

CONSTITUTION OF THE NEW YORK CATHOLIC FORENSIC LEAGUE



(2015 Update)

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Article I. Name:

Section 1.01 The name of this organization shall be The New York Catholic Forensic League (NYCFL).

Article II. Purpose:

Section 2.01 It shall be the purpose of this league to prepare students of secondary schools to become articulate and concerned Americans, through participation in interscholastic contests in debate, student congress, and public speaking. The motto of the League shall be "Leadership Through Speech."

Article III. Organization:

Section 3.01 Executive Board:

(a) The NYCFL Executive Board shall be comprised of the following members

(i) President

(ii) Vice President

(iii) Tournament Director

(iv) Treasurer

(v) Members at Large: The following support positions on the board are available. The powers and responsibilities will be designated by the other members of the Executive Board. Each position may be filled by one or more individual. Multiple positions may be held by the same individual. Some positions may remain unfilled. The responsibility for any unfilled position fall to the members of the Executive Board. Each individual selected shall have one vote on the board. The positions are as follows:

Speech Rep

Policy Debate Rep

Lincoln-Douglas Debate Rep

Public Forum Debate Rep

Student Congress Rep

Extemp Coordinator

Director of Congress

Section 3.02 Expenses: The Executive Board members shall be entitled to reimbursement for expenses incurred in the discharge of their duties.

Section 3.03 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 3.04 Term of Office: The term for all officers shall be for the duration of the school year.

Section 3.05 Duties of Officers:

- (a) 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. Any issue arising at a tournament requiring interpretation of a rule or application of a rule can be resolved by a majority vote of the Executive Board members present at a tournament. In the event of a tie, final resolution rests with the President.
- (i) The President shall be responsible for the enforcement of all the provisions of this Constitution and NYCFL Bylaws. He or she shall preside at NYCFL meetings, and shall represent the NYCFL at national meetings or select a designee to represent the league.*
- (ii) 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. He/she shall keep an accurate record of the proceedings at League meetings.*
- (iii) The Tournament Director shall be responsible for providing invitations and a registration mechanism for all NYCFL Tournaments and to maintain the League website. The Tournament Director shall also be responsible for making sure that the NYCFL Judges Handbook (for SPEECH) linked on the NYCFL website is kept current with NCFL rule changes.*
- (iv) The Treasurer shall control the finances of the League. He/she shall receive the annual membership dues, school fees, and the tournament entry fees. The Treasurer shall receive and pay all bills charged to the League after they have been approved by the President.*
- (v) Members at Large main responsibility is to act as advocate for their area of responsibility and to help other Board Members whenever and wherever necessary.*

Article IV. Communication:

Section 4.01 The Executive Board shall maintain a website for the posting of league communications. This includes, but is not limited to; deadlines, forms, invitations, tournament results, tournament schedule, and congress legislation. The URL for the website shall be listed in the NYCFL Bylaws.

Article V. Membership:

Section 5.01 Eligibility:

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

Section 5.02 Certification:

- (a) Three items are required for school membership
 - (i) *A completed NCFL Membership Card (Available on the NYCFL Website).*
 - (ii) *A completed NYCFL Membership Form (Available on the NYCFL Website).*
 - (iii) *Payment of annual dues. The amount of the annual dues shall be decided by 2/3 majority vote of the membership present at the annual fall meeting and the amount shall be indicated on the NYCFL Membership form.*
- (b) Deadlines
 - (i) *Deadlines for school membership shall be documented in the Bylaws*
- (c) Modifications
 - (i) *The Executive Board may approve a modification of these requirements in the event of coaching or other administrative changes affecting a school or program. All modifications shall be reviewed on a case by case basis.*

Article VI. Supervision:

Section 6.01 No student will be allowed to compete at a NYCFL tournament unless the school provides an adult that can assume legal responsibility for the student.

Section 6.02 In addition each school must take full responsibility for the adult supervision it provides. This is a student based activity, all adults (coaches, judges, observers) must conduct themselves in a manner consistent with a secondary school environment.

Section 6.03 Those adults, in return, must ensure that their students also adhere to all tournament rules of conduct as well as the rules and regulations communicated by the host school.

Section 6.04 The Executive Board shall have no choice, but to remove from the tournament any individual that fails to comply with these rules. In addition, they may be asked by a representative of the host school, to leave the premises.

Article VII. Judging:

Section 7.01 Each school is required to meet all judge obligations as defined in the Bylaws or Tournament invitation. Failure to provide adequate judging will mean that uncovered entries from that school will not be allowed to compete. Exceptions may be made by the Executive Board on a case by case basis.

Article VIII. Open vs. Closed Tournaments:

Section 8.01 At the fall meeting tournaments shall be designated as Open and Closed. Closed tournaments are only open to members of the NYCFL. Open tournaments will be designated on the Approved Schedule posted on the NYCFL website. Any tournament without a specific designation is Closed.

Section 8.02 **Exceptions:** The Executive Board may review requests for participation from non-member schools to enter a closed tournament. In order to permit participation 2/3 of the full Executive Board must approve the Exception. An exception may never be granted for any NCFL Qualifying Grand Tournament.

- (a) Those schools have to pay the non-member fee listed in Invitation. If there is no fee information in the invitation, then the fee will be found in the Bylaws.

Article IX. Additional Requirements and Deadlines

Section 9.01 Each tournament will have associated deadlines and may have additional eligibility requirements. These will be agreed upon in the fall meeting and documented in the Bylaws or in the individual tournament invitations.

Article X. Fees:

Section 10.01 The league will collect fees to cover the costs of operation. These fees may take the form of annual dues, entry fees and school fees.

Section 10.02 Annual dues, entry fees, and school fees, shall be set at the Fall Meeting. The amount of the annual dues will be documented in the Bylaws. The entry fee and individual school fees shall be included on each tournament invitation. Unless otherwise specified, all checks should be made out to the 'New York Catholic Forensic League' (NYCFL).

Article XI. Host School Responsibilities:

Section 11.01 The school at which an NYCFL tournament is held should provide the rooms necessary for the running of the tournament and a designated area for tabulation, access to a copy machine, and paper, staplers, etc. If possible, it should provide a modest lunch for the moderators and other judges.

Article XII. Annual Fall Meeting:

Section 12.01 The Executive Board shall designate and publish on the league website the time, date, and location of the fall meeting. Unless the Executive Board decides otherwise, the meeting shall be held the first Saturday after Labor Day.

Section 12.02 The purpose of the meeting shall be:

- (a) Review the current financial report
- (b) Elect officers
- (c) Create the calendar for the school year and select host schools for NYCFL tournaments
- (d) Discuss and/or approve Constitution and Bylaws changes as recommended by the NYCFL membership
- (e) Address any other issues and changes that affect the operation of the league

Article XIII. Document Maintenance:

Section 13.01 An amendment or revision to this Constitution may be proposed at the first general meeting by a Moderator of an active NYCFL program, and must be ratified by a 2/3 majority vote of the member schools present, each school having one vote. A copy of this document will be maintained on the league website.

Section 13.02 Updates to the lists of scholarship Winners, Honorees, Hall of Fame Members, and Presidents (Past and Present) may be made by the Executive Board without league approval.

Article XIV. Scholarship:

Section 14.01 Each year the NYCFL will provide one student with a scholarship in honor of Rev. Gerald R. Rippon, S.J. and a second scholarship in honor of Sr. Mary Raimonde, FDC. The scholarship amount, nomination procedures, and deadlines shall be documented in the Bylaws

Section 14.02 Eligibility: Each NYCFL member school is entitled to nominate one candidate. The candidate must be a senior in high school and must satisfy all of the following criteria:

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

Article XV. NYCFL Hall of Fame:

Section 15.01 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. Nomination and approval procedures shall be documented in the league Bylaws.

Article XVI. Designated Awards:

Section 16.01 **Selection:** The NYCFL Executive Board has the right and responsibility to recognize those coaches, students, judges, and other individuals that deserve annual recognition as a result of their involvement with the league.

Section 16.02 **Honorees**

(a) Hugh McEvoy

- (i) *History: 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*
- (ii) *Award: 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*

(b) Emily Clemente

- (i) *History: A student at and youth leader at Ursuline who died in a car accident in her senior year.*
- (ii) *Award: 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*

(c) Rev. Gerald R. Rippon, S.J.

- (i) *History: A former president of the NYCFL and NCFL and coach of the Regis speech team*
- (ii) *Award: The first NYCFL speech tournament after the new calendar year will be held in his honor. – In Memoriam*

(d) Sister Mary Raimonde, FDC

- (i) *History: A coach and President of St. Joseph Hill Academy and member of the NFL Hall of Fame*

(ii) Awards: 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. If no specific cause is selected, then monies collected will be used to fund the scholarship fund. Certificates will be awarded to all winners. A rotating award will be given in her honor 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. In addition at the Grand Tournament an award will be given to the team the qualifies the most entries to nationals – In Memoriam

(e) James F. X. Lyness

(i) History: A former president of the NYCFL and NCFL and coach of the Loyola speech team

(ii) Award: The first place Speech Grand Tournament sweepstakes award will be given in his honor.

Article XVII.Scholarship Winners:

1987	Patty Loo	Ursuline School
1988	Bettina Goldstein	Chapin School
1989	John Socas	Loyola School
1990	Megan Pell Goldman	Calhoun School
1991	Mary Kay Dollard	Monticello H.S.
1992	Eve Colavito	Bronx H.S. of Science
1993	Cleopatra Jones	Loyola School
1994	Sarah Lanreth	Chapin School
1994	Katherine Lim	Loyola School
1995	Heather Levitt	Stuyvesant High School
1996	Lauren Visco	St. Joseph Hill
1996	Danny Habib	Regis H.S.
1997	Bradford Short	Loyola School
1998	Jonathan Tuzo	Regis
1999	Matthew Brennan	Iona Prep
2000	Derek Smith	Fordham Prep
2001	Catherine Sear	Convent of the Sacred Heart – NYC
2002	Katherine Bisordi	Ursuline School
2003	James Staudt	Iona Prep
2004	Duval Bodden	Iona Prep
2005	Antoinette Fuoto	Monticello H.S.
2006	Frank Riccobono	Iona Prep
2007	Andrew Harris	Scarsdale H.S.
2008	Mary Zaborskis	Convent of the Sacred Heart – NYC
2009	Harlan Downs-Tepper	Stuyvesant H.S.

2010	Caroline Kitchener	Convent of the Sacred Heart – CT
2011	Zack Struver	Hendrick Hudson H.S.
2012	Omar Gouda	Pelham Memorial H.S.
2013	Gabe Ferrante	Iona Prep
2013	Miki Lainovic	Convent of the Sacred Heart - NYC
2014	James Squitieri	Fordham Prep
2014	Angela Monfiletto	St. Joseph Hill Academy
2015	Ioana Solomon	Stuyvesant
2015	Justin Sansone	Regis
2016	Nichole Zivcovic	Convent of the Sacred Heart - NYC
2016	Stephen Durosaiye	Bronx Prep

Article XVIII. NYCFL Hall of Fame Members:

<i>Rev. Gerald Rippon, S.J.</i>	<i>Regis High School</i>
<i>Sister Mary Raimonde, FDC</i>	<i>St. Joseph Hill Academy</i>
<i>James Lyness</i>	<i>Loyola School</i>
<i>Eric DiMichele</i>	<i>Regis High School</i>
<i>Julie Sheinman</i>	<i>Stuyvesant High School</i>
<i>Michael Norelli</i>	<i>St. Raymond's Boys</i>
<i>Sue Wurster</i>	<i>Chapin School</i>
<i>Theresa Agliardo</i>	<i>The Ursuline School</i>
<i>"Grandma" Julia Stanzione</i>	<i>Regis High School</i>
<i>Fr. Vincent E. Butler, S.J.</i>	<i>Xavier High School</i>
<i>Mary Jane Truckenbrodt</i>	<i>St. Joseph Hill Academy</i>
<i>Br. Cavet</i>	<i>Blessed Sacrament / Iona Prep</i>
<i>Sheryl Kacsmarek</i>	<i>Newburgh Free Academy</i>
<i>Charles Sloat</i>	<i>Iona Preparatory</i>
<i>Jim Menick</i>	<i>Hendrick Hudson High School</i>
<i>Thomas Beck</i>	<i>Pelham Memorial</i>
<i>Joseph Vaughan</i>	<i>Scarsdale H.S.</i>
<i>Michaela Ablon</i>	<i>Convent of the Sacred Heart - NYC</i>

Article XIX. Presidents (Past and Present)

<i>Sr. Maria Turibius, S.C.</i>	<i>St. Barnabas High School</i>	<i>1947 – 1949</i>
<i>Rev. John Grace</i>	<i>Cardinal Hayes High School</i>	<i>1949 – 1951</i>
<i>Mr. Walter Mullen</i>	<i>St. John's Prep</i>	<i>1951 – 1953</i>
<i>Rev. John Grace</i>	<i>Cardinal Hayes High School</i>	<i>1953 – 1955</i>
<i>Rev. Thomas Hennessy, S.J.</i>	<i>Fordham Prep</i>	<i>1955 – 1956</i>
<i>Rev. James Dolan, S.J.</i>	<i>Brooklyn Prep</i>	<i>1956 – 1957</i>
<i>Bro. Edward Lawrence, F.M.S.</i>	<i>Mt. St. Michael</i>	<i>1957 – 1958</i>
<i>Rev. James Conlan</i>	<i>Cardinal Hayes High School</i>	<i>1958 – 1960</i>
<i>Bro. Stephen Luke, F.M.S.</i>	<i>St. Helena's</i>	<i>1960 – 1961</i>
<i>Dr. Paul Ward</i>	<i>La Salle</i>	<i>1961 – 1963</i>
<i>Bro. Gregory Francis, F.M.S.</i>	<i>Mt. St. Michael</i>	<i>1963 – 1965</i>
<i>Dr. Paul Ward</i>	<i>La Salle</i>	<i>1965 – 1966</i>
<i>Charles Laferty, O.S.A.</i>	<i>Tolentine Boys</i>	<i>1966 – 1967</i>
<i>Mr. Patrick J. Sullivan, S.J.</i>	<i>Regis High School</i>	<i>1967 – 1968</i>
<i>Dr. Paul Ward</i>	<i>La Salle</i>	<i>1968 – 1970</i>
<i>Rev. Gerald Rippon, S.J.</i>	<i>Regis High School</i>	<i>1970 – 1972</i>
<i>Mr. Michael Norelli</i>	<i>St. Raymond's Boys</i>	<i>1972 – 1974</i>
<i>Rev. Gerald Rippon, S.J.</i>	<i>Regis High School</i>	<i>1974 – 1976</i>
<i>Mr. Michael Norelli</i>	<i>St. Raymond's Boys</i>	<i>1976 – 1981</i>
<i>Rev. Gerald Rippon, S.J.</i>	<i>Regis High School</i>	<i>1981 – 1983</i>
<i>Mr. James Lyness</i>	<i>The Loyola School</i>	<i>1983 – 1999</i>
<i>Rev. Philip Judge, S.J.</i>	<i>Fordham Prep</i>	<i>1999 – 2000</i>
<i>Ms. Theresa Agliardo</i>	<i>Ursuline School</i>	<i>2000 – 2003</i>
<i>Mr. Charles Sloat</i>	<i>Iona Prep</i>	<i>2003 – 2014</i>
<i>Mr. Thomas Beck</i>	<i>Pelham Memorial</i>	<i>2014 –</i>