

**CONSTITUTION**

**OF THE**

**NEW YORK CATHOLIC**

**FORENSIC LEAGUE**



**(2007 Approved Version)**

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## **Article I. Name**

The name of this organization shall be The New York Catholic Forensic League (NYCFL).

## **Article II. Purpose**

It shall be the purpose of this league, through participation in interscholastic contests in debate, student congress and public speaking, to prepare students of secondary schools to become articulate and concerned Americans. The motto of the League is “Leadership Through Speech.”

## Article III. Membership

### Section 3.01 Definitions:

#### MINIMUM PARTICIPATION STANDARDS

##### 1. Speech:

- a. Schools which intend to enter the Grand Tournament in Speech must compete in at least four of the League tournaments held during the school year (exclusive of the Grand Tournament).
- b. A school must have a total of eight contestants compete prior to the Grand Tournament.
- c. The school must pay tournament registration fees for at least sixteen students.

##### 2. LD, Public Forum, and Policy Debate:

- a. Schools which intend to enter the Grand Tournament in any of the debate events, must participate in at least one NYCFL Debate Competition during the school year (exclusive of the Grand Tournament).
- b. The school must pay registration fees for at least four students.

##### 3. Congress:

- a. Schools which intend to enter the Grand Tournament in Congress must participate in at least two Congress Tournaments during the course of the year (exclusive of the Grand Tournament).
- b. The school must pay registration fees for at least four students.

### Section 3.02 School Membership:

#### B. Eligibility:

- i. Any secondary school located in the Archdiocese of New York shall be eligible for membership in the NYCFL.
- ii. Secondary schools that are not within the New York Archdiocese may be eligible for membership if:
  - a. Application is made to the League President.
  - b. Said school is not a member of another NCFL League.

#### C. Certification:

Application for membership shall be made to the President of the League. Membership shall become effective upon approval of said application and payment of the membership fee to the Treasurer of the League.

### Section 3.03 Grand Tournament Participation:

In order to compete at the Grand Tournament, a school must meet the following criteria:

- A completed NCFL application form must be submitted to the NYCFL President prior to the Grand Tournament.
- Outstanding fees must be paid as defined in Article IV.
- The school has met the MINIMUM PARTICIPATION STANDARDS in the category or categories in which it intends to compete.

## Article IV. Fees and Deadlines

### Section 4.01 Charter Fee:

Each school shall pay an annual charter membership fee of \$65.00. This fee must be paid to the Treasurer of the League no later than November 15. Ten dollars of the membership fee shall be put into to the Rev. Gerald R. Rippon, S.J. Scholarship Fund.

### Section 4.02 Tournament Fee:

Each school is responsible for the payment of its contestant registration for each tournament. Schools should not let these fees accumulate, but rather should keep their payments up-to-date. The tournament fee is \$3.00 per contestant from a member school, and \$6.00 per contestant from a non-member school. Non-Member schools may only participate at NYCFL Tournaments that are designated as an Invitational Tournament at the fall NYCFL Moderators' Meeting. Tournament fees must be paid for any contestant entry that is dropped after 10pm on the night before a contest. Registration fees may be higher at the December Debate Tournament and at the first tournament of the New Year. Extra registration will be put into the Rev. Gerald R. Rippon, S.J. Scholarship Fund. Fees will be set in the tournament invitation.

### Section 4.03 Grand Tournament Fee:

Each school is responsible for the payment of \$6.00 for each contestant it registers for the Grand Tournament. There will also be a \$10 team fee which the league will use to pay hired judges.

### Section 4.04 NCFL Tournament Expenses:

Each school is responsible for the payment of all expenses for students they qualify for the National Catholic Forensic League's Grand National Tournament. The league will pay \$10 towards the registration fees for each entry at the NCFL National Tournament.

### Section 4.05 Deadlines:

All fees should be paid in timely fashion.

- i. Any member school which owes fees to the League for tournaments of the previous year and which has not paid those fees by October 1 of the current year shall be ineligible to participate in League tournaments until the fees have been paid in full.
- ii. Any member school which owes fees through December 31<sup>st</sup> of the previous year will not be allowed to compete at the Grand Tournament.

### Section 4.06 Exceptions:

The Executive Board may approve a modification of these requirements in the event of coaching or moderator change affecting the school owing fees. All modifications shall be reviewed on a case by case basis.

## Article V. League Organization

### Section 5.01 Executive Board Members:

The officers of the NYCFL. shall be

- ◆ President
- ◆ Vice-President
- ◆ Secretary
- ◆ Treasurer
- ◆ Members at Large:

More than one person may be elected to the representative positions and each will have one vote on the council. The positions are as follows:

- \* Speech Rep
- \* Policy Debate Rep
- \* Lincoln-Douglas/Public Forum Debate Rep

### Section 5.02 Expenses:

The Executive Board members shall be entitled to reimbursement for expenses incurred in the discharge of their duties.

### Section 5.03 Election:

All members of the Executive Board shall be elected by majority vote of the member schools present at the first general meeting of the school year. Each school represented at the meeting shall have one vote.

### Section 5.04 Term of Office:

The term for all officers shall be for the duration of the school year.

**Section 5.05 Duties of Officers:****A. The President:**

The President shall be responsible for the enforcement of all the provisions of this Constitution and of all regulations enacted under its authority. He or she shall preside at all League meetings, and shall represent the League at all national meetings. The President shall be responsible for providing invitations to all NYCFL Tournaments and documenting rules and procedures in place at each tournament. It shall also be the duty of the President to maintain the League Website ([www.NYCFL.org](http://www.NYCFL.org)).

**B. Vice-President:**

The Vice-President shall act as President in times of the temporary vacancy of that office, or for the unexpired term, if that office becomes vacant. It shall also be the duty of the Vice-President to prepare the Extemp questions for each tournament.

**C. Secretary:**

The Secretary shall have charge of the necessary correspondence between the Executive Board and the member schools. He/she shall keep an accurate record of the proceedings of each League meeting.

**D. Treasurer:**

The Treasurer shall have charge of the finances of the League. He/she shall receive the annual membership fees and the tournament entry fees. All checks should be made out to the 'New York Catholic Forensic League'. The Treasurer shall receive and pay all bills charged to the League after they have been approved by the President.

**E. Members at Large:**

The Members at Large shall have charge of all publicity for the League and shall help other officers whenever and wherever necessary.

**Section 5.06 Other Duties:**

It shall be the responsibility of the Executive Board to ensure that all NYCFL tournaments run smoothly and efficiently. This includes, but is not limited to providing ballots, schematics, and awards.

**Section 5.07 Host School Responsibilities:**

The school at which an NYCFL tournament is held should provide a room for the tabulation of the tournament, access to a copy machine, and paper, staplers, etc. If possible, it should provide a modest lunch for the moderators and other judges. The contestants may purchase their lunch in the school cafeteria or in outside facilities if no luncheon can be provided for them by the host school.

## **Article VI. Amendment Procedure**

An amendment to this Constitution may be proposed at the first general meeting by a Moderator of an active NYCFL program, and it shall be ratified by a majority vote of the member schools present, each school having one vote.

## Article VII. Forensic Activities

### Section 7.01 Speech:

#### A. National Categories:

- i. The League provides competition in all speech categories offered at the NCFL Grand Tournament: Declamation, Dramatic Performance, Duo Performance, Extemporaneous Speaking, Oral Interpretation of Literature, and Original Oratory. The definitions and rules for each category are those of the National Catholic Forensic League, and may be accessed over the Internet at: [www.NCFL.org](http://www.NCFL.org).
- ii. Deviations to rules of NCFL categories may be made on a contest by contest basis but:
  - a. Must be approved by the Executive Board.
  - b. Must be documented in the contest invitation.

#### B. Definition of Competition Levels:

- i. Beginner:

A beginner is a student that has not participated in speech prior to the current school year.
- ii. JV (Junior Varsity):

A junior varsity competitor is a student in the 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Section 7.02 Policy Debate:****A. Proposition:**

The debate proposition each school year shall be the national high school debate topic as listed on the [www.NFLOnline.org](http://www.NFLOnline.org) website.

**B. Procedure:**

- i. The Cross-Examination style of debating shall be used. The rules and procedures will be based on NCFL rules and procedures.
- ii. Deviations to rules of NCFL categories may be made on a contest by contest basis but:
  - a. Must be approved by the Executive Board.
  - b. Must be documented in the Contest Invitation.

**C. Participants:**

A Policy Team consists of two students from the same school.

**D. Judge's Critique:**

Judges shall complete written critique sheets for contestants they hear. A Judge may not give oral critiques or disclose their decision at any point during a tournament.

**E. Definition of Competition Levels:**

- i. Novice:

A novice shall be defined as any 9th or 10th grade student who has not had debate experience prior to September of that year. Seniors may not debate in the novice division even if it is their first year.
- ii. Intermediate (JV):

A division open to debaters that have not had more than three years of debate experience.

**Section 7.03 Lincoln-Douglas Debate:****A. Proposition:**

The proposition shall be decided upon by the Executive Board, and schools participating in the event shall be notified of the proposition approximately two (2) weeks prior to the contest. The proposition shall be a proposition of value rather than a proposition of policy.

**B. Procedure:**

- i. The procedure used shall be the one currently in use by the National Catholic Forensic League.
- ii. Deviations to rules of NCFL categories may be made on a contest by contest basis but:
  - a. Must be approved by the Executive Board.
  - b. Must be documented in the Contest Invitation.

**C. Participants:**

Lincoln-Douglas Debate is an individual debate category.

**D. Judge's Critique:**

Judges shall complete written critique sheets for contestants they hear. A Judge may not give oral critiques or disclose their decision at any point during a tournament.

**E. Definition of Competition Levels:**

## ii. Novice:

A novice shall be defined as any 9th or 10th grade student who has not had debate experience prior to September of that year. Seniors may not debate in the novice division even if it is their first year.

## iii. Intermediate (JV):

A division open to debaters that have not had more than three years of debate experience.

**Section 7.04 Public Forum Debate:****A. Proposition:**

The proposition shall be decided upon by the Executive Board, and schools participating in the event shall be notified of the proposition approximately two (2) weeks prior to the contest. The proposition shall be a proposition of value rather than a proposition of policy.

**B. Procedure:**

- i. The procedure used shall be the one currently in use by the National Forensic League.
- ii. Deviations to rules of the NFL may be made on a contest by contest basis but:
  - a. Must be approved by the Executive Board
  - b. Must be documented in the Contest Invitation

**C. Participants:**

A Public Forum Team consists of two students from the same school.

**D. Judge's Critique:**

Judges shall complete written critique sheets for contestants they hear. A Judge may not give oral critiques or disclose their decision at any point during a tournament.

**E. Definition of Competition Levels:**

## ii. Novice:

A novice shall be defined as any 9th or 10th grade student who has not had debate experience prior to September of that year. Seniors may not debate in the novice division even if it is their first year.

## iii. Intermediate (JV):

A division open to debaters that have not had more than three years of debate experience.

## Section 7.05 Student Congress:

### **A. Legislation:**

The number of pieces of Legislation required for each tournament and Super Session Legislation requirements will be detailed in the individual contest invitations.

### **B. Submission Procedure:**

- i. Legislation must be e-mailed to [Congress@NYCFL.org](mailto:Congress@NYCFL.org) or faxed to a phone number provided in the invitation.
- ii. Legislation submission deadlines will be established at the NYCFL Fall Meeting.
- iii. Bills/Resolutions shall be reviewed by at least one member of the Executive Board. Any Bill/Resolutions that fails to meet the criteria in Section IV will be rejected and must be resubmitted and approved prior to the submission deadline.
- iv. All submitted legislation must:
  - Be typed.
  - Be double-spaced.
  - Have all lines numbered.
  - Have the name of the submitting school at the.

### **C. Judge's Critique:**

Judges shall complete written critique sheets for all contestants giving either an authorship, a sponsorship, a pro, or a con speech. In addition they must provide a critique for the Presiding officer. A Judge may not give oral critiques or disclose their decision at any point during a tournament.

### **D. Eligibility:**

Any school failing to submit a piece of legislation prior to the deadline for that contest will not be allowed to participate at that contest.

## Section 7.06 Other Categories:

If the Moderators agree to use some other category of speech activity, the President shall appoint an ad hoc committee to arrange for the rules to conduct said category and to prepare the ballot.

## Article VIII. Tournament Procedure and Regulations

### (Exclusive of the Grand Tournament)

#### Section 8.01 Speech:

##### A. Definitions:

###### 1. METHOD OF RANKINGS:

- The total number of first places secured in the preliminary and final rounds by the contestants who count for team totals shall be counted. The team with the greater number of first places wins the tie-break.
- If the total number of first places does not break the tie, then the number of second places will be the next criterion, then the number of third places, and so on.

###### 2. METHOD OF CRITIQUE POINTS:

- The total number of first places secured in the preliminary and final rounds by the contestants who count for team totals shall be counted. The team with the greater number of first places wins the tie-break.
- If the total number of first places does not break the tie, then the number of second places will be the next criterion, then the number of third places, and so on.

###### 3. TROPHY POINTS:

###### A. Speech:

###### ◆ Pre-Lims:

In EACH preliminary round in which a contestant competes they are awarded points according to the following scale:

- For a first place ranking, 5 Trophy Points
- For a second place ranking, 4 Trophy Points
- For a third place ranking, 3 Trophy Points
- For a fourth place ranking, 2 Trophy Points
- For a fifth or lower place ranking, 1 Trophy Point

###### ◆ Elimination Rounds:

Points will be awarded to each student advancing to the final round according to the above scale, but after that contestant has been awarded a single rank, arrive at by the following procedure:

- The three judge ranks which each speaker has been given are totaled.
- The speaker with the lowest total is awarded the first place ranking for the final round, the speaker with the next lowest total is awarded the second place ranking, and so on.
- If two speakers are tied for a ranking, the tie is broken by the method of judges' preference, that is, in favor of the speaker who was ranked higher than the other speaker with whom he or she is tied by two of the three final round judges.
- If three or more speakers are tied for a ranking, the tie is broken by the method of reciprocal rankings: each of the three judges' ranks is converted into its decimal reciprocal (rank 1 = 1.00; rank 2 = .50; rank 3 = .333; rank 4 = .25; rank 5 = .20; rank 6 = .166; rank 7 = .143; rank 8 = .125). The three decimals for each speaker are added together, and the speaker with the highest total receives the best (lowest) ranking, the speaker with the next highest total receives the next best ranking, etc.

**B. Congress:**

Congress points will be awarded based on final placement according to the following chart:

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	20 Points
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	19 Points
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	18 Points
4 <sup>th</sup> Place	16 Points
5 <sup>th</sup> Place	14 Points
6 <sup>th</sup> Place	12 Points
7 <sup>th</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> Place	10 Points
Super Session Participant	6 Points
Congress Participant	3 Points

**B. Number of Contestants:**

A school shall be permitted, whenever possible, to enter an unlimited number of contestants in each speech event. Should the size of the host school make this impossible, the Executive Board shall have the power to impose limitations on the number of entries in a category.

**C. Preliminary Rounds:**

There shall be three preliminary rounds.

**D. Schematics:**

It is ultimately the responsibility of the Executive Board to see that the schematic is as fair and impartial as possible. To that end, the Executive Board shall be responsible for the preparation of the schematic.

**E. Speaking Order:**

In all categories but Extemporaneous Speaking, the speaking order of the contestants in each preliminary round shall be determined by a draw conducted by the judge prior to the start of each round. Contestants in Extemporaneous Speaking shall speak in the order listed on the schematic or in the order determined by the Extemp Prep Supervisor.

**F. Final Round:**

The eight contestants with the lowest total of judge's ranks for the three preliminary rounds shall qualify for the final round. In a one-category contest there may be two final rounds: one for beginners and one for non-beginners. In an event with fewer than 16 competitors, the Executive Board shall determine the number of finalists. If an event exceeds 60 competitors, the Executive Board may, at its discretion, hold two final rounds. Those rounds are to be paired and final placement determined according to the Speech Grand Tournament: Semi-Final Round Procedures.

**G. Breaking Ties:**

## i. Individual Pre-Lim:

When a tie in total rankings occurs between contestants after the preliminary rounds, it needs to be broken only if it will affect the determination of the top eight speakers for the final round. If the tie must be broken:

- It shall be broken by the METHOD OF RANKINGS.
- If the method of rankings does not break the tie, it shall be broken by the METHOD OF CRITIQUE POINTS.
- Should the METHOD OF CRITIQUE POINTS fail to break the tie, the tied speakers shall advance to the final round, and an extra award shall be presented.

## ii. Individual Finals:

If a tie in total rankings occurs after the final round:

- It shall be resolved by the method of rankings.
- If a tie still exists, it shall be broken in favor of the contestant who received the lower overall placement (rank) in the final round.

**H. Judging:**

## i. Qualifications:

Prior to judging at an NYCFL Tournament, a judge must meet one of the following criteria:

- Has judges at a minimum of two contests.
- Is the coach or moderator of a speech program.
- Has competed in High School Forensic competition as a student.

In addition each judge must be at a college Freshman or older.

## ii. Quotas:

1. The requirement is one qualified judge for every five speakers or fraction thereof.
2. Every school shall be required to provide its full complement of judges. If a school does not provide its proper complement of judges, it may have to withdraw some or all of its contestants from the tournament.

## iii. Critiques:

Judges shall complete written critique sheets for contestants they hear. A Judge may not give oral critiques or disclose their ranks at any point during a tournament.

## iv. Panels:

Each Preliminary Round will be heard by one judge, and each Final Round will be heard by three judges.

## v. Overtime Penalties:

In addition to the maximum time limit stated for each category, each speaker is allowed a mandatory thirty second “grace” period without penalty. However, if the contestant exceeds this “grace” period, he/she may not be ranked first in the round.

## vi. Disqualifications:

No judge should disqualify a student for using a prohibited type of selection or for violating the rules within a round. If a judge feels that a contestant is not acting within the rules, he/she shall refer the case to any member the Executive Board immediately following the round. The Executive Board shall be the final judge of the acceptability of the piece or performance. Any student disqualified by the Executive Board shall be withdrawn from the contest.

**I. Speech Team Totals:**

## i. Sweepstakes Determination:

## 1. One category tournament:

A school's team total is based on the six speakers from that school who have amassed the greatest number of TROPHY POINTS.

## 2. Two category tournament:

A school's team total is based on the three entries in each category who have amassed the greatest number of TROPHY POINTS.

## 3. Three or more category tournament:

In a three or more category tournament, the two contestants in each division who have amassed the greatest number of TROPHY POINTS. There are three divisions:

A. Extemporaneous Speaking, Congress, and Original Oratory

B. Duo Performance and Oral Interpretation of Literature

C. Dramatic Performance and Declamation

## ii. Breaking Ties:

Teams tied for the same award shall have the tie resolved by the METHOD OF RANKINGS for those students counting toward team sweepstakes.

**J. Awards:**

## i. School Awards:

Team awards shall be presented to the top seven schools whose contestants have amassed the highest number of TROPHY POINTS.

## ii. Individual Awards:

Individual awards shall be awarded to first through fifth places and three finalist awards in each category.

**K. Change in Number of Awards:**

Should the registration for a given contest warrant, the Executive Board may decide to raise or lower the number of awards given at that contest.

**L. Deviations:**

Any deviation to the above must be included in the contest invitation.

**M. Extenuating Circumstances:**

The Executive Board reserves the right to adapt the above procedures to adjust to circumstances outside of the league's control. It is the responsibility of the Executive Board to communicate those changes to the contest participants in a timely manner.

**Section 8.02 Policy Debate:****A. Number of Teams:**

Each school competing in a Varsity, Intermediate, and/or Novice Team debate shall enter two-person teams, prepared to debate both sides of the proposition. Schools shall be allowed an unlimited number of team entries, unless problems arise due to scheduling priorities. In that case, the Executive Board may elect to limit the number of teams a school may enter.

**B. Judging Requirements:**

- i. The requirement is one judge for every two two-person team or fraction thereof.
- ii. All judges must be college freshmen or older, with the exception that Varsity debaters may judge Intermediate and/or Novice Policy Debate.
- iii. If a school does not provide its proper complement of judges, it may have to withdraw some or all of its contestants from the tournament.
- iv. Each round will be heard by one judge.

**C. Elimination:**

A policy team shall compete in three rounds.

**D. Placement:**

On each debate ballot, the judge, in addition to indicating his or her decision, shall rank each of the four debaters: 1, 2, 3, and 4, according to their respective debating skills as shown in the debate. The judge shall also assign each debater a number of rating points. If a tie in overall record for first, second, or third place team occurs, the tie shall be broken in favor of the team whose debaters shall have received the lower total of ranks. If a tie should still exist, it shall be broken in favor of the team whose debaters shall have received the greater total of rating points. Low Point Wins are permitted, but must be indicated on the ballot.

**E. Awards:**

Awards shall be given to the top five teams which have achieved the best records in each division offered.

**F. Changes:**

Should the registration for a given contest warrant, the Executive Board may decide to raise or lower the number of awards given at that contest. In addition divisions may be combined if there are not enough students or judges to support a given division.

**G. Deviations:**

Any deviation to the above must be included in the contest invitation.

**H. Extenuating Circumstances:**

The Executive Board reserves the right to adapt the above procedures to adjust to circumstances outside of the league's control. It is the responsibility of the Executive Board to communicate those changes to the contest participants in a timely manner.

**Section 8.03 Lincoln-Douglas Debate:****A. Number of Contestants:**

A school shall be permitted to enter an unlimited number of contestants unless problems arise due to scheduling priorities. In that case, the Executive Board may elect to limit the number of contestants a school may enter.

**B. Elimination:**

A speaker shall compete in at least three rounds.

**C. Judging Requirements:**

- i. The requirement is one (1) qualified judge for every four (4) contestants.
- ii. All judges must be college freshmen or older, with the exception that Varsity debaters may judge Intermediate and/or Novice Policy Debate.
- iii. If a school does not provide its proper complement of judges, it may have to withdraw some or all of its contestants from the tournament.
- iv. Each round will be heard by one judge.

**D. Placement:**

On each L-D debate ballot, in addition to indicating his or her decision, the judge shall assign each contestant a number of rating points. When a tie for an award occurs, it shall be broken in favor of the speaker who has the greater total of rating points from his or her judges. In cases of equal rating points, ties will be broken by opponent wins, and then by opponent points.

**E. Awards:**

Individual awards shall be given to the top five debaters in each division offered.

**F. Changes:**

Should the registration for a given contest warrant, the Executive Board may decide to raise or lower the number of awards given at that contest. In addition divisions may be combined if there are not enough students or judges to support a given division.

**G. Deviations:**

Any deviation to the above must be included in the contest invitation.

**H. Extenuating Circumstances:**

The Executive Board reserves the right to adapt the above procedures to adjust to circumstances outside of the league's control. It is the responsibility of the Executive Board to communicate those changes to the contest participants in a timely manner.

**Section 8.04 Public-Forum Debate:****A. Number of Contestants:**

A school shall be permitted to enter an unlimited number of contestants unless problems arise due to scheduling priorities. In that case, the Executive Board may elect to limit the number of contestants a school may enter.

**B. Elimination:**

A team shall compete in at least three rounds.

**C. Judging Requirements:**

- ii. The requirement is one qualified judge for every four teams.
- iii. All judges must be college freshmen or older.
- iv. If a school does not provide its proper complement of judges, it may have to withdraw some or all of its contestants from the tournament.
- v. Each round will be heard by one judge.

**D. Placement:**

On each Public Forum debate ballot, in addition to indicating his or her decision, the judge shall assign each contestant a number of rating points. When a tie for an award occurs, it shall be broken in favor of the speaker who has the greater total of rating points from his or her judges. In cases of equal rating points, ties will be broken by opponent wins, and then by opponent points.

**E. Awards:**

Individual awards shall be given to the top five teams in each division offered.

**F. Changes:**

Should the registration for a given contest warrant, the Executive Board may decide to raise or lower the number of awards given at that contest. In addition divisions may be combined if there are not enough students or judges to support a given division.

**G. Deviations:**

Any deviation to the above must be included in the contest invitation.

**H. Extenuating Circumstances:**

The Executive Board reserves the right to adapt the above procedures to adjust to circumstances outside of the league's control. It is the responsibility of the Executive Board to communicate those changes to the contest participants in a timely manner.

**Section 8.05 Student Congress:****A. Number of Contestants:**

A school shall be permitted, whenever possible, to enter an unlimited number of contestants in Student Congress, provided that they have submitted legislation as outlined in SECTION: VII,A. Should the size of the host school make this impossible, the Executive Board shall have the power to impose limitations on the number of entries in a category.

**B. Preliminary Rounds:**

There shall be two preliminary sessions.

**C. Chamber Size:**

Where possible chamber sizes should not exceed 15 speakers. Exceptions will be made if there are not enough judges or if the size of any individual chamber drops below 12 speakers.

**D. Judging:**

- ii. The requirement is one judge for every school competing in Student Congress.
- iii. All judges must be college freshmen or older, with the exception that Varsity debaters may judge Intermediate and/or Novice Policy Debate.
- iv. If a school does not provide its proper complement of judges, it may have to withdraw some or all of its contestants from the tournament.
- v. Each preliminary round will be heard by a minimum of two judges, and each final round will be heard by a minimum of three judges. All judges are eligible to judge all students.

**E. Placement:**

- ii. Pre-Lims:

Each judge will rank the top 6 students in their chamber. Any contestant not ranked by a judge will receive a rank of 7. The worst (highest) rank of each student will be crossed out and the remaining scores tallied. The top students with the lowest total scores will advance to the Super Session. The size of the Super Session may be altered if there is a natural break in the scores. The Super Session shall have a minimum of 12 and a maximum of 15 contestants.
- iii. Super Session:

Each judge will rank the top 6 students in the Super Session. Any contestant not ranked by a judge will receive a rank of 7. The best (lowest) rank of each student will be crossed out and the remaining scores will be tallied and combined with the Pre-Lim totals. The winners will have the lowest point totals. Ties will be broken using the METHOD OF RANKINGS

**F. Awards:**

Student Congress awards shall be awarded to the top eight speakers in the category.

**G. Changes:**

Should the registration for a given contest warrant, the Executive Board may decide to raise or lower the number of awards given at that contest. In addition divisions may be combined if there are not enough students or judges to support a given division.

**H. Deviations:**

Any deviation to the above must be included in the contest invitation.

**I. Extenuating Circumstances:**

The Executive Board reserves the right to adapt the above procedures to adjust to circumstances outside of the league's control. It is the responsibility of the Executive Board to communicate those changes to the contest participants in a timely manner.

## Article IX. The Grand Tournament Procedures

### Section 9.01 Definition:

#### **A. Purpose:**

These tournaments, one in Speech, one in Lincoln-Douglas, one in Policy Debate, one in Public Forum, and one in Student Congress, are the League's final championships of the year. They determine the representatives of the League to the Grand National Tournament of the National Catholic Forensic League.

#### **B. Grand Tournament Division:**

- i. The Speech Grand Tournament shall consist of Original Oratory, Extemporaneous Speaking, Declamation, Dramatic Performance, and Oral Interpretation of Prose/Poetry, and Duo-Interpretation of Literature.
- ii. The Debate Grand Tournament shall include Policy Debate, Public Forum Debate and Lincoln-Douglas Debate.
- iii. The Student Congress Grand Tournament shall include Congress.

#### **C. Date and Host Site:**

The date or dates of the Grand Tournament shall be determined at the fall NYCFL Moderators' meeting. The location of the tournament shall also be determined at that meeting.

#### **D. Rules:**

Unless otherwise noted, all categories shall be run under the rules and guidelines of the NCFL

#### **E. New Categories:**

Should the NCFL add additional categories at Nationals, it will be the responsibility of the Executive Board the first year to determine how students will be selected to participate. Beyond the first year, qualification procedures must be set by a vote at the Fall Moderators' Meeting

**Section 9.02 Eligibility:****F. School:**

In order to participate at the Grand Tournament A school must have an active membership (See Section 3.01) at the time of the Grand Tournament and all outstanding fees (See Section 4.05) must be paid.

**G. Number of Entries:****i. Minimum Entries:**

There is no obligation for a school to enter every event or even to enter the maximum number of contestants in any event. It is a decision for the individual moderator.

ii. Maximum Entries:

1. Speech:

A school may enter at most 18 entries, with no more than three entries per any category.

2. Policy Debate:

A school may enter at most three two-person teams that are prepared to debate alternately each side of the proposition. A fourth team may be offered to prevent a 'Bye.' Determination of the 'swing' team and requirements for the 'swing' will be provided in the invitation to the Grand Tournament. The 'swing' team cannot qualify for nationals and if a 'swing' team is provided, then a judge must be provided to cover the entry.

3. Lincoln-Douglas Debate:

A school may enter at most three contestants who are prepared to debate alternately each side of the proposition. A fourth competitor may be offered to prevent a 'Bye.' Determination of the 'swing' team and requirements for the 'swing' will be provided in the invitation to the Grand Tournament. The 'swing' contestant cannot qualify for nationals and if a 'swing' team is provided, then a judge must be provided to cover the entry.

4. Public Forum:

A school may enter at most three two-person teams that are prepared to debate each side of a proposition. A fourth team may be offered to prevent a 'Bye.' Determination of the 'swing' team and requirements for the 'swing' will be provided in the invitation to the Grand Tournament. The 'swing' contestant cannot qualify for nationals and if a 'swing' team is provided, then a judge must be provided to cover the entry.

5. Student Congress:

A school may enter at most three contestants. The school must also submit a bill for consideration prior to the deadline posted in the invitation to the Grand Tournament.

### Section 9.03 Judging Requirements:

#### A. All Categories:

Judges provided for any Grand Tournament must be at least college freshmen. They must be qualified to judge the divisions for which they are being provided. Each judge must have judged in at least three tournaments (not necessarily NYCFL. tournaments) prior to the Grand Tournament.

The names and qualifications of all judges must be provided to the NYCFL president 10 days prior to the tournament. Schools may only register the number of students covered by the judges that were pre-registered (and met all the requirements detailed below) by the judge pre-registration deadline.

#### B. Fines:

A school will be fined \$200 if one of the judges is removed for incompetence or lack of qualification during the Grand tournament. The decision to remove a judge must be approved by a majority of the Executive Board present at the tournament.

#### C. Judge Requirements:

##### ii. Speech:

- Judges provided for any Grand Tournament must be at least college sophomores.
- Each school is required to provide one qualified judge for each three speakers or fraction thereof.

##### iii. Policy Debate:

- Judges provided for any Grand Tournament must be at least college freshmen.
- Each school is required to provide one qualified judge for each entry.

##### iv. Lincoln-Douglas Debate:

- Judges provided for any Grand Tournament must be at least college freshmen.
- Each school is required to provide one qualified judge for every one contestant.

##### v. Public Forum Debate:

- Judges provided for any Grand Tournament must be at least college freshmen.
- Each school is required to provide one qualified judge for every one team.

##### vi. Student Congress:

- Judges provided for any Grand Tournament must be at least college sophomores.
- Each participating school is required to provide one qualified judge.

### Section 9.04 Speech Contest:

#### A. Preliminary Rounds:

There shall be three preliminary rounds with two judges hearing each section.

#### B. Semi-Final Round:

##### i. Determining Participants:

The lowest (worst) ranking of each contestant shall be discarded, and the remaining five ranks totaled. The twelve contestants in each category with the lowest totals shall

advance to the semi-final round. If there is a tie for determining the top twelve, it shall be broken by the METHOD OF RANKINGS. If the method of rankings does not break the tie, both (all) tied contestants shall compete in the semi-final round. Under no circumstances are critique points or the dropped rank ever to be used to break a tie in the Grand Tournament. Three judges shall hear each semi-final round

## ii. Pairings:

The top twelve speakers in each category should be placed in the two final round sections based on their rank totals. If the letters of the alphabet, “A” through “L,” represent the twelve speakers from the lowest rank total to the highest, they should be placed into the two sections in the following order:

Section 1	Section 2
A	B
D	C
E	F
H	G
I	J
L	K

After being arranged in this order, switches maybe made only to avoid having two speakers from the same school in the same section. (Obviously, if a school qualifies three speakers to the semi-final round, two of them must meet. But the top two speakers from the school must not be the two that meet) If speaker F and speaker J are from the same school, two possible switches may be made - Speaker F and Speaker E may change sections; speaker J and speaker I may change sections. In other words, if changes are necessary, they should be made horizontally on the schematic.

## iii. Final Placement:

Each contestant's five preliminary scores are added to his or her three semi-final scores. The six contestants in each category with the lowest totals will qualify for Nationals. Once again, if there is a tie, it shall be broken on the method of rankings. But should a tie still result after the method of rankings is applied, both (all) tied contestants shall compete in a final round. Under no circumstances are critique point totals or the dropped score to be used to break a tie.

**C. School Team Totals:**

Each schools team totals shall be the total of TROPHY POINTS earned by the top 15 speakers from the school. Each speaker earns Trophy Points for each of the six preliminary round rankings. The lowest of these six scores is dropped. TROPHY POINTS are also calculated for students advancing to the Semi-Final Round.

**Section 9.05 Student Congress:****A. Preliminary Rounds:**

There shall be two preliminary sessions.

**B. Chamber Size:**

Where possible chamber sizes should not exceed 15 speakers. Exceptions will be made if there are not enough judges or if the size of any individual chamber drops below 12 speakers.

**C. Placement:****i. Pre-Lims:**

Each judge will rank the top 6 students in their chamber. Any contestant not ranked by a judge will receive a rank of 7. The worst (highest) rank of each student will be crossed out and the remaining scores tallied. (If four or more judges can be provided for Pre-Lim Sessions, then the highest and lowest scores will be dropped.) The top students with the lowest total scores will advance to the Super Session. The Super Session shall have 12 contestants. In the event of a tie for 12<sup>th</sup> place, all tied speakers shall advance.

**ii. Super Session:**

Each judge will rank the top 6 students in the Super Session. Any contestant not ranked by a judge will receive a rank of 7. The best (lowest) rank of each student will be crossed out and the remaining scores will be tallied and combined with the Pre-Lim totals. (If eight or more judges can be provided for the Super Session, then the highest and lowest scores will be dropped.) The winners will have the lowest point totals. Ties will be broken using the METHOD OF RANKINGS.

**Section 9.06 Policy Debate:****A. Pro vs. Con:**

Each Policy Debate Team shall be prepared to debate both sides of the proposition, and shall advance on its own record.

**B. Pairings:**

The tournament will run four rounds.

- A. The first two will be randomly paired, and schools will draw into the prepared schematic.
- B. Round 3 and 4 will be paired high-low within bracket.
- C. All Policy rounds will be heard by two judges.

**C. Elimination:**

- 1. Teams may be eliminated after round 2 if they are mathematically unable to get enough ballots to qualify for the National Tournament
- 2. At the end of the four rounds, the six national qualifying teams will be selected based on total number of ballots received during the tournament.
- 3. If there is a tie, it will be broken on adjusted points.
- 4. If there is still a tie, it will be broken on total points.
- 5. Under rare circumstance, a runoff round may be necessary.
- 6. Unanimous consent of the coaches involved can alter the procedures stated.

**D. Prep Time:**

- ii. Prep time for Policy Debate shall be dictated by NCFL rules.

**Section 9.07 Lincoln-Douglas Debate:****A. Pro vs. Con:**

Each LD Contestant shall be prepared to debate both sides of the proposition.

**B. Pairings:**

The tournament will run four (4) rounds.

A. The first two will be randomly paired, and schools will draw into the prepared schematic.

B. Round 3 and 4 will be paired high-low within bracket.

C. All L-D rounds will be heard by three judges.

**C. Elimination:**

1. Debaters may be eliminated after round 2 if they are mathematically unable to get enough ballots to qualify for the National Tournament

2. At the end of the four rounds, the six national qualifiers will be selected based on total number of ballots received during the tournament.

3. If there is a tie, it will be broken on points.

4. Under rare circumstance, a runoff round may be necessary.

5. Unanimous consent of the coaches involved can alter the procedures stated.

**D. Prep Time:**

Prep time for Lincoln-Douglas shall be dictated by NCFL rules.

**Section 9.08 Public-Forum Debate:****A. Pro vs. Con:**

Each Public Forum Team shall be prepared to debate both sides of the proposition. Sides will be determined by NCFL rules.

**B. Pairings:**

The tournament will run four (4) rounds.

- A. The first two will be randomly paired, and schools will draw into the prepared schematic.
- B. Round 3 and 4 will be paired high-low within bracket.
- C. All L-D rounds will be heard by three judges.

**C. Elimination:**

- 1. Debaters may be eliminated after round 2 if they are mathematically unable to get enough ballots to qualify for the National Tournament
- 2. At the end of the four rounds, the six national qualifiers will be selected based on total number of ballots received during the tournament.
- 3. If there is a tie, it will be broken on points.
- 4. Under rare circumstance, a runoff round may be necessary.
- 5. Unanimous consent of the coaches involved can alter the procedures stated.

**D. Prep Time:**

Prep time for Public Forum shall be dictated by NCFL rules.

**Section 9.09 Awards:****A. School Awards:**i. **Speech Grand:**

Five permanent school trophies shall be awarded for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th place schools whose teams score the most Trophy Points.

ii. **Congress Grand:**

Three permanent school trophies shall be awarded for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place schools whose teams score the most Trophy Points.

iii. **Debate Grand:**

No school awards will be calculated for the debate events.

**B. Individual Awards:**

Awards shall be given to at least each speaker, who shall qualify for participation at the National Catholic Forensic League Grand National Tournament.

**Section 9.10 Participation in the Grand National Tournament:**

The League's representation shall be based on the number of entries allowed by the National Office. The first place winner in each category at the Grand National Tournament shall fill the first national slot, the second place winner shall fill the second national spot, and so on. If a national qualifier is unable to attend the National Tournament, the slot shall go to the next highest finisher at the Grand Tournament.

## Article X. Scholarship:

Each year the NYCFL will provide one student with a \$1000 scholarship in honor of Rev. Gerald R. Rippon, S.J. In the event that two students are selected, each student would receive \$750

### A. Nominations:

Each League-member school is entitled to nominate one candidate for this award. The candidate must be a senior in high school and must satisfy all of the following criteria:

The student has:

- participated in forensic competition in all four years of high school;
- evidenced good sportsmanship and a healthy attitude toward competition;
- shown an awareness of working toward team goals as well as individual goals;
- demonstrated an understanding of the importance of the educational value of forensics;
- gained the respect of his/her teammates as well as that of students from other schools;
- experienced the most personal growth and development as a direct result of participation in forensics.

### B. Application:

A letter of recommendation of no more than 500 words must be submitted to the NYCFL President by 10pm on the Friday of Presidents' Day Weekend. That letter should explain the qualities this student possesses that make him/her a solid candidate for the award. The letter may include information concerning the student's forensic involvement, the student's understanding of the value of forensics, a sense of the student's contributions to your program and relationships with students from other schools, and a clear statement of how this student has grown and developed through forensics.

### C. Selection:

Copies of the nomination letter shall be provided to all members of the Executive Board. Each member shall review all the letters and will rank their top six nominees. Any student not nominated by a member would receive a rank of 7 from that member. The President will then determine the winner by adding together the scores from all members of the Executive Board. The student or students with the lowest point total shall be awarded the scholarship.

### D. Presentation:

All nominated students will be given an award and recognized at the Grand Tournament. At that time, the winner shall be announced and awarded the scholarship money.

## Article XI. Designated Awards:

### List of Honorees

#### **Hugh McEvoy**

- A student at Cathedral Prep who was shot in the head, while sitting on the steps of Columbia University Teachers College, after attending Mass at Corpus Christi Church.
- The first Declamation tournament of the year shall be held in his honor and the first place Declamation Team Sweepstakes award shall be given in his name. – In Memoriam

#### **Emily Clemente**

- A student at Ursuline who was killed in a car accident during her senior year.
- The first speech tournament in December shall be held in her honor and will feature JV categories. A rotating award will be given to the team that amasses the greatest number of sweepstakes points at that tournament. Upon winning, a team's point total will drop to zero. – In Memoriam

#### **Rev. Gerald R. Rippon, S.J.**

- A former president of the NYCFL and NCFL and former coach of the Regis speech team
- The first NYCFL speech tournament after the new calendar year will be held in his honor. – In Memoriam

#### **Eugene Marshalik**

- A former Stuyvesant student and Policy Debater who was killed in the line of duty while serving as an auxiliary policeman in Greenwich Village of the NYCFL and NCFL and former coach of the Regis speech team
- The first place team trophy for debate will be given in his honor at the December debate tournament. Sweepstakes points will be determined by the total number of wins of a teams top six entries regardless of division. In the event of a tie, final placement of the top 6 students will be used to break the tie. – In Memoriam

#### **James F.X. Lyness**

- A former president of the NYCFL and NCFL and former coach of the Loyola speech team
- The first place Speech Grand Tournament sweepstakes award will be given in his honor.

**Sister Mary Raimonde, FDC**

- A coach and President of St. Joseph Hill Academy and member of the NFL Hall of Fame
- The third speech tournament of the year will be designated as a tournament whose purpose is to raise money for a charitable cause determined at each fall's NYCFL Moderators' Meeting. Certificates, instead of trophies, will be awarded to all winners. A rotating award will be given to the team that has the highest number of sweepstakes points at that tournament. Upon winning, a team's point total shall drop to zero.

## Article XII. NYCFL Hall of Fame:

### Section 12.01 Definition:

Beginning in the Fall of 2008, the NYCFL shall keep a list of those individuals – past and present – that have had a significant impact on the league.

### Section 12.02 Procedure:

- i. The League President shall accept nominations from August 1<sup>st</sup> through September 1<sup>st</sup>. Nominations may be made by anyone, but must be presented to the President by the coach of a current NYCFL program.
- ii. A list of nominees will be posted to the [www.NYCFL.org](http://www.NYCFL.org) website prior to the fall NYCFL Moderators' Meeting
- iii. At the fall meeting a coach or designee may advocate on behalf of a candidate
- iv. Election of Members:
  1. The first year:
    - A. Up to Five Members may be elected to the NYCFL Hall of Fame
      - ◆ Nominees need to be approved by 2/3 of the moderators present
      - ◆ If more than Five people are nominated, then the Five will be determined by preferential ballot
  2. Subsequent years:
    - A. Up to Three Members may be elected to the NYCFL Hall of Fame
      - ◆ Nominees need to be approved by 2/3 of the moderators present
      - ◆ If more than Three people are nominated, then the Three will be determined by preferential ballot
- v. Recognition:
  1. Hall of Fame Inductees will be listed in the NYCFL Constitution
  2. Hall of Fame Inductees will be recognized at the first NYCFL Tournament of the school year
  3. When possible and practical, a plaque will be presented to the Inductee, their family, or their school at the first NYCFL Tournament of the school

Section 12.03 NYCFL Hall of Fame Members:

The following individuals are recognized as having made a significant contribution to the NYCFL:

## Article XIII. Presidents: Past and Current:

Sr. Maria Turibius, S.C.	St. Barnabas High School	1947 – 1949
Rev. John Grace	Cardinal Hayes High School	1949 – 1951
Mr. Walter Mullen	St. John's Prep	1951 – 1953
Rev. John Grace	Cardinal Hayes High School	1953 – 1955
Rev. Thomas Hennessy, S.J.	Fordham Prep	1955 – 1956
Rev. James Dolan, S.J.	Brooklyn Prep	1956 – 1957
Bro. Edward Lawrence, F.M.S.	Mt. St. Michael	1957 – 1958
Rev. James Conlan	Cardinal Hayes High School	1958 – 1960
Bro. Stephen Luke, F.M.S.	St. Helena's	1960 – 1961
Dr. Paul Ward	La Salle	1961 – 1963
Bro. Gregory Francis, F.M.S.	Mt. St. Michael	1963 – 1965
Dr. Paul Ward	La Salle	1965 – 1966
Charles Laferty, O.S.A.	Tolentine Boys	1966 – 1967
Mr. Patrick J. Sullivan, S.J.	Regis High School	1967 – 1968
Dr. Paul Ward	La Salle	1968 – 1970
Rev. Gerald Rippon, S.J.	Regis High School	1970 – 1972
Mr. Michael Norelli	St. Raymond's Boys	1972 – 1974
Rev. Gerald Rippon, S.J.	Regis High School	1974 – 1976
Mr. Michael Norelli	St. Raymond's Boys	1976 – 1981
Rev. Gerald Rippon, S.J.	Regis High School	1981 – 1983
Mr. James Lyness	The Loyola School	1983 – 1999
Rev. Philip Judge, S.J.	Fordham Prep	1999 – 2000
Ms. Theresa Agliardo	The Ursuline School	2000 – 2003
Mr. Charles Sloat	Iona Prep	2003 –