

Dogwood Speech & Debate League

CONSTITUTION

Article I. Name:

The name of this organization shall be the Dogwood Speech and Debate League. Hereafter, it shall be referred to as “the League.”

Article II. Purpose:

The purpose of this organization is to promote interest in interscholastic forensics. The League will promote fellowship and a spirit of professionalism among both students and coaches. The League may recognize deserving candidates by conferring awards.

Article III. Offices:

The principal office and registered agent of the League shall be located at PO Box 2357, Fayetteville, NC 28306. The League may have other such offices; within or outside the State of North Carolina may be designed by the Executive Committee as shall be appropriate or necessary for the conduct of the affairs of the League.

Article IV. Membership and Annual Meeting

A. Membership

1. Admission: Admission is open to any public or private high school that is currently located within the Diocese of Raleigh or within the National Speech and Debate Association's Carolina East District. Admission will be granted upon payment of membership fees.
2. Benefits of Membership:
 - a. Free tournament registration;
 - b. Membership discounts;
 - c. Access to professional development and student programming;
 - d. Eligibility for League sweepstakes awards;
 - e. Participation in League points race;
 - f. Eligibility for NCFL Grand Nationals; and
 - g. Voting privileges at Spring Meeting.
3. Membership Fees:
 - a. The annual school membership fee shall be sixty dollars (\$60.00) for all schools.
 - b. Renewal memberships paid after December 31st shall be one hundred twenty dollars (\$120.00) for all schools. No renewals are permitted after December 1st.
 - c. All membership fees shall be waived for new schools. Any school that has been an inactive League member for the previous three years shall be considered a new school.
 - d. Member schools that have over 50% of the student population qualifying for free and reduced lunch, shall have their membership fee waived and will be extended a 10% discount off the total amount of the invoice for each tournament.
 1. In order for schools to qualify for this discount, a letter must be provided on school letterhead signed by the principal.
 2. Said letter must be submitted to the Secretary of the League by no later than the close of registration for the first regular season tournament.
 3. Mail, email, or in person delivery are all acceptable forms of submission.
4. Membership Cards
 - a. Membership Cards will use the template provided by the NCFL as emailed out by the Director.
 - b. Membership Cards require a principal's signature.
 - c. Any changes to the Membership Card after submission must be made to the League Director with a letter signed by the school principal and printed on school stationery.

5. Tournament Fees:
 - a. Each school shall pay a fee for each tournament it enters based on the number of entries.
 - b. The fee for tournament participation shall be fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per student per entry.
6. Acknowledgement of League Rules and Guidelines
 - a. All member schools participating in a DSDL tournament must acknowledge league rules and guidelines by agreeing to a disclaimer on Tabroom.com. The DSDL Director may grant exemption at their discretion.
 - b. All non-member schools participating in a DSDL tournament must acknowledge league rules and guidelines by providing a letter signed by the Head Coach and an Administrator from the school. The DSDL Director may grant exemption at their discretion.

B. Affiliated Schools

1. The Executive Committee shall closely examine membership applications from affiliated schools, which are those schools (often ninth grade centers and middle schools) that are closely linked to another school (often a high school) with membership in the League.
 - a. In general, membership from an affiliated school will be accepted only if the school is a separate facility from the related high school and has a separate principal.
 - b. The final decision on admissibility of membership application rests with the Executive Committee of the League.
2. In all League matters, high schools and middle schools/9th grade centers that are affiliated shall be treated as separate entities.
3. Benefits of Affiliate Status:
 - a. Free tournament registration;
 - b. Membership discounts;
 - c. Access to professional development and student programming;
 - d. Eligibility for League sweepstakes awards;
 - e. Participation in League points race; and
 - f. Voting privileges at Spring Meeting.
4. Fees for Affiliated Schools:
 - a. The annual affiliated school membership fee shall be fifty dollars (\$50.00).
 - b. Renewal memberships paid after December 31st shall be seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) for all schools.
 - c. All membership fees shall be waived for new affiliated schools. Any school that has been an inactive League member for the previous three years shall be considered a new school.
 - d. Affiliated schools that have over 50% of the student population qualifying for free and reduced lunch, shall have their membership

fee waived and will be extended a 10% discount off the total amount of the invoice for each tournament.

1. In order for schools to qualify for this discount, a letter must be provided on school letterhead signed by the principal.
2. Said letter must be submitted to the Secretary of the League by no later than the close of registration for the first regular season tournament.
3. Mail, email, or in person delivery are all acceptable forms of submission.

5. Tournament Fees for Affiliated Schools:

- a. Each school shall pay a fee for each tournament it enters based on the number of entries.
- b. The fee for tournament participation shall be fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per student per entry.

C. Annual Meeting

1. An annual coaches meeting shall be conducted. Agenda items shall be solicited from the member coaches.
2. The League Director shall act as chair, or can appoint a Chair for the meeting.

Article V. League Organization

A. Organization/Operation

1. All schools that have attained membership (or affiliate status), their students, and their coaches shall constitute the League.

B. Function

1. The League shall conduct at least ~~five~~ six tournaments beginning as early as September and ending in March.
2. At the conclusion of the tournament season, students from eligible schools who have accumulated the highest total points in an event shall be invited to act as the Raleigh Diocese's qualifiers to the National Catholic Forensic League's Grand National Tournament.
3. Throughout the tournament season funds will be raised to provide scholarships to the top three students in each League sanction event.

C. Conflict of Interest

1. The League hereby adopts a conflict of interest policy consistent with Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and as allowed by Chapter 55A of the General Statutes of North Carolina.

Article VI. Executive Committee

A. Members

1. The Executive Committee of the League shall be composed of the Director, Director of Development, Director of Competition Events, Director of Judge Education & Development, Treasurer, Director of Program Outreach, and Tournament Director.

B. Election

1. The election of the members of the Executive Committee shall occur after the last regular season tournament and no later than two weeks prior to the NCFL Grand National Tournament.
2. The founding members of the League shall agree upon and appoint the initial officers of the Executive Committee for a two-year term. All subsequent elections shall proceed in the following manner:
 - a. Nominations for the Executive Committee shall be taken through e-mail.
 - b. The Executive Committee shall appoint one member coach who is not on the Executive Committee to receive the nominations and create the ballot.
 - c. Nominations will be accepted for a fourteen-day period.
 - d. Once the ballot has been created and posted on the League's website, voting will be open for a seven-day period through email or secure voting software.
3. All member coaches nominated for the office of Director must have served a full term as an Executive Committee member during the previous five years, unless no such eligible candidate exists.
4. All member schools and affiliate schools shall be eligible to vote.
5. Each eligible school shall be allowed one vote regardless of the number of coaches at a given school.
6. Special elections to fill vacancies will be conducted as needed.
7. Vacancies in the office of the Director will be filled as specified below.

D. Term of Office

1. The term of office for all members of the Executive Committee shall be two years beginning on the first day of July and ending on the last day of June.
2. No more than 2 people from the same school can serve on the Executive Board at any given time.
3. Resignation:
 - a. In the event that an officer can no longer fulfill their duties and chooses to resign, notice will be given to the Committee, which will then email the membership.
 - b. The League Director or designee shall accept candidate nominations for a period of 96 hours.
 - c. Within 24 hours of the closing of candidate nominations, the Director will email candidate statements to the membership.

- d. 24 hours after candidate statements are emailed to the membership, voting will be open for a period of five calendar days.
 - e. The individual with the majority of votes at the end of the election shall be deemed the winner. In the event of a tie, a run-off election will occur. The run-off election will be announced within 24 hours of initial vote tallying. Member schools will have 48 hours to vote. This process shall continue until a winner can be declared.
 - 4. Impeachment:
 - a. In the event an officer is deemed unfit to continue service, the officer may be removed by a unanimous vote of the Committee followed by approval of two-thirds of the existing membership.
 - b. When a vacancy is created due to impeachment the steps outlined below in regards to vacancies shall be taken.
- E. Vacancies
 - 1. During a non election year vacancies shall be filled by the Executive Committee by majority vote until the next election cycle.
 - 2. The Executive Committee shall fill a vacancy in the office of the Director.
 - 3. In the event of an unbreakable tie amongst Executive Committee members, the questions shall be put to the League.
- F. Duties
 - 1. All members of the Executive Committee shall be responsible for the enforcement of all provisions of the Constitution and its By-Laws and all regulations and procedures enacted under its authority.
 - 2. The Committee shall attend all League tournaments except as excused by the other members of the Executive Committee on a "just cause" basis.
 - a. The petitioning member will submit in writing at least 48 hours in advance to the Committee notice of inability to attend a League tournament.
 - b. The third notice in a given school year that a committee member is unable to attend a League tournament will also be deemed as notice that the Committee member is unable to unwilling to serve, which will then trigger the League's vacancy rules.
 - 3. The Director shall:
 - a. Maintain and increase the League membership;
 - b. Represent the League, when possible, at the fall and spring meetings of the NCFL Executive Board and conduct communication with the NCFL, including the preparation of the League's entry to the Grand National Tournament;
 - c. Attend all League tournaments, except as exempted by the other members of the Executive Committee on a "just cause" basis;
 - d. Designate a member to purchase and properly distribute all League awards;

- e. Oversee organization of special events;
 - f. Create and facilitate opportunities for student feedback at various times throughout this season; and,
 - g. Be empowered to undertake any action, which does not violate this Constitution or its By-Laws provided that such action is approved by a majority of the members of the Executive Committee.
4. The Director of Development shall:
- a. Develop and execute the League's annual fundraising plan;
 - b. Secure financial support from individuals, foundations and corporations;
 - c. Develop and maintain ongoing relationships with major donors;
 - d. Create and execute a strategy for a large sustained base of annual individual donors;
 - e. Develop and track proposals and reports for all League fundraising; and,
 - f. Make an annual report showing the income from fundraising at the League's annual meeting;
5. The Director of Competition Events shall:
- a. Develop resources for students to learn about events and league rules;
 - b. Preside over the opening student meetings;
 - c. Coordinate with Director of Judge Education & Development to develop resources of off-site judge training;
 - d. Coordinate with Director of Program Outreach to develop resources for coach professional development;
 - e. Act as the official tabulation audit chair to facilitate the accuracy and validation of all tournament results; and,
 - f. Provide a report at the Spring Meeting of any proposed By-Law changes.
6. The Director of Judge Education & Development shall:
- a. Develop and publish the official league judge-training manual.
 - b. Coordinate with the Director of Competition Events to create an ongoing off-site judge education program;
 - c. Develop resources for on-site judge training at all League tournaments;
 - d. Work with host schools to provide new/novice judge training before each League tournament;
 - e. Preside over the opening judge meeting;
 - f. Manage the concierge table process;
 - g. Create and maintain a list of community judges; and,
 - h. Provide a report at the Spring Meeting of any proposed By-Law changes.
7. The Treasurer shall:

- a. Maintain the financial records of the League;
 - b. Be responsible for all the financial transactions at tournaments;
 - c. Reimburse other members of the Executive Committee for expenses incurred at his/her discretion;
 - d. Be reimbursed by the Director for all approved League expenses, whose name shall also appear on all financial records; and,
 - e. Make an annual report showing the general categories of income and disbursement at the League's annual meeting.
8. The Director of Program Outreach
- a. Work closely with the Director to maintain and increase League membership;
 - b. Develop ongoing coach workshops; including, but not limited to the Fall Gathering;
 - c. Communicate with coaches all rule updates and/or procedures;
 - d. Work closely with the Director and Director of Development to develop and execute the League's annual fundraising plan; including, but not limited to the development of a demographic portfolio and the League that will be used to develop and maintain ongoing relationships with major donors.
9. The Tournament Director
- a. Act as the tournament director and operations manager, including, but not limited to: receiving and preparing all tournament entries and materials, communication with host schools, and acting as tabulation director;
 - b. Track points-race for NCFL Grand Nationals Qualification, and publish a running results packet to member coaches after each tournament;
 - c. Calculate League sweepstakes awards;
 - d. Provide Extemporaneous Speaking questions and Impromptu Speaking topics to be used at League tournaments;
 - e. Manage and report bids to the Tarheel Forensic League.
 - f. Maintain and oversee the League website; and,
 - g. Provide a report at the Spring Meeting of any proposed By-Law changes.

C. Indemnification

1. To the fullest extent permitted by the North Carolina Nonprofit Corporation Act as it exists or may hereafter be amended, no person who is serving or who has served as an Executive Committee member of the League shall be personally liable to the League or any of its shareholders for monetary damages for breach of duty as an Executive Committee member of the League, and the League shall defend and hold harmless any Executive Committee member for all claims asserted by third parties against said Executive Committee member in connection with their role, services, or activities. Neither the amendment nor repeal of these Bylaws, nor the

adoption of any amendment to these Bylaws inconsistent with these Bylaws shall eliminate or reduce the protection granted herein with respect to any matter that occurred prior to such amendment, repeal, or adoption.

2. Every person who is or shall be an Executive Committee Member or Officer of the League and his or her personal representatives shall be indemnified by the League against all costs and expenses reasonably incurred by or imposed upon him or her in connection with or resulting from any action, suit, or proceeding to which he or she may be made a party by reason of his or her being or having been an Executive Committee Member or Office of the League or of any subsidiary or affiliate thereof, except in relation to such matters as to which he or she shall finally be adjudicated in such action, suit, or proceeding to have acted in bad faith and to have been liable by reason of willful misconduct in the performance of his or her duty as such Executive Committee Member or Officer of the League.
3. "Costs and Expenses" shall include, but without limiting the generality thereof, attorneys' fees, damages, and reasonable amounts paid in settlement.

D. Compensation

1. No officer may receive any compensation, except as reimbursement for actual disbursements expended on behalf of or in serve to the League and according to the policies authorized by the Executive Committee.
2. No Executive Committee Member shall receive compensation for his or service in such capacity, except that the Executive Committee may be resolution provide for the reimbursement of actual travel and lodging expenses incurred in the performance of duties of Executive Committee Members, to the extent provided by such resolution, and except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws.
3. The Executive Committee must approve any expenditure that does not qualify as a consumable product, in the event that the cost of such expenditure is anticipated to be more than \$25.00.
4. Any purchase of a capital good using League funds becomes the property of the League.

Article VII. Annual Meeting

A. Purpose & Timing

1. An annual coaches meeting shall be conducted for the purposed of discussing and voting on constitutional and bylaw changes for the upcoming competitive season.
2. The annual meeting of the League shall be held in the spring prior to the Grand National Tournament at a time and date established by the Executive Committee no later than August 1 of the preceding year.
3. The meeting shall be open to all League coaches and shall be chaired by the Director.

B. Agenda

1. Items for the agenda shall be solicited at least one month in advance and shall be finalized and distributed no later than one week in advance.
2. Each member school shall be allowed one vote.
3. A coach or a coach's designate from a given member school must be present to vote for that school.
4. Voting privileges shall be extended only to those schools that have fully finalized their annual memberships.

C. Procedure

1. Robert's Rules of Order-Revised shall serve as the basis of the conduct of the meeting; expect that a quorum shall consist of the member schools present.
2. All action taken at the meeting will be regarded as the will of the League.

Article VIII. General

A. Financial Records

1. The Treasurer shall make an annual report; and
2. Financial records shall be open to any member coach upon written request to the Director and the Treasurer.
3. The fiscal year of the League shall begin on the first day of August of each year and shall end on the thirty-first day of July of the next year, unless otherwise determined by the Executive Committee.

B. Special Referendum

1. Whenever three members of the Executive Committee certify that a question should be decided by the membership, that question will be put to the League for a vote.
2. The question and an accompanying pro and con statement shall be published on the Dogwood Speech and Debate website or via email to member coaches.
3. Voting will take place electronically and each member school shall be entitled one vote on the question, which must be cast within 96 hours of the posting of the question in order to be considered valid.
4. The question shall be decided by a majority of the ballots returned.

Article IX. Dissolution

A. Property

1. The property of this organization is irrevocably dedicated to educational and charitable purposes and not part of the net income or assets of this organization shall ever inure to the benefit of any director, officer or member of thereof or to the benefit of any private person.

B. Assets

1. Upon dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or state or local government for public purpose. Any such asset not so disposed of shall be disposed by the Court of Competent Jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the organization and operated exclusively for such purposes.

BY-LAWS

By-Law 1. Enactment Date for All By-Laws

- A. All provisions of this Constitution and these By-Laws shall become effective immediately upon adoption.
- B. Provisions relating to events that have already transpired during the season in which said documents are adopted are exempt from immediate adoption.

By-Law 2. Annual Tournament Calendar and Hosting Obligations

- A. The Executive Committee shall have the authority to establish the annual tournament calendar. If at all possible, the tournament calendar shall be tentatively established at the Spring Meeting in the prior school year. The final calendar, including host venues, shall be established and announced on the League's website no later than June 30th.
- B. The criteria for selecting host schools for the season shall be as follows (in no particular order):
 - 1. Date of request
 - 2. Geographical balance
 - 3. Historical legacy within the community
 - 4. New sources of request
 - 5. Order of request
 - 6. Previous hosting history
 - 7. Size of school
 - 8. Support of other League tournaments
- C. If the schedule is not filled, the League reserves the right to request that a school that has not hosted in the last two years do so.
- D. Host Responsibilities:
 - 1. Host schools shall provide:
 - a. Host schools shall be responsible for securing individuals willing to serve as hired judges for schools short on their quotas. All hired judges shall cost a League member no more than 50.00 per hire.
 - b. All pertinent tournament information must be provided to the League tournament director no later than 7 days prior to the close of tournament registration;
 - c. Adequate rooms and facilities for all categories/competitors;
 - d. An auditorium or large room sufficient to hold registration and the awards assembly;
 - e. A tabulation room centrally located to both the judges/coaches lounge and posting sites;
 - f. Internet must be available at all times for the tabulation staff and judges;
 - g. Supply school maps to all competitors and judges/coaches;
 - h. A judges'/coaches' lounge with refreshments;
 - i. Lunch prepared by a commercial vendor; and

- j. Food for purchase for the student lounge.
- 2. Host schools may not offer pre-ordered meal options.
- E. Compensation for Host Schools
 - 1. A tournament host will be allocated \$10 per participating entry at the tournament. The League will be allocated \$5 per participating entry at the tournament.
 - 2. A tournament host will be paid \$50 per hired judge provided by the League.
 - 3. In the event of a drop, all \$15 will be allocated to the League.
- F. In the event of an emergency, a majority of the Executive Committee may elect to move a tournament to a virtual platform. The following guidelines must be followed with a virtual tournament:
 - 1. The tournament will not be hosted by any member school and will be hosted by the League itself.
 - 2. The Tournament Director should select a virtual service that is efficient and user-friendly for competitors, judges and coaches.
 - 3. The Executive Committee will create and distribute proper training videos on how to work the virtual platform.
 - 4. The Executive Committee will issue guidance on procedures for live events and recorded events at the beginning of the competition season.
 - 5. All events will be tabulated as if the tournament was held in person. No pairing or tabulation rules will be changed due to the virtual nature of the tournament.
 - 6. It is permissible to hold a maximum of two preliminary rounds of speech events and debate events on the Friday prior to the tournament date in order to alleviate schedule concerns. It is permissible to hold one preliminary session of Congressional debate on the Friday prior to the tournament date in order to alleviate schedule concerns.
 - 7. If rounds take place on Friday evening, no round may start before 5PM. No round may begin after 9PM.

By-Law 3. Governance of Tournaments

- A. At least three members of the Executive Committee shall be present at all League tournaments from the opening of registration until the end of the awards assembly.
- B. Only the Executive Committee and tab designated officials who have been appointed shall be allowed free access to the tabulation room during the course of tournaments.
 - 1. The Executive Committee will contact all member coaches one-week prior to the start of the tournament season to inquire as to who would like to assist in the running of a tournament. Any coach who volunteers shall NOT be denied an opportunity to be a member of the tabulation staff. The Tournament Director shall evaluate need and shall assign tasks accordingly.
 - 2. Members of the Executive Committee present at a given tournament shall be involved with pairing/scheduling of the tournament.
 - 3. Results will not be posted during the course of the tournament; however, check sheets will be available to coaches in tabulation for review once the official audit has been completed.

- B. Members of the Executive Committee present at a given tournaments shall serve as the final authority in the arbitration of any grievances/challenges involving the conduct of the tournament, the conduct of any coach, the conduct of any student, the conduct of any judge, or the alleged violation of rules and regulations pertaining to any category of competition.
1. In order to file a protest, a coach must fill out an official protest form within 30 minutes following the end of the round in which the alleged infraction was witnessed. The Tournament Director will make these protest forms available.
 2. Depending on the natures of the protest, any or all of the following actions may be taken:
 - a. Judge consultation;
 - b. Selection review; and
 - c. Piece observation by a member of the Executive Committee
 3. Before the Executive Committee makes a decision on the protest, the coach of the alleged violator will be consulted.
 4. Executive Committee shall not be allowed to rule on protests involving their own schools.

By-Law 4. General Tournament Regulations

- A. Categories of Competition
1. Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Public Forum Debate, Congressional Debate, Extemporaneous Speaking, Informative Speaking, Oratorical Declamation, Original Oratory, Oral Interpretation of Literature, Program Oral Interpretation, Dramatic Performance, Duo Interpretation, and Impromptu Speaking shall be offered at all League tournaments.
 2. Host schools may select no more than two supplemental events to add as areas of competition; however, explicit rules must be provided to the League prior to the publication of the tournament invitation.
 3. Novice divisions for Lincoln Douglas and Public Forum debates shall be offered. In addition, at the first three DSDL Tournaments novice divisions will be offered in all other events except Declamation.
 4. ~~Novice divisions for Congressional Debate, Duo Interpretation, Oral Interpretation of Literature/Informative Speaking, Extemporaneous Speaking/Programmed Oral Interpretation of Literature, Dramatic Performance and Original Oratory, shall be offered on a rotating basis, while adhering to the following order.~~
 5. In the event that any novice individual events division does not have six entries or that any novice debate division does not have ten entries, these divisions shall be collapsed into the varsity division.
 6. In the event that any varsity debate division does not have the numbers to run an efficient tournament, the league reserves the right to combine the varsity and novice events for competition.
- B. Event Rules:

1. National Speech and Debate Association League rules and regulations shall apply to Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Public Forum Debate, Extemporaneous Speaking, Informative Speaking, Original Oratory, Program Oral Interpretation, Duo Interpretation, and Impromptu Speaking.
2. National Catholic Forensic League rules and regulations shall apply to Dramatic Performance, Oratorical Declamation and Oral Interpretation of Literature.
3. The League may operate under uniquely designed rules as determined by the membership.
 - i. Rules for Congressional Debate are found in the auxiliary “Event Rules” manual.
 - ii. In Extemporaneous Speaking
 1. The Director of Competition Events shall maintain, update, and publish on an annual basis a set of guidelines covering preparation room rules and procedures as well as rules regarding the permissibility of various types of sources in extemporaneous speaking files. These guidelines will include what is a disqualifying offense or a lower level of offense that will result in other penalties. Publication of said guidelines shall be published no later than two weeks prior to the first tournament of the season.
 2. When final rounds of Extemporaneous Speaking occur, a two-minute cross-examination period will be included that follows NSDA guidelines.
 3. In Oratorical Declamation the speaker should try to convey the message in a sincere, honest, and realistic attempt to recreate the spirit of the original presentation, however, this event is not an acting event and impersonation of the original speaker is not allowed. The message should be clear and convincing as if the words were the student’s own. The speech must be delivered in English unless the speech uses a foreign language for rhetorical purposes.
 4. In Oral Interpretation of Literature:
 - a. The prose/poetry alternation shall be determined by a coin toss at the Spring Meeting. Tournaments shall rotate the prose/poetry alternation. The designated rounds shall be published with the tournament invitation.
 - b. Competitors shall not be permitted to move their feet at any time during the performance, exclusive of any introduction to the selections, unless such movement is necessary to prevent a competitor from incurring physical harm.

5. A member coach shall be responsible for ensuring that the material to be used in competition is both suitable in terms of good taste and League rules and regulations.
6. No student member shall use an original oration, a non-original oration (declamation) or a selection of prose/poetry, or drama during a given League season that has been used by that student in any tournament of a previous season, regardless of that student's participation in the League the previous season or of the category in which the previous season use occurred.
7. All entries competing in non-script memorized categories who choose to use notecards or refer to a printed or digital copy of his/her speech may not be ranked higher than any other competitor in the round who has made a good-faith effort to present an entirely memorized performance. Additionally, each competitor must bring with them to each League tournament a written or readily available digital copy of their presentations and shall present said copy upon demand to the Executive Committee members present if there is a challenge involving said presentation. Failure to present said copy will result in disqualification from that tournament.

C. Competition Rounds

1. Lincoln Douglas and Public Forum:

- i. For varsity divisions of Lincoln-Douglas and Public Forum Debate, there shall be five (5) rounds of competition offered. For novice divisions of Lincoln-Douglas and Public Forum Debate, there shall be four (4) rounds of competition offered. Rounds 1 and 2 will be randomly paired; all subsequent rounds shall be powered high-low within brackets. Varsity rounds will be single-flighted.
- ii. If space at the venue does not permit all debate rounds to be single-flighted, the Executive Committee may choose to double-flight all or some divisions and/or rounds of debate.

2. Individual Events:

- i. For individual events there shall be four (4) preliminary rounds of competition.
- ii. During tournaments that have at least twelve (12) entries there shall be a final round, which shall consist of the top six (6) preliminary round competitors.

1. The number of entries will be determined by 8 pm the day prior to the tournament.

2. Adding together a competitor's ranks from the final round plus all of the competitor's ranks from the prelim rounds competition shall determine winners.

3. The first tiebreaker shall be the elimination of prelim cumulative rank in favor of the total score of all judges in the final round.
 4. The student with lowest cumulative rank shall be determined the winner and so on and so forth.
- iii. During tournaments that have at least twenty-four (24) entries there shall be a “next-in” final in addition to the final round, which will consist of the next six (6) preliminary round competitors. This round will be simultaneous with finals, and computed the same way as finals.

1. The number of entries will be determined by 8 pm the day prior to the tournament.

3. Congressional Debate:

- i. For Congressional Debate there shall be two (2) preliminary session of competition.
 1. Each session should allow for 10 minutes per student in a chamber, or a maximum of three hours.
 2. 14 to 17 students are the optimal size of a chamber. Chambers may not be larger than 18 students.
 3. Each preliminary session will be evaluated by two neutral scorers. One parliamentarian will remain throughout the day.
 4. Placement at the end of the preliminary sessions will be calculated by the total ranks of all judges (dropping the worst), total ranks of all judges, judge preference, reciprocals, ranks (dropping high and low), reciprocals (dropping high and low, and then the Parliamentarian's ballot.
- ii. During tournaments that have at least two (2) preliminary chambers there shall be a final round, which shall consist of no more than 18 students.
 1. An equal number of students should advance from each preliminary chamber.
 2. Not more than half of a preliminary chamber may qualify to the Final Round. Ideally, no more than 1/3rd of the preliminary chamber should qualify for the Final Round. The Final Round may not be larger than 20 students.
 3. The Final Session will be required to have a minimum of four cycles of debate on each piece of legislation with a maximum time of 10 minutes per student not including recesses.
 - a. The docket of legislation for the Final Session will be composed of two pieces of legislation on the same topic area written by the Executive Committee. The

topic areas will be released at the beginning of the season with preliminary legislation. The final session legislation for that tournament will be released at noon.

4. The final session will be evaluated by two neutral scorers and one Parliamentarian.
 5. Placement at the end of the final session will be calculated by the total ranks of all judges in the final round (dropping the worst), total ranks of all judges in the final round, judge preference, reciprocals, all final round ranks (dropping high and low), reciprocals (dropping high and low, and then the Parliamentarian's ballot.
- D. Definition of a Novice:
1. A "novice" is a first-year competitor,
 2. A student who has competed in no more than two high school tournaments in the previous year; they may maintain novice status for additional year.
- E. Fees: All fees shall be deposited in the League treasury.

By-Law 5. Tournament Registration

- A. It shall be up to the Executive Committee to determine the form of registration that is most effective and affordable for the League based on current technological trends and patterns within the forensics community as well as the skill set of the Executive Committee.
1. This form of registration shall be selected prior to the start of the competitive year.
 2. In order to provide consistency for the year, no other form of registration may be used during the course of the season.
 3. No other forms of entry will be permitted unless authorized by the Executive Committee as a result of a technology failure.
- B. Schools must confirm team attendance eight days (Friday) before the tournament.
- C. Entries will be due no later than 5:00 pm on the Monday prior to each regular season tournament. All entries will be waitlisted till the Tournament Director verifies that the school is in good standing and financially up-to-date with the League.
- D. All entries wishing for admission either above and beyond a school's allotted quota or acceptance post Monday's 5:00 pm deadline, must be entered as part of the team's registration page. All such entries will be placed on a waitlist to be managed by the Tournament Director. The Tournament Director will then provide a recommendation to the Executive Committee as to whether or not these additional entries can be made, and the Executive Committee will vote by Google Form to approve or deny the additional entries. Any Executive Committee member with a conflict will recuse themselves from voting.

By-Law 6. Entry Requirements and Restrictions

- A. A school may enter up to twelve entries for each individual event category, enter up to eight entries in each Lincoln Douglas and Public Forum Debate division and enter up to ten students in each Congressional Debate division.
 - 1. Schools wishing to add entries above the category cap may do so on a case by case basis (subject to room availability, judging quote met, etc.)
- B. Double entry will only be allowed in all individual events.
- C. In order to qualify to the NCFL Grand National Tournament, a student must have competed in a minimum of two tournaments throughout the course of the season and be in at least grade nine.

By-Law 7. Drops

- A. Drops after the entry deadline, but before 5:00 pm on Wednesday will result in the forfeiture of the entry fee.
- B. All drop fees will accrue to the League treasury.

By-Law 8. Judge Requirements

- A. A member coach shall provide qualified judges for League tournaments at the following rate:
 - 1. One judge for every two entries or fraction thereof for Public Forum Debate and one judge for every two entries or fraction thereof for Lincoln Douglas Debate. Debate Tournament staff may move between judges when necessary.
 - 2. One judge for every four entries or fraction thereof in speech events.
 - 3. One judge for every six entries or fraction thereof in Congressional Debate. **One of the judges provided by the school must be a trained parliamentarian.**
 - 4. Each judge must receive a ranking from the member coach. This rating speaks to the judge's familiarity with the assigned pool and their experience level. The Executive Committee will approve rating language each year prior to the first League tournament.
 - 5. Drops after the 5:00 pm Monday deadline for initial entry registration shall not decrease your judge commitment;
 - 6. Each tournament official's service in tab shall have its total judge quota reduced by one judge.
 - 7. Student Judges may be used in Novice divisions in LD, PFD, and CON providing they meet the following qualifications.
 - i. 5 Semesters of Competition
 - ii. Must have passed the NSDA Cultural Competency training
 - iii. Must have gone through a DSDL Judge training
- B. Schools that fail to meet their judge quotas shall be required to either hire judges from the host school or drop the minimum number of students to meet the judge quota.
- C. Schools who mark judges as half-day or early departures will be charged a pro-rated hired judge fee.
- D. Judges are required to include their phone numbers in their Tabroom accounts.**

- E. Judges who fail to pick up assigned ballots will be issued a warning through the publication of a judge no-show list published after the release of all ballots for a particular round. This shall serve as notice. Schools will be fined \$25.00 for each subsequent offense. Fines must be paid by the next tournament in order to register for subsequent tournaments.

By-Law 9. Judge Qualifications

- A. All judges shall be duly qualified in all events.
 - 1. The Executive Committee will offer three judge training sessions throughout the course of the season.
 - 2. The Executive Committee shall maintain an official league judge-training manual.
 - 3. All member coaches will distribute the manual to their judges and certify that their judges have been trained.
 - 4. At all League tournaments, a member of the Executive Committee or its designee shall provide judge instructions prior to the distribution of ballots for Round One.
 - 5. The Executive Committee shall be empowered to forbid member schools to send judges to League tournaments if the Executive Committee has ruled that said judges have demonstrated incompetent, inappropriate, or generally malfeasant behavior in a previous League tournament.
- B. All member coaches must designate if a judge has a child entered and competing in the tournament. Judges who are identified as parents may not judge in the same division and/or event (if only one division is held) as their child is competing. They may judge that division or event if their child is eliminated or withdraws from competition.
- C. All member coaches present at a tournament must be entered in the judge pool.
 - 1. They may be designated "as substitute only" during preliminary rounds.
 - 2. They must be available for all Final or Next-In Rounds.

By-Law 10. Oral Critiques

- A. No judge at a League tournament shall provide an "oral critique" or disclose the results of any round in any event to other coaches or students prior to returning his/her ballot to the ballot check-in table.
- B. Any judge who violates this rule shall be subject to penalties ranging from being removed from the judging pool for remaining rounds up to being suspending for the rest of the year. The school of the removed judge shall be required immediately to replace that judge slot or face a \$25.00 per round penalty.

By-Law 11. Pairing Lincoln-Douglas & Public Forum Debate Rounds

- A. The Executive Committee must follow these guidelines when pairing:
 - 1. Rounds 1 and 2 will be randomly paired.
 - 2. Rounds 3, 4, and 5 when applicable will be paired high-low within brackets, beginning with the undefeated bracket and working down (e.g. 2-0, 1-1, 0-2). When a bracket must be adjusted, all attempts must be made to

minimize the impact of the changed pairing by choosing an entry that is the least disruptive to the overall seeding.

3. Side constraints must be recognized in even-numbered powered rounds in LD.
- B. When the above does not generate an ideal pairing:
 1. The “side constraint equalization” guideline will be discarded first, such that teams may end up with an unequal number of affirmative and negative rounds. The side constraints shall not apply to Public Forum Debate.
 2. In Varsity events, the guideline that teams from the same school may not debate each other shall be discarded next.
 - i. A neutral judge will be assigned to the round.
 - ii. The coach of the school whose teams are scheduled to debate may elect to have the round cancelled.
 1. The team that is the higher seed at the point in the tournament shall earn the win.
 2. The team that is seeded lower will receive a loss.
 3. Both teams will have speaker ranks and ratings that round averaged on the basis of scores earned in all other rounds.

By-Law 12. Speaker Points in Debate Events

- A. The speaker point range for debate events shall be 20-30. Low point wins are permitted in debate rounds, but strongly discouraged. Low point wins should be used only in extreme circumstances and require written explanation.
- B. Speaker point ties shall be permitted in all debate categories.
- C. Ballots submitted with points below the minimum shall be adjusted to the minimum.
- D. Half-points are permitted.
- E. A top speaker in Varsity debate events will be recognized. Speaker placement is determined by dropping of high/low speaker points, total speaker points, opponent’s wins, judge controlled variance and then random methodology.

By-Law 13. Tie-Breakers in All Events

- A. In speech events, cumulative ranks followed by reciprocal and judges’ preferences (in that order) will be used as the method of determining placement in all regular-season tournaments in categories where those criteria apply.
- B. In debate events, the sequence shall be win/loss record, results of head-to-head debate, dropping of high/low speaker points, opponent’s record seed, and then random methodology.
- C. In Congressional Debate, the sequence shall be total ranks of all scorers (dropping the worst), total ranks of all scorers, judge preference, reciprocals, ranks (dropping high and low), reciprocals (dropping high and low) and then the Parliamentarian’s ballot.

By-Law 14. Awards

- A. The Director or their designee shall make arrangements for the purchase of all League tournament awards and for making sure that the awards are delivered to the tournament in a timely fashion.
- B. All League awards will be approved by the Executive and will be consistent throughout the entire season at all League tournaments.
- C. Awards shall allow for the following:
 - 1. A least one award shall be presented in each competitive category at each tournament. Awards shall be presented at the rate of one for every six entries or fraction thereof in each category not to exceed six. All debate entries who achieve a 3-1 record in novice debate or 4-1 record in varsity debate but who do not qualify for a trophy should receive a medal. In Congress, if there are 12 or more entries in a chamber all students in the top 6 who do not receive trophies should receive medals.
 - 2. If a "Next-In" final is held in a speech event, the Top 3 competitors in the round will be recognized with a medal if there are 24 or more entries in the event. If there are 30 or more entries in an event, the Top 6 competitors in the next-in final will be recognized.
 - 3. Top speakers in Varsity debate events will receive a medal.
 - 4. In events where there is no novice division, a best novice award shall be presented.
 - 5. All qualifiers to the Grand National Tournament shall receive a medal.
 - 6. The League shall award at each tournament sweepstakes awards for the top three teams.
- D. A Founder's Award shall be established to recognize the team that earns the most cumulative sweepstakes points from year-to-year. Each year, the school with the most accumulated points at the end of the season will be recognized. A winning school's total would then return to zero and a school must wait five years before winning again even if it has the highest accumulated total.
- E. A Carole Hamilton School of Excellence Award shall be established to recognize the team that earns the most cumulative points over the course of a season. Once a school has won the Carole Hamilton School of Excellence Award for a 3rd time, they will retire the traveling trophy and a new one will be purchased.
- F. A New School of Excellence of Year shall be established to recognize the team that earns the most cumulative points over the course of the team's inaugural season. This award does not need to be awarded on annual basis.
- G. A Most Improved Team Performance Award shall be established to acknowledge the team that improves their relative ranking at the end of the season compared to their previous season. This award can be given to more than one school, but a school cannot win the award in consecutive years.
- H. A Libby Carter Coaches Cup shall be established to acknowledge the outstanding performance of individuals who are in their first three years of coaching. This award shall be determined by a vote of the Executive Committee. This award does not need to be awarded on annual basis.

- I. All Points Champion shall receive a trophy.
- J. At the end of the year, the League shall maintain a remaining account balance no larger than \$1,500.00. The remaining money will be distributed equally amongst the schools. All funds must be dispersed through check; The League does not maintain credits for schools

By-Law 15. Timing Rounds

- A. All schools shall supply each of their judges with a digital timing device (stopwatches, smartphones, etc.) in order to keep and record time accurately.
- B. It shall also be the contestant's responsibility to confirm with their judge that time signals will be given and how those signals will be given.

By-Law 16. Qualification to NCFL Grand Nationals

- A. Students who compete for a member school shall be eligible for the League's point race if and only if they have participated in at least two League tournaments.
- B. The Executive Committee will establish the point race rules before the start of the competitive season. Discussion of the point's race will be an automatic agenda item at the Spring Meeting.

By-Law 17. Schools Outside the League's Boundaries

- A. All schools that are members of another NCFL League or NSDA District will be allowed to compete in League tournaments.
- B. All entries from schools outside of the League's boundaries shall be considered invitational and not qualifiers and therefore, may not earn points towards qualification to and representation of the League at the NCFL Grand National Tournament
- C. League members attending tournaments in other leagues cannot count such attendance toward their eligibility requirements for the NCFL Grand National Tournament. If extenuating circumstances exist, the coach of record may petition the Committee for an exemption.

By-Law 18. Rules Regarding Student Safety

- A. All tournaments will be a closed campus.
 - 1. Closed campus shall mean that once competitors arrive at the tournament, they are to remain at the host site until the conclusion of the tournament.
 - 2. In the event that a student must leave campus prior to the conclusion of their competitive rounds, the tab room must be provided written notice from the coach of the record. Once a competitor leaves campus they shall not be allowed to return. The coach of record for the tournament is responsible for enforcing the provision of this By-Law for their students.
 - 3. Competitors who violate this rule will be immediately disqualified from the tournament.
- B. All individuals who are neither registered as a competitor, coach nor judge, but who are in attendance at the tournament shall be deemed visitors and given a nametag

to be worn throughout the day. Failure to comply with these rules will result in the Board requesting unauthorized visitors to leave campus.

1. Visitors from member schools must be checked-in at registration by their coach and given a nametag to be worn throughout the day.
 2. Any visitor not affiliated with a member school must receive permission from a League official to be present at the tournament.
- C. Photography and audio recordings of rounds shall be strictly prohibited.
1. No individual will be allowed to take still or moving pictures or audio recordings of students during competition rounds.
 2. Any student who violates this rule shall be disqualified from the tournament.
 3. Any judge who violates this rule will be immediately removed from the judge pool and the school must immediately replace the judge or face dropped entries.
 4. Any visitor who violates this rule may be escorted off campus.
- D. A school-approved adult must accompany students to the tournament and remain on site for the entire competition.
1. If the school-approved adult is NOT the coach of record on the membership card, a letter signed by the school principal and printed on school stationery MUST be presented at registration. The letter needs to specifically name the adult in charge.
 2. The penalty for failing to bring this letter when it is required is disqualification of all contestants from the school involved.
 3. Coaches must remain onsite during competition until all students from their team leave.

By-Law 19. Guidelines for Laptop Use in Debate Events

- A. Contestants may use electronic devices (including laptop computers, tablets, and/or cell phones) to access the internet during debate rounds with the following conditions:
1. Computers or other electronic devices may not be used to receive information for competitive advantage from non-competitors (coaches, assistant coaches, other students) inside or outside of the room in which the competition occurs. Information that would be restricted would include but not limited to coach/non-participating competitor generated arguments, advice on arguments to run, questions to ask during cross examination, and other information not generated by the participating competitors.
 2. Internet access may be used to retrieve files, exchange evidence and/or arguments, research arguments, and partner to partner communication. These electronic device guidelines do not limit communication between debate partners during the debate round.
- B. Contestants found to have violated these provisions will be disqualified from the tournament and will forfeit all rounds and merit points in that event.
- C. Contestants electing to use computers have the responsibility to promptly provide a copy of any evidence read in a speech for inspection by the judge or opponent.

Printers may be used. Evidence may be printed in the round or produced electronically but must be provided in a format readable by the opposing team and the judge.

- D. Contestants electing to use computers are responsible for providing their own computers, batteries, extension cords, and all other necessary accessories. Tournament hosts will not be responsible for providing computers, printers, software, paper, or extension cords for contestants. Host schools may provide wireless internet access but will not guarantee that contestants will be able to access when needed.
- E. Contestants choosing to use laptop computers and/or related devices accept the risk of equipment failure. Judges and/or contest directors will give no special consideration or accommodation, including no additional speech time or prep time, should equipment failure occur.
- F. By choosing to use electronic devices in the round, debaters and other relevant parties are consenting to give tournament officials the right to search their device in the event of a protest. The device may only be searched by tournament officials and must be restricted to files and/or electronic exchanges relevant to the protest. Failure to comply would result in the upholding of the protest. Debaters and coaches should be present as their device is searched. Debaters who do not wish to consent should not use electronic devices in the round.

By-Law 20. Pairing Congressional Debate

- A. For only the first League tournaments, the Tournament Director will allow the approved tabulation software to pair chambers that meet the following priorities:
 - 1. The ideal size of a chamber is 12 to 17 students.
 - 2. No chamber may have more than 30 students.
 - 3. Chambers must as close to equal numbers as possible.
 - 4. Schools should be balanced amongst chambers equitably, unless there is an odd number or making swaps would allow for a judge from that school to be used in another chamber.
 - 5. Minimal changes are made to the randomly generate pairing.
- B. Starting at the second League tournament, the Tournament Director will pair chambers meeting the following criteria:
 - 1. The ideal size of a chamber is 12 to 17 students.
 - 2. No chamber may have more than 30 students
 - 3. Chambers should be as close to equal numbers as possible
 - 4. Using the Points Race, those who competed in previous tournament are sorted into a seeding based on the average of their previous tournament performances over the course of that competition season.
 - 5. The top seed is assigned to the first chamber. Subsequent seeds are seeded in a snaking or serpentine pattern in order to make sure that students are distributed the same. For the 2025-2026 season, the executive committee is going to pilot snaking the top third of competitors.

6. All entries placed in a chamber because of seeding are “protected” and cannot be moved by the Tournament Director unless the round is being repaired.
 7. Any student not participating in the Points Race to that point, may be placed at random in order to evenly distribute the students amongst chambers.
 8. School balance cannot be adjusted with “protected” entries, but may be adjusted with “unprotected” entries in order to create the best judge assignments
- C. The Director of Competition Events should audit the pairing in order to verify that it has followed pairing priorities

By-Law 21. Publication Guidelines for Interpretation Events

1. Selections used in Dramatic Performance or Duo Interpretation must be cuttings from a single work of literature (one short story, play, or novel), unless poetry is used, in which case cuttings may come from one or more poems from a single source. If the source is an anthology collection of short stories, plays or novels, each selection of literature is independent and only one selection can be used, even if it’s the same author. If the source is an anthology which includes poetry, multiple poems may be used from this single source by one or a variety of authors. Song lyrics may be used if the performer has an original, hard copy of the lyrics such as sheet music or a CD jacket. Lyrics may only be used from online sources that appear on the approved websites list.
2. Program Oral Interpretation and Oral Interpretation may use multiple sources for the program.
3. Original source material must not be writtend by the competitor who is performing it.
4. Original source material must be publicly accessible throughout the duration of the tournament. Digital printed publications such as web pages and PDFs retrieved or purchased from web pages are permitted as long as the web page is publicly accessible throughout the duration of the tournament. Digital unprinted publications such as videos, audio files, and films are permitted as long as the original source is publicly accessible throughout the duration of the tournament and the competitor can obtain an official transcript of the original source.
 - i. For print publications such as novels, short stories, plays, or poetry, the original source is the physical book or e-book. Photocopies of original literature are not acceptable. Presenting the physical book or e-book is sufficient to prove that a printed publication is publicly accessible.
 - ii. For digital printed publications such as web pages, original source material is no longer required to come from online publishing sources listed on the NSDA Approved Websites List. The original source must be publicly accessible for viewing or pucharse by a simple internet search or by a URL not requiring passwords or access codes. Competitors must also present a printed manuscript to be

used in the case of a protest, but presenting a printed copy of a website is not alone sufficient to prove that a digital printed publication is publicly accessible.

- iii. PDFs are permitted as long as the website from which the PDF is retrieved or purchased is publicly accessible for viewing or purchase by a simple internet search or by a URL not requiring passwords or access codes. Competitors must also present a printed copy of the PDF to be used in the case of a protest, but presenting a printed copy of the PDF is not alone sufficient to prove that a PDF is publicly accessible.
 - iv. For non-English print material that a competitor will perform in English, the original source material in its original language must be publicly accessible. Competitors must present an official English translation to be used in the case of a protest. An official translation must be obtained in one of two ways:
 - 1. An official translation is obtained through the original source's producer, licensing agent, or copyright holder.
 - 2. Or, an official translation is obtained through a translation service which uses non-automated, manual translation. Then, the competitor receives approval to perform the transcription by the original source's producer, licensing agent or copyright holder.
 - 3. If the digital unprinted source is not in English and the competitor wishes to perform it in English, an official transcription and an official translation of the transcription are required.
5. Source Verification: It is the affirmative duty of each coach and each student entered in Interpretation contests to determine absolutely that the cutting being performed meets all rules for material. Interp source material must be available at all League tournament contests in the event of a protest. Contestants should be prepared to produce the following items upon request:
- i. The original published source of any selection used must be immediately available at the tournament. When requested by tournament officials, access to the source material upon demand, either in electronic or print form, must be presented.
 - 1. For print publications, the original source is the physical book. Photocopies of original literature are not acceptable.
 - 2. For PDFs, an original, unaltered PDF via flash drive, email, or on an electronic device (e.g., laptop) must be presented. Manipulation of a PDF script outside the scope of the rules will be subject to disqualification.
 - 3. PDF publications from an online source that meets the above standards and e-books are permitted. Competitors may turn in an e-book via flashdrive, email, or e-reader. For

- e-books, an original, unaltered e-pub or other recognized e-book format via flash drive or email must be presented; however, as some e-book formats are exclusive to their specific apps or electronic readers, students must provide the required technology and/or internet access to verify the material performed for tournament officials.
4. For non-English publications that are being performed in English, both the original non-English source and the official English transcript must be provided.
 5. For a digital publication, a printed manuscript will be turned in as the original source. Only the printed manuscript shall be considered adequate proof of authenticity.
 - a. The material the competitor performs must presently appear on the website if questions arise in competition. The website and online version of the digital publication need to be available for comparison if challenged. Online access is the fundamental responsibility of tournament officials and/or individual filing the protest. NOTE: if tournament officials cannot gain online access and the above requirements have been met, the piece is considered legal for use.
 - b. Manuscript items to be printed directly from the screen:
 - i. The first page in the website (the home page)
 - ii. All other linked pages needed to navigate to the literary text selected for competition shall be printed out and the link must be highlighted in the manuscript
 - iii. All web pages upon which the cutting appears
 - c. Each page must have printed in the header and/or footer including:
 - i. Date the page was printed
 - ii. Web address
 - ii. A photocopy or printed screenshot of every page of the original source from which any line of the cutting was taken.
 1. Pages are to be placed in the order in which they are performed (e.g., if text from one page is used more than one within the cutting, that page should be copied again with those words highlighted and reinserted where it is used in the cutting). Students are not required to photocopy or print pages that are not used in their cutting.

2. All words used from the script should be highlighted (any words/lines not used should be left unmarked).
3. Any word changes (to eliminate profane language) and/or additions (for transition) must be indicated clearly in ink. Failure to clearly indicate the addition of words will be subject to disqualification. Changes to the script may only be used for the purpose of transition or to eliminate profane language. Transitions may be used to clarify the logical sequence of ideas. They are not to be used for the purpose of embellishing the humorous or dramatic effect of the literature.
- iii. A printed, typed copy of the cutting. This must be the final cutting that the student is using for the tournament, and it must match the copy of the cutting uploaded during registration.
- iv. Contestants in POI, should have access to a works cited page of all sources used. This is in addition to the original sources and the photocopies for every source used.

By-Law 22. Guidelines for Laptop Use in Extemporaneous Speaking

- A. Preparation: As soon as a question is chosen, the contestant will prepare a speech without consultation and without reference to prepared notes. Students may consult published books, magazines, newspaper and journals or articles, including internet enabled devices either used in the draw or those materials published from internet sources, provided:
 1. They are originals or copies of whole pages.
 2. Provided those originals are copies are uncut.
 3. There is no written material on that original or copy other than citation information.
 4. Topical index without annotation may be presented.
 5. Files stored either on a computer or electronic device hard drive or cloud storage system. All files in this format must meet the same guidelines as printed sources.
 6. Active research from the internet during the round that meets the established criteria found By-Law 19
- B. No other material will be allowed in the Extemp prep room other than stated above. Extemp speeches, handbooks, briefs and outlines, including those stored on cloud storage systems or published on websites created for that purpose, are prohibited from the Extemp prep room. Students may not use the internet to gain help from coaches, other students, or any person, such that it would prevent the speech from being the original work of the competitor. Students are prohibited from accessing outlines and speeches that have been written prior to their draw time. Underlining or highlighting in Extemp will be allowed if done in only one color on each article or copy. Electronic device use must comply with By-Law 19. Printed copies of information from online computer services may be used. Electronically retrieved

evidence used in any League Extemp competition must conform to the same citation standards as evidence used in debate events as described in the Unified Manual.

EVENT RULES

Public Forum Debate

A. Resolution

1. All League tournaments will use the corresponding NSDA PF topic for the month that the tournament is hosted in.
2. The resolution should be posted on the tabulation software prior to the opening of registration.
3. The League may change the topic only in extreme cases by a majority vote of League membership by referendum.

B. Entries

1. An entry is comprised of two students from the same school; each debating both sides of the resolution and advancing on its own record. No substitution is permitted once the tournament has begun.
2. Maverick debaters are not permitted to register for Public Forum. In the event that a partner becomes ill or is unable to compete, a maverick team may compete, but cannot be recognized at Awards or receive points in the Points Race.

C. Procedure & Order of Speeches

1. Prior to EVERY round and in the presence of the judge(s), a coin is tossed by one team and called by the other team. The team that wins the flip may choose one of two options: EITHER the SIDE of the topic they wish to defend (pro or con) OR the SPEAKING POSITION they wish to have (begin the debate or end the debate). The remaining option (SIDE or SPEAKING POSITION) is the choice of the team that loses the flip.
 - i. The Tournament Director may choose to have this process automated in so far as it allows a choice to be made by the teams, and does not assign sides or speaking order.
 - ii. In the event that this process is automated, the Tournament Director will provide instructions to coaches and students about how this procedure will work.
2. Once speaking positions and sides has been determined, the debate begins (the con team may lead, depending the coin flip results.). Following the first two constructive speeches, the two debaters who have just given speeches will stand and participate in a three-minute "crossfire." In "crossfire" both debaters "hold the floor." However, the speaker who spoke first must ask the first question. After that question, either debater may question and/or answer at will. At the conclusion of the summary speeches, all four debaters will remain seated and participate in a three-minute "Grand Crossfire" in which all four debaters are allowed to cross-examine one another. The speaker who gave the first summary speech must ask the first question. The speakers from each team will continue to ask and answer questions. Teams should alternate asking and answering questions rather than allowing one team to dominate so that a balance between teams is achieved. All

speakers are encouraged to participate in the Grand Crossfire. Speakers should listen respectfully questions and answers.

3. Speech Times:

First Speaker – Team A	4 minutes
First Speaker – Team B	4 minutes
Crossfire	3 minutes
Second Speaker – Team A	4 minutes
Second Speaker – Team B	4 minutes
Crossfire	3 minutes
Summary – First Speaker – Team A	3 minutes
Summary – First Speaker – Team B	3 minutes
Grand Crossfire	3 minutes
Final Focus – Second Speaker – Team A	2 minutes
Final Focus - Second Speaker – Team B	2 minutes
Prep Time (per team)	3 minutes

4. In Public Forum Debate, neither the pro or con side is permitted to offer a plan or counterplan. Plans and/or counterplans are defined as formalized, comprehensive proposal for implementation. Rather, they should offer reasoning to support a position of advocacy. Debaters may offer generalized, practical solutions.
5. Oral prompting, except for time signals, either by the speaker's colleague or by any other person while the debater has the floor, is discouraged though not prohibited may be penalized by some judges. Debaters may, however, refer to their notes and materials and may consult with their teammate while they do not have the floor and during Grand Crossfire.
6. The use of laptop computers is permitted at League tournaments. Laptop use must comply with "By-Law 19. Guidelines for Laptop Use in Debate Events."

Lincoln-Douglas Debate

A. Resolution

1. All League tournaments will use the corresponding NSDA LD topic for the months that the tournament is hosted in.
2. League tournaments in September & October will use the NSDA Novice topic for the novice division of LD.
3. The resolution should be posted on the tabulation software prior to the opening of registration.
4. The League may change the topic only in extreme cases by a majority vote of League membership by referendum.

B. Entries

1. Each contestant must debate both sides.
2. No substitution is permitted once the tournament has begun.

C. Procedure & Order of Speeches

1. Speech Times:

Affirmative Constructive	6 minutes
Negative Cross Examination	3 minutes
Negative Constructive	7 minutes
Affirmative Cross Examination	3 minutes
Affirmative Rebuttal	4 minutes
Negative Rebuttal	6 minutes
Affirmative Rebuttal	3 minutes
Prep Time	4 minutes
2. A timekeeper is an option but isn't required. If no timekeeper is used, debaters may time for their opponent or the judge may keep time. Prep time for each debater is four minutes.
3. The use of laptop computers is permitted at League tournaments. Laptop use must comply with "By-Law 19. Guidelines for Laptop Use in Debate Events."

Congressional Debate

A. Legislation

1. Most legislation should have a national/domestic focus that the US Congress would have jurisdiction over, taking the form of a bill. A bill establishes details behind how a particular law must work, including when it takes effect, how much tax levy would be appropriated (if applicable), how infractions/violations will be dealt with, etc. A bill may answer the who, what, when, where – and most specifically how – but it will never answer “why.” Legislators explain rationale behind bills in their speeches, and how a bill implements its solution can spark deeper, more meaningful debate.
2. Resolutions are simply position statements on issues Congress does not have jurisdiction over (such as foreign issue, although a bill can suggest foreign aid), or further action (such as amending the Constitution). Resolutions lack the force of law and never establish enforcement.
3. Appropriate topics exhibit seriousness of purpose. The action proposed should be feasible, and such that the actual US Congress might debate it. Topics should be debatable, meaning substantive argumentation exists on both sides.
4. Legislation should be typed and double-spaced with line numbers, not exceeding one page. Capitalizing the words “WHEREAS” and “RESOLVED” in resolutions and “SECTION” in bills, as well as inverse-indenting each clause or section helps to distinguish between ideas and concepts.
5. The League requests legislation submission from member schools (2 per school) due September 1st and November 1st to create a bank of legislation that is used in semester tournaments.
 - i. A subcommittee of coaches will review and edit legislation.
 - ii. The target legislation in the bank will be 18 to 27 bills.
 - iii. In the event that enough legislation is not procured from member schools, the subcommittee will supplement the packet from outside legislation
 - iv. DSDL Legislation will be chosen from the bank and released 7 days prior.

B. Session

6. At least 10 minutes per student in a chamber, or a maximum of three hours.
7. 12-17 students are the optimal size of a chamber. Chambers may not be larger than 18 students.
8. Election of a presiding officer. The presiding officer must be elected with a majority of the vote. If one candidate does not receive a majority of votes, eliminate the candidate with the fewest votes and vote again. If candidates are tied for the fewest number of votes, vote to determine which of the tied candidates should remain in contention. Repeat this process until one candidate receives a majority of votes.
9. New seating chart (necessary accommodations for students with special needs may be made).

10. Resetting of precedence/recency (See below).
11. New legislation that has not been debated in a previous session at that tournament.

C. Recognizing Speakers

1. When more than one speaker seeks the floor, the presiding officer must follow the precedence/recency method:
 - i. First, recognize students who have not spoken during the session.
 - ii. Next, recognize students who have spoken fewer times.
 - iii. Then, recognize students who spoke earlier (least recently).
2. Before precedence is established, the presiding officer should recognize speakers fairly and consistently. They may not link recognition of speakers to previous recognition of students asking questions, moving motions, or longest standing (standing time).
3. During any session, precedence/recency should not reset, to ensure that all students in a chamber have an equal opportunity to speak and receive evaluation from scorers. When a new session begins, precedence/recency will be reset along with a new seating chart, and election of a presiding officer.
4. Before precedence is established, the presiding officer should explain their recognition process and it must be fair, consistent and justifiable.
5. Scorers will include answers to questions when evaluating speeches.
6. A speaker may yield time on the floor during debate (for questions or clarifications) but that speaker will remain in control of their three minutes.
7. During online tournaments, the Tournament Director will generate and provide each chamber with a randomized precedence list from the tabulation software for each session. This list does not determine the exact order that speakers should be recognized but should be utilized to set recency for the first speeches if two speakers stand at the same time. No other method may be used to break ties prior to precedence/recency being set in the room.

D. Speeches

1. Speeches introducing legislation:
 - i. Are allotted up to three minutes, followed by two minutes of questioning by other legislators.
 - ii. A student from the school who wrote the legislation gets the privilege of recognition (called authorship), regardless of precedence; otherwise the presiding officer may recognize a “sponsor” from the chamber, provided this recognition follows the precedence guidelines above. Regardless, this speech of introduction must be followed by two minutes of questions.
 - iii. Should no student seek recognition for authorship/sponsorship, the chamber will move to lay the legislation on the table until such time that a student is prepared to introduce it

- iv. The first negative speech will be followed by two minutes of questions
- 2. Following the first two speeches:
 - i. The presiding officer will alternately recognize affirmative and negative speakers, who address the chamber for up to three minutes, followed by one minute of questioning by other legislators.
 - ii. If no one wishes to oppose the preceding speaker, the presiding officer may recognize a speaker upholding the same side.
 - iii. When no one seeks the floor for debate, the presiding officer may ask the chamber if they are “ready for the question,” at which point, if there is no objection, voting may commence on the legislation itself.
 - iv. There is no “minimum cycle” rule; however, if debate gets “one-sided,” the chamber may decide to move to previous question
 - 1. In the event a student speaks on the wrong side called for by the presiding officer and the error is not caught, the speaker shall be scored and the speech shall count in precedence, but the speaker must be penalized at least three points for not paying close attention to the flow of debate.
 - 2. In the event a student speaks on an item of legislation not currently being debated, said speech shall count in precedence, but zero points shall be awarded.

E. Questions

- 1. The presiding officer fairly and equitably recognizes members to ask questions following each speech. The presiding officer must track and select questioners based on recency the same way speakers are recognized. Recency for speakers should be tracked independently of questions.
- 2. The presiding officer starts timing questioning periods when they have recognized the first questioner, and keeps the clock running continuously until the time has lapsed.
- 3. The presiding officer will recognize questioners for a cross-examination period of no more than 30 seconds.
- 4. A legislator may be recalled upon if no other legislator stands to question the speaker.
- 5. Speakers are encouraged to ask brief questions, and may only ask one question at a time.
- 6. There is no formal “permission to preface,” however; presiding officer should discourage students from making statements as part of questioning, since that is an abusive use of the limited time available.

F. Motions

- 1. The presiding officer will pause briefly between speeches to recognize any motions from the floor;
- 2. However, they should not call for motions (at the beginning of the session, the presiding officer should remind members to seek their attention between speeches).

3. Amendments must be presented to the presiding officer in writing with specific references to lines and clauses that change. This must be done in advance of moving to amend.
 - i. The parliamentarian will recommend whether the amendment is “germane” – that is, it upholds the original intent of the legislation – otherwise, it is considered “dilatory.” The title of the legislation may be changed.
 - ii. A legislator may move to amend between floor speeches. Once the motion is made, the presiding officer will read the proposed amendment aloud and call for a second by one-third of those members present, unless they rule it dilatory.
 - iii. Should students wish to speak on the proposed amendment, the presiding officer will recognize them as per the standing precedence and recency, and the speech will be counted towards their totals, accordingly.
 - iv. Simply proposing an amendment does not guarantee an “author/sponsor” speech, and any speeches on amendments are followed by the normal one minute of questioning.
 - v. Amendments are considered neutral and do not constitute an affirmative or negative speech on the original legislation.
 - vi. If there are no speakers or the previous question is moved, the chamber may vote on a proposed amendment without debating it.

G. Miscellaneous

1. All major voting (such as the main motion/legislation) which a congressperson’s constituents should have a record of, shall be done with a counted vote. Secret balloting is used when voting for presiding officer.
2. Students should ask permission to leave and enter the chamber when it is in session (move a personal privilege). However, do not interrupt a speaker who is addressing the chamber.
3. Since the entirety of these event rules ensure fairness for competition, they may not be suspended; the presiding officer should rule such motions out of order, except to extend questioning.

H. Evidence

1. Visual aids are permitted in Congressional Debate, provided they do not require electronic retrieval devices in the chamber.
2. All evidence used is subject to verification. Honesty and integrity are of utmost importance in legislative debate. Falsification or deliberate misuse of evidence may result in the legislator being suspended by tournament officials.
3. The League will utilize the evidence standards listed in the “High School Event Rules Manual” concerning the definition of evidence, citation, paraphrasing, sourcing and evidence violations.
 - i. These rules are entitled “Congressional Debate Evidence Rules”

- ii. They appear in the HS Unified Manual in sections 7.1 through 7.6

I. Laptop Use

1. Students in Congressional Debate are permitted to use a laptop.
2. Students must adhere to By-Law19.Guidelines for Laptop Use in Debate Events while utilizing those devices.

J. Internet Use

1. The use of internet enabled electronic devices is permitted. Students may not use the internet to gain help from coaches, other students, or any person, such that it would prevent the speech from being the original work of the competitor.

Oratorical Declamation

A. Purpose

1. A selection used in Oratorical Declamation must have been originally delivered in the form of a speech by its author, a person other than the present speaker.
2. The speaker should 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.
3. The original speaker's words must not be altered for the presentation with the exception that cutting is permitted.
4. Material being performed must match the student's original script. Selections may include professional speeches, public orations, eulogies, and sermons.

B. Length

1. The time limit is ten minutes with a 30-second "grace period."
2. If there are multiple judges in the round, all must agree that the student has gone beyond the grace period. Should a student go beyond the grace period, the student may not be ranked 1st. There is no other prescribed penalty for going over the grace period. The ranking is up to each individual judge's discretion.
3. Judges who chose to time are to use accurate (stopwatch function) timing devices.
4. No minimum time is mandated

C. Age-Limit

1. This event is limited to freshman and sophomore students.

D. Performance

1. The selection should be memorized. If the speaker refers to prepared notes of any kind or a script during the presentation, they cannot be ranked above any contestant making a good-faith effort to perform from memory.
2. 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 the minds of the listeners. The speaker must be able to interest the listeners and to hold their attention. Positions other than standing should not be excessive in length or dominate the performance.
3. 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 described. This event is an interpretation, not an impersonation.

4. Any non-speaking expressions such as singing or dancing should not be excessive or dominate the performance. Judges ranks may reflect if non-speaking expressions have dominated the performance.
5. No properties or costumes of any kind may be used. Using “properties” means manipulating articles of clothing or objects to enhance the performance. Speakers using properties and/or wearing costumes will be disqualified.

E. Re-Use

1. A student may not use a cutting from a work of literature the student used in any previous contest year. A student entered in two events may not use the same selection of literature in both events.

Original Oratory

A. Purpose

1. The general purpose of the speech is to persuade. Any other purpose such as to inform or entertain shall be secondary.

B. Contest

1. This contest comprises only memorized orations actually composed by the contestants and not used by them during a previous contest season. No visual aids are permitted.

C. Subject

1. Any appropriate subject may be used, but the orator must be truthful. Any non-factual reference, especially a personal one, must be so identified.

D. Length

1. The time limit in Original Oratory is ten minutes with a 30-second "grace period."
2. If there are multiple judges in the round, all must agree that the student has gone beyond the grace period. Should a student go beyond the grace period, the student may not be ranked 1st. There is no other prescribed penalty for going over the grace period. The ranking is up to each individual judge's discretion.
3. Judges who choose to time are to use accurate (stopwatch function) timing devices.
4. No minimum time is mandated.

E. Quotation

1. Not more than 150 words of the oration may be direct quotation from any other speech or writing and such quotations must be identified in a printed copy of the oration supplied prior to registration. Extensive paraphrasing from other sources is prohibited.

F. Script

1. The orator's script must identify the quoted materials, state the number of quoted words, include a work cited page in APA or MLA format, and both the orator and the coach must attest by signature that the oration is the original work of the contestant.
2. It is the responsibility of the contestant to have a script ready upon request should the speech be challenged.

G. Re-Use

1. A student may not use an oration the student used in district or national competition in any previous contest year.

Informative Speaking

A. Purpose

1. An informative speech is an original speech designed to explain, define, describe, or illustrate a particular subject. The general purpose of the speech is for the audience to gain understanding and/or knowledge of a topic. Any other purpose such as to entertain or to convince shall be secondary.
2. The use of audio/visual aids is optional.

B. Contest

1. This contest comprises only memorized speeches composed by the contestants and not used by them during a previous contest season.

C. Subject

1. Effective speeches provide new information or perspectives on a topic, including those that are widely known. The responsibility for choosing a worthwhile topic rests with the contestant. A fabricated topic may not be used. Any non-factual reference, including a personal reference, must be identified.

D. Aids

1. Audio/visual aids may or may not be used to supplement and reinforce the message. If used, the audio-visual aids should enhance or support the message rather than distract from the overall effectiveness of the presentation.
2. During the presentation, no electronic equipment is permitted. Electronic equipment is defined as any object requiring an electrical cord, battery, or solar power to operate it [projectors, cell phones, radios, iPads, computers, etc.].
3. The use of live animals or any additional people as visual aids is not allowed during the speech.
4. Items of dress put on and/or removed for illustration during the course of the presentation are considered costumes and may not be part of the contestant's presentation.
5. Visual aids may not violate policies as dictated by local and state law [weapons, drugs, etc.].
6. Contestants may not distribute items to the judges or audience before, during, or after the round. This includes but is not limited to food, objects, handouts, flyers, and promotional merchandise.
7. The host school is not responsible for providing any facilities, equipment, including tables, chairs, or easels, or assistance in a contestant's use of visual aids. Expedient set up and take down of aids is expected.
8. If a visual aid displays published pictorial material, the source must be included in the work-cited page but does not need to be cited orally.

E. Length

1. The time limit is 10 minutes with a 30-second "grace period."
2. If there are multiple judges in the round, all must agree that the student has gone beyond the grace period. Should a student go beyond the grace period,

the student may not be ranked 1st. There is no other prescribed penalty for going over the grace period. The ranking is up to each individual judge's discretion.

3. Judges who choose to time are to use accurate (stopwatch function) timing devices.
4. No minimum time is mandated.

F. Quotation

1. Not more than 150 words of the speech may be direct quotation and such quotations must be identified orally and in a printed copy of the speech supplied prior to registration.

G. Script

1. Manuscripts must be available at all League contests in the event of a protest. The script must identify the quoted materials, state the number of quoted words, include a work-cited page in APA or MLA format, and both the speaker and the coach must attest by signature that the speech is the original work of the contestant.

H. Re-Use

1. A student may not use an oration the student used in district or national competition in any previous contest year.

Extemporaneous Speaking

A. Divisions

1. League tournaments will offer one division of mixed extemporaneous speaking. Topic areas should rotate between:
 - i. United States: Questions will cover U.S. domestic issues and U.S. foreign policy.
 - ii. International: Questions will cover the domestic affairs of foreign countries and the foreign affairs of all countries, including the United States.

B. Topics

1. The Tournament Director will obtain a list of questions phrased for contest use and based on subjects discussed in periodicals during the current school year. The contents of the list must not be disclosed except as contestants draw questions. A new subject area will be used for each round with no duplication of questions between the rounds.

C. Drawing

1. Thirty minutes before the contest is to begin, the first speaker draws three questions, choose one, and return the other two. The other contestants draw in like manner, in the order of speaking, at intervals of seven minutes.
2. The entire list of questions for that round must be used for each entry in each section.
3. A contestant drawing a question on which they have spoken previously in the tournament must return it and draw again.

D. Preparation

1. As soon as question is chosen, the contestant will prepare a speech without consultation and without references to prepared notes. Students may consult published books, magazines, newspaper and journals or articles, provide:
 - i. They are originals or copies of whole pages.
 - ii. Provided those originals or copies are uncut.
 - iii. There is no written material on that original or copy other than citation information.
 - iv. Topical Index without annotation may be present.
2. No other material is allowed in the Extemp prep room other than stated above. Extemp speeches, handbooks, briefs and outlines are prohibited from the Extemp prep room. Underlining or highlighting in Extemp will be allowed if done in only one color on each article or copy.
3. Please see By-Law 19 concerning use of electronic retrieval devices.
4. Printed copies of information from online computer services may be used. Electronically retrieved evidence used in any League competition must conform to the citation standard of the Modern Language Association

E. Notes

1. Contestants may make notes during the preparation time, but the use of notes, cards, briefs or other aids is prohibited during the speech.

F. Time

1. The time limit in Extemporaneous Speaking is seven minutes with a 30-second "grace period."
2. During online tournaments, students should time themselves and report that time to the judges at the end of the speech. Judges should also time the speech for a double check, but do not have to provide time signals during the speech.
3. During in-person tournaments, just must time use an accurate (stopwatch function) timing devices. They must also provide time signals to the student throughout the speech.
4. If there are multiple judges in the round, all must agree that the student has gone beyond the grace period. Should a student go beyond the grace period, the student may not be ranked 1st. There is no other prescribed penalty for going over the grace period. The ranking is up to each individual judge's discretion.
5. No minimum time is mandated.

G. Recuse

1. Contestants may not leave the preparation area until dismissed by the Extemp proctor. Consultation with any person other than the Extemp proctor between the time of drawing and the time of speaking is prohibited.

H. Cross-Examination

1. When final rounds of Extemporaneous Speaking occur, an open-cross examination period of two minutes will be included.
2. Each speaker shall be assigned a speaker order position. Drawing shall take place at 12-minute intervals. Thirty minutes after speaker first has drawn, speakers first and last shall enter the contest room. Speaker first shall give a speech and speaker last shall listen and may take notes. At the conclusion of the speaker first's speech, speaker last shall question speaker first for two minutes.
3. Speaker last shall return to the prep room and speaker first shall stay and questions speaker second. Speaker second will question speaker third, etc.
4. Unless it is unavoidable, students from the same school shall not cross-examine one another. Speaker order should be adjusted accordingly.

I. Observation

1. Students in Extemporaneous Speaking are encouraged, but not required to stay and watch the remaining speakers after they deliver their speech.
2. Students who are double-entered may be able to observe as time permits.

Impromptu Speaking

A. Topics

1. The Tournament Director will obtain a list of topics phrased for contest use and based on subjects released 30 days prior to the tournament.
2. Topics will include proverbs, abstract words, events, quotations, and famous people.

B. Drawing

1. A judge in each section/room shall be provided an envelope containing a uniform set of topics, with a different subject area used for each round. Once the first speaker is called, the other speakers shall leave the room, and wait outside the door. Each speaker will draw three topics, choose one, and return the other two to the envelope.

C. Preparation and Delivery

1. The speaker has seven minutes in which to prepare a response and present a speech without consultation of prepared notes. Students may consult published books, magazines, newspaper and journals or articles therefrom, provided:
 - i. They are originals or photocopies of originals.
 - ii. That original article or copy is intact and uncut.
 - iii. There is no written material on original or copy.
 - iv. Topical index without annotation is allowed.
2. No other material shall be allowed in the room other than stated above. Speeches, handbooks, briefs, and outlines shall be barred. Underlining or highlighting in materials will be allowed if done in one color on each article or copy. No electronic retrieval device may be used, but printed materials from online computer services may be used.

D. Recuse

1. Once a speaker has spoken, they may listen to other speakers in that round.

E. Notes

1. Not notes shall be used during presentation

F. Time

1. The time limit is seven minutes with a 30-second "grace period," which includes both preparation and speaking.
2. During online tournaments, students should time themselves and report that time to the judges at the end of the speech. Judges should also time the speech for a double check, but do not have to provide time signals during the speech.
3. During in-person tournaments, just must time use an accurate (stopwatch function) timing devices. They must also provide time signals to the student throughout the speech.
4. If there are multiple judges in the round, all must agree that the student has gone beyond the grace period. Should a student go beyond the grace period,

the student may not be ranked 1st. There is no other prescribed penalty for going over the grace period. The ranking is up to each individual judge's discretion.

5. No minimum time is mandated.

Oral Interpretation of Literature

A. Purpose

1. The speaker shall prepare two programs of manuscript-based literature substantially different in content, author, and/or original source.
2. 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.
3. IF questioned, the genre of the selection must be specified in the original manuscript or must be verifiable by a simple Internet search.
4. If using a series of pieces, all titles and authors must be cited. The performer has the burden to be clear at all times which piece is being used. In the prepared script, the pieces should be clearly delineated via highlighting or font style and spacing to enable review in case of a protest.
5. Each program must contain an introduction for purposes of explication, setting, or selection transitions. Lines attributed to one character in the published source must not be attributed to another character in the performance.
6. The literature chosen may include any form of prose or poetry, fiction or non-fiction. Drama, including theatrical monologues, is prohibited. Speeches written to be delivered in real-life are prohibited.

B. Length

1. The time limit is ten minutes with a 30-second "grace period."
2. If there are multiple judges in the round, all must agree that the student has gone beyond the grace period. Should a student go beyond the grace period, the student may not be ranked 1st. There is no other prescribed penalty for going over the grace period. The ranking is up to each individual judge's discretion.
3. Judges who chose to time are to use accurate (stopwatch function) timing devices.
4. No minimum time is mandated

C. Material

1. Oral Interpretation of Literature follows the Publication Guidelines in By-Law 21.

D. Performance

1. No properties except a manuscript or binder may be used.
2. Using "properties" means manipulating articles of clothing or objects to enhance the performance. Speakers using properties and/or wearing costumes will be disqualified.
3. Speakers should keep eye contact between audience and manuscript in reasonable balance. Speakers who fail to maintain the illusion of reading from the manuscript must not be ranked first.
4. Speakers should keep gesture and bodily movement to a minimum. The selection should be delivered from center stage; Therefore, speakers should not

walk during performances. Movement and gestures, if used, should be appropriate for the selection. They should emphasize vocal variety and facial expression to enhance the literary interpretation.

5. While singing is permitted, it should not be excessive or dominate the performance. Judges' ranks may reflect if singing has dominated the performance.
6. Only the performers' feet may touch the ground.
7. Speakers may use a persona, and they may use character voices, but they are not necessary.

E. Re-Use

1. A student may not use a cutting from a work of literature the student used in any previous contest year. A student entered in two events may not use the same selection of literature in both events.

Program Oral Interpretation

A. Purpose

1. POI is a program of oral interpretation of thematically-linked selections chosen from two or three genres: prose, poetry, drama (plays). At least two pieces of literature that represent at least two separate genres must be used.
2. Unlike the other interpretation events, Program Oral Interpretation may use multiple sources for the program. The title or author of all selections must be verbally identified in either the introduction and/or transitional phrases. The title may identify the primary source (e.g. a poem, a play, a short story, a journal/magazine article, a newspaper article, etc.). If more than one author is attributed to the source, at a minimum, the primary author should be verbally cited. A Works Cited of all sources must be available to tournament officials upon request.
3. Competitors are encouraged to devote approximately equal times to each of the genres used in the program. This distinction pertains to these two or three genres as a whole, not types of literature within a genre (such as fiction/nonfiction).
4. Prose expresses thought through language recorded in sentences and paragraphs: fiction (short stories, novels) and non-fiction (articles, essays, journals, biographies). Poetry is writing which expresses ideas, experience, or emotion through the creative arrangement of words according to their sound, their rhythm, their meaning. Poetry may rely on verse and stanza form.

B. Contest

1. The use of a manuscript during the performance is required. Common practices include the use of a binder or folder. Reading from a book or magazine is not permitted.
2. The intact manuscript may be used by the contestant as a prop, so long as it is in the contestant's control by remaining in contact with the body at all times.
3. No costumes or props other than the manuscript are permitted.
4. Pictures, graphics, and/or illustrations are considered a visual aid, even if included in the original manuscript, and may not displayed.
5. The contestant must address the script; however, introduction and transitional material may be memorized.

C. Length

1. The time limit is 10 minutes with a 30-second "grace period."
2. If there are multiple judges in the round, all must agree that the student has gone beyond the grace period. Should a student go beyond the grace period, the student may not be ranked 1st. There is no other prescribed penalty for going over the grace period. The ranking is up to each individual judge's discretion.
3. Judges who choose to time are to use accurate (stopwatch function) timing devices.

4. No minimum time is mandated.

D. Publication Rules

1. All literature performed must meet the publication rules of the Association.
2. All online material must first be vetted and approved through the NSDA national office.
3. Approved material and/or sites will be listed on the NSDA website.
4. Song lyrics may be used if the performer has an original, hard copy of the lyrics such as sheet music or a CD jacket. Lyrics may only be used from online sources that appear on the approved websites list.

E. Adaptations

1. May be used only for the purpose of transition. Any word changes (to eliminate profane language) and/or additions (for transition) must be indicated clearly in ink.
2. Failure to clearly indicate the addition of words will be subjected to disqualification.
3. Changes to the script may only be used for the purposed of transition or to eliminate profane language.
4. Transitions may be used to clarify the logical sequence of ideas. They are not be used for the purpose of embellishing the humorous or dramatic effect of the literature.

Duo Interpretation

A. Purpose

1. The performance can be of either emotive appeal (humorous or dramatic (serious)).
2. Selections can be drawn from published, printed: novels, short stories, plays, poetry, or other printed, published works, PDFs, e-books, as well as limited online works as provided for in the rules below.

B. Length

1. The time limit is ten minutes with a 30-second “grace period.”
2. If there are multiple judges in the round, all must agree that the student has gone beyond the grace period. Should a student go beyond the grace period, the student may not be ranked 1st. There is no other prescribed penalty for going over the grace period. The ranking is up to each individual judge’s discretion.
3. Judges who chose to time are to use accurate (stopwatch function) timing devices.
4. No minimum time is mandated

C. Material

1. Duo Interpretation follows the Publication Guidelines in By-Law 21.

D. Performance

1. The presentation may not use physical objects or costuming. During the presentation, the team must name the author and the book or magazine from which the cutting is made.
2. Adaptations to material may only be used for the purpose of transition. The gender stated by the author must be honored. However, the female contestant may play a male role, and a male contestant may play a female role.
3. Selections must be presented from memory.
4. If the selection is prose or poetry and contains narration, either or both of the performers may present the narration.
5. Videos of previous performances are intended to provide educational examples for coaches and students. They are not intended to serve as a model to directly imitate or duplicate in performance. The wholesale impersonation of final round performances is strongly discouraged.

E. Focus

1. Focus may be direct during the introduction [the performers may look at each other] but must be indirect [off-stage] during the performance itself.

F. Re-Use

1. A student may not use a cutting from a work of literature the student used in any previous contest year. A student entered in two events (Dramatic

Performance and Duo Interpretation) may not use the same selection of literature in both events.

Dramatic Performance

A. Purpose

1. The speaker must offer a memorized dramatic presentation.
2. The presentation may either be serious or humorous and should have some literary merit. Important consideration should be given to the quality of the selection.

B. Length

1. The time limit is ten minutes with a 30-second "grace period."
2. If there are multiple judges in the round, all must agree that the student has gone beyond the grace period. Should a student go beyond the grace period, the student may not be ranked 1st. There is no other prescribed penalty for going over the grace period. The ranking is up to each individual judge's discretion.
3. Judges who chose to time are to use accurate (stopwatch function) timing devices.
4. No minimum time is mandated

C. Material

1. Dramatic Performance follows the Publication Guidelines in By-Law 21.

D. Performance

1. While singing is permitted, it should not be excessive or dominate the performance. Judges' ranks may reflect if singing has dominated the performance.
2. Single or multiple character cuttings will be allowed. When doing a multiple-characterization the performer should create effective interaction between the characters.
3. 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. Positions other than standing should be excessive in length or dominate the performance.
4. No properties or costumes of any kind may be used. Using "properties" means manipulating articles of clothing or objects to enhance the performance. Speakers using properties and/or wearing costumes will be disqualified.

E. Re-Use

1. A student may not use a cutting from a work of literature the student used in any previous contest year. A student entered in two events (Dramatic Performance and Duo Interpretation) may not use the same selection of literature in both events.

POINT RACE GUIDELINES

Lincoln-Douglas and Public Forum Debate Formula

A. Base Points

1. Students who participate in any debate division shall receive the number of NSDA points that correlates to their competitive records at league tournaments.
2. For Public Forum Debate, points shall be awarded to teams rather than individuals.
3. Points by decision:
 - i. Win or Bye: 6 points per
 - ii. Loss or No Decision: 3 points per
 - iii. Foreift: 0 points per

B. Bonus Points

1. Bonus points will be awarded to competitors who place in the top 6, so long as they do not have a losing record.
2. For Public Forum Debate, points shall be awarded to teams rather than individuals.
3. Points by placement:
 - i. 1st Place receives 7 points
 - ii. 2nd Place receives 6 points
 - iii. 3rd Place receives 5 points
 - iv. 4th Place receives 4 points
 - v. 5th Place receives 3 points
 - vi. 6th Place receives 2 points

C. Determining Points Champion in Varsity Divisions

1. At the end of the season, students will be awarded points for their top four tournament performances for the purposes of the points race championship.
2. In the case of a tie, the following tiebreakers will be used in this order:
 - i. Win-loss record of the four top tournament performances.
 - ii. Larger number of points earned at common tournaments between the tied entities, as long as there is a minimum of 2 common tournaments attended between those tied.
 - iii. The students tied will debate each other for the last slot.
 1. This will be resolved through a single-elimination format with the winner being determined by a three-judge panel.
 2. If there is an odd number of students involved in a tie, then there will be a random draw for a bye each round within the constraint that no student will be eligible for more than one bye.

D. Determining Points Champion in Novice Divisions

1. At the end of the season, students will be awarded points for their top three tournament performances for the purposes of the novice points race championship.

2. In the case of a tie, the following tiebreakers will be used in this order:
 - i. Win-loss record of the three top tournament performances.
 - ii. Larger number of points earned at common tournaments between the tied entities, as long as there is a minimum of 2 common tournaments attended between those tied.
 - iii. The students tied will debate each other for the last slot.
 1. This will be resolved through a single-elimination format with the winner being determined by a three-judge panel.
 2. If there is an odd number of students involved in a tie, then there will be a random draw for a bye each round within the constraint that no student will be eligible for more than one bye.

E. Determining Qualifiers & Alternates

1. At the end of the season, students will be awarded points for their top three tournament performances for the purposes of the NCFL Qualifiers.
2. In the case of a tie, the following tiebreakers will be used in this order:
 - i. Total of the four top tournament performances.
 - ii. Win-loss record of the four top tournament performances.
 - iii. Larger number of points earned at common tournaments between the tied entities, as long as there is a minimum of 2 common tournaments attended between those tied.
 - iv. The students tied will debate each other for the last slot.
 1. This will be resolved through a single-elimination format with the winner being determined by a three-judge panel.
 2. If there is an odd number of students involved in a tie, then there will be a random draw for a bye each round within the constraint that no student will be eligible for more than one bye.
3. Alternates will be determined by:
 - i. Promote all students/teams who have attended 3 or more League tournaments, starting with the highest cumulative of top three performances.
 - ii. After all students who attended 3 or more League tournaments have been promoted, those who have attended only two tournaments are eligible.
 - iii. Promote all students/teams who have attended 2 or more League tournaments, starting with the highest cumulative of top two performances.
 - iv. Students who only attended only 1 League tournament are not eligible for qualification through the Points Race.
4. In the event that there are fewer interested participants at NCFL Nationals than there are qualifying slots:
 - i. Two students from the same school may apply for an at-large bid as a hybrid team in Public Forum Debate
 - ii. Students may apply for an at-large bid in Lincoln-Douglas Debate

Speech and Interpretation Events Formula

A. Base Points

1. Students who participate in a varsity speech division shall receive the number of NSDA points that correlates to their individual ranks per prelim round at league tournaments.
2. Points per rank:
 - i. Rank of 1 receives 6 points
 - ii. Rank of 2 receives 5 points
 - iii. Rank of 3 receives 4 points
 - iv. Rank of 4 receives 3 points
 - v. Rank of 5 receives 2 points
 - vi. Rank of 6 or 7 receives 1 point

B. Bonus Points

1. Bonus points will be awarded to competitors who place in the Top 6 competitors in an event.
2. Points by placement:
 - i. 1st Place receives 7 points
 - ii. 2nd Place receives 6 points
 - iii. 3rd Place receives 5 points
 - iv. 4th Place receives 4 points
 - v. 5th Place receives 3 points
 - vi. 6th Place receives 2 points
3. If a tournament offers a final round, students qualifying for that round shall receive one additional bonus point.
4. If a tournament offers a Next-In final round, students qualifying for that round shall receive one additional bonus point.

C. Determining Overall Points Champion

1. At the end of the season, students will be awarded points for their top four tournament performances for the purposes of the points race championship.
2. In the case of a tie, the following tiebreakers will be used in this order:
 - i. Cumulative ranks (both preliminary and elimination rounds) at the four tournaments that determine the students points total.
 - ii. Larger number of points earned at common tournaments between the tied entities, as long as there is a minimum of 2 common tournaments attended between those tied.
 - iii. The students tied will compete in a round judged by a five-judge panel in order to split the tie.

D. Determining Novice Points Champion

1. At the end of the season, novice students will be awarded points for their top three tournament performances for the purposes of the points race championship.

2. No points will be accumulated for novice divisions. All points must be gained through competition in open divisions
3. In the case of a tie, the following tiebreakers will be used in this order:
 - i. Cumulative ranks (both preliminary and elimination rounds) at the three tournaments that determine the students points total.
 - ii. Larger number of points earned at common tournaments between the tied entities, as long as there is a minimum of 2 common tournaments attended between those tied.
 - iii. The students tied will compete in a round judged by a five-judge panel in order to split the tie.

E. Determining Qualifiers & Alternates

1. At the end of the season, students will be awarded points for their top three tournament performances for the purposes of the NCFL Qualifiers.
2. In the case of a tie, the following tiebreakers will be used in this order:
 - i. Total of the four top tournament performances.
 - ii. Cumulative ranks (both preliminary and elimination rounds) at the four tournaments that determine the students points total.
 - iii. Larger number of points earned at common tournaments between the tied entities, as long as there is a minimum of 2 common tournaments attended between those tied.
 - iv. The students tied will compete in a round judged by a five-judge panel in order to split the tie.
3. Alternates will be determined by:
 - i. Promote all students/teams who have attended 3 or more League tournaments, starting with the highest cumulative of top three performances.
 - ii. After all students who attended 3 or more League tournaments have been promoted, those who have attended only two tournaments are eligible.
 - iii. Promote all students/teams who have attended 2 or more League tournaments, starting with the highest cumulative of top two performances.
 - iv. Students who only attended only 1 League tournament are not eligible for qualification through the Points Race.
4. In the event that there are fewer interested participants at NCFL Nationals than there are qualifying slots:
 - i. Two students from the same school may apply for an at-large bid as a hybrid team in Duo Interpretation
 - ii. Students may apply for an at-large bid in Declamation, Original Oratory, Extemporaneous Speaking, Oral Interpretation of Literature, and Dramatic Performance.

Congressional Debate Formula

A. Base Points

1. Students who participate in a varsity Congress division shall receive points that correlates to their individual ranks per prelim round at league tournaments.
2. Points per rank:
 - i. Rank of 1 receives 9 points
 - ii. Rank of 2 receives 8 points
 - iii. Rank of 3 receives 7 points
 - iv. Rank of 4 receives 6 points
 - v. Rank of 5 receives 5 points
 - vi. Rank of 6 receives 4 points
 - vii. Rank of 7 receives 3 points
 - viii. Rank of 8 receives 2 points
 - ix. Rank of 9 or higher receives 1 point

B. Bonus Points

1. Bonus points will be awarded to competitors who place in the Top 6 competitors in an event.
2. Points by placement:
 - i. 1st Place receives 7 points
 - ii. 2nd Place receives 6 points
 - iii. 3rd Place receives 5 points
 - iv. 4th Place receives 4 points
 - v. 5th Place receives 3 points
 - vi. 6th Place receives 2 points
3. If a tournament offers a final round, students qualifying for that round shall receive one additional bonus point.

C. Determining Overall Points Champion

1. At the end of the season, students will be awarded points for their top four tournament performances for the purposes of the points race championship.
2. In the case of a tie, the following tiebreakers will be used in this order:
 - i. Cumulative ranks (both preliminary and elimination rounds) at the four tournaments that determine the students points total.
 - ii. Larger number of points earned at common tournaments between the tied entities, as long as there is a minimum of 2 common tournaments attended between those tied.
 - iii. Judge preference between the two students when the tied students competed in the same chamber at any League tournament, as long as it occurred on two occasions.
 - iv. Larger number of first places, second places, third places, etc. at all League tournaments.

D. Determining Novice Points Champion

1. At the end of the season, novice students will be awarded points for their top three tournament performances for the purposes of the points race championship.
2. No points will be accumulated for novice divisions. All points must be gained through competition in open divisions
3. In the case of a tie, the following tiebreakers will be used in this order:
 - i. Cumulative ranks (both preliminary and elimination rounds) at the three tournaments that determine the students points total.
 - ii. Larger number of points earned at common tournaments between the tied entities, as long as there is a minimum of 2 common tournaments attended between those tied.
 - iii. Judge preference between the two students when the tied students competed in the same chamber at any League tournament, as long as it occurred on two occasions.

E. Determining Qualifiers & Alternates

1. At the end of the season, students will be awarded points for their top three tournament performances for the purposes of the NCFL Qualifiers.
2. In the case of a tie, the following tiebreakers will be used in this order:
 - i. Total of the four top tournament performances.
 - ii. Cumulative ranks (both preliminary and elimination rounds) at the four tournaments that determine the students points total.
 - iii. Larger number of points earned at common tournaments between the tied entities, as long as there is a minimum of 2 common tournaments attended between those tied.
 - iv. Judge preference between the two students when the tied students competed in the same chamber at any League tournament, as long as it occurred on two occasions.
 - v. Larger number of first places, second places, third places, etc. at all League tournaments.
3. Alternates will be determined by:
 - i. Promote all students/teams who have attended 3 or more League tournaments, starting with the highest cumulative of top three performances.
 - ii. After all students who attended 3 or more League tournaments have been promoted, those who have attended only two tournaments are eligible.
 - iii. Promote all students/teams who have attended 2 or more League tournaments, starting with the highest cumulative of top two performances.
 - iv. Students who only attended only 1 League tournament are not eligible for qualification through the Points Race.
4. In the event that there are fewer interested participants at NCFL Nationals than there are qualifying slots, students may apply for an at-large bid.

Points Race Calculations

A. Modifications

1. Modifications to the points race after the conclusion of the Spring Meeting will take effect the following competition year (i.e. changes made at the 2024 meeting take effect for the 2024 - 2025 competition year).

B. Miscalculations

1. If there are miscalculations in the points race, the head coach of record should inform the Executive Committee immediately and the miscalculation will be corrected.
2. If there are objections to the calculation of the points race, a head coach of record should inform the Executive Committee immediately. The Executive Committee will meet to determine if the objection is valid prior to the next DSDL tournament.

2025-2026 Tournament Calendar

September 27: DSDL #1 @ Pinecrest High School

October 4th: DSDL #2 @ Pine Forest High School

November 1st: DSDL #3 @ Apex Friendship High School

November 15th: DSDL #4 @ Cary High School

February 7th: DSDL #5 @ Jack Britt High School

February 28th: DSDL #6 @ Cumberland Polytechnic High School on the Campus of FTCC