

THE FLORIDA GULF COAST
CATHOLIC FORENSICS LEAGUE

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Implemented 1988

Revised 1997

Revised 2005

Revised 2018

THE FLORIDA GULF COAST CATHOLIC FORENSICS LEAGUE

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I - NAME

The legal name of this Forensics society shall be the **Florida Gulf Coast Catholic Forensics League** . Hereafter it shall be referred to as "*the League.*"

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

It shall be the purpose of this organization to promote interest in interscholastic debate, oratory, interpretation, and public speaking, encourage a spirit of Catholic fellowship and, by conferring awards upon deserving candidates, recognize student achievements.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

A. Any high school, either public, private and/or religious in the Florida Catholic Diocese of St. Petersburg, Venice or Pensacola – Tallahassee shall be eligible for full membership. Ninth grade centers and middle or junior high schools containing ninth grade shall also be eligible for membership. Only students in grades 9-12 may compete as full members at all tournaments, including FGCCFL Grand Finals.

B. Homeschooled students may compete provided that they affiliate with a member school or compete under the "FGCCFL Home School" umbrella arrangement with the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE IV - FEES AND DUES

Each season (a season being defined as August of said year until June of the following year), the member schools of the League will be charged annual membership dues. Dues will be determined by the Executive Committee and shall be based upon projected expenses and National dues. Entry fees per student will be imposed for each tournament that said student attends. Grand Finals fees may differ from regular tournament fees.

The Executive Committee will levy tournament fees of \$25.00 for a late registration, each dropped entry not declared before the start of the first round, each dropped judge, or failure of a judge to report for each scheduled judge call.

ARTICLE V - LEAGUE ORGANIZATION

The League shall be made up of the following:

- (1) All schools which have attained membership;
- (2) All students who have attained membership; and
- (3) Forensic Directors, Moderators, Advisors, Sponsors, and Coaches of the aforementioned schools and students. As used in the League's Constitution and By-Laws, each of these terms shall be considered interchangeable and shall embrace all the other terms.

ARTICLE VI - LEAGUE TOURNAMENTS

The League will conduct tournaments with the following conditions:

- (1) There shall be an average of one (1) tournament per month, starting at the beginning of the academic year and ending with Grand Finals.
- (2) There shall be a minimum of four (4) tournaments per season.
- (3) Only those CFL tournaments which offer all events (see definition of "all events" contained in Article X) will constitute a CFL qualifying tournament.
- (4) The last tournament of the season will be the CFL Grand Final Tournament which will determine the League's representatives/qualifiers for the Grand National Catholic Forensics League Tournament.

ARTICLE VII - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A. *Members:* The Executive Committee shall be composed of the President, the First Vice-President, the Second Vice-President, the Secretary, and the Treasurer. These will be the *elected* members of the Committee. Other members of the Committee may be *appointed* members of the Committee, said appointment to be at the discretion of the President as outlined in *Section D* of this Article.

B. *Election:* The election of the main Executive Committee members shall occur after the last regular tournament but no later than two (2) weeks prior to the Grand National Tournament. All member school Forensics moderators/directors/coaches/speech teachers are eligible to run for office, pursuant to the limitations placed on eligibility found within this Article. All member school Forensics moderators/directors/coaches/speech teachers are eligible to vote. Each member school is allowed one (1) vote.

C. *Term of Office:* The term of office for all Executive Committee members shall be two (2) years, beginning and ending on June 30.

D. Other Committee Members:

- (1) The appointed Committee members, as stated in Article VII, Section A of this Constitution shall be chosen by the President of the League at his or her own discretion, with input from the other elected Committee members and notice to the League membership within 24 hours of the appointment.
- (2) The appointment of said Committee members may be overturned by a vote of the entire membership of the League. To overturn an appointment, the following must occur:

- (a) the appointee in question must be deemed to be in violation of any or all of the rules and regulations stated herein;
- (b) a written motion for a vote of removal must be made to the President within ten (10) days of the official appointment of the Committee member. Said motion must contain the reasons for removal, citing the specific rules and regulations stated within this Constitution and these By-laws, that warrant removal;
- (c) a vote by all other Committee members to accept the motion must be held, with a majority required for approval. In the case that a majority vote of all Committee members is not possible, then a majority vote of the *elected* Executive Committee will be necessary;
- (d) within two (2) weeks of the Committee vote, the Secretary must mail out ballots to all member schools for a vote;
- (e) there is only one (1) vote per member school;
- (f) the results of the voting will be announced within two (2) weeks of the voting deadline, as stated on the ballot;
- (g) Once a vote has been taken and a result determined, no further action may be taken on the appointee until such time as the rest of the Executive Committee feels that action is deemed appropriate.

E. Vacancies

- (1) Vacancies on the Executive Committee in the offices of First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary, or Treasurer shall be filled by election according to the procedures outlined in Section B of this Article within thirty (30) days of said vacancy.
- (2) A Vacancy in the office of President shall be filled by the First Vice-President, with the resulting vacancy in that office filled by the Second Vice-President, and a new Second Vice-President elected according to the procedures in Section B. All other vacancies shall be filled by Executive Board vote and will fill the position until the end of the two-year term.

F. Duties

- (1) **COMMITTEE:** All members of the Executive Committee shall be responsible for the enforcement of all provisions of this Constitution, By-laws, and all regulations enacted under its authority.
- (2) **PRESIDENT** - The President shall:
 - a. Attend all National CFL meetings when feasible.
 - b. Assume responsibility for all communications with the National Committee.
 - c. Attend and assist with all local FGCCFL All-Events Tournaments, Grand Finals, and Grand Nationals.
 - d. Act as ombudsperson for all protests; coordinate executive board votes as needed.
 - f. Attend and oversee all local executive board and coaches' meetings.
 - g. Represent the League in any role necessary.

(3) FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT - The First Vice-President shall:

- a. Coordinate and execute all League tournaments.
- b. Attend and assist with all local FGCCFL All-Events Tournaments, and Grand Finals.
- c. Assume responsibility for the tournament registration, scheduling/pairing, and tabulation.
- d. Attend and oversee all local executive board and coaches' meetings with the FGCCFL President.
- e. Maintain league laptop and printer; provide copies for all registration needs.
- f. Present awards at every tournament with other League officers.
- g. Act as FGCCFL President in case of an emergency, absence, or vacancy.

(4) SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT - The Second Vice-President shall:

- a. Attend and assist with all local FGCCFL All-Events Tournaments, and Grand Finals.
- b. Attend all local executive board and coaches' meetings.
- c. Present awards at every tournament with other League officers.
- d. Purchase and deliver tournament ballots to all FGCCFL tournaments and Grand Finals.
- e. Act as FGCCFL First Vice-President in case of an emergency, absence, or vacancy.

(5) SECRETARY - The Secretary shall:

- a. Assume responsibility for all League communications.
- b. Attend and assist at all local FGCCFL All-Events Tournaments, and Grand Finals.
- c. Attend all local executive board and coaches' meetings.
- d. Purchase and deliver tournament awards for FGCCFL and NSDA.
- e. Take notes at all meetings and publish notes and updates on website.
- f. Check-in and assign judges at all local FGCCFL All-Events Tournaments and Grand Finals.

(6) TREASURER - The Treasurer shall:

- a. Maintain all League financial transactions and records, including bank records.
- b. Attend and assist at all local FGCCFL All-Events tournaments and Grand Finals.
- c. Attend all local executive board and coaches' meetings.
- d. Collect all tournament registration fees, and drop fees for students and missing judges.
- e. Collect membership dues and pay League bills.
- f. Collect and maintain membership fees, records, and Grand Finals eligibility.
- g. Collect and submit all NCFL Grand Nationals registration and fees for St. Petersburg diocese.
- h. Prepare and provide an annual treasurer's report

G. Expenses of National Meeting Attendance

- (1) The League Treasury, through the Treasurer, shall bear the full, reasonable expenses incurred by the President, (or the designated representative's) attendance at the Fall and Spring Meetings of the National Catholic Forensics League.
- (2) If no student member student of the President's school qualifies for the National Tournament, then the League Treasury, through the Treasurer, shall bear the full, reasonable expenses incurred by the President's attendance of the National Tournament.
- (3) If at least one (1) student member of the President's school qualifies for the National Tournament, the League Treasury, through the Treasurer shall bear the reasonable expenses which are over and above the amount the President's school would incur in sending him or her to the National Tournament.
- (4) All such treasury expenditures shall be receipted/documented.

ARTICLE VIII - INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM/AMENDMENT

A. *INITIATIVE*: any questions shall be submitted to a vote for all member moderators via initiative at the request of either

- (1) at the request of two (2) members of the Executive Committee, or
- (2) twenty percent (20%) of the member moderators.

If a majority of all eligible votes are cast in favor of the proposed question, it shall be declared effective as the will of the League.

B. *INITIATIVE FORMAT*: All Initiatives proposed shall follow this format:

- (1) in writing, containing the exact wording of the initiative, the issues it raises and the pertinent rules and regulations it addresses or applies to, if any;
- (2) on separate member school letterhead, two (2) elected Executive Committee members must submit, with their signature, letters of support; and/or
- (3) on separate member school letterhead, letters of support from twenty percent (20%) of the member schools, with signatures of the member moderator;
- (4) a one (1) page pro and con statement, containing all necessary facts and arguments for and against the initiative. The pro side should be completed by the submitter of the initiative, the con side should be completed by the opposition, or in the event that none is available, by the Executive Committee.

C. *INITIATIVE VOTING FORMAT*: The Executive Committee, through the Secretary, shall prepare a ballot and mail it to all member schools. The ballot shall contain:

- (1) all information stated in Section B, *Initiative Format*;
- (2) a place for the vote;
- (3) a signature line for the member moderator and/or other who is voting for the member school; and
- (4) the date for ballot return.
- (5) Ballots must reach the Executive Committee by the date stated. After said date, all arriving ballots will be considered null and void;
- (6) Ballots will be counted, and results published by the Executive Committee within two (2) weeks of the voting date;
- (7) Emailing one's ballot to make the date prescribed is acceptable, but the vote will not be considered official until the signed document is received by the Executive Committee;
- (8) No action by initiative shall be voted on if it is contrary to any provision or position of this Constitution.

D. *REFERENDUM*: Censure of any action by a member school, a member moderator, or member student concerning League activities deemed incorrect, inappropriate or in violation of this Constitution or League regulations shall be submitted to a vote for all member moderators via referendum at the request of either

- (1) two (2) members of the Executive Committee, or
- (2) twenty percent (20%) of the member moderators.

If a majority of all eligible votes are cast in favor of censuring such action, a Letter of Censure will be prepared by the Executive Committee and distributed to all member moderators.

E. REFERENDUM FORMAT: Any Referendum proposed shall follow this format:

- (1) in writing, containing the exact wording of the referendum, the issues it raises and the pertinent rules and regulations it addresses or applies to, if any;
- (2) on separate member school letterhead, two (2) elected Executive Committee members must submit, with their signature, letters of support; and/or
- (3) on separate member school letterhead, letters of support from twenty percent (20%) of the member schools, with signatures of the member moderator;
- (4) a one (1) page pro and con statement, containing all necessary facts and arguments for and against the referendum. The pro side should be completed by the submitter of the referendum, the con side should be completed by the opposition, or in the event that none is available, by the Executive Committee.

F. REFERENDUM VOTING FORMAT: The Executive Committee, through the Secretary shall prepare a ballot and email it to all member schools. The ballot shall contain:

- (1) All information stated in Section E, *Referendum Format*;
- (2) a place for the vote;
- (3) a signature line for the member moderator and/or other who is voting for the member school; and
- (4) the date for ballot return.
- (5) Ballots must reach the Executive Committee by the date stated. After said date, all arriving ballots will be considered null and void;
- (6) Ballots will be counted, and results published by the Executive Committee within two (2) weeks of the voting date;
- (7) Emailing one's ballot in order to make the date prescribed is acceptable, but the vote will not be considered official until the signed document is received by the Executive Committee;
- (8) No action by referendum shall be voted on if it is contrary to any provision or position of this Constitution.

G. AMENDMENT: Amendments may be added to this Constitution when

- (1) supported by two members of the Executive Committee, and
 - (2) ratified by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the member moderators;
- Ballots cast on Amendments shall be counted thirty (30) days after the submission of the Amendment or as soon as the majority of the voting member moderators have voted.

H. AMENDMENT FORMAT: All Amendments proposed shall follow this format:

- (1) in writing, containing the exact wording of the amendment, the exact language from the Constitution or By-Laws which the amendment proposes to alter or clarify, the issues it raises and the pertinent rules and regulations it addresses or applies to, if any;
- (2) on separate member school letterhead, two (2) elected Executive Committee members must submit, with their signature, letters of support, and;
- (3) on separate member school letterhead, letters of support from two-thirds (2/3) of the member schools, with signatures of the member moderator;
- (4) a one (1) page pro and con statement, containing all necessary facts and arguments for and against the amendment. The pro side should be completed by the submitter of the amendment, the con side should be completed by the opposition, or in the event that none is available, by the Executive Committee.

I. AMENDMENT VOTING FORMAT:

- (1) All information stated in Section H, Amendment Format;
- (2) a place for the vote;
- (3) a signature line for the member moderator and/or other who is voting for the member school;
and
- (4) the date for ballot return.
- (5) Ballots must reach the Executive Committee by the date stated. After said date, all arriving ballots will be considered null and void;
- (6) Ballots will be counted, and results published by the Executive Committee within two (2) weeks of the voting date;
- (7) Emailing one's ballot in order to make the date prescribed is acceptable, but the vote will not be considered official until the signed document is received by the Executive Committee;
- (8) An amendment passes if two-thirds (2/3) of the member schools ratify it.

ARTICLE IX - SECRECY

A. *By the League or its Members:* No member school, member moderator or any member student of the League shall engage in any secret practices concerning the activities of the League. Such practices as described herein shall be, but are not limited to:

- (1) Secret ballot on League issues;
- (2) Secret meetings regarding League business;
- (3) Secret action regarding tournament results and membership activity.

B. *In Finances and Record Keeping:* All financial records of the League shall be open to review of any member moderator.

ARTICLE X - TOURNAMENT FORMAT AND DEFINITIONS

A. The Florida Gulf Coast Catholic Forensics League recognizes the following areas of competition for its League and its tournaments; Team Debate, Lincoln/Douglas Debate, Public Forum Debate, Mixed Extemporaneous Speaking, Oral Interpretation of Literature, Dramatic Performance, Duo Interpretation of Literature, Original Oratory, Declamation, and Student Congress/Congressional Debate,. At tournaments other than the Grand Final Tournament, the League may offer other events as the Executive Committee deems appropriate.

B. Any category of competition, apart from Declamation, may be offered as a novice event, the definition of novice to be found in By-Law 13. The offering of a novice category in any or all of these events is at the discretion of the Executive Committee as granted in the By-Laws.

C. An "all-events" tournament as stated in the Constitution and By-Laws is, by definition, a tournament which offers all categories of competition as stated in Article X, Section A, however, that does not mean that there must be a participant in each category of competition in order for the tournament to qualify. So long as all events are offered at the time of registration, the tournament will qualify as an "all events" tournament.

THE FLORIDA GULF COAST CATHOLIC FORENSICS LEAGUE

BY-LAWS

SECTION 1: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

By-Law No. 1 - Nominations

1. All nominations for non-Presidential Executive Committee offices shall be made by the individual wishing to run or by another member coach, in writing, to the President of the League. All nominations for the office of President of the League shall be made in writing, with two (2) signatures of other member moderators attesting to the nomination, to the Executive Committee.

2. All member moderators who wish to run for the office of President of the League must have served as an Executive Committee member at least one (1) year in the previous three (3) years.

By-Law No. 2 - Balloting

1. All ballots shall be prepared by the Executive Committee and emailed to the member moderators.

2. Each member school shall be entitled to one (1) vote in all elections and on all voting issues; that vote shall be cast by the head forensics moderator, or an assistant moderator, or by a duly appointed proxy. Said proxy must be duly recognized by the League with supporting documentation.

3. All ballots shall be returned to and tabulated by the Executive Committee. All ballots shall bear the signature of the person casting the ballot.

By-Law No. 3 - Executive Committee Voting

On all votes within the Executive Committee the President must vote.

SECTION 2: TOURNAMENTS

By-Law No. 4 - Tournaments

1. All League tournaments shall be hosted by member schools on dates which shall be determined and finalized **before** the Fall coaches' meeting. The meeting shall coincide with the first Student Congress tournament of each year.

2. The President shall compile the tournament calendar for distribution at the Fall meeting.

- 3.** No school may host more than two (2) qualifying tournaments during a given season.
- 4.** The Grand Final Tournament shall offer competition in all Grand National categories.
- 5.** Host Schools and moderators shall provide:
 - (a)** adequate classroom facilities for all events offered;
 - (b)** an auditorium or room large enough to accommodate
 - (1)** registration,
 - (2)** the general meeting, and
 - (3)** the awards assembly;
 - (c)** a results tabulation room with internet access and power outlets;
 - (d)** a moderators/judges' lounge;
 - (e)** refreshments for moderators and judges;
 - (f)** at least one (1) judge in each category of competition offered (this is optional, but recommended);
 - (g)** a sufficient number of school maps;
 - (h)** lunch for all students, coaches, judges, and observers to be paid as part of the tournament fee with one complimentary lunch provided for each head coach.
- 6.** The League shall transmit invitations to all member moderators via e-mail and website no later than five weeks prior to the tournament. Invitations shall include:
 - (a)** categories of competition to be offered and applicable restrictions;
 - (b)** Web entry procedures and an alternative email entry procedure in the event that Web entry services are unavailable;
 - (c)** a tournament time schedule showing at the very least the times for registration, the time of the first round and the approximate time for the awards assembly; and
 - (d)** a statement of League policies concerning membership, deadlines, fees, and congress procedures.
- 7.** All membership and entry fees shall be deposited in the League treasury.
- 8.** All League tournaments with the exception of Grand Finals shall offer four (4) rounds of competition in all events. In the event that small entry numbers warrant it, Team Debate may be limited to only three (3) rounds of competition. The President of the League will determine the final number of rounds at any given tournament with the exception of Grand Finals.
- 9.** Current National Catholic Forensics League rules and regulations shall apply to competition in all events except where superceded by these By-Laws. All NCFL event rules and regulations are incorporated herein and binding to all member schools of the League. Where said rules and regulations are contradictory or ambiguous, or where there are no said rules, the National Speech and Debate Association (NSDA) rules and regulations shall apply. All NSDA event rules and regulations are incorporated herein and binding to all member schools of the League. However, in those circumstances where the CFL and NSDA event rules and procedures conflict, priority goes to the CFL rules and procedures.

By-Law No. 5 - Executive Committee and Tournaments

1. All members of the Executive Committee shall be present at all League tournaments from the beginning of registration until the end of the awards assembly. If extreme personal issues make attendance impossible, the Executive Committee may designate member moderators with adequate experience to replace them in the administration of a tournament. All Executive Committee members shall be present at the Grand Final Tournament.

2. The President shall assist the tournament host with the tournament preparation only in those cases where such assistance is sought by the Host.

3. At the start of each tournament, the Vice-Presidents shall begin the registration process and the Treasurer shall collect fees. The remaining Committee members shall be in charge of the initial judge check-in, judge call, ballot check-in, tournament tabulation, sorting ballots, supervising extemp prep, and awarding trophies.

4. Members of the Executive Committee present at a given tournament shall serve as the final authority in the arbitration of any grievance/challenge/protest involving:

- (a) the conduct of the tournament;
- (b) the conduct of any member moderator;
- (c) the conduct of any judge;
- (d) the conduct of any student member;
- (e) or the alleged violation of rules and regulations pertaining to any category of competition;
- (f) protests must be made by the head coach immediately after the round in question in order to be considered.

By-Law No. 6 - Member Moderator Responsibilities

1. Member moderators shall be responsible for the conduct of their school's student members both in and out of competition rounds. They shall be responsible for:

- (a) the suitability of material to be in competition both in terms of good taste and in terms of League rules and regulations, including all herein incorporated National rules and regulations;
- (b) the strict enforcement of and adherence to all elements of this Constitution and these By-laws.

2. Member moderators shall provide qualified judges at the rate of:

- (a) one (1) judge for every one (1) team entries in Team (Policy) Debate;
- (b) one (1) judge for every two (2) or fraction thereof entries in Lincoln Douglas Debate;
- (c) one (1) judge for every two (2) or fraction thereof entries in Public Forum Debate;
- (d) one (1) judge for every four (4) entries or fraction thereof in any combination of other events, including IE/Speech events, Congress, and other events authorized by the League.

3. All Judges are required to bring a working stopwatch or cell phone. Cell phones may be used for timing purposed only during rounds.

By-Law No. 7 - Qualified Judge Definition

1. The definition of a qualified judge is an individual, above the age of majority (18 or over) who has been graduated from high school prior to the tournament, and who conforms to the following criteria:

- a) has knowledge of all events to which she or he may be assigned, including time procedures, event rules, and in the area of debate, the ability to follow arguments;
- b) has some previous judging experience and/or has attended the CFL Judge Workshop offered in the Fall and/or Spring;
- c) is ethical, and willing to report any reason why he or she would be unable to competently, fairly, and accurately judge a round;
- d) speaks, understands, reads, and writes English proficiently.

2. All the above-stated requirements are verified as true when a member moderator brings a judge to tournaments, and if any of the above-stated are found to be not true, the member moderator and/or the member school will be penalized at the discretion of the Executive Committee which could include disqualification of the team.

3. Recently graduated debaters may judge freely at local tournaments and at CFL Grand Finals. These judges shall not judge any individual with whom they have or had a “friendly” or otherwise personal relationship.

By-Law No. 8 - Penalties for Qualified Judge Violations

1. The Executive Committee will impose monetary penalties of \$25.00 per judge upon member schools who do not comply with the requirements of By-Law No. 6 and By-Law No. 7.

2. The Executive Committee shall be empowered to forbid member schools from sending judges to the League tournaments if the Executive Committee has ruled that said judges have demonstrated incompetent, inappropriate or generally malfeasant behavior at a previous League tournament.

By-Law No. 9 - Presidential Authority

1. The President shall be empowered to undertake any action which does not violate the League Constitution or its By-Laws and which is not specifically dealt with in those documents provided such action is approved in advance by all other Committee members.

By-Law No. 10 – Scripts and Piece Selection

1. All member students competing in memorized, non-scripted categories of competition shall bring to each League tournament a typed copy of their presentation and shall present said copy upon demand to the Executive Committee. All students competing in declamation and interpretation events shall bring to each League tournament the original copy and a copy showing the cutting of the piece and shall present said copies upon demand to the Executive Committee. In case of protest, failure to present said copy shall result in disqualification from the tournament.

2. 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 which has been used in any prior year of forensic competition.

By-Law No. 11 - 2 Year Rule

Each participating member school shall host or co-host at least one (1) tournament within each two (2) year period of membership. Hosting any of the following will count towards the hosting requirement:

- (a) A Saturday All-Events tournament consisting of at least four rounds of competition;
- (b) The NSDA District Congress or District Tournament;
- (c) FGCCFL Grand Finals;
- (d) An FFL Regional, Varsity State, or Novice State Tournament; or
- (e) A Saturday Student Congress tournament held prior to the NSDA District Congress.

By-Law No. 12 - Novice Definition

1. The League defines a novice as a high school student who is:

- (a) not a member of the League, and either
- (b) had less than twenty-five (25) NSDA points registered before the season began, or
- (c) had no NSDA points registered, and also did not participate in Forensics or a Forensics-related activity in any previous season (participation in the NJFL does not count).

2. Declamation, as a regular category of competition, is restricted to competitors in grades 9 and 10, but is not limited to novices under the League's definition.

By-Law No. 13 - Ranking

Cumulative ranks shall serve as the primary method of determining placements in all League tournaments, with the exception of the Grand Final Tournament, wherein By-Law No. 19 shall apply.

By-Law No. 14 - Provisions

All provisions of this Constitution and By-Laws shall become effective immediately upon adoption except those provisions which relate to events that have transpired already during the season in which said Constitution and By-Laws are adopted.

SECTION 3: GRAND FINALS

By-Law No. 15 - Grand Finals/Membership Requirements

A. No school may enter the Grand Final Tournament without having met the following requirements:

1. Must be in financial good standing with the Catholic Forensic League and FGCCFL, and
2. Must have attended at least two (2) Catholic Forensic League tournaments during that tournament year

B. No student shall be allowed to compete in the Grand Final Tournament if she or he has not attained League membership by competing in at least one (1) League tournament that season.

C. One (1) League tournament consists of:

1. four (4) rounds; or
2. in Policy/Team Debate, three (3) rounds;
3. in Student Congress, two (2) sessions.

By-Law No. 16- Grand Finals/Fees

Each member school that participates in the Grand Final Tournament shall pay a one hundred twenty dollar (\$120.00) nationals guarantee at registration in addition to registration and meals fees. This guarantee shall be applied to up to two (2) national qualifying students.

(a) This money shall be refunded after the awards assembly if a member school does not qualify for participation in the National Tournament.

(b) If a member school does qualify for participation in the Grand National Tournament, this money shall be applied to Tournament entry fees. If a member school qualifies more than two (2) students, the member school must submit the balance of the entry fees (\$60 per student) and confirmed judge names by the League deadline.

(c) Member schools who do not meet this deadline will not be registered for the NCFL Grand National tournament.

(d) If a member school does qualify for the Grand National Tournament but drops students or judges after the league deadline, this money shall be used to pay penalties incurred by the League and will not be refunded.

(e) Member schools who do not meet their entries or judge quotas at the NCFL national tournament will be charged the penalty incurred by the league.

(f) If a member school has an unpaid balance with the League, said school must rectify the outstanding balance prior to membership acceptance for the following season.

By-Law No. 17 - Grand Finals/Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall assist the tournament host with all procedural aspects of the Grand Final Tournament as requested by the host.

By-Law No. 18 - Grand Finals/Qualified Judges

1. All judges in the Grand Final Tournament shall be duly qualified. An explanation of what is a “qualified” judge can be found in By-Law 7.

2. Judging requirements for Grand Finals shall be:

- (a) One (1) Team Debate judge for every one (1) TD teams or fraction thereof;
- (b) One (1) Lincoln-Douglas Debate judge for every two (2) LD debaters or fraction thereof;
- (c) One (1) Public Forum Debate Judge for every two (2) PFD teams or fraction thereof; and
- (c) One (1) individual events judge for every three (3) entries (or fraction thereof) in all other events, including Student Congress.

3. Schools must meet their judge quotas in full on both Friday and Saturday.

By-Law No. 19 - Grand Finals/Qualifiers

A. Qualifiers for the Grand National Tournament shall be based on their performance in the final rounds of all categories of competition at the Grand Final Tournament.

1. In all debate events,

- a. debate rounds will continue until the six teams/individuals are determined and named as qualifiers and the two (2) alternate qualifiers are chosen;
- b. All issues regarding the number of rounds offered at the Grand Final Tournament are to be determined by the Executive Committee.

B. Three-judge panels shall be used in all final rounds of the Grand Final Tournament, except in Debate events, where a three-judge panel will be used in all rounds after the initial four (4).

By-Law No. 20 - Grand Finals/IE Event Challenges

- 1) Required copies of materials (see By-Law No. 10) to be used in the original oratory, memorized interpretation and declamation categories of competition in the Grand Final Tournament must be available for review at the Grand Final Tournament.
- 2) It is very important that any challenge, protest, or question as to the legitimacy or lack thereof of a piece or material comply with the following rules:
 - a. Any challenges of materials to be used in the aforementioned categories of competition based upon suitability, plagiarism, and/or violation of CFL Grand Final Tournament Rules must be communicated to the President by the head coach.
 - b. All legitimate challenges and Executive Committee rulings shall be made BEFORE the break round(s) in all affected categories of competition in the Grand Final Tournament.
- (3) In the event of disqualification, ranks for previous rounds shall be adjusted accordingly. Disqualified students shall receive a rank of last place.

By-Law No. 21 - Protests

Protests are to be made in the following manner:

- (1) students may not enter a protest, it must be made by the coach or member moderator of said student;
- (2) students may not enter a protest with a judge. A student may, however, make the violation aware to the judge and ask them to protest the action in violation, but the judge is to use common sense and his or her knowledge of the event before lodging the protest. It is also advised that the judge seek out the coach or member moderator of the school wishing to lodge the protest and consult with them before advancing with the protest;
- (3) Protests must be submitted in writing by the head coach no later than one round past the alleged violation, but before the posting of the first break round;
- (3) All protests will be addressed by the entire Executive Committee once the President has determined the protest is valid and requires the input of the entire Committee.;
- (4) All sides will be represented at a protest hearing. The President will act as judge, with the Committee acting as jury. The school entering the protest must be present, as well as the school being protested, and if at all possible, the judge or judges involved;
- (5) All decisions as to the validity and final outcome of the protest will be made by the Executive Committee and are binding on all individuals involved.

By-Law No. 22 – All Tournament Procedures

All League tournaments and Grand Finals will adhere to the NCFL rules. Coaches/moderators are responsible for knowing all NCFL event rules and tournament procedures as provided by the NCFL. Coaches/moderators are responsible for providing rules to students and judges prior to tournaments.