

BYLAWS OF THE NEW YORK CATHOLIC FORENSIC LEAGUE



(2015 Update)

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Article I. Communication:

Section 1.01 Website:

- (a) The league website is www.NYCFL.org

Section 1.02 Email:

- (a) The league email addresses are

President@NYCFL.org – President

Director@NYCFL.org – Tournament Director

Treasurer@NYCFL.org – Treasurer

Congress@NYCFL.org – Student Congress Director or Tournament Director

Section 1.03 Twitter:

- (a) The league twitter account is www.twitter.com/NYCFL.org

Section 1.04 Invitations:

- (a) Tournament invitations will be posted on the league website

Section 1.05 Registration

- (a) Tournament registration will be handled on www.TABROOM.com

Article II. Definitions:

Section 1.01 **Entry:** The students or individuals required to participate in an event.

Section 2.01 **Participant:** Every student entered into a tournament, whether as an individual entry or as part of a team

Section 2.02 **Divisions:** Tournament invitations may restrict entry into events, either by ability or grade level. Unless defined differently in a tournament invitation, the following shall be the criteria used to determine eligibility:

- (a) **Beginner:** A beginner is a 9th grade student that has not participated in any speech or debate competition prior to the current school year.
- (b) **Novice:** Novice is a student, regardless of year, that has not participated in any speech or debate competition prior to the current school year
- (c) **Intermediate [Debate]:** This level is usually determined by the coach of a program and is intended for students that have advanced beyond the novice level, but are not ready for Varsity competition.
- (d) **JV (Junior Varsity) [Speech]:** A junior varsity competitor is a student currently registered in the 9th or 10th grade.
- (e) **Varsity:** Any student that competes in an division of speech and debate that is open to all students in grades 9 through 12

Section 2.03 **Neutral Judge:** Any judge not directly affiliated with a program is considered neutral. A former student or coach may be considered neutral if they have not had an association (coaching or judging) with that school for a period of five years.

Section 2.04 Method of Rankings:

- (a) The total number of first places secured in the preliminary and final rounds each tied entry shall be counted. The entry with the greater number of first places wins the tie-break.
- (b) 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.

Section 2.05 Method of Critique Points:

- (a) 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.
- (b) 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.

Section 2.06 Place in Finals:

- (a) 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:
- (b) The three judge ranks which each speaker has been given are totaled.
- (c) 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.
- (d) 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.
- (e) 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.

Section 2.07 **Trophy Points:**

(a) **Speech:**

(i) **PreLims:** *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

(ii) **Elimination Rounds:** *In elimination rounds, where there are multiple judges Trophy Points shall be assigned as above based on Place in Finals.*

(b) **Congress:**

1st Place	18 Points
2nd Place	17 Points
3rd Place	16 Points
4th Place	15 Points
5th Place	14 Points
6th Place	13 Points
7th, 8th, 9th Place	12 Points
Super Session Participant	10 Points
Congress Participant - 1 nom	6 Points
Congress Participant - 0 nom	3 Points

Article III. Open Tournaments:

Section 3.01 Open Tournaments are defined in the NYCFL Constitution. Currently the NYCFL does not host any open tournaments.

Article IV. Tax Exempt Status

Section 4.01 Purpose and Requirements to be exempt as an Organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code

- (a) The organization is organized exclusively for charitable, educational or scientific purposes, including for such purposes the making of distributions to organizations that qualify under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.
- (b) No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its members, trustees, officers or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the purpose clause hereof.
- (c) No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the organization shall not participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf or in opposition to any candidate for public office.
- (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of these bylaws, the organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.
- (e) 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 to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a Court of Competent Jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the organization is then located, exclusively for such purpose or to such organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

Article V. Fees:

Section 5.01 School Fees:

- (a) Annual Dues: \$100 per school. A school competing in the NYCFL for the first time shall pay annual dues of \$75.

Section 5.02 Tournament Fees:

- (a) The host school of a given tournament shall be eligible for a \$1 per student discount.

- (i) *Grand Tournament*

- 1) \$10 per entry for Member schools

- (ii) *Christmas Congress and Debate*

- 1) \$5 per entry for member schools
 - 2) \$10 per entry for non-member schools (if allowed)

- (iii) *Fr. Ripon Memorial Tournament*

- 1) \$5 per entry for member schools
 - 2) \$10 per entry for non-member schools (if allowed)

- (iv) *Mini-Stuy*

- 1) Free for all Member schools

- (v) *All other tournaments*

- 1) \$5 per entry for member schools
 - 2) \$10 per entry for non-member schools

Section 5.03 NCFL Tournament Expenses:

- (a) 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 \$30 towards the registration fees for each entry at the NCFL National Tournament.

Article VI. Fines

Section 6.01 Name Changes: There is never a fine or fee for a name change, however, if a judge is replaced then the person replacing them must be comparably qualified otherwise a Judge Drop fee may be applied.

Section 6.02 Student Drops:

- (a) Dropped students prior to the morning of the contest shall not incur neither a fee nor a fine.
- (b) Students dropped prior to 9am on the morning of a tournament are still considered to be an entry for billing purposes, but there is no associated fine
- (c) Students dropped (for reasons other than emergency or illness) after 9 am on the morning of a tournament will result in fines as follows:
 - (i) *Reported changes are \$25 each.*
 - (ii) *All unreported changes are \$50.*

Section 6.03 Judge Drops: Please remember that these are FINES and not FEES. Dropped judges will result in a fine, but the school is still obligated to cover student entries. Even in cases where a fine is applied, uncovered entries may have to be dropped from the tournament. That decision shall be made by the Executive Board.

- (a) Dropped judges (required to cover entries) after the registration deadline, unless replaced, always results in a fine.
 - (i) *The fine for a dropped judge shall be \$75*

Section 6.04 Judge Missing Round: A registered judge that fails to show up for an assigned round shall be \$25 per round.

Section 6.05 Judge Removal: Any judge that must be removed from a tournament, because of inappropriate behavior, inadequate training, or complete lack of qualification shall result in a \$100 fine. Such a decision will be made by a 2/3 majority vote of the Executive Board at the tournament.

Section 6.06 **Grand Tournament:** All fines at the Grand Tournament shall be DOUBLE those described above.

Section 6.07 Any of the above fines must be paid in full before that school shall be allowed to compete at their next NYCFL tournament.

Article VII. Deadlines:

Section 7.01 **Membership:**

- (a) In order to be certified as an NYCFL Member School the following membership deadlines must be met. Failure to meet the membership deadlines will result in schools being ineligible to compete as member schools.
 - (i) **Existing schools:** *The deadline for schools that participated in the prior school year must have dues paid January 1 of the current academic year*
 - (ii) **New schools:** *Any school that has not participated in a prior year, must have all forms complete and dues paid by the second tournament they attend in a given school year.*
 - (iii) **Outstanding balances:** *Any 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 NYCFL tournaments until the fees have been paid in full or a school can demonstrate a good faith effort to pay outstanding fees.*
 - (iv) **Outstanding fines:** *Any school which has been fined shall be ineligible to participate in NYCFL tournaments, until the fine is resolved.*

Section 7.02 **Student Congress Legislation:**

- (a) Unless otherwise specified all Congress bills must be submitted 12 days prior to the tournament (This is usually a Monday). Failure to submit a bill by the time the bill packet is finalized, means that a school would not be allowed to compete in that congress tournament.
- (b) A tentative packet will be released to the NYCFL website within 24 hours of the submission deadline.
- (c) Once a packet is FINALIZED on the NYCFL website (usually 9 days before a tournament) no bills may be added to the packet or changes made to the packet.

Section 7.03 **Tournament Registration**

- (a) Unless otherwise specified in the tournament invitation:
 - (i) *speech tournaments and Student Congress (Exclusive of the Grand Tournament) must be completed on the Wednesday before the tournament by 10pm.*
 - (ii) *Debate tournaments (Exclusive of the Grand Tournament) must be completed prior on the Thursday prior to the tournament by 10pm.*

Section 7.04 **Fr. Rippon / Sr. Raimonde Scholarship**

- (a) Any school wishing to nominate a student for the Fr. Rippon Scholarship must submit a single name prior to the conclusion of the Fr. Rippon Tournament in January.
- (b) All supporting nomination letters must be in the hands of the NYCFL President no later than the Tuesday following Presidents' Day Weekend.
- (c) All nominated students will be recognized at the Grand Tournament, but only students with letters of support will be considered for the actual award.

Article VIII. Debate Resolutions:

Section 8.01 The resolutions for Policy Debate, Public Forum Debate, and Lincoln Douglas Debate will be the applicable ones found on the National Speech and Debate Association Website: www.speechanddebate.org.

Section 8.02 Exceptions:

- (a) At the request of the membership, the Executive Board may choose to use a different resolution for a given tournament. That change must be indicated clearly on the tournament invitation.
- (b) In addition a separate resolution may be offered at the Novice level. That change must also be noted on the tournament invitation

Article IX. Computer Use:

Section 9.01 The NYCFL computer use policy shall be consistent with NCFL bylaws.

Therefore:

- (a) The use of computers, electronic storage and retrieval devices, etc is allowed in rounds of Policy Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Public Forum Debate, and Student Congress, and in the Extemporaneous Speaking Preparation Room. They are not allowed in any other event.
- (b) Connectivity to any person, machine, device, or server outside the competition room or persons other than the competitors in the round is not allowed. This includes the prohibition of the use of wired or wireless local, or wide, area networks; cell phones; personal digital assistants; Palm, Treo, or Blackberry type devices; etc (except as use as TIMERS). The establishment of such a connection will constitute a violation of this rule.
- (c) Competitors found in violation of this rule will be disqualified from competition.
- (d) Host schools are in no way responsible for ensuring that power is available either between rounds, during rounds, or during prep time. It is the students' responsibility to make sure they have adequate battery life for the tournament.

Article X. Rules and Events:

Section 10.01 Events:

- (a) All Events are as defined by the www.NCFL.org

Speech Categories:

Extemporaneous Speaking
Original Oratory
Oral Interpretation
Oratorical Declamation
Dramatic Performance
Duo Performance

Debate Categories:

Team Policy Debate
Public Forum Debate
Lincoln Douglas Debate

Student Congress

Section 10.02 Other Events:

- (a) 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.

Section 10.03 Procedure:

- (a) The rules and procedures for all the above events will be based on NCFL bylaws.
- (b) Deviations to those may be made on a contest by contest basis but:
- (i) *Must be approved by the Executive Board.*
 - (ii) *Must be documented in the Contest Invitation.*

Section 10.04 Current Exceptions:

(a) Policy Debate:

(i) Maverick teams (individuals from different schools or single person teams) may be allowed to participate at the discretion of the Executive Board.

(ii) Maverick Teams may not (under any circumstance) participate at the Grand Tournament

(iii) The Executive Board may place additional restrictions on Maverick Teams

(b) Extemporaneous Speaking

(i) Note cards may be used in Junior Varsity Extemp without penalty to the speaker.

(c) Duo Performance

(i) The first contest of the year that offers Duo Performance as a category shall require all students to perform with a binder. At every other tournament, Duo must be memorized.

Section 10.05 List of NYCFL tournaments and events offered

(a) Tournament Dates and Events May be changed at fall meeting and updated on the league website.

(b) Tournament List:

Traditional Weekend	Events Offered	Contest Name	Notes
Last Weekend of September	JV X, V X, JV Prose, V-Prose, Duo (Binder), DP, OO	(Novice Finals in OI and EX)	
SAT Date in October	Dec (Senior Judging Allowed), Congress	Hugh McEvoy Memorial	Senior Judging Allowed
Last Weekend October	JVX, VX, OO, JV Poetry, V Poetry, Duo, Dec, DP, Congress	Sr. Raimonde Service Tournament	No Trophies
Last Weekend October	N LD, Int LD, V PD, N PF, Int PF, V PF		Varsity Judging Allowed
Second Weekend November	All Speech and Congress		
SAT Date in December	JV - X, OO, JV-OI, V-OI, Dec	Emily Clemente Memorial	Senior Judging Allowed
Last Saturday Before Christmas	Congress and All Debate		Varsity Debate Judging Allowed
MLK Weekend	All Speech/Congress	Fr. Rippon Memorial	
Last Weekend January	All Speech, Congress		
First Weekend February	Speech/Debate/Congress		
Non SAT Weekend in March	All Speech/Congress/Debate	NYCFL Grand Tournament	
Same Date as Grand Tournament	JV OI, JV X, DEC	Mini-Stuy	Varsity Judging Encouraged
SAT Weekend in March		Last Chance Speech	3 rounds (no finals) - double entry allowed - varsity students may judge

Article XI. Judging

Section 11.01 Judge's Critique:

- (a) Judges shall complete critique sheets for contestants they hear.
- (b) Disclosure and use of oral critiques is at the discretion of the Executive Board

Section 11.02 Use of Student Judges

- (a) Tournaments may be designated at the Fall Meeting to allow student judging. Membership may place additional restrictions on the use of student judges. Student judges ONLY cover Novice and JV (in debate) and JV (in speech) entries only. Varsity judge requirements must be met by qualified adult judges.

(i) In debate:

- 1) All judges must be college freshmen or older, with the exception that Varsity debaters (3rd year or greater) may judge Intermediate and/or Novice Debate.

(ii) In speech:

- 1) Tournaments that allow student judging shall have that information designated in the invitation.
 - a) *Seniors: These contests may be judged by experienced seniors only. Otherwise adult judges must be provided.*
 - b) *Varsity: These contests may be judged by experienced juniors and senior only. Otherwise adult judges must be provided.*

Section 11.03 Requirements: (Unless otherwise specified by invitation):

- (a) All judges provided must be familiar with the rules and procedures of the debate category they are scheduled to judge.

(i) Debate:

1) Judge Quota:

- a) *Policy: The requirement is one qualified policy judge for every two entries or fraction thereof.*

- b) *PF/LD: The requirement is one qualified judge for every four entries or fraction thereof.*

(ii) Speech:

- 1) **Judge Quota:** Unless otherwise specified by invitation, the requirement is one qualified judge for every five entries.

- 2) In order to be consider qualified, a judge must meet one of the following criteria:

- a) *Judged at a speech tournament.*

- b) *Competed at more than 2 tournaments as a student.*

- c) *Is a coach of a current speech/debate team.*

- d) *Undergone judge training provided at one of the NYCFL, MHL, or MDL tournaments.*

3) In order to be consider qualified, a judge must meet one of the following criteria:

- a) *Judged at a speech tournament.*
- b) *Competed at more than 2 tournaments as a student.*
- c) *Is a coach of a current speech/debate team.*
- d) *Undergone judge training provided at one of the NYCFL tournaments.*

(iii) *Student Congress:*

1) One adult judge must be provided specifically for Congress if a school wishes to have a student compete in Student Congress.

(b) Every school shall be required to provide its full complement of judges. If a school does not provide its proper complement of judges, it must pay a fine and may have to withdraw some or all of its contestants from the tournament. Final decision lies with the Executive Board.

Section 11.04 **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.

Article XII. Tournament Procedures – Exclusive of the Grand Tournament:

Section 12.01 **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.

Section 12.02 **Speech:**

- (a) **Rounds:** Unless otherwise specified in the invitation, there shall be three preliminary rounds.
- (b) **Judge Training:** Judge Training will be offered when possible. Judges should come to the tournament with a copy of the NYCFL Judges Handbook found on the NYCFL website and a basic understanding of the rules and procedures.
- (c) **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.
- (d) **Panels:** Each Preliminary Round will be heard by one judge, and each Final Round will be heard by three judges.
- (e) **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.**

(f) **Placement:** Placement shall be based on the lowest total ranks for the tournament.

(i) *Breaking Ties:*

1) Pre-Lim:

a) *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:*

i) *It shall be broken by the **Method of Rankings**.*

ii) *If the **Method of Rankings** does not break the tie, it shall be broken by the **Method of Critique Points**.*

iii) *Should the **Method of Critique Points** fails to break the tie, the tied speakers shall advance to the final round, and an extra award shall be presented.*

2) Finals:

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

i) *It shall be resolved by the method of rankings.*

ii) *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.*

(g) **Overtime Penalties:**

(i) *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.*

(h) **Sweepstakes:**

(i) *Bases on number of categories:*

1) One category tournament:

- a) *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) *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:

- a) *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 brackets:*

Bracket A: Extemporaneous Speaking, Original Oratory, Student Congress

Bracket B: Duo Performance and Oral Interpretation of Literature

Bracket C: Dramatic Performance and Declamation

(ii) *Breaking Ties:*

- 1) Teams tied for the same award shall have the tie resolved by counting the number of 1's earned for those students counting toward team sweepstakes.

(i) **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.*

- (iii) **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.*

Section 12.03 Debate

(a) **Registration:**

(i) No partial judges allowed. If a judge cannot stay for up to 4 rounds in the day, they cannot count toward your judge quota. If a school exceeds their judge quota, then some degree of assignment sharing may be allowed at the discretion of the Executive committee.

(ii) Once tournament registration officially closes, no additions are allowed.

(iii) Coaches have until 9 on the morning of the day to correct their entries online. This includes drops and name changes. Adds will not be allowed.

(iv) School must check in on TABROOM by 9am that their registration is set. Once 9am passes, schematics will be generated.

(v) All reported changes after 9 shall be fined as determined by the FINE section of this document.

(b) **Judge Training:** Judge Training will be offered when possible.

(c) **Pairings:** It is ultimately the responsibility of the Executive Board to see that the pairings are as fair and impartial as possible. To that end, the Executive Board shall be responsible for the preparation of the pairings.

(i) Ideally there will be four rounds of debate. If the schedule permits, the tournament should be paired as follows:

1) Round 1 and 2 shall be paired randomly

2) Round 3 shall be paired off of rounds 1 & 2: high-low within bracket

3) Round 4 shall be paired off of rounds 1, 2 & 3: high-low within bracket

(ii) If time becomes an issue, then priority is to maintain 4 rounds of debate and to lag pair rounds 3 & 4. If time is still an issue, then the tournament shall be based on 3 rounds of debate.

(d) **Panels:** Each round will be heard by one judge

(e) **Placement:** On each debate ballot, the judge, in addition to indicating his or her decision, shall give points to each debater (scale will be determined by the Executive Committee and indicated on the ballot. Generally, the team with the higher point total shall win the debate, however Low Point Wins are permitted, but must be clearly indicated on the ballot

(i) Final placement will be determined by total number of wins. Ties will be broken on total points, opp wins and judge variance.

Section 12.04 Student Congress:**(a) Legislation:**

- (i) The number of pieces of Legislation required for each tournament and Super Session Legislation requirements will be detailed in the individual contest invitations.*
- (ii) Submission Procedure: Legislation must be e-mailed to CONGRESS@NYCFL.org.*
- (iii) Submission Deadlines: Legislation submission deadlines will be established at the NYCFL Fall Meeting.*
- (iv) Bills/Resolutions shall be reviewed by at least one member of the Executive Board. Any Bill/Resolutions that fails to meet the following criteria IV will be rejected and must be resubmitted and approved prior to the submission deadline:*

All submitted legislation must:

Be typed.

Be double-spaced.

Have all lines numbered.

Have the name of the submitting school at the bottom of the piece of legislation

Be either a Bill or Resolution (Bills do not have 'whereas' clauses)

- (v) *Bills/Resolutions may not be submitted more than 3 times at an NYCFL tournament for debate in a single season. Priority at a tournament shall go to new pieces of legislation over previously submitted legislation. It is the responsibility of the Executive Board (or its designee) to track bill submissions and indicate how many times legislation has been submitted.*
- 1) Exception: Any bill/resolution submitted at the 'Last Chance' tournament in March shall not be counted towards the 3 submission limit.
- (b) **Eligibility:** A school shall be permitted, whenever possible, to enter an unlimited number of contestants in Student Congress, provided that they have submitted legislation prior to the required deadline.
- (c) **Preliminary Rounds:** There shall be two preliminary sessions.
- (d) **Chamber Size:** Where possible chamber sizes should not exceed 20 speakers. Exceptions will be made if there are not enough judges or if the size of any individual chamber drops below 12 speakers. Schools that enter more students in Student Congress than the number of chambers shall be given the opportunity to decide how the chamber assignments are to be split, but they shall have no control over which chambers those students are assigned to.
- (e) **Panels:** 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.

(f) **Placement:**

(i) **PreLims:**

- 1) Each judge will rank the top 6 students in their chamber. Any contestant not ranked by a judge will receive a rank of 8. The worst (highest) rank of each student will be crossed out and the remaining scores tallied.

i) *If four or fewer judges are used in each session:*

- a. The worst (highest number) rank shall be dropped.

ii) *If more than four judges are used in each session:*

- a. The best and worst rank shall be dropped

(g) **Advancing to Super Session:**

- a) *A minimum of 12 students shall advance to a Final Super Session. Adjustments may be made by the Executive Committee if there is a better natural break.*

i) *If there are four or fewer chambers:*

- a. If there are four or fewer pre-lim chambers, then the top students shall be advanced to Super Session regardless of chamber.

ii) *If there are more than four chambers:*

- a. The top students with the lowest total scores shall advance to the Super Session with an equal number of students selected per chamber.

- (h) **Super Session:** Each judge will rank the top 10 students in the Super Session. Any contestant not ranked by a judge will receive a rank of 12. 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 (counting ALL scores from PreLims and Super Session).

- (i) **Awards:** All students advancing to Super Session shall be recognized at the award ceremony. In addition the student that presides the Super Session shall also be recognized at the award ceremony.

Section 12.05 **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.

Section 12.06 **Deviations:** Any deviation to the above must be included in the contest invitation
Deviations: Any deviation to the above must be included in the contest invitation.

Section 12.07 **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 12.08 **Appeals:**

- (a) In all events, no students will be admitted into the tab room to appeal a decision or to report a problem. That student must report the situation to their coach and that coach may make an appeal. These will be reviewed by the Executive Board members present at the tournament. A majority vote by those Executive Board members will determine the outcome of the appeal. That decision will allow the tournament to proceed.
- (b) After the tournament, a coach may appeal to the full Executive Board. If, by majority vote, the Executive Board decides that a mistake is made, then the Executive Board may try to rectify the mistake to the best of their ability. However, rounds cannot be rerun after the tournament concludes.

Article XIII. Grand Tournament

- (a) **Conflict:** When in conflict, the rules and procedures outlined in this section take priority over rules and procedures in other sections of the Bylaws.
- (b) **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.
- (c) **Grand Tournament Division:**
- (i) *The Speech Grand Tournament shall include 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.*
- (d) **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. In addition, a 'snow date' should be discussed and reserved at the fall NYCFL Moderators' meeting.
- (e) **Rules:** Unless otherwise noted in the tournament invitation, all categories shall be run under the rules and guidelines of the NCFL
- (f) **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
- (g) **Qualifiers:** 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.
- (h) **Dropdowns:** If a student qualifies for the NCFL Grand National Tournament cannot attend, the coach must notify the NYCFL President immediately. Upon notification, the President shall notify the alternates (starting with the 7th place finisher) to try to fill the slot

- (i) **DUO:** Please be aware, there are special rules for dropdowns in DUO. The view of the NYCFL is that the DUO qualifies for nationals as a TEAM. Therefore, if one student is unable to attend, then the slot shall be offered to the alternates. The President shall work through all semi-finalists in DUO Performance. If an alternate team cannot be found, only then then can the original qualifying school be afforded the opportunity to find a replacement for the missing student.
- (ii) **DEBATE:** Please be aware, there are special rules for dropdowns in DUO. The view of the NYCFL is that a DEBATE TEAM (PF or Policy) qualifies for nationals as a TEAM. Therefore, if one student is unable to attend, then the slot shall be offered to the alternates. The President shall work through the first and second alternate in the event. If an alternate team cannot be found, only then then can the original qualifying school be afforded the opportunity to find a replacement for the missing student.

Section 13.02 Minimum Participation Standards

(a) In order to compete at the Grand Tournament, a school must not only meet Membership Eligibility and Certification requirements as laid out in the constitution, they must also meet all posted deadlines. In addition they must meet the following Minimum Participation Standards:

(i) 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 in speech prior to the Grand Tournament.
- c. The school must pay tournament registration fees for at least sixteen students (in any event).

(b) 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 (in any event).

(c) 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). They may also participate in the Grand Tournament in Congress if they are eligible to compete under the above guidelines for Speech and/or Debate.
- b. The school must pay registration fees for at least four students (in any event).

Section 13.03 **Number of Entries**

- (a) A school may have no more than 3 entries in any one event.
- (b) **Swing Teams in Debate:** A fourth team may be offered to prevent a 'bye' where an odd number of teams are competing. Determination of the 'swing' team and requirements for the 'swing' will be provided in the invitation to the Grand Tournament. If a 'swing' team is provided, then a judge must be provided to cover the entry regardless of whether or not the swing team competes. In the event that more than one team is offered, then swing slot shall be randomly determined by the Executive Board.
 - (i) **Qualification:** *Swing Teams may qualify for nationals if The swing team competes in all rounds and their placement it high enough to secure a qualifying spot. However, a school may not qualify more than 3 students in an event. Should a school have 4 teams place high enough to secure qualifying spots, then the three highest teams will qualify to nationals and the 4th team shall become the alternate. If a qualifying team drops prior to nationals, then the 4th team would be allowed to compete at nationals.*

Section 13.04 **Judging**

- (a) **Eligibility:** Each judge registered for the Grand Tournament must have judged in at least two tournaments (not necessarily NYCFL tournaments) prior to the Grand Tournament.
 - (i) **Restrictions:**
 - 1) **Speech:** Judges provided for the Speech Grand Tournament must be at least college sophomores. The only exception to this rule is that all Fr. Rippon or Sr. Raimonde Scholarship Nominees shall be eligible to judge as college freshman.
 - 2) **Debate:** Judges provided for any Grand Tournament must be at least college sophomores. The only exception to this rule is that nominees of the Fr. Rippon or Sr. Raimonde Scholarships shall be eligible to judge as college freshman.
 - 3) **Congress:** Judges provided for any Grand Tournament must be at least college sophomores.
- (b) **Required number of judges**
 - (i) **Speech:** *one qualified judge must be provided for every three entries.*
 - (ii) **Debate:** *one qualified judge must be provided for ever entry.*
 - (iii) **Student Congress:** *Each participating school is required to provide one qualified judge.*
- (c) **Deadlines:**

- (i) **Judges:** *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.*
- (ii) **Contestants:** *The names of all contestants for the Grand Tournament (including swing teams, if approved by the Executive Board) must be registered by 10pm on the Tuesday prior to the Grand Tournament. Late entries and adds after the registration deadline, cannot be accepted.*
- (d) **Fines:** A school will be fined 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. The amount of the fine is listed in the FINE section of this document.

Section 13.05 **Procedures:**

(a) **Speech:**

(i) **Preliminary Rounds:** *There shall be three preliminary rounds with two judges hearing each section.*

(ii) **Semi-Final Round:**

1) Determining Participants:

a) *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*

2) Pairings:

a) *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:*

<u>Section 1</u>	<u>Section 2</u>
A	B
D	C
E	F
H	G
I	J
L	K

(iii) *After being arranged in this order, switches maybe made only to avoid having two speakers from the same school in the same section. (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.*

- (i) **Final Placement:** *Each contestant's five preliminary scores are added to his or her three semi-final scores. The top contestants in each category (up to the NCFL limit) 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, which would be heard by a minimum of five judges. Under no circumstances are critique point totals or the dropped score to be used to break a tie.*

Section 13.06 **Debate:**

- (a) **Pro vs. Con:** Each Debate Entry shall be prepared to debate both sides of the proposition, and shall advance on its own record. Sides will be determined in the same manner that sides are determined at NCFL Nationals.
- (b) **Prep Time:** Shall be the same as Prep Times used at NCFL Nationals.
- (c) **Pairings:** The tournament will run four rounds.
- (i) *The first two will be randomly paired, and schools will draw into the prepared schematic.*
- (ii) *Round 3 and 4 will be paired high-low within bracket.*
- (d) **Number of judges**
- 1) If 20 or fewer entries are competing in a debate event at the Grand Tournament, then all rounds in the event will be heard by two judges
- 2) If more than 20 entries are competing in a debate event at the Grand Tournament, then all rounds in the event will be heard by three judges.
- (e) **Elimination:**
- (i) *Teams may be eliminated at any time after round 2 if they are mathematically unable to get enough ballots to qualify for the National Tournament.*
- (ii) *Teams may 'bye' into nationals, if their record ensures even if they dropped all ballots in a round, they would still finish with enough ballots to qualify for nationals.*
- (iii) *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.*
- (f) **Ties:**
- (i) *If there is a tie, it will be broken on adjusted points.*
- (ii) *If there is still a tie, it will be broken on total points.*
- (iii) *Under rare circumstance, a runoff round may be necessary.*

Section 13.07 **Student Congress:**

- (a) **Eligibility:** In addition to all Grand tournament eligibility rules, a school shall only be permitted to enter contestants in Student Congress, provided that they have submitted legislation prior to the required deadline.
- (b) **Chamber Size:** Prelim chamber size shall be limited to no more than 20 students.
- (b) **Number of Chambers:** The following procedures assume there are two preliminary chambers of Student Congress. If more than two chambers, then the Executive Board shall modify these procedures and communicate the changes to all school participating in Student Congress at the Grand Tournament.
- (c) **Preliminary Rounds:** There shall be two preliminary sessions. Schools that enter more than two students in Student Congress shall be given the opportunity to decide how the chamber assignments are to be split, but they shall have no control over which chambers those students are assigned to
- (d) **Special Rules**
 - (i) **PreLims:**
 - 1) Mandatory 2 min questioning for authorship and first negative (CON) speech
 - 2) New Bills must be given priority over re-used legislation
 - (ii) **Super Session:**
 - 1) No mandatory questioning periods
 - 2) No authorship speeches. Speaking order shall be determined by recency only.
- (e) **Placement:**
 - (i) **PreLims:**
 - 1) Each judge will rank the top 6 students in their chamber. Any contestant not ranked by a judge will receive a rank of 8. The worst (highest) rank of each student will be crossed out and the remaining scores tallied.
 - i) *If four or fewer judges are used in each session:*
 - a. The worst (highest number) rank shall be dropped.
 - ii) *If more than four judges are used in each session:*
 - a. The best and worst rank shall be dropped

(ii) Advancing to Super Session:

- 1) Top 6 students from EACH chamber will advance
- 2) The next two speakers with the lowest scores (regardless of chamber) will also be advanced

(f) Super Session:

(i) When possible, a minimum of one judge from each of the schools with a participant in Super Session shall be used to judge the session.

(ii) Each judge will rank the top 10 students in the Super Session. Any contestant not ranked by a judge will receive a rank of 12.

i) If four or fewer judges are used in Super Session:

- a. The worst (highest number) rank shall be dropped.

ii) If more than four judges are used in Super Session:

- a. The best and worst rank shall be dropped

(g) **Final Placement:**

(i) Final placement (except for unbreakable ties) is based on placement in the final round only.

- 1) The winners will have the lowest point totals.
- 2) Ties will be broken using the Method of Rankings (including dropped scores) in Super Session.
- 3) Further ties will be broken by looking at judge preference (including dropped scores) in Super Session.
- 4) Further ties will be broken by lowest score (excluding dropped scores) in PreLims.
- 5) Further ties will be broken by lowest score (including dropped scores) in PreLims.

Section 13.08 **Deviation:** Unanimous consent of the coaches involved can alter the procedures stated. In cases where a small number of schools are interested in competing in a given category, the coaches can by unanimous consent assign the leagues entry to nationals without the need of holding a tournament in that event.

Section 13.09 Audit

- (a) It is the responsibility of the executive committee to have audit procedures in place for all events at the Grand Tournament. These procedures must be communicated to all members of the Grand Tournament Tab Room.
 - (i) **Results:** Debate results should be displayed at the tournament once the round audit is completed.

Section 13.10 Appeals:

- (a) In all events, no students will be admitted into the tab room to appeal a decision or to report a problem. That student must report the situation to their coach and that coach may make an appeal. These will be reviewed by the Executive Board members present at the tournament. A majority vote by those Executive Board members will determine the outcome of the appeal. That decision will allow the tournament to proceed.
- (b) After the tournament, a coach may appeal to the full Executive Board. If, by majority vote, the Executive Board decides that a mistake is made, then the Executive Board must try to rectify the mistake to the best of their ability. However, rounds cannot be rerun after the tournament concludes and the determination of the full Executive Board, by simple majority, shall be final,

Section 13.11 Sweepstakes:**(a) Speech**

(i) The top seven schools will be awarded team trophies in speech that have amassed the greatest number of TROPHY POINTS. The top two entries in each of the following three brackets shall count toward team sweepstakes:

Bracket A: Extemporaneous Speaking, Original Oratory

Bracket B: Duo Performance and Oral Interpretation of Literature

Bracket C: Dramatic Performance and Declamation

*(ii) **Breaking Ties:** Teams tied for the same award shall have the tie resolved by counting the number of 1's earned for those students counting toward team sweepstakes.*

*(iii) **Name:** The first place Speech Grand Tournament sweepstakes award will be given in honor of James F. X. Lyness.*

(b) Student Congress

(i) The top three schools will be awarded team trophies in Student Congress that have amassed the greatest number of TROPHY POINTS. Up to three entries shall count toward team sweepstakes.

*(ii) **Breaking Ties:** Teams tied for the same award shall have the tie resolved by the final placement of the top student on each team.*

(c) Overall

(i) One trophy shall be awarded to the school that qualifies the most students to the NCFL national tournament at the Grand Tournament

*(ii) **Name:** The Overall Grand Tournament sweepstakes award will be given in honor of Sister Mary Raimonde, FDC.*

Article XIV. Scholarships:

Section 14.01 Per the NYCFL Constitution, each year the NYCFL will provide two students scholarships in honor of Rev. Gerald R. Rippon, S.J. and Sr. Mary Raimonde, FDC. The criteria for nomination is defined in the NYCFL Constitution and the deadlines is listed in this document under the Deadlines Section

(a) **Amount:** The current scholarship amount is

(i) *\$1000 for the Sr. Raimonde scholarship.*

(ii) *\$1000 for the Fr. Ripon scholarship.*

Section 14.02 **Nomination:** An application of no more than 500 words must be submitted to the NYCFL President by the nomination deadline. 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.

Section 14.03 **Selection:** The President shall provide copies of the nomination letter 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 8 from that member. The President will then determine the winner by adding together the scores from all members of the Executive Board. The two students with the lowest point total shall be awarded the scholarship. The President's vote shall be used to break a tie.

Section 14.04 **Recognition:**

- (a) Scholarship nominees shall be presented with an award at the NYCFL Grand Tournament.
- (b) Scholarship winners shall receive a separate award and scholarship check at the tournament.
- (c) Scholarship winners will be listed in the NYCFL Constitution

Article XV. Hall of Fame

Section 15.01 Per the NYCFL Constitution, each year the coaches of the NYCFL will have to opportunity to elect individuals to the NYCFL Hall of Fame.

Section 15.02 **Nomination:**

- (a) The League President shall accept nominations from August 1st through September 1st. Nominations must be presented to a member of the Executive Board by the coach of a current NYCFL program.
- (b) At the fall meeting a coach or designee may advocate on behalf of a candidate

Section 15.03 **Selection:**

- (a) Up to Three Members may be elected to the NYCFL Hall of Fame
- (b) Nominees need to be approved by 2/3 of the moderators present
- (c) If more than Three people are nominated, then the Three will be determined by preferential ballot

Section 15.04 **Recognition:**

- (a) Hall of Fame Inductees will be listed in the NYCFL Constitution
- (b) When possible and practical, Hall of Fame Inductees will be recognized at the Sr. Raimonde Service Tournament or at a time deemed more appropriate by the Executive Board.