The speaker shall prepare two programs of literature from manuscripts. Each program shall consist of a single piece, a cutting, or a series of short pieces united by author or theme. One program shall be published prose; the other, published poetry. If using a series of poems, all titles and authors must be cited. The performer has the burden, if juxtaposing poems, to be clear at all times which poem is being used. The intent of the NCFL is that all materials presented in interpretation events must be available and readily accessible to all members of the league. At the NCFL tournament, coaches should bring an original script with an ISBN, ISSN, or IFFN, or eBook Number and Library Name. If the script does not have an ISBN, ISSN, or IFFN, or eBook Number and Library Name, the coach or supervising adult must be able to show that the script was purchased or obtained commercially; i.e. from a literary agent or publisher or bill of sale or is publicly available by internet URL and retrieval date. Each program shall contain an introduction for purposes of explication, setting, or selection transitions. Lines attributed to one character in the published source may not be attributed to another character in the performance. The author's words as published in the literature may not be altered for the presentation with the exception that cutting is permitted. Material being performed at the NCFL tournament must match the student's original script.
- 2) The literature chosen may include any form of prose or poetry, fiction or non-fiction, except drama and strictly oratorical composition written to be delivered in real-life, such as monologues from a play.
- 3) No props of any kind are permitted with the exception of the speaker's manuscript.
- 4) Speakers should keep eye contact between audience and manuscript in reasonable balance. Speakers who fail to maintain the illusion of reading from the manuscript may not be ranked first.
- 5) Speakers should keep gesture and bodily movement to a minimum. The selection must be delivered from center stage. Movement and gestures, if used, should be appropriate to the selection. Walking is not permitted. They should emphasize vocal variety and facial expression to enhance the literary interpretation. Any singing must be limited to a maximum of thirty (30) seconds total within the presentation.
- 6) Speakers may use a persona, and they may use character voices; but they are not necessary.
- 7) Important consideration should be given to the quality of the selection.
- 8) Time limits: Maximum - 10 minutes. This includes at most 1 minute of introductory and transition material other than the author's words. If the speaker goes over a 30 second grace period, that contestant may not be awarded first place. No minimum time.

e. Original Oratory:

- 1) The speaker should be expected to discuss with a degree of originality, and in an interesting manner, the topic chosen.
- 2) The speakers should be given wide latitude in the ideas they express, but they should be held closely accountable for the manner in which they are expressed. It is suggested, but not obligatory, that the topic be a subject of contemporary significance.
- 3) The speech must be one that has been composed by the student delivering it.
- 4) The speech must be memorized.
- 5) The number of words quoted from authors other than the contestant should not exceed 150. Extensive paraphrasing of other sources is prohibited.
- 6) Original orations must be composed from the standpoint of the present speaker. However, the use of a persona for a maximum length of 1 minute shall be permitted.
- 7) Visual and audio-visual aids are not permitted. Any singing must be limited to 30 seconds total within the oration.
- 8) Time limits: Maximum - 10 minutes. If the speaker goes over a 30 second grace period, that contestant may not be awarded first place. No minimum time.

f. Duo Interpretation of Literature:

- 1) The selection, delivered by two students each representing the same member school, must be from a single play, fictional or non-

fictional work. A series of poems is permitted. The poetry may be taken from a variety of published sources united by a single poet. The intent of the NCFL is that all materials presented in interpretation events must be available and readily accessible to all members of the league. At the NCFL tournament, coaches should bring an original script with an ISBN, ISSN, or IFFN, or eBook Number and Library Name. If the script does not have an ISBN, ISSN, or IFFN, or eBook Number and Library Name, the coach or supervising adult must be able to show that the script was purchased or obtained commercially; ie. from a literary agent or publisher or bill of sale or is publicly available by internet URL and retrieval date. Lines which are attributed to one character in the published material may not be attributed to another character in the performance. The author's words as published in the literature may not be altered for the presentation with the exception that cutting is permitted. Material being performed at the NCFL tournament must match the student's original script.

- 2) The material may be humorous or dramatic, or may combine both tones, depending on the work selected. Important consideration should be given to the quality of the selection.
- 3) Any part of the literature that a student uses in a Duo Interpretation presentation must follow the rules of Duo Interpretation.
- 4) The selection must be memorized.
- 5) The introduction should name the work, the author, and set the theme or the mood. Teasers are permitted.
- 6) Except during introduction and transition, eye contact is aimed only in the audience's direction; focal points are to be employed during dialogue; eye contact with specific audience members during narration is permitted. Pantomime, if used, should be accurate and realistic.
- 7) The selection must begin from the center stage area.
- 8) No props or costumes may be used.
- 9) The two interpreters must effectively utilize pitch, volume, phrasing, vocal quality, tone, articulation, enunciation and fluency to create the characterizations desired. The dialogue between characters should reflect a genuine sense of interaction, not a mechanical exchange of lines. Any singing must be limited to a maximum of thirty (30) seconds total within the presentation.
- 10) Speakers should keep gestures and bodily movement to a minimum. Performers are not allowed to make physical contact with each other during the performance, except during the introduction. Physical movement is restricted to performers moving around one another, switching positions, pivoting from side to side or turning around completely. Movement should be limited and suggested rather than exaggerated. Students must remain standing.
- 11) Physically, the characters should react to each other's verbal and non-verbal expressions but they may not touch each other. Speakers should remain standing.
- 12) Time limits: Maximum - 10 minutes, including introductory and transitional material other than the author's words. Material thus used should be limited to one minute. If the speakers go over a 30 second grace period, those contestants may not be awarded first place. No minimum time.

2. Speech Events Procedures

- a. All speakers will compete in 4 rounds of a prearranged schedule. At the end of the fourth round, the top 48 contestants in each event, based upon the low totals of all the judges in the four qualifying rounds, will be selected as octo-finalists. Low total scores of the octo-finalists in each octo-final section will determine the 24 quarter-finalists. Low total scores of the quarter-finalists in each quarter-final section will determine the 12 semi-finalists. Low total scores in each semi-final section will determine the 6 finalists. All two-way ties should be broken based on Judges' Preference within the round. All three-way (or more) ties should be broken using the method of reciprocal fractions (converting each rank into a decimal, and totaling them, as follows: 1st = 1.00, 2nd = 0.50, 3rd = 0.33, 4th = 0.25, 5th = 0.20, 6th = 0.17).
- b. Final standings of the finalists will be determined in the following manner: each single round rank from the octo-, quarter-, and semi-final round will be added to the 5 individual judge ranks in the final round, and then re-ranked according to low totals. In case of ties, preference will be given to the best total scores in the final round.
- c. All preliminary rounds of speech events shall be judged by 2 or 3 qualified judges. Two judges will be used in each section of the qualifying rounds when 3 judges would require an impractical total of judges. All elimination rounds shall be judged by 3 qualified

judges except for the final round, which will have 5 judges. No judges who have been out of high school less than 18 months will be allowed to judge elimination rounds.

- d. To set up the Octo-Final rounds in each event, the 48 clearing students shall be ranked from lowest to highest cumulative scores. Students will be assigned to section by “snaking” across the eight sections: from Sections A through H for the first eight students; from Sections H backwards through A for the next eight; from Sections A through H for the next eight; etc. Students are to be changed from one section to another to avoid two students from the same diocese meeting only if an exchange can be made with students whose rank totals are identical. Once the sections are set, the speaker order must be assigned. For each contestant within a section, total the speaker positions from all previous rounds. The higher the total, the earlier the speaker should be placed in this round. Break any ties by blind draw by the tab staff in the tab room prior to publishing the schedule.
- e. The set-up for the Quarter-Final round is as follows, and cannot be changed, even if students from the same diocese or school are meeting in the section:

Section A	Section B	Section C	Section D
A1	B1	C1	D1
E1	F1	G1	H1
B2	C2	D2	E2
F2	G2	H2	A2
C3	D3	E3	F3
G3	H3	A3	B3

Where A1 represents the student who was ranked 1st in Octo-Final Section A, G2 represents the student who was ranked 2nd in Octo-Final Section G, etc. Speaker order should be determined randomly, with the major constraint being that a speaker should not receive the same speaker position received in a previous elimination round.

- f. The set-up for the Semi-Final round is as follows, and cannot be changed, even if students from the same diocese or school are meeting in the section:

Section A	Section B
A1	B1
C1	D1
B2	C2
D2	A2
A3	B3
D3	C3

Where A1 represents the student who was ranked 1st in Quarter-Final Section A, D3 represents the student who was ranked 3rd in Quarter-Final Section D, etc. Speaker order should be determined randomly, with no speaker receiving the same speaker position received in a previous elimination round, as far as possible.

- g. Final round speaker order should be determined randomly, with no speaker receiving the same speaker position received in a previous elimination round, as far as possible.

3. Debate Definitions

a. Team Debate:

- 1) Each team, comprised of 2 debaters each representing the same member school, shall be prepared to debate both sides of the proposition selected by the LEAGUE. The proposition normally selected by the LEAGUE shall be the proposition selected by the National Federation Debate Topic Selection Committee (NFDTS) at its annual meeting. Announcement of the topic shall be made to all member Leagues and Independent School members by the Permanent Tournament Director who shall serve as the LEAGUE representative to the NFDTS. The problem area selected by the NFDTS shall define the context of the debates at the Tournament.
- 2) Debaters may use visual aids if they contribute to the presentation.
- 3) Time limits: (Maximums) Constructive speeches: 8 minutes; Rebuttals: 5 minutes; Cross Examination Periods: 3 minutes; Preparation Time: 5 minutes per team.

b. Lincoln-Douglas Debate:

- 1) The resolution is a proposition of value, not policy. Debaters are to develop argumentation on the resolution in its entirety, based

on conflicting underlying principles and values to support their positions. To that end, they are not responsible for practical applications. No plan or counterplan shall be offered by either debater.

- 2) In making the decision, the judges should ask the following questions:
 - a) Which debater was more persuasive?
 - b) Did the debater support his or her position appropriately, using logical argumentation throughout and evidence when necessary?
 - c) Which debater communicated more effectively? Speed, word choice, and delivery all count.
- 3) Since this is a debate, clash is necessary. It may be direct clash or clash by opposing principles. Thus, the debate does not have to match point for point.
- 4) Good judges make decisions only on what was debated by the contestants. If the judges consider an argument to be flawed, but the opponent does not refute it, the original argument must stand. If, however, there is a clash, then the judges decide which argument is more persuasive.
- 5) Judges may not discuss the progress of the debate either with each other or with the debaters.
- 6) The judges should distance themselves from the content of the debate. Personal values of the judges should not influence the decision.
- 7) Any rulings concerning this event are to be made by the Tab Room personnel.

c. Public Forum Debate

1) Public Forum Debate is a team event that advocates or rejects a position posed by the resolution. Each team shall be comprised of two debaters, each representing the same member school. The focus of the debate is a clash of ideas in a persuasive manner that can be understood by a "lay" judge. Good debaters should display logic and analysis. They should use evidence when needed. They should win their case and refute that of their opponents. They should communicate effectively, using the fundamentals of good speaking. There are no burdens on either side.

2) Order and time limits of the debate:

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------|--|
| a. | First Pro Constructive: | 4 minutes |
| b. | First Con Constructive: | 4 minutes |
| c. | Crossfire: | 3 minutes (Note: the Con asks the first question; thereafter, either debater can ask questions). |
| d. | Second Pro: | 4 minutes |
| e. | Second Con: | 4 minutes |
| f. | Crossfire: | 3 minutes (Note: the Pro asks the first question; thereafter, either debater can ask questions). |
| g. | First Pro Summary: | 2 minutes |
| h. | First Con Summary: | 2 minutes |
| i. | Grand Crossfire: | 3 minutes (Note: one member of the Pro team asks the first question; thereafter, any debater may ask questions). |
| j. | Second Pro Final Focus: | 2 minutes |
| k. | Second Con Final Focus: | 2 minutes |
| l. | Prep Time: | 2 minutes/team |

3) In making the decision, the judges should ask the following questions:

- a. Which team is more persuasive?
- b. Did the debaters back up their assertions with logical thinking and evidence when needed?
- c. Were the debaters fair in their interpretation of the resolution and one another's statements?
- d. Were the arguments intelligent? Did the debaters try to use many weak arguments instead of a few solid ones?
- e. Did the debaters speak in such a way that their ideas were understandable?
- f. Were the debaters courteous and professional?

4) Judges may not discuss the debate either with each other or with the debaters.

5) The judges should distance themselves from the content of the debate. Personal values should not influence the decision.

- 6) Any rulings concerning this event are to be made by the Tab Room personnel.

4. Debate Procedures

- a. All will debate in 5 qualifying rounds, at least 2 rounds on each side of the proposition
- b. Rounds I and II: random pairing along geographical grounds.
Round III: direct power pairing, "high-high," based on Rounds I and II.
Round IV : high-low power within bracket based on W/L and ballots from Rounds I, II and III. Side constraints.
Round V: high-low power within bracket based on W/L and ballots from Rounds I, II, III and IV. Flip for sides.
NOTE: in Rounds I-V, debaters from the same Diocesan League cannot meet, nor can any debater or team meet the same debater or team a second time.
Round VI (Double octo-final): pairing will be made in bracket with the top team meeting the bottom team. The bracket is not to be broken from this point onward. It will serve as the basis for pairings for the octo-, quarter-, semi-final, and final rounds. Thus, debaters and teams from the same Diocesan League or school may meet, and debaters and teams which have met previously may also meet.
- c. The Tab Chair, in consultation with Grand Tournament Director, may elect to pair Round III or Round IV without inclusion of the previous round if tournament situations prevent full power pairing within a reasonable time frame.
- d. The power of each debater or team for purposes of pairing the non-random preliminary rounds of the Tournament shall be based on the following criteria in order: record and ballots. To determine the Double Octo-final bracket, ties in total record and ballots shall be broken on adjusted points, total points, and then on ranks (where applicable).
- e. All rounds of debate shall be judged by at least 3 qualified judges, except for the semi-final and final rounds which will have 5 judges. No judges who have been out of high school less than 18 months will be allowed to judge elimination rounds.
- f. The NCFL President will appoint a six to eight person LD and PF Debate Topic Wording Committee not later than January 30 each year. Members of the committee should be members of the NCFL Executive Council, the NCFL Executive Committee, active NCFL Member LD or PF Debate Coaches, or experts as determined by the NCFL President. The Chair of the Committee will be the NCFL First Vice President. The First Vice President will solicit suggestions for topics and/or topic areas from the general membership of the NCFL for the NCFL L-D and/or PF Debate Topic. The Executive Council will choose four topic areas each for L-D and PF Debate at the Winter Meeting and submit these to the Topic Wording Committee not later than January 30 each year. The Wording Committee will prepare between four and six topics each for L-D and PF Debate based on the given topic areas. At least three of the topic areas each for L-D and PF Debate should be reflected in the prepared topics.

The Committee will submit their recommended L-D Debate Topics not later than March 7, and their recommended PF Debate Topics not later than March 28, to the Grand Tournament Director. Not later than March 14, the Grand Tournament Director will provide a ballot listing the recommended L-D Debate topics prepared by the Wording Committee to the Diocesan Directors. Diocesan Directors will return their vote, each voting not more than once, for the L-D Debate topics not later than March 28. Each voter will rank the topics First through Last. When voting closes, the ranks will be totaled and the topic receiving the lowest total among all the ballots cast, will be the topic for the NCFL Grand National L-D Debate Tournament. In case of a tie, the topic receiving the highest number of first place votes would be chosen. The Tournament Director will publish the topic not later than March 31.

Not later than April 4, the Tournament Director will provide a ballot listing the recommended PF Debate topics prepared by the Wording Committee to the Diocesan Directors. Diocesan Directors will return their vote, each voting not more than once, for the PF Debate Topics not later than April 11. Each voter will rank the topics First through Last. When voting closes, the ranks will be totaled and the topic receiving the lowest total among all the ballots cast, will be the topic for the NCFL Grand National PF Debate Tournament. In case of a tie, the topic receiving the highest number of first place votes would be chosen. The Tournament Director will publish the topic not later than April 15.

Without authorization from the President, First Vice President, or Tournament Director, the members of the Executive Council and Wording Committee may not release, publish, or discuss the list of Topic Areas or any of the proposed, rejected, or working versions of resolutions to persons not on the Executive Council or current year's Wording Committee until the ballots for topic voting are released. If a member of these groups does release this information then their school may not enter that year's NCFL LD or PF Debate National Tournaments, and the person who released the information may not serve on the Wording Committee again.

5. Judging Procedures:

- a. Follow the prescribed time limits indicated on the ballot.
 - b. If there is no official time keeper, one of the judges should time; this includes prep time. Whoever keeps time should indicate the elapsed time by a show of cards or some facsimile. Prep time should be announced at half-minute intervals.
 - c. Comments on the ballots should be analytical. Sarcasm should not be used. On the ballot, the reasons for the decision should be kept separate from other critiques.
 - d. In team debate only, in extraordinary circumstances, a team may be outperformed by their opponents in all judging criteria listed on the ballot, but may win a single critical issues (such as topicality) which should result in their winning the round. In order to keep the points awarded by each judge relative to other performances, a judge may award a win to a team with lower points, provided that it is so indicated on the ballot very clearly. In Lincoln-Douglas and Public Forum Debate, the winning debater may not have fewer points than his or her opponent.
 - e. Judges are prohibited from reading any materials presented in any speech unless falsification is suggested by the opponent and the original source in question is available in the round. The reading of complete citations is required only when requested by the opponent.
6. Student Congress Student Congress will consist of three preliminary sessions, and a Semi-Final and Final Session.
- a. Congress will consist of eight (8) chambers. At the end of each session, each house will vote by secret ballot to choose the top two speakers, who will advance to the Semi-Final House. Nomination and voting will be as defined in the NCFL Student Congress Manual.
 - b. The 48 qualifiers for Semi-Finals will be distributed into three chambers of 16 each. The two scorers and parliamentarian in each Semi-Final Chamber will rank all 16 speakers. The ranks will be totaled and the lowest 6 will advance to the Grand Final. The other two to advance from each Semi-Final Chamber will be voted on by the Chamber, selecting from the 10 other competitors, by preferential balloting. Voting will be as defined in the NCFL Student Congress Manual.
 - c. The 8 students from each Semi-Final chamber will compete in a Grand Final Session of 24 students. There will be 2 scorers and a parliamentarian for the Grand Final Session. Nomination and voting to determine the National Champion will be as defined in the NCFL Student Congress Manual.

Section D - General Tournament Regulations

1. Double entry is not permitted. No contestant may be entered or compete in more than one speech event, debate event, or Student Congress.
2. All contestants must be registered students or eligible participants (as defined by their state law) of the institution that they are representing at the tournament. There must be a coach, judge, school or school district representative, or parent in attendance with each student or group of students registered from each school or school district.
3. At the Grand National Tournament, a school coach must be prepared to present to the Executive Council a copy of any original oration being delivered by a representative from his/her school, should the validity of the selection be questioned. Likewise, the school coach must be prepared to present the original source (not a copy) of any published materials being used in an interpretive event by a representative from his/her school, should the validity of the selection be questioned. Individual contestants must have an unaltered photocopy of the published materials being used in an interpretative event, including the ISBN/ISSN/IFFN, or eBook Number and Library Name, and title pages. In cases of challenges, the tournament directorate will make reasonable efforts to first contact the school's coach for the original source. However, timeliness may necessitate that the tournament directorship contact the student to review the photocopy. Failure to present the required materials will result in the disqualification from the Grand National Tournament of the student entry in question.
4. Forfeits:
 - a. Speech: A contestant who does not appear during the round when he or she is scheduled to speak shall forfeit that round, receiving the lowest possible rank from each judge.
 - b. Debate: Teams who appear more than 10 minutes late for a scheduled round shall forfeit that round, receiving a unanimous loss, no speaker points, and a total rank of 21.
 - c. Elimination rounds shall begin within 10 minutes of the posted time, and participants arriving after that time may be disqualified by the Tournament Director if he determines that the participant does not have a legitimate excuse.

d. General:

- 1) The Tournament Directorate shall have the authority to suspend the forfeit provisions for good and valid reasons.
- 2) No sweepstakes points shall accrue to the school for a round in which the students do not compete.

5. Judges:

- a. All events shall be judged by panels of individuals who have had previous experience judging the general area (i.e. Speech, Team Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, and/or Student Congress) to which they are being assigned by their League director. Although Public Forum Debate judges may be experienced, judges with little, or no previous experience, will not be discouraged. These panels shall be selected by the appropriate members of the Tournament Directorate or their designated staff members from the lists entered at registration. Judges thus assigned shall be final unless protested before the round in question begins.
- b. Upon protest, the Tournament Directorate shall hear the protest and render a decision which shall be final. If a member of the Directorate is involved in the protest, the other members shall appoint a person to act in his or her stead.
- c. All judges' decisions in Speech and Debate events are final. The master ballot of the judge will be the official record for the round.
- d. No judge's decision is subject to protest.
- e. All judges shall be available to judge all rounds of competition as designated on the Master Judges' Registration Form of their respective Diocesan League or Independent School member. The penalty for judges who miss their assignments will be a fine of \$50.00 per round. This fine will be levied against the school whose judge fails to appear for the assignment. Any Diocesan League or school leaving before the end of the Tournament will be fined \$50.00 per round for judges listed in the quota assigned to be used in ensuing elimination rounds. Any school guilty of infractions will be ineligible to compete in any future Tournament until the fine is paid by January 1 in the year in which they choose to participate. The names of the offending schools will be published in the next 2 issues of the **Newsletter** if the fine is not paid prior to either publication date. The Tournament Directorate shall have the authority to suspend the penalties for good and valid reasons.
- f. League Directors are to list the qualifications of all judges on the Master Judges' Registration Form as part of their registration for the Grand National Tournament.
- g. Judge Disqualification: Judges will be disqualified from judging at the Grand National Tournament if 1) the selected Tournament Chair of the Event (Team Debate, L-D Debate, Public Forum Debate, Speech, Student Congress) submits, in writing, the reason for disqualification; 2) a copy of the reason for disqualification must be given to the judge in question and two Executive Council members and the Permanent Tournament Director. The three person Executive Council subcommittee must then vote in order to sustain or deny the judge disqualification. The judge in question may appeal to the full Executive Council. The judge in question and the selected Tournament Chair of the Event have the right to appear before the Executive Subcommittee and the full Executive Committee.

6. Prohibited Materials

- a. Speakers in the categories of Dramatic Performance, Oratorical Declamation, Oral Interpretation of Literature, Duo Interpretation of Literature, and Original Oratory may not use a selection or selections which they have used in any previous academic year in any interscholastic high school forensics event. Selection shall be defined as the use of the same title or cutting.
- b. Speakers in Extemporaneous Speaking may not use written-out speeches.
- c. Speakers who violate the Prohibited Materials By-Laws or use materials prohibited in the Speech Events Definitions shall be disqualified through the procedure described in By-Laws D, 7.

7. Time Limits and Timekeepers

- a. All time limits prescribed within these By-Laws for Speech and Debate events shall be construed as permitting a 30 second grace period. However, if a speaker goes beyond the grace period, that speaker may not receive a rank of 1st in that round.
- b. Timekeepers shall be provided for all rounds of competition in Speech and Debate events as local circumstances permit. Each contestant shall receive such notice of the passing of time as he or she may elect.

8. Disqualification: Any infringement of the rules established within Article II of these By-Laws by a contestant or contestants may result in the disqualification of the offending contestant or contestants. This disqualification shall be decided by the Executive Council and Tournament Director upon notice properly given to it on the official challenge form. Only tab room personnel, judges, or coaches may submit a challenge to a piece, selection, or performance in a round. This form will ask the student code, nature of the challenge, the specific rule violated, the name of the person making the challenge, the relationship of the person making the challenge to the room, other potential witnesses, other evidence (if any). The challenge form must be filed before the awards ceremony begins. No individual judge shall have or exercise the power of disqualification. Disqualified speakers shall receive no ranks in any round(s) in which said violation occurred or in subsequent round(s). The disqualified speaker may not participate in any further rounds after the disqualification is determined, will receive no award or final placement, and will receive no sweepstakes points. Other speakers' ranks affected by such disqualification will be adjusted if possible, which determination shall rest with the Executive Council and the Tournament Director. In determining whether or not to disqualify a contestant, the Executive Council and the Tournament Director shall review all pertinent information and consult with the involved parties in a timely manner, so as to permit the continued efficient running of the Grand National Tournament. Should the Executive Council's and Tournament Director's deliberations result in a disqualification, such decision may be appealed by the director of the diocesan League of the disqualified contestant(s). Such appeal, together with the grounds for the appeal, shall be filed in writing by the diocesan League director with the LEAGUE President within two (2) weeks of the date of disqualification. The appeal will be considered at the fall meeting by the full Executive Committee of the LEAGUE, with the diocesan League director and the coach of the disqualified student(s) being permitted to address the Committee. Should the appeal be granted, the Executive Committee will determine the method of reparation.

9. The use of computers, electronic storage and retrieval devices, etc is allowed in rounds of Policy Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Public Forum Debate, and Student Congress, and in the Extemporaneous Speaking Preparation Room. They are not allowed in any other event. Connectivity to any person, machine, device, or server outside the competition room or persons other than the competitors in the round is not allowed. This includes the prohibition of the use of wired or wireless local, or wide, area networks; cell phones; personal digital assistants; Palm, Treo, or Blackberry type devices; etc. The establishment of such a connection will constitute a violation of this rule. Competitors violating this rule will be disqualified from competition.

10. Video and/or audio recording, or still photography of any round of competition, or portion thereof, is prohibited. Violators of this rule will be disqualified from the competition and/or dismissed from the tournament and asked to leave the tournament's facilities. If this disqualification or dismissal results in a judge missing a round, allowable fines will be incurred.

Section E - Awards

1. Individuals: Individual trophies, plaques, medals, gavels, and/or certificates shall be awarded as follows:

- a. To each member of the top 4 teams in Team Debate; to the top 4 teams in Public Forum Debate; to the top 4 L-D Debaters; to the contestants placing first, second, or third in each of the speech events and to the other 3 finalists in each of the speech events; to the top 8 Congresspersons; to all quarter-finalists and semi-finalists in each of the speech events and to all octo-finalists and quarter-finalists in debate; and to the top 16 congresspersons who did make the Final House but did not finish in the top 8.
- b. Medals to the octo-finalists in each of the speech events and double octo-finalists in debate. These will be distributed by the Diocesan Moderators.
- c. Gavels to each presiding officer within the chamber. These will be presented within the chamber at the end of the session over which he/she presides.
- d. The first place trophy in Extemporaneous Speaking shall be named the Rev. Gerald R. Rippon, S.J. Memorial Award.
- e. The first place trophy in Dramatic Performance shall be named the James F. X. Lyness Award.

2. Sweepstakes: Sweepstakes trophies shall be awarded in the following manner:

- a. Debate: trophies to the top 5 schools based on the points earned by the school's top three entries in Team Debate and/or Lincoln-Douglas Debate and/or Public Forum Debate and/or Student Congress. These trophies shall be named the Eleanor E. Wright Awards of Excellence in Debate.
- b. Speech: trophies to the top 5 schools based on the points earned by the school's top three Speech entrants. These trophies shall be named The Founders Awards of Excellence in Speech.
- c. Overall: trophies to the top 5 schools based on points earned by the school's top three entrants as follows:
 - 1) Best Debate entry (Team or Lincoln-Douglas or Public Forum) or Student Congress entry
 - 2) Best rhetorical entry (Extemporaneous or Original Oratory)
 - 3) Best interpretive entry (Declamation, Oral Interpretation of Literature, Dramatic Performance, or Duo Interpretation of Literature)These trophies shall be named the Daniel S. Masterson, Jr. Awards of Excellence in Forensics.
- d. Sweepstakes trophy points are earned according to the following scale:

- 1) Speech events: rounds 1-8 -- each judge's score is awarded trophy points as follows:

1st place	5 trophy points
2nd place	4 trophy points
3rd place	3 trophy points
4th place	2 trophy points
5th & lower	1 trophy point
- 2) Team Debate: rounds 1-4, Double octos, Octos, Quarters, and Semis as follows:

Each Win Ballot	5 trophy points
Each Loss Ballot	2 trophy points
- 3) Lincoln-Douglas Debate: rounds 1-4, Double octos, Octos, Quarters, and Semis as follows:

Each Win Ballot	5 trophy points
Each Loss Ballot	2 trophy points
- 4) Student Congress:

Each preliminary session	8 trophy points
Election to Semi-Final	18 trophy points
Election to Final House	18 trophy points
1st place	40 trophy points
2nd place	35 trophy points
3rd place	30 trophy points
4th place	25 trophy points
5th place	20 trophy points
6th - 8th place	15 trophy points
- 5) Public Forum Debate: rounds 1-4, Double octos, Octos, Quarters, and Semis as follows:

Each Win Ballot	5 trophy points
Each Loss Ballot	2 trophy points

e. Student Congress Sweepstakes Trophy: one rotating trophy shall be awarded to the first place school, determined as follows: (points are cumulative from year to year, with a school's total returning to zero upon winning the award)

- 1) 1 point per preliminary session
- 2) 2 points per presiding officer
- 3) 2 points per speaker elected to the Semi-Final House
- 4) 3 points per speaker elected to the Final House
- 5) 8 points for first place speaker, 7 points for 2nd place, 6 points for third place, 5 points for fourth place, 4 points for fifth place, 3 points for sixth place, 2 points for seventh place, 1 point for eighth place.

The award shall be named the Dr. Paul E. Ward Memorial Trophy. A permanent award shall also be given to the school which wins this rotating trophy.

f. The Cardinal Wright Memorial Diocesan Award shall be presented to the diocese whose top ten entries accumulate the most sweepstakes points at the National Tournament that year.

g. The Cardinal Cooke Memorial Diocesan Award shall also be based on the top ten entries from a diocese, but it shall be a cumulative total award. Each year, the recipient will return to a total of zero and begin to accumulate points again. All other dioceses will carry their totals forward to the following year.

3. Richard Guadette NCFL Service Award. This award recognizes an individual, or group, who has displayed memorable and timely service to the NCFL and its membership. The recipient of this NCFL Service Award should be nominated for consideration on the basis of the following criteria:

- a. he/she has given service to the NCFL or to one of its diocesan member leagues over a prolonged period of time ("lifetime achievement")
- b. he/she has made a unique or innovative contribution to the NCFL or to one of its diocesan member leagues
- c. he/she has willingly taken on extraordinary responsibilities to contribute to the betterment of the NCFL or one of its diocesan member leagues.

The NCFL President shall appoint a 7-member Service Award Committee to review nominations and make a recommendation to the Executive Council for each annual recipient. The First Vice President of the NCFL shall chair this Committee. Mr. Richard Gaudette shall be a member of this committee as long as he desires. The other 5 members will be appointed by the NCFL President, and to the greatest extent possible will be past presidents of the NCFL. The membership of the committee is determined by the president of the NCFL not earlier than January 16th and not later than January 30th of each year. The committee should not include any nominees for that year. The Executive Council may, at its sole discretion, under unusual circumstances present a second award.

Nominations for the Service Award may be made by any member of the NCFL – students, coaches and administrators. Nominations must be

submitted in writing to any member of the Service Award Committee, and must contain the name, telephone number and e-mail address of the individual making the nomination. Nominations must be made by January 15th, and the Committee must make its recommendation to the Executive Council by the following March 31st.

Individuals may receive this Award only once.

Section F - Tournament Supervision

The Grand National Tournament Directorate shall:

- a. Supervise the Tournament according to the Constitution and By-Laws and the Grand National Tournament Manual,
- b. Have full authority to adjudicate any and all disputes or interpret the rules, but they may not change them,
- c. have full authority to supervise and to enforce general discipline during the Tournament.

Section G - Participant Conduct

1. The consumption of alcohol or use of drugs is against the policy of the LEAGUE, and abusers will be dealt with by the authorities.
2. The LEAGUE does not assume responsibility for any damages to property from vandalism and misconduct by participants at the Grand National Tournament.

ARTICLE III - AMENDMENTS

Amendments to these By-Laws may be proposed by any member of the Executive Committee at the Fall Meeting of the LEAGUE. A majority vote of the Diocesan Leagues present shall be necessary for ratification of the proposed amendment. This vote shall be weighted, i.e. each league may have as many votes as its individual school membership from the previous year allows under Article V, Section B,2 of the Constitution of the LEAGUE. A League may not split its weighted vote.