

**WASHINGTON-ARLINGTON CATHOLIC FORENSIC LEAGUE  
BY-LAWS**

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# WASHINGTON ARLINGTON CATHOLIC FORENSIC LEAGUE

## BY-LAWS

### ARTICLE I. DUES AND FEES

#### SECTION A. Dues

1. Annual membership dues shall be charged by the Washington Arlington Catholic Forensic League.
2. Dues for any given year must be paid prior to participation in any League tournaments for that year.
3. Dues options include the following:
  - a. A school may pay \$200.00 dues that cover all preliminary tournaments.
    - (1) This shall entitle a school to enter an unlimited number of contestants in each speech event.
    - (2) This shall entitle a school to enter an unlimited number of two person teams in all sections of Policy Debate.
    - (3) This shall entitle a school to enter an unlimited number of students in all qualifying Student Congresses.
    - (4) This shall entitle a school to enter an unlimited number of students in all sections of Lincoln-Douglas Debate.
    - (5) This shall entitle a school to enter an unlimited number of two person teams in all sections of Public Forum Debate.
  - b. A school may pay \$100.00 dues with a surcharge of \$3.00 per person (with multiple entry being \$3.00 per entry) per tournament at the preliminary tournaments of the League. This surcharge must be paid at registration on the day of the tournament.
  - c. Any school joining the League for the first time, or returning to League membership after a three year absence, may pay \$50.00 dues with a surcharge of \$3.00 per person (with multiple entry being \$3.00 per entry) per tournament at the preliminary tournaments of the League. This surcharge must be paid at registration on the day of the tournament.
  - d. The election of which option will be used must be made at the time dues are paid for the year and is irrevocable.
4. Notice must be given for proposed dues increases exceeding ten percent (10%) according to the Constitution, Article VIII. Section B.
5. Each school in the League will be assessed \$10.00 per year to be paid to the League President. This \$10.00 will be taken from the annual dues. This stipend is to be used at the discretion of the President.

## **SECTION B: Eligibility Fee for NCFL Grand National Tournament**

Any student who has won a qualification for participation at the NCFL Grand National Tournament must meet the following deadlines:

1. Two weeks following the Metropolitan Championship Tournament a commitment fee of \$40.00 must be received by the President of the League.
  - a. This commitment fee will be used by the WACFL to meet the National Tournament registration fees. The remainder will be refunded to the participants or used as deemed necessary by the member schools.
  - b. An additional deposit may be mandated by the Executive Committee for transportation to that tournament.
2. Two weeks following the Metropolitan Championship Tournament a letter of intention to participate at the Grand National Tournament must be received by the President. This letter must be signed by the student, the coach of the student, a parent of the student, and the principal of the member school.
3. If a student qualifies for nationals in an event and subsequently earns a qualification to nationals in a second event, he or she has one week to notify the President about his or her choice of event for competition at Nationals.
4. A multiple qualified student is required to pay the commitment fee and send the commitment letter only once for any single Grand National Tournament.
5. If a student decides not to participate in the Grand National Tournament after the commitment fee has been paid, the fee will not be refunded. The only exception will be serious illness.
6. Deadlines set by the NCFL shall supersede the WACFL deadlines.

## **SECTION C. Fees for the Metropolitan Championship Tournament**

1. A registration fee will be paid by each contestant to the final tournament. Such fees will be used by the League to hire additional judges in order to provide multiple judge panels.
  - a. The fee shall be \$10.00 per contestant at the Student Congress and Lincoln-Douglas Debate Finals.
  - b. The fee shall be \$20.00 per two-person debate team at Policy Debate Finals.
  - c. The fee shall be \$5.00 per contestant per entry at Speech Finals. Double entered contestants shall pay \$10.00.
  - d. The fee shall be \$20.00 per two-person debate team at Public Forum Debate Finals.
2. The Vice-Presidents of the events may alter the fees at finals.

**ARTICLE II. LEAGUE TOURNAMENTS**

**SECTION A. Preliminary Tournaments**

The WACFL shall sponsor a number of preliminary tournaments during the school year.

**SECTION B. Metropolitan Championship Tournaments**

The WACFL shall sponsor a Metropolitan Championship Tournament in all events, at which time the Diocesan qualifiers to the Grand National Tournament of the NCFL will be determined.

**SECTION C. Calendar of League Events**

The calendar of the League events for the following year shall be prepared by a committee appointed by the President and presented to the coaches at the Spring Meeting.

**SECTION D. League Officer Decisions**

Individual decisions of any officer of the League (President, Vice President for Policy Debate, Vice President for Speech, Vice President for Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Vice President for Student Congress, Vice President for Public Forum Debate, Tournament Director for Policy Debate, Tournament Director for Speech, Tournament Director for Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Tournament Director for Student Congress, Tournament Director for Public Forum Debate) may be appealed immediately by any coach or coach's representative on the day of the tournament. Appeals will be heard immediately by the President, the Secretary-Treasurer, the Vice-President of the event, and the Tournament Director of the event. In the event of the absence of an officer, his or her designee will be involved. In the absence of an officer and his or her designee, the three highest-ranking officers at the tournament will be involved in the decision. Both the person making the appeal and the League officer whose decision is in dispute will present their cases at the same time, and each will have at least five minutes to present his or her case and for cross-examination. The officer whose decision is being contested may not vote on the issue. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the remaining League officers named above will decide the issue.

### **ARTICLE III. PRELIMINARY TOURNAMENTS**

#### **SECTION A. General Rules**

1. The League shall sponsor preliminary tournaments each year in Policy Debate, Speech, Student Congress, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, and Public Forum Debate.
  - a. Policy Debate shall consist of five sections: Varsity Contemporary, Varsity Classic, Junior Varsity Contemporary, Junior Varsity Classic, and Novice Classic.
  - b. Speech shall consist of seven events: Declamation, Dramatic Performance, Extemporaneous Speaking, Oral Interpretation, Original Oratory, Duo Interpretation, and Impromptu Speaking.
  - c. Student Congress shall provide experience for student legislators, novice student legislators, and presiding officers.
  - d. Lincoln-Douglas Debate shall provide competition in values debate and consist of three sections: Varsity, Junior Varsity, and Novice.
  - e. Public Forum Debate shall provide competition in a clash of ideas in a persuasive manner that can be understood by a “lay” judge. Competition shall be offered in Varsity and Junior Varsity sections.
2. In a given tournament double entry will be permitted only within speech categories. NO student may double enter in the same speech category at a preliminary speech tournament.
3. In the event that a judge fails to show up for a round of competition after competition has begun, the school represented by the judge shall be fined thirty (\$30.00) dollars for each round missed. In the event that a school drops a judge from a school’s registration after the “Entry Drop Deadline” established by the Vice-President for each event, the school making the drop shall be fined fifty (\$50.00) dollars for each judge dropped. Furthermore, that school will not be allowed to compete in subsequent tournaments until the fine is paid. Appeals must be presented to the President of the League within forty-eight (48) hours of the completion of the tournament.
4. Housekeeping at the WACFL tournaments.
  - a. The responsibility for clean-up and proper order of each tournament room rests with the school of the judge in the final round of the day.
  - b. If this responsibility is not upheld, the school of the judge involved will be ineligible to participate in the next WACFL tournament.
  - c. This instruction shall be included with each tournament invitation.
  - d. In Policy Debate, the Tab Room will designate one of the teams in each room during Round I of the tournament to be responsible for the housekeeping of that room. This team must ensure that the room is returned to its pre-debate condition at the end of the last round of the tournament. If a room is not returned to its pre-debate condition at the end of the tournament, the team responsible for that room will forfeit any qualifications to the

Metropolitan Championship or National Tournaments, and the team will be disqualified from the next WACFL tournament.

5. The use of computers, electronic storage and retrieval devices, etc. is allowed in rounds of Policy Debate and Lincoln-Douglas Debate. They are not allowed in any other event. 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 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. The establishment of such a connection will constitute a violation of this rule. Competitors violating this rule will be disqualified from competition at the tournament that day. All evidence and cases presented in a round must be available to the opponents and judges as requested.
6. Video and/or audio recording of any round of competition, or portion thereof, is prohibited. Violators of this rule will be disqualified from the competition and/or dismissed from the tournament and asked to leave the tournament's facilities. If this disqualification or dismissal results in a judge missing a round, allowable fines will be incurred.

## **SECTION B. Eligibility**

1. Schools are eligible to participate in any League tournament once they have paid their annual dues.
2. Each school must enter as a separate member. Two schools may enter as one only at the discretion of the Executive Committee.
3. To be eligible, a school must be willing to provide room for a tournament when requested.
4. Duly appointed school representatives must be present at all times when students are entered in a tournament. Every school must be accompanied by a designated representative. Such representatives may be designated at any of the League meetings or prior to a tournament only in the event that a change in school staffing necessitates the introduction of a new coach in order for a school to compete, or when a new school joins the League during the competitive year.
  - a. All representatives of schools participating in the WACFL must have on file with the WACFL President a letter from a school official (Principal or Director of Student Activities) recognizing their position in order to be considered listed representatives.
  - b. This requirement may be waived by the President only in the event of illness or personal emergency of ALL of that school's listed representatives.
5. Students in grades 7, 8 and 9 who are enrolled in non-member feeder schools (junior high schools, or the like) may participate under the sponsorship of a member school. Such students shall enjoy all the privileges and incur all of the obligations of contestants from the sponsoring member school. All other contestants of a given member school must be *bona fide* students of that institution.

6. Any contestant registering for a tournament and failing to compete in that tournament may be ruled ineligible for the following tournament in that event unless notice is given to the respective Vice-President or his or her designated representative by the deadline specified for that tournament. The Vice-President may decline to impose the above sanction if, in his or her judgement, there was sufficient cause for the failure of notification.
7. Only contestants in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 are eligible to represent the WACFL to the NCFL.

### **SECTION C. Policy Debate Rules and Procedures**

1. The resolution for debate shall conform with the resolution chosen by the NCFL.
2. Policy debate divisions shall conform to the following guidelines:
  - a. Divisions of WACFL policy debate shall consist of two varsity sections (one of contemporary style and one of classic style), two junior varsity sections (one of contemporary style and one of classic style), and one novice section of classic style debate. The novice section shall be offered for the first three preliminary tournaments and may be offered at the remaining two tournaments, at the discretion of the Vice-President of Policy Debate, if indicated and feasible based upon the number of novice entries.
  - b. Classic debate will be interpreted to mean a moderate speaking rate with disciplined argumentation to fit the eight-minute constructive, three-minute cross-examination, and five-minute rebuttal time frame. Rapid-speech delivery with massive spreads will be disallowed. Classic debate will emphasize persuasive speaking, analysis, logical reasoning, and credible evidence. Effective oral delivery will receive due emphasis. Cross-examination will be closed rather than open and will have bearing in the judge's scoring.
  - c. Classic debate will be offered at all five preliminary tournaments as well as Metrofinals. The contemporary style and classic style sections of the varsity divisions can be combined to create a section of open style debate for the purposes of running the tournament, if the Vice-President of Policy Debate determines that the numbers registered in the sections in either division justify it.
3. Round Tardiness
  - a. A policy debate team will be given a forfeit if either one or both members of the two person team is ten minutes late for a round. A forfeit is imposed only by the tab room. Under no circumstances may a judge impose a forfeit on his or her own initiative. If a team or speaker has missed the ten minute deadline the judge shall send one of the speakers present to the tab room for instructions. The tab room determines if a forfeit is imposed.
  - b. A forfeit will be imposed if both of the following apply:
    - (1) The ten minute deadline has passed according to the current time standard in

effect as verified by the phone company.

- (2) There are no extenuating circumstances applicable, such as delay in publication of schematics or the like.
4. One copy of the ballot for debate must be returned at the conclusion of each round. Failure to return a ballot within ten minutes of the conclusion of the round will disqualify the judge from the remainder of the tournament (if the judging pool permits) and from all future tournaments. The school the judge represents shall be fined \$20.00 for each round the ballot is missing, and an additional \$20.00 for each round from which the judge was disqualified at the tournament, unless the school the judge represents provides a qualified replacement judge. All judges must turn in the remaining copies of all ballots by the deadline for the final round of the day.
5. A qualified judge must accompany each entry of four debaters or fraction thereof. The number of entries shall be determined by the total entered in all sections of debate from each school. Debaters who are not accompanied by a judge shall not be allowed to participate.
6. Policy Debate eligibility is as follows (by grade level):
  - a. Varsity section shall be open to all grade levels.
  - b. Junior Varsity Sections are open to all grade levels if both team members are in their first or second year of policy debate. Students on the winning team of a prior **JV MetroFinal Championship Round** are no longer eligible to compete in the Junior Varsity division.
  - c. The Novice section is open to all grade levels if both team members are in their first year of policy debate competition. Students who have placed in the top two teams in any policy debate division at a preliminary tournament will be permanently ineligible to compete in the Novice division. Any student who has ever qualified to the **WACFL Metropolitan Championship Tournament** in any section of policy debate is ineligible to compete in the Novice division.
  - d. Qualifications in a division of debate are lost if a team qualifies in a higher division of debate.
  - e. If a student has qualified in a division of debate, that student may not debate in a lower division.
7. There shall be four constructive speeches no longer than eight minutes beginning with a member of the affirmative team and alternating thereafter.
8. Immediately following each constructive speech, a member of the opposing team may cross examine the first speaker; the other team member shall give the second cross examination. The maximum time for cross examination is three minutes per speaker.
9. Each debater shall then present a rebuttal of five minutes maximum length beginning with a member of the negative team and alternating thereafter.

10. Each team shall have eight minutes of preparation time in all debate divisions. This preparation time shall be changed to five minutes in the Varsity and Championship divisions after the third tournament. Against this preparation time shall be charged:
  - a. Time between the end of the last speech or cross examination conducted by a team member.
  - b. Any overtime in any speech, but not cross examination, made by a member of that team.
  - c. Any question asked in overtime in cross examination conducted by a member of that team.
  - d. Any "set-up" time used to prepare for an actual debate which exceeds the forfeit deadline. In the event both teams are not ready to proceed at that point, preparation time will be charged against the last team to notify the judge that it is ready to proceed. In particular, this would apply to a team that is late.
  
11. A debate decision and speaker points will be handled as separate decisions. The win/loss of a round will be determined by the judge and reflected in his or her comments. The points for each speaker will be based on the ability of the speaker to convince the judge through analysis and speaking ability of his or her position.
  - a. The speaker points should be weighted in favor of the speaking style and delivery; whereas, the decision on win/loss should be weighted in favor of analysis and argumentation.
  - b. The losing team may have higher speaker points than the winning team.
  - c. The speaker points shall be used to determine first, second and third speaker positions at the tournaments.
  - d. The speaker points shall be used to break a win/loss tie for pairing and final positions at a tournament.
  - e. If a tie exists after determining record and speaker points, the tie will be broken on the basis of speaker ranks.
  
12. Schools intending to enter a tournament must submit their entry list to the Vice-President for Policy Debate or his or her designated representative prior to the deadline set by the Vice-President. He or she may grant an exemption from this deadline but is not required to do so. If an exemption is granted, the school must pay an additional registration fee of \$5 per student per entry made after the deadline for Preliminary Tournaments, and an additional fee of \$25 per student per entry for Metropolitan Championship Tournaments. Schools failing to provide the information specified by the Vice-President prior to the deadline may not participate in the tournament.
  
13. All sections of Policy Debate competition shall be two-person with alternating sides throughout the tournament, insofar as power-pairing permits.

14. All debate teams shall debate at least three rounds during a tournament.
15. At all preliminary tournaments Policy Debate registration will take place between 8:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. Teams not registered as present with their judge(s), must not be included in Round I.

If a team so eliminated from Round I chooses, it may participate in the remaining rounds and shall be assigned a loss, with zero speaker points and seven ranks for Round I.

16. Power-pairing in the debate division will be as follows:
  - a. Rounds I and II in all sections shall be paired at random.
  - b. In Round II:
    - (1) Side constraints will be observed.
    - (2) No team will meet another team from the same school.
    - (3) No team may meet a team it previously met.
  - c. Round III shall be power-paired based on Rounds I and II:
    - (1) No team will be paired against a team it previously met.
    - (2) No team will be paired against a team from the same school.
    - (3) Side constraints do not apply in this round.
    - (4) Power-pairing in this round is mandatory for the Varsity section with the exception of teams from the same school and teams that have previously met.
    - (5) The Junior Varsity and Novice sections shall be power-paired in a similar manner, if time permits.
  - d. Round IV in Varsity shall be power-bracketed based on Rounds I and II:
    - (1) Side constraints will be observed in this round.
    - (2) Debate teams should not be permitted to meet twice at any WACFL tournament where eight or more teams are registered in that section, except in the elimination rounds of the Metropolitan Championship Tournament.
  - e. Round IV in the Junior Varsity and Novice divisions shall be power-paired, if time permits. Power-pairing in this section shall be same as for Round II; if possible, side constraints shall be observed, no school shall meet itself, and no teams will meet for a second time.

17. Final standings in all sections shall be based on the following criteria in the order listed, as totaled for the entire tournament:
  - a. Win/Loss Record.
  - b. Total speaker points for both speakers.
  - c. Total ranks for both speakers.
  
18. Utilization of debate evidence shall be based upon the following criteria:
  - a. During his or her speech a debater must read at least a partial citation for each piece of evidence. This partial citation must include the date and either the author or title of the publication.
  - b. If a piece of evidence is challenged, a debater must read a full citation during the next available speech. If a full citation can not be presented, that piece of evidence must be eliminated from the round, and the judge must disregard it in arriving at a decision.
  - c. If an opponent can document an alleged falsification the team who used the evidence has one week in which to provide either the original publication or a Xerox copy. An opponent can satisfy the requirement for documentation by presenting a Xerox copy of page(s) from Books in Print, Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature, or an appropriate periodical index, the CIS Guide to Congressional Hearings, a note from a reference librarian at either the Library of Congress, a government agency, or a major college library, indicating that a legitimate attempt has been made to locate a publication or appropriate evidence acceptable to the Vice-President for Policy Debate.
  - d. Failure to produce the original publication or a Xerox copy will result in a retroactive forfeit of all awards and qualification for the Metropolitan Championship Tournament and the NCFL Grand National Tournament. A second violation will bar that debater from participating in the WACFL Metropolitan Championship Tournament and NCFL Grand National Tournament.
  - e. Junior Varsity and Novice Debate section affirmative cases shall be limited to one of six affirmative case areas. The affirmative case areas will be selected by majority preference vote at the Fall Meeting of the WACFL Executive Committee. The affirmative plans presented by the participating teams must deal directly with the case areas as selected by the Executive Committee, however, students will not be required to use any particular pre-set wording and are free to write the plan however they desire.
  
19. The Junior Varsity and Novice sections can be combined for purposes of running the tournament, if the Vice President of Policy Debate determines that the numbers registered in either division justify it. In the event the sections are combined, awards will be given in each division as if they were separate tournaments.

20. In order to be eligible to judge the Novice section, a judge must have at least one year of experience in judging Policy debate. The Vice President of Policy Debate can waive this requirement on an individual basis.
21. Each year at the WACFL Spring Coaches Meeting, a majority of coaches voting must vote to renew the Novice section of Policy Debate (for the first three preliminary tournaments only). Should a majority of coaches fail to renew the Novice section, all references to the Novice division shall automatically be removed from the WACFL By-Laws.
22. In the event that a school drops an entry from a school's registration after the "Entry Drop Deadline" established by the Vice-President for Policy Debate, the school making the drop shall be fined ten (\$10.00) dollars for each entry dropped, and twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars in the case of a drop from the Metropolitan Finals Championship Tournament. In the event that a drop was not reported at registration and is discovered, the school shall be fined an additional ten (\$10.00) dollars for each entry dropped, and twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars in the case of an unreported drop from the Metropolitan Championship Finals Tournament. The school will not be allowed to compete in subsequent tournaments until the fine is paid. Appeals must be presented to the President of the WACFL within forty-eight (48) hours of the completion of the tournament.

#### **SECTION D. Speech Procedures**

1. There shall be four rounds of speech at all Saturday tournaments and a minimum of three rounds at all after school tournaments.
2. Round Tardiness
  - a. It is the responsibility of the student to report to the correct room for competition in a prompt manner. Students who are double entered should notify the judges of both rooms prior to the start of the round by writing the code number, title of piece, and the words "will return" on the blackboard.
  - b. Any student who fails to report to his or her assigned room by the time established by the tab room as the end of the round will forfeit the round. A forfeit is to be imposed by the Tab Room only. Under no circumstances may a judge impose a forfeit on his or her own discretion. If a judge believes that a speaker has forfeited, he or she should report to the Tab Room at the end of the round for instructions. The Tab Room will impose the forfeit if both of the following apply:
    - (1) The time for the end of the round has passed. The end of the round will be computed as the start time of the round plus ten minutes per contestant assigned to the round according to the current time standard in effect as verified by the phone company.
    - (2) There are no extenuating circumstances applicable, such as a delay in the publication of schematics, or double-entered contestants arriving late to the second competition after a delay in the first.

- c. If a student reports to the wrong room for competition, his or her performance in that room will not be counted. The student will instead receive a forfeit for the round and will not be eligible for an award or a qualification to the Metropolitan Championship Tournament.
    - d. A judge may readjust the assigned speaking order of a round to accommodate double entries and guarantee the timely flow of the tournament.
  3. A qualified judge must accompany each entry of five speakers or fraction thereof. The numbers of such entries shall be determined by the total entered in all sections of all events.  
  
Speakers who are not accompanied by a judge shall not be allowed to participate.
  4. Speech Eligibility
    - a. Declamation is open to contestants in grades 8 through 10.
    - b. All other events are open to all contestants in grades 8 through 12.
  5. Registration shall be from 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. when the tournament is scheduled for Saturday. Registration times for afternoon tournaments will be specified by the Vice- President for Speech.
    - a. Any contestant or judge not present at the designated registration time shall not be included in Round I.
    - b. A contestant missing Round I may participate in Rounds II, III and IV. However, he or she shall not be eligible for any awards or qualifications at that tournament.
  6. There shall be no more than seven contestants in a room.
  7. Pairings shall be random in all rounds.
  8. No rank lower than five in a section of an event will be recorded.
  9. Ranking of the contestants at the conclusion of the tournament shall be based on the lowest total ranks. Ties in ranks shall be broken by highest points.
  10. All contests shall be conducted simultaneously as far as possible.
  11. Judges shall be given instructions prior to Round I.
    - a. Judges shall fill out a critique sheet for each contestant.
    - b. Judges' comments shall not be discussed in either oral or written manner with the contestants prior to the conclusion of the tournament and the presentation of awards.

12. Judges shall observe the instructions on the ballots provided by the League.
13. Schools intending to enter a tournament must submit their entry list to the Vice-President for Speech or his or her designated representative prior to the deadline set by the Vice- President. He or she may grant an exemption from this deadline but is not required to do so. If an exemption is granted, the school must pay an additional registration fee of \$5 per student per entry made after the deadline for Preliminary Tournaments, and an additional fee of \$25 per student per entry for Metropolitan Championship Tournaments. Schools failing to provide the information specified by the Vice-President prior to deadline may not participate in the tournament.
14. In the event that a school drops an entry from a school's registration after the "Entry Drop Deadline" established by the Vice-President for Speech, the school making the drop shall be fined ten (\$10.00) dollars for each entry dropped, and twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars in the case of a drop from the Metropolitan Finals Championship Tournament. In the event that a drop was not reported at registration and is discovered, the school shall be fined an additional ten (\$10.00) dollars for each entry dropped, and twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars in the case of an unreported drop from the Metropolitan Championship Finals Tournament. The school will not be allowed to compete in subsequent tournaments until the fine is paid. Appeals must be presented to the President of the WACFL within forty-eight (48) hours of the completion of the tournament.
15. A selection shall not be used by a contestant in more than one event area in any competitive tournament.

## **SECTION E. Speech Event Rules**

1. Declamation
  - a. The selection must have been originally delivered as a speech by its author, a person other than the present contestant.
  - b. The contestant shall preface his or her presentation by a brief statement describing the circumstances under which the speech was originally presented by the author.
  - c. A contestant may not repeat a selection which he or she used in a previous year in any competitive tournament.
  - d. The time limit is ten minutes, with no minimum time limit.
  - e. The presentation is to be memorized.
  - f. In the event any contestant uses notes or prompting, that contestant shall receive a rank lower than last place in that round.
  - g. The contestant must be able to interpret the meaning of the oration and to be able to carry the interpretation over to the minds of those who hear him or her.

- h. Attempts at dramatization rather than communication of ideas should be penalized at the discretion of the judge.

2. Dramatic Performance

- a. Selections in this event shall be cuttings from a single published play, a single published script, or a single fictional or non-fictional work (not poetry). Published is interpreted to mean that scripted materials must be commercially published in print or electronic form. If the material does not have an ISBN, ISSN, or IFFN, the coach or supervising adult must be able to show that the script/text was purchased or obtained commercially; ie. from a literary agent or publisher bill of sale or is publicly available by internet URL and retrieval date. A student who uses a piece that is not published as explained above will receive a forfeit for all the rounds that piece was used. The forfeit will be imposed as a rank of one more than last in the round with zero speaker points. The student will not be eligible for an award at the tournament or a qualification to the Metropolitan Championship Tournament. If the forfeit is imposed at the Metropolitan Championship Tournament, the student is not eligible for qualification, or call-up to replace a qualified attendee, to the National Catholic Forensic League Grand National Tournament.
- b. Adaptations shall be allowed for the purpose of continuity only. Lines attributed to one character in a published source may not be attributed to another character in the performance. Contestants shall, during the presentation, name the author and the play from which the cutting was made.
- c. Presentations shall be from memory and without the use of physical objects. In the event any contestant uses notes or prompting, that contestant shall receive a rank lower than last place in that round.
- d. The time limit shall be ten minutes, with no minimum time requirement.
- e. Cuttings may contain dialogue or may be a monologue.
- f. Contestants may sing some lines if they are an integral part of the selection. Contestants may not sing the entire selection. Singing must be limited to thirty (30) seconds total within the presentation.
- g. A contestant may not repeat a selection which he or she used in a previous year in any competitive tournament.
- h. Although this event is primarily a display of vocal ability, body language will play a part in the overall performance. However, no physical action should be performed that would distract the listeners' attention from the selection being presented. No properties or costumes of any kind may be used.

3. Extemporaneous Speaking

- a. The extemporaneous speech shall be an original synthesis, by the speaker without consultation, of current fact and opinion on one of the three topics, randomly drawn under the supervision of the Extemporaneous Preparation Room Monitor.
- b. Any contestant failing to abide by the directions of the Extemporaneous Preparation Room Monitor shall be subject to disqualification.
- c. A contestant is permitted to use one 3"x 5" card at Preliminary Tournaments. There is no limit to the number of words on the card. The use of a 3" x 5" card is not allowed at the Metropolitan Championship Tournament.
- d. Any contestant using prompting or notes, other than the permitted 3"x 5" card at Preliminary Tournaments, shall receive a rank lower than last place.
- e. The timing for this event shall be a maximum of seven minutes, with no minimum time requirement.
- f. Contestants shall be held to strict adherence of the precise statement of the chosen topic and shall be penalized for any obvious shifting to a topic he or she might prefer.
- g. Preparation time of 30 minutes shall be allowed between the time the contestant has selected the topic and the time he or she delivers the speech.
- h. Any published material may be brought into the preparation room. A newspaper/magazine clipping file which is organized under general topic headings shall be allowed. No prepared notes, handwritten materials, or briefs may be brought into the preparation room. Speakers may not bring electronic retrieval systems into the preparation area. Any student who is found in possession of any prohibited materials in the Extemporaneous Speaking Preparation Room will be disqualified from the tournament. The disqualification will be assessed as soon as practicable as deemed by the Tournament Director. The student will not be eligible for an award at the tournament or a qualification to the Metropolitan Championship Tournament. If the disqualification is imposed at the Metropolitan Championship Tournament, the student is not eligible for qualification, or call-up to replace a qualified attendee, to the National Catholic Forensic League Grand National Tournament. If a school team shares materials, the entire team may be disqualified.

4. Oral Interpretation of Literature

- a. The selection to be read shall be from published literature, either a single piece, a cutting, or a series of short pieces united by some theme or author. Literature includes all forms of prose or poetry, fiction or non-fiction, except drama or oratorical composition. Published is interpreted to mean that scripted materials must be commercially published in print or electronic form. If the material does not have an ISBN, ISSN, or IFFN, the coach or supervising adult must be able to show that the script/text was purchased or obtained commercially; ie. from a literary agent or publisher bill of sale or is publicly available by internet URL and retrieval date. A student who uses a piece that is not published as explained above will receive a forfeit for all the rounds that piece was used. The forfeit will be imposed as a rank of one more than last in the round with zero speaker points. The student will not be eligible for an award at the tournament or a qualification to the Metropolitan Championship Tournament. If the forfeit is imposed at the Metropolitan Championship Tournament, the student is not eligible for qualification, or call-up to replace a qualified attendee, to the National Catholic Forensic League Grand National Tournament.
- b. Each contestant must prepare two programs, one prose and the other poetry, which are alternately presented in succeeding rounds.
- c. Each program shall last a maximum of ten minutes; no more than one-half (1/2) minute of this time may be given to an introduction or explanation. There shall be no minimum time requirement.
- d. Although the selection may be memorized, a manuscript must be held throughout the reading. Speakers should keep eye contact between audience and manuscript in reasonable balance. Speakers who fail to maintain the illusion of reading from the manuscript may not be ranked first. No props are allowed. Lines attributed to one character in a published source may not be attributed to another character in the performance.
- e. A contestant may not repeat a selection which he or she used in a previous year in any competitive tournament.
- f. The Tournament Director for Speech shall determine whether the first round will be prose or poetry.
- g. Speakers should keep gestures and bodily movements to a minimum. The selection must be delivered from center stage. Movement and gestures, if used, should be appropriate to the selection. Walking is not permitted. Speakers should emphasize vocal variety and facial expression to enhance the literary interpretation. Any singing must be limited to a maximum of thirty (30) seconds total within the presentation.

5. Original Oratory

- a. The oration used shall be composed by the student delivering it, subject to disqualification. Any student using an oration not originally composed by the speaker presenting the oration will be disqualified from the tournament. The disqualification will be assessed as soon as practicable as deemed by the Tournament Director. The student will not be eligible for an award at the tournament or a qualification to the Metropolitan Championship Tournament. If the disqualification is imposed at the Metropolitan Championship Tournament, the student is not eligible for qualification, or call-up to replace a qualified attendee, to the National Catholic Forensic League Grand National Tournament.
- b. Any contestant using notes or prompting will receive a rank lower than last place plus one. If more than one person does this, he or she shall be ranked last place, plus one, two, three... according to the relative merits of the speakers.
- c. The timing for the event shall be a maximum of ten minutes, with no minimum time requirement.
- d. Visual aids are not permitted.
- e. Not more than 150 words of the oration may be direct quotations from any other speech or writing. Extensive paraphrasing of another source is prohibited.
- f. A contestant may not repeat a selection which he or she used in a previous year in any competitive tournament.

6. Duo Interpretation of Literature

- a. This two-person reading must be from a single published play, fictional or non-fictional work, or a poem or series of poems united by a single author. The material may be humorous or dramatic or combine both tones, depending upon the work or works selected. Published is interpreted to mean that scripted materials must be commercially published in print or electronic form. If the material does not have an ISBN, ISSN, or IFFN, the coach or supervising adult must be able to show that the script/text was purchased or obtained commercially; ie. from a literary agent or publisher bill of sale or is publicly available by internet URL and retrieval date. A student who uses a piece that is not published as explained above will receive a forfeit for all the rounds that piece was used. The forfeit will be imposed as a rank of one more than last in the round with zero speaker points. The student will not be eligible for an award at the tournament or a qualification to the Metropolitan Championship Tournament. If the forfeit is imposed at the Metropolitan Championship Tournament, the student is not eligible for qualification, or call-up to replace a qualified attendee, to the National Catholic Forensic League Grand National Tournament.
- b. Lines attributed to one character in a published source may not be attributed to another character in the performance.
- c. Presentations shall be from memory and without the use of physical objects. In the event any contestant uses notes or prompting, that team shall receive a rank lower than last place in the round.
- d. The performers may not have eye contact with each other, but should focus off stage. Exception is made for introductions and transitions.
- e. Speakers should keep gestures and bodily movement to a minimum. Performers should react to each other's verbal and non-verbal expressions but they are not allowed to make physical contact with each other during the performance, except during the introduction. Physical movement is restricted to performers moving around one another, switching positions, pivoting from side to side or turning around completely. Movement should be limited and suggested rather than exaggerated. Students must remain standing.
- f. No properties or costumes are permitted.
- g. The timing for this event shall be a maximum of ten minutes, with no minimum time requirement.
- h. A contestant may not repeat a selection which he or she used in a previous year in any competitive tournament.

7. Impromptu Speaking

- a. The contestant will draw three topics while sitting in the room with the judge. The contestant will select one topic, returning the other two.
- b. The total time used for preparation and the speech may not exceed seven minutes.

- c. All contestants may sit in the room together and hear the speeches of other contestants since each will draw different topics.
  - d. One 3x5 note card may be used.
  - e. Each year at the WACFL Spring Coaches Meeting, a majority of coaches voting must vote to renew the Impromptu Speaking event. Should a majority of coaches fail to renew the event, all references to it shall automatically be removed from the WACFL By-Laws.
8. In the event that the NCFL adopts a different set of rules from those of the WACFL By-Laws, the NCFL rules will be followed.
- a. For the purposes of NCFL competition in Original Oratory, any singing must be limited to 30 seconds in total.
  - b. In Duo Interpretation, Dramatic Performance, and Oral Interpretation, “published” is interpreted to mean that scripted materials must be commercially published in print form. The source of the material must be identifiable by an ISBN or Library of Congress (LC) Number, or, in the case of plays, by an acting edition or book club edition of the play.
  - c. At the NCFL National Tournament, each school moderator must be prepared to present to the Executive Council a copy of any oration in Original Oratory, and the original source (not a photocopy or computer download) of any published materials being used in an interpretative event by a representative of his school.

## **SECTION F. Student Congress Rules and Procedures**

1. Rules of order shall apply in the following priority:
  - a. WACFL Student Congress Manual
  - b. NCFL Rules for Student Congress
  - c. NFL Rules for Student Congress
  - d. Robert's Rules of Order
2. At least ten days prior to the Student Congress, the Vice-President for Student Congress will prepare a list of nine topics, three in each of the three committee areas for Congress. Bills or resolutions on any other topics require suspension of the rules on the floor of the house to consider. Students submitting bills or resolutions must bring thirty-five (35) copies, typed, double-spaced, lines numbered. One copy of all bills and resolutions must be given to the Vice-President or the Tournament Director for Student Congress at the time of registration. Copies cannot be made at the Congress. Bills or resolutions written on the spot will not be accepted.
3. Schools intending to enter Congress must submit their registration to the Vice-President for Student Congress or his or her designated representative prior to the deadline set by the Vice-President. He or she may grant exceptions from the deadline but is not required to do so. If an exemption is granted, the school must pay an additional registration fee of \$5 per student per entry made after the deadline for Preliminary Tournaments, and an additional fee of \$25 per student per entry for Metropolitan Championship Tournaments. Schools failing to provide the information as specified by the Vice-President prior to the deadline may not participate in the tournament.
  - a. Registration will include the student's committee choice and the designation of those who wish to preside, those who wish to chair a committee, and those who are novice speakers (attending their first Congress). Membership on the three standing committees (Domestic Affairs, Economic Affairs, and International Affairs) must be balanced in each school's registration.
  - b. Student Congress is open to all contestants at all grade levels.

4. Registration shall be from 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. when the Congress is scheduled on a Saturday. Registration for the afternoon Congress shall be specified by the Vice-President for Student Congress.
  - a. All contestants and scorers must be present at the Congress at the designated time for registration.
  - b. A student who is late for registration or a session will not be permitted to speak on any bill or resolution he or she may have authored or to preside, unless no other congressperson wishes to do so, for the duration of the tournament, provided there are no extenuating circumstances as determined by the Tab Room. This is not suspendible by the house. This penalty should not be imposed without the explicit concurrence of a Tab Room official.
5. A qualified scorer must accompany each entry of five congresspersons or fraction thereof. Speakers who are not accompanied by a judge shall not be allowed to participate.
6. Persons registering as Presiding Officers shall be allowed one to two legislative hours to preside. If too many register to preside, the Vice-President will at his or her discretion decide who shall preside.
7. Houses will be established with between twenty and thirty students each, balanced as much as possible according to diocese, school, experience level, committee choices, and preference for presiding. Students from the same school shall be assigned so that the number of students in each house shall be approximately equal. The number one priority for assignment of students to houses shall be the pairing of a novice with an experienced student from the same school.
8. The Vice-President for Student Congress may authorize a training session.
9. Scoring procedures will be as follows:
  - a. The Vice-President for Student Congress shall establish ballots to be used at the Congresses. There shall be a ballot used in rating the speakers, a ballot for rating presiding officers, and a ballot to rate each house member on his or her use or abuse of parliamentary procedure.
  - b. Scorers shall rate each speech. Should a speaker come from the same school as the scorer, the alternate scorer will rate that speech. Scorers shall be rotated after each legislative hour. This rule may be waived by the Vice-President for after school (weekday) congresses, when deemed necessary.
  - c. Parliamentarians shall rate each presiding officer for each hour he or she presides. The Tab Room will keep the Parliamentarian from rating students from his or her own school, if possible.
  - d. Parliamentarians shall score each student on his or her overall use of parliamentary rules.

- e. The minimum eligibility requirement for awards shall be two speeches. Each hour as presiding officer shall count as one speech. To be eligible for an award, a student must be present at all sessions of the student congress tournament.
  - f. Tie breaking procedures in preliminary tournaments and in the Metropolitan Championship Tournament shall be established in the following order if the addition of the highest scores in the required number of speeches plus the parliamentary score results in a tie:
    - (1) Parliamentary scores shall be subtracted from the combined speech and parliamentary scores.
    - (2) All speech scores shall be added together and divided by the number of speeches given to result in an average speech score.
    - (3) All speech scores shall be added together to result in a total speech point score.
    - (4) The scores of speeches of tied speakers which occurred in the same session of student congress shall be compared with each other.
  - g. The Outstanding Congressperson award shall be presented to one congressperson, regardless of previous qualification, in each house of each preliminary Student Congress and shall be determined as follows: At the conclusion of the tournament the students shall place in nomination for the award, by voting, the congressperson they feel is the most outstanding. Each congressperson receiving more than one vote on the nomination vote shall be considered a nominee. The students shall then vote from among these nominees the Outstanding Congressperson. All votes shall be by secret ballot.
  - h. Contestants in Student Congress competition are expected to deliver original orations. Presentation of published materials without credit will result in disqualification from the tournament and loss of any qualification to the Metropolitan Championship Tournament.
10. In the event that a school drops an entry from a school's registration after the "Entry Drop Deadline" established by the Vice-President for Student Congress, the school making the drop shall be fined ten (\$10.00) dollars for each entry dropped, and twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars in the case of a drop from the Metropolitan Finals Championship Tournament. In the event that a drop was not reported at registration and is discovered, the school shall be fined an additional ten (\$10.00) dollars for each entry dropped, and twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars in the case of an unreported drop from the Metropolitan Championship Finals Tournament. The school will not be allowed to compete in subsequent tournaments until the fine is paid. Appeals must be presented to the President of the WACFL within forty-eight (48) hours of the completion of the tournament.

## SECTION G. Lincoln-Douglas Debate Rules and Procedures

1. The WACFL Lincoln-Douglas Topic will be the same topic that is printed in the National Forensic League *Rostrum* for that two months. The topic for the Metropolitan Championship Tournament will not have been debated at a preliminary WACFL tournament for that year.
2. Round Tardiness
  - a. A debater will be given a forfeit if he or she is ten minutes late to a round. A forfeit is to be imposed by the tab room only. Under no circumstances may a judge impose a forfeit on his or her own initiative. If a debater has missed the ten minute deadline, the judge shall send the other debater to the tab room for instructions. The tab room will determine if a forfeit is to be imposed.
  - b. A forfeit will be imposed if both of the following apply:
    - (1) The ten minute deadline has passed according to the current time standard in effect as verified by the phone company.
    - (2) There are no extenuating circumstances applicable, such as delay in publication of schematics or the like.
3. One copy of the ballot for Lincoln-Douglas debate must be returned at the end of the round. Failure to return a ballot within ten minutes of the conclusion of the round will disqualify the judge from the remainder of the tournament (if the judging pool permits) and from all future tournaments. The school the judge represents shall be fined \$20.00 for each round the ballot is missing, and an additional \$20.00 for each round from which the judge was disqualified at the tournament, unless the school the judge represents provides a qualified replacement judge. All judges must turn in the remaining copies of all ballots by the deadline for the final round of the day.
4. A qualified judge must accompany each entry of four debaters. The number of entries shall be determined by the total entered in all sections of debate from each school. Debaters who are not accompanied by a judge shall not be allowed to participate.

5. Lincoln-Douglas Debate eligibility is as follows (by grade level):
  - a. Varsity section ..... all grade levels.
  - b. Junior Varsity section is open to all grade levels if a student is in his or her first or second year of Lincoln-Douglas debate competition. Any student finishing in the top six in Junior Varsity preliminary competition twice in the competition season will no longer be able to compete in the Junior Varsity division and must advance to the Varsity division. This rule does not affect the student's eligibility to compete in the WACFL Metropolitan Championship Tournament at the Junior Varsity level unless the student has also qualified at the Varsity level in the same season.
  - c. Qualifications in a division of debate are lost if a debater qualifies in a higher division of debate.
  - d. If a student has qualified in a division of debate, that student may not debate in a lower division.
  - e. Novice section is open to all grade levels if a student is in his or her first year of Lincoln-Douglas debate competition or is in his or her second year of Lincoln-Douglas debate competition and has competed in no more than two WACFL Lincoln-Douglas debate tournaments in any previous year. Any student finishing in the top six in the Novice section at a preliminary tournament will be permanently ineligible to compete in the Novice section in the future. Any student who has ever qualified to the WACFL Metropolitan Championship tournament in any section of Lincoln-Douglas debate is ineligible to compete in the Novice division.

6. The time limits for Lincoln-Douglas Debate are as follows:

Affirmative Constructive:	6 minutes
Cross Examination:	3 minutes
Negative Constructive:	7 minutes
Cross Examination:	3 minutes
Affirmative Rebuttal:	4 minutes
Negative Rebuttal:	6 minutes
Affirmative Rebuttal:	3 minutes

7. Each debater will have three minutes of preparation time for the entire debate. Against this preparation time shall be charged the following times:
  - a. Time between the end of the last speech or cross examination conducted by a debater.
  - b. Any overtime in any speech, but not cross examination, made by a debater.
  - c. Any question asked in overtime in cross examination conducted by a debater.
  - d. Any "set-up" time used to prepare for an actual debate which exceeds the forfeit deadline. In the event both debaters are not ready to proceed at that point, preparation time will be charged against the last debater to notify the judge that he or she is ready to proceed. In particular, this would apply to a debater who is late.
  
8. Pairing in Lincoln-Douglas Debate shall be as follows:
  - a. Rounds I and II shall be random paired.
  - b. In Round II the following pairing constraints shall apply:
    - (1) Side constraints will be observed.
    - (2) No debater will meet a debater from his or her own school.
    - (3) No debater may meet a debater he or she previously met.
  - c. Round III will be power-paired based on Rounds I and II with the following constraints:
    - (1) No debater will meet a debater he or she previously met.
    - (2) No debater will meet a debater from his or her own school.
    - (3) Side constraints do not apply in this round.
    - (4) Power-pairing in this round is mandatory for the Varsity section with the exception of debaters from the same school and debaters who have previously met.
    - (5) The Junior Varsity section shall be power-paired in a similar manner if time permits.
    - (6) The Novice section shall be power-paired in a similar manner if time permits.

- d. Round IV in Varsity shall be power-bracketed based on Rounds I and II with the following constraints:
    - (1) Side constraints will be observed in this round.
    - (2) No debater will meet a debater he or she previously met when eight or more debaters are registered.
  - e. Round IV in the Junior Varsity and Novice division shall be power-paired if time permits. Power-pairing in these sections shall be the same as for Varsity.
9. Schools intending to enter a tournament must submit their entry list to the Vice-President for Lincoln-Douglas Debate or his or her designated representative prior to the deadline set by the Vice-President. He or she may grant an exemption from this deadline but is not required to do so. If an exemption is granted, the school must pay an additional registration fee of \$5 per student per entry made after the deadline for Preliminary Tournaments, and an additional fee of \$25 per student per entry for Metropolitan Championship Tournaments. Schools failing to provide the information specified by the Vice-President prior to the deadline may not participate in the tournament.
10. A Lincoln-Douglas Debate decision and speaker points will be treated as combined decisions. The win/loss of a round will be determined by the judge and reflected in his or her comments. The points for each speaker will be based on the ability of the speaker to convince the judge through analysis and speaking ability.
- a. The speaker points should be weighted in favor of the speaking style and delivery; the decision on win/loss should be weighted in favor of analysis and argumentation.
  - b. The losing debater may NOT have higher speaker points than the winning debater.
  - c. The speaker points shall be used to break a win/loss tie for pairing and final positions at a tournament.
11. In all sections of debate, competition shall alternate sides throughout the tournament, insofar as power-pairing permits.
12. All debaters shall debate at least three rounds during a tournament.
13. At all preliminary tournaments registration will take place between 8:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. Debaters not registered as present with their judge(s), must not be included in Round I.
- If a debater so eliminated from Round I chooses, he or she may participate in the remaining rounds and shall be assigned a loss, with zero speaker points, for Round I.
14. The Junior Varsity and Novice sections can be combined for purposes of running the tournament, if the Vice President of Lincoln-Douglas determines that the numbers registered in either division justify it. In the event the sections are combined, awards will be given in each division as if they were separate tournaments.

15. In order to be eligible to judge the Novice section, a judge must have at least one year of experience in judging Lincoln-Douglas debate. The Vice President of Lincoln-Douglas can waive this requirement on an individual basis.
16. Each year at the WACFL Spring Coaches Meeting, a majority of coaches voting must vote to renew the Novice section of Lincoln-Douglas. Should a majority of coaches fail to renew the Novice section, all references to the Novice division shall automatically be removed from the WACFL By-Laws.
17. Final standings in all sections shall be based on the following criteria in the order listed, as totaled for the entire tournament.
  - a. Win/Loss Record.
  - b. Total speaker points.
18. In the event that a school drops an entry from a school's registration after the "Entry Drop Deadline" established by the Vice-President for Lincoln-Douglas Debate, the school making the drop shall be fined ten (\$10.00) dollars for each entry dropped, and twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars in the case of a drop from the Metropolitan Finals Championship Tournament. In the event that a drop was not reported at registration and is discovered, the school shall be fined an additional ten (\$10.00) dollars for each entry dropped, and twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars in the case of an unreported drop from the Metropolitan Championship Finals Tournament. The school will not be allowed to compete in subsequent tournaments until the fine is paid. Appeals must be presented to the President of the WACFL within forty-eight (48) hours of the completion of the tournament.

## SECTION H. Public Forum Debate Rules and Procedures

1. The WACFL Public Forum Topic will be the same topic that is printed in the National Forensic League *Rostrum* for that month. The topic for the Metropolitan Championship Tournament will not have been debated at a preliminary WACFL tournament for that year.
2. Public Forum Debate is a team event that advocates or rejects a position posed by the resolution. The focus of the debate is a clash of ideas in a persuasive manner that can be understood by a “lay” judge. Good debaters should display logic and analysis. They should use evidence when needed. They should win their case and refute that of their opponents. They should communicate effectively, using the fundamentals of good speaking. There are no burdens on either side.
3. Round Tardiness
  - a. A public forum debate team will be given a forfeit if either one or both members of the two person team is ten minutes late for a round. A forfeit is imposed only by the tab room. Under no circumstances may a judge impose a forfeit on his or her own initiative. If a team or speaker has missed the ten minute deadline the judge shall send one of the speakers present to the tab room for instructions. The tab room determines if a forfeit is imposed.
  - b. A forfeit will be imposed if both of the following apply:
    - (1) The ten minute deadline has passed according to the current time standard in effect as verified by the phone company.
    - (2) There are no extenuating circumstances applicable, such as delay in publication of schematics or the like.
4. One copy of the ballot for debate must be returned at the conclusion of each round. Failure to return a ballot within ten minutes of the conclusion of the round will disqualify the judge from the remainder of the tournament (if the judging pool permits) and from all future tournaments. The school the judge represents shall be fined \$20.00 for each round the ballot is missing, and an additional \$20.00 for each round from which the judge was disqualified at the tournament, unless the school the judge represents provides a qualified replacement judge. All judges must turn in the remaining copies of all ballots by the deadline for the final round of the day.
5. A qualified judge must accompany each entry of four teams or fraction thereof. The number of entries shall be determined by the total entered in all sections of debate from each school. Debaters who are not accompanied by a judge shall not be allowed to participate.

6. Public Forum Debate eligibility is as follows (by grade level):
  - a. Varsity section shall be open to all grade levels.
  - b. Junior Varsity Sections are open to all grade levels if both team members are in their first or second year of public forum debate. Students on the winning team of a prior JV MetroFinal Championship Round are no longer eligible to compete in the Junior Varsity division. Any student finishing in the top six in Junior Varsity preliminary competition twice in the competition season will no longer be able to compete in the Junior Varsity division and must advance to the Varsity division. This rule does not affect the student's eligibility to compete in the WACFL Metropolitan Championship Tournament at the Junior Varsity level unless the student has also qualified at the Varsity level in the same season.
  - c. Qualifications in a division of debate are lost if a team qualifies in a higher division of debate.
  - d. If a student has qualified in a division of debate, that student may not debate in a lower division.
  
7. Order and time limits of the debate:
  - a. First Pro Constructive: 4 minutes
  - b. First Con Constructive: 4 minutes
  - c. Crossfire: 3 minutes  
(Note: the Con asks the first question; thereafter, either debater can ask questions).
  - d. Second Pro: 4 minutes
  - e. Second Con: 4 minutes
  - f. Crossfire: 3 minutes  
(Note: the Pro asks the first question; thereafter, either debater can ask questions).
  - g. First Pro Summary: 2 minutes
  - h. First Con Summary: 2 minutes
  - i. Grand Crossfire: 3 minutes  
(Note: one member of the Pro team asks the first question; thereafter, any debater may ask questions).
  - j. Second Pro Final Focus: 1 minute
  - k. Second Con Final Focus: 1 minute
  - l. Prep Time: 2 minutes/team
  
8. Each team shall have two minutes of preparation time in all debate divisions. Against this preparation time shall be charged:
  - a. Time between the end of the last speech or cross examination conducted by a team member.
  - b. Any overtime in any speech, but not cross examination, made by a member of that team.

- c. Any question asked in overtime in cross examination conducted by a member of that team.
  - d. Any "set-up" time used to prepare for an actual debate which exceeds the forfeit deadline. In the event both teams are not ready to proceed at that point, preparation time will be charged against the last team to notify the judge that it is ready to proceed. In particular, this would apply to a team that is late.
9. Schools intending to enter a tournament must submit their entry list to the Vice-President for Public Forum Debate or his or her designated representative prior to the deadline set by the Vice-President. He or she may grant an exemption from this deadline but is not required to do so. If an exemption is granted, the school must pay an additional registration fee of \$5 per student per entry made after the deadline for Preliminary Tournaments, and an additional fee of \$25 per student per entry for Metropolitan Championship Tournaments. Schools failing to provide the information specified by the Vice-President prior to the deadline may not participate in the tournament.
10. All sections of Public Forum competition shall be two-person with alternating sides throughout the tournament, insofar as power-pairing permits.
11. All debate teams shall debate at least three rounds during a tournament.
12. At all preliminary tournaments Public Forum registration will take place between 8:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. Teams not registered as present with their judge(s), must not be included in Round I.

If a team so eliminated from Round I chooses, it may participate in the remaining rounds and shall be assigned a loss, with zero speaker points and seven ranks for Round I.

13. Power-pairing in the debate division will be as follows:
- a. Rounds I and II in all sections shall be paired at random.
  - b. In Round II:
    - (1) Side constraints will be observed.
    - (2) No team will meet another team from the same school.
    - (3) No team may meet a team it previously met.

- c. Round III shall be power-paired based on Rounds I and II:
    - (1) No team will be paired against a team it previously met.
    - (2) No team will be paired against a team from the same school.
    - (3) Side constraints do not apply in this round.
    - (4) Power-pairing in this round is mandatory for the Varsity section with the exception of teams from the same school and teams that have previously met.
    - (5) The Junior Varsity sections shall be power-paired in a similar manner, if time permits.
  - d. Round IV in Varsity shall be power-bracketed based on Rounds I and II:
    - (1) Side constraints will be observed in this round.
    - (2) Debate teams should not be permitted to meet twice at any WACFL tournament where eight or more teams are registered in that section, except in the elimination rounds of the Metropolitan Championship Tournament.
  - e. Round IV in the Junior Varsity divisions shall be power-paired, if time permits. Power-pairing in this section shall be same as for Round II; if possible, side constraints shall be observed, no school shall meet itself, and no teams will meet for a second time.
14. A Public Forum Debate decision and speaker points will be treated as combined decisions. The win/loss of a round will be determined by the judge and reflected in his or her comments. The points will be based on the ability of the speakers to convince the judge through analysis and speaking ability.
- a. The speaker points should be weighted in favor of the speaking style and delivery; the decision on win/loss should be weighted in favor of analysis and argumentation.
  - b. The losing team may NOT have higher speaker points than the winning team.
  - d. The speaker points shall be used to break a win/loss tie for pairing and final positions at a tournament
  - e. If a tie exists after determining record and speaker points, the tie will be broken on the basis of adjusted speaker points.

15. Final standings in all sections shall be based on the following criteria in the order listed, as totaled for the entire tournament:
  - a. Win/Loss Record.
  - b. Total team points for each team.
  - c. Adjusted team points, dropping one high and one low, for each team.
16. The Varsity and Junior Varsity sections can be combined for purposes of running the tournament, if the Vice President of Public Forum Debate determines that the numbers registered in either division justify it. In the event the sections are combined, awards will be given in each division as if they were separate tournaments.
17. In the event that a school drops an entry from a school's registration after the "Entry Drop Deadline" established by the Vice-President for Public Forum Debate, the school making the drop shall be fined ten (\$10.00) dollars for each entry dropped, and twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars in the case of a drop from the Metropolitan Finals Championship Tournament. In the event that a drop was not reported at registration and is discovered, the school shall be fined an additional ten (\$10.00) dollars for each entry dropped, and twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars in the case of an unreported drop from the Metropolitan Championship Finals Tournament. The school will not be allowed to compete in subsequent tournaments until the fine is paid. Appeals must be presented to the President of the WACFL within forty-eight (48) hours of the completion of the tournament.
18. Utilization of debate evidence shall be based upon the following criteria:
  - a. During his or her speech a debate must read at least a partial citation for each piece of evidence. This partial citation must include the date, the author, and title of the publication.
  - b. If a piece of evidence is challenged, a debater must supply a full citation immediately after the round if requested by the judge. If a full citation can not be presented, the judge must disregard it in arriving at a decision.

## **SECTION I. Awards**

1. In preliminary tournaments awards shall be presented to the following:
  - a. First through sixth place teams in Varsity Policy Debate.
  - b. First through sixth place teams in Junior Varsity Policy Debate.
  - c. First through sixth place teams in Novice Debate.
  - d. First through fourth place contestants in all speech events.

- e. First through third place contestants in each chamber of Student Congress.
  - f. First through sixth place debaters in Varsity Lincoln-Douglas Debate.
  - g. First through sixth place debaters in Junior Varsity Lincoln-Douglas Debate.
  - h. First through sixth place debaters in Novice Lincoln-Douglas Debate.
  - i. First through sixth place teams in Varsity Public Forum Debate.
  - j. First through sixth place teams in Junior Varsity Public Forum Debate.
2. In preliminary tournaments certificates will be presented to the following:
- a. Top three speakers in all sections of Policy Debate.
  - b. Outstanding Congressperson in each house of Student Congress.
  - c. Top four Novice Congresspersons in Student Congress.
3. At the Metropolitan Championship Tournament trophies will be presented to the following:
- a. Finalists and semi-finalists teams in Varsity and Junior Varsity Policy Debate.
  - b. First through fourth place contestants in all speech events.
  - c. First through fourth place contestants in Student Congress.
  - d. Finalists and semi-finalists debaters in Varsity and Junior Varsity Lincoln-Douglas Debate.
  - e. Finalists and semi-finalists teams in Varsity and Junior Varsity Public Forum Debate.
  - f. To all students, excluding call-ups, qualifying for the NCFL Grand National Tournament.
  - g. In Student Congress, the top presiding officer from each diocese, determined by the presiding officer scores from the preliminary rounds, with ties broken by appeal to parliamentary score and then to speaker point scores.
  - h. All students who have participated in all preliminary tournaments and the Metropolitan Championship Tournament will receive a certificate. The award shall be called the 'Eleanor Wright Spirit of Competition Award'.
  - i. A student who has qualified by receiving an award or being an additional qualifier at a tournament in more than one of WACFL's four event categories (Speech, Congress, Varsity Policy Debate, Varsity Lincoln-Douglas Debate) shall receive a certificate. The award shall be called the 'All WACFL Team Award'. A student who has qualified to NCFL Grand Nationals in more than one event is designated as a member of the 'First

Team of the All WACFL Team'. A student who has qualified to the Metropolitan Championship Tournament in more than one event is designated as a member of the 'Second Team of the All WACFL Team'.

## **ARTICLE IV. SWEEPSTAKES**

### **SECTION A. Sweepstakes Awards**

1. Awards will be given to the top three schools in Overall Sweepstakes points; to the top three schools in Policy Debate; to the top three schools in Speech; to the top three schools in Student Congress; to the top three schools in Lincoln-Douglas Debate; and to the top three schools in Public Forum Debate.
2. If a school wins an Overall Sweepstakes award, that school will not be eligible for an individual event (Policy Debate, Speech, Student Congress, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Public Forum Debate) award.
3. The top Sweepstakes Award will be named the Daniel S. Masterson, Jr. Sweepstakes Award.
4. A category of Sweepstakes Awards known as the President's Award shall be established to recognize achievement by the top three schools across all categories of league events during the current competition year. This award will be named the Judy L. Seward Sweepstakes Award.

### **SECTION B. Policy and Public Forum Debate**

1. All teams in a section (Varsity, Junior Varsity) shall be ranked. No points shall be awarded for competitors in the Novice section.
2. The top third shall be awarded 16 points; the middle third shall be awarded 12 points; and the bottom third shall be awarded 8 points. This shall apply to the top two teams from a school.

### **SECTION C. Speech**

1. All contestants in a category shall be ranked.
2. The top third shall be awarded 8 points; the middle third shall be awarded 6 points; and the bottom third shall be awarded 4 points. This shall apply to the top four contestants from a school.

### **SECTION D. Student Congress**

1. All speakers in each house shall be ranked.
2. The top third shall be awarded 8 points; the middle third shall be awarded 6 points; and the bottom third shall be awarded 4 points. This shall apply to the top four speakers from a school.

## **SECTION E. Lincoln-Douglas Debate**

1. All debaters in the Varsity and Junior Varsity sections shall be ranked. No points shall be awarded for competitors in the Novice section.
2. The top third shall be awarded 8 points; the middle third shall be awarded 6 points; and the bottom third shall be awarded 4 points. This shall apply to the top four debaters from a school.

## **ARTICLE V. METROPOLITAN CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENTS**

### **SECTION A. Policy Debate Eligibility**

1. In Varsity and Junior Varsity sections of Policy Debate all award winners at the preliminary tournaments are eligible to compete at the Metropolitan Championship Tournament. At the Championship Tournament there shall be three sections of Policy Debate: Varsity, Junior Varsity Contemporary, and Junior Varsity Classic.
2. In Policy Debate, the top three teams from the Varsity section, from each diocese at each preliminary tournament shall be eligible to compete in the Varsity section at the Metropolitan Championship Tournament for diocesan representation at the NCFL Grand National Tournament.
3. If one or more teams earning qualification in a preliminary WACFL tournament has previously qualified, then one additional team will be qualified. If both members of a team have previously qualified with different partners, that team will be considered previously qualified.
4. A team will automatically qualify for the Metropolitan Championship Tournament if that team has at least 3 Wins and 1 Loss at any two (2) preliminary WACFL tournaments, or if that team has a record of 4 wins and 0 losses at any single WACFL Preliminary Tournament.
5. Policy Debate teams qualifying for the NCFL Grand National Tournament may not change partners for Nationals.
6. The first place finisher in the Novice section at each preliminary tournament will automatically qualify for Metrofinals in the Junior Varsity section. The second through sixth place competitors in the Novice section at each preliminary tournament shall be considered to have earned a record of 3 wins and 1 loss in the Junior Varsity section for purposes of determining Metrofinal qualifications.

## **SECTION B. Speech Eligibility**

1. All award winners in all speech events at each preliminary tournament are eligible to compete at the Metropolitan Championship Tournament.
2. At each preliminary tournament the top two contestants from each diocese in each event will be qualified to compete for diocesan representation to the NCFL Grand National Tournament. When the number of entries in any speech event exceeds fifty (50), the number of qualifiers will be increased from two to three per diocese. If a contestant is previously qualified, an additional person will be qualified.
3. Any student who enters the same event in three of the preliminary tournaments will be eligible to compete in the Metropolitan Championship Tournament. Any student with accumulated ranks totaling ten (10) or fewer at a preliminary WACFL tournament will be called-up to the Metrofinal Tournament. It will be the responsibility of the student's coach to notify the Vice President for Speech of the student's eligibility and to provide the data necessary to verify said participation and ranks. Notification must be made within forty-eight (48) hours of the conclusion of the final preliminary WACFL tournament.
4. Duo Interpretation Teams qualifying for the NCFL Grand National Tournament may not change partners for Nationals.

## **SECTION C. Student Congress Eligibility**

1. All medal winners at the preliminary student congresses are eligible to compete at the Metropolitan Championship Tournament.
2. If there are less than thirty (30) entries in a given house of the Metropolitan Finals Championship Tournament, then additional call-ups shall be made for that house (Arlington or Washington) based on the ranking of each student's highest total score at a single tournament during the preliminary season. Call-ups made to the Metropolitan Championship Tournament on this basis shall not cause the entries in either house of the Championship Tournament to exceed thirty (30).

## **SECTION D. Lincoln-Douglas Debate Eligibility**

1. All award winners at each preliminary tournament in the Varsity and Junior Varsity sections are eligible to compete at the Metropolitan Championship Tournament.
2. At each preliminary tournament in the Varsity section the top three debaters from each diocese will be qualified to compete for diocesan representation at the NCFL Grand National Tournament. In addition, if a debater is previously qualified an additional debater shall be qualified.
3. A student in the Varsity or Junior Varsity sections will automatically qualify for Metrofinals if that student has at least 3 wins and 1 loss at any two (2) preliminary WACFL tournaments, or if the student has a record of 4 wins and 0 losses at any single WACFL Preliminary Tournament.

4. The first place finisher in the Novice section at each preliminary tournament will automatically qualify for Metrofinals in the Junior Varsity section. The second through sixth place competitors in the Novice section at each preliminary tournament shall be considered to have earned a record of 3 wins and 1 loss in the Junior Varsity section for purposes of determining Metrofinal qualifications.

#### **SECTION E. Public Forum Debate Eligibility**

1. In Varsity and Junior Varsity sections of Public Forum Debate all award winners at the preliminary tournaments are eligible to compete at the Metropolitan Championship Tournament. At the Championship Tournament there shall be two sections of Public Forum Debate: Varsity and Junior Varsity.
2. In Public Forum Debate, the top three teams from the Varsity section, from each diocese at each preliminary tournament shall be eligible to compete in the Varsity section at the Metropolitan Championship Tournament for diocesan representation at the NCFL Grand National Tournament.
3. If one or more teams earning qualification in a preliminary WACFL tournament has previously qualified, then one additional team will be qualified. If both members of a team have previously qualified with different partners, that team will be considered previously qualified.
4. A team will automatically qualify for the Metropolitan Championship Tournament if that team has at least 3 Wins and 1 Loss at any two (2) preliminary WACFL tournaments, or if that team has a record of 4 wins and 0 losses at any single WACFL Preliminary Tournament.
5. Public Forum Debate teams qualifying for the NCFL Grand National Tournament may not change partners for Nationals.

#### **SECTION F. Metropolitan Championship Tournament Procedures**

1. Student Participation

Any student not participating in all preliminary rounds of speech, policy debate, Lincoln-Douglas debate, Public Forum Debate, and all sessions of Student Congress in the Metropolitan Championship Tournament will not be considered for a position on the national team regardless of section position in speech; wins and losses, points and ranks in policy, Public Forum Debate and Lincoln-Douglas Debate; or speech scores and parliamentary points in student congress. No sweepstakes points will be awarded for partial participation. The only exception to this rule will be an excuse granted by the Vice-President of the event in case of a student emergency.

## 2. Policy and Public Forum Debate Procedures

### a. Varsity

#### (1) Six preliminary rounds breaking to semi-finals.

##### (a) Preliminary (within Diocese).

1) If 5 or 6 compete in a diocese ... round robin.

2) If 7 or more compete:

a) Round I and II -- random -- no school meeting itself; no teams meeting for a second time; side constraints.

b) Round III and IV -- straight power -- no team meeting for a second time. If 14 or more teams compete, no school meets itself; side constraints.

c) Round V and VI -- straight power -- no team meeting for a second time. In Round VI, if power breaks side constraints, teams will flip in the room.

3) A current results sheet for the division showing each team's win/loss record, total points and total ranks will be posted in an area of the Tab Room. This posting will be available for all coaches to view after Round 2 and after each subsequent round is recorded. The results sheet may not be examined; i.e., the Tab Room is closed during recording of ballots, pairing of rounds, and assignment of judges. Coaches may choose to reveal only their teams' records to their teams. Coaches may not reveal records of other teams either to their own or to other teams.

a) The coaches will have ten (10) minutes from posting time to inform the Tab Room how to handle school meeting school.

b) The coach may indicate win, loss, or split decision.

4) If, as a result of byes, any team entering Rounds III or V has completed an unequal number of affirmative and negative rounds, there shall be an enforceable side constraint upon that team unless to do so would require breaking the power-pairing. For purposes of this rule, rounds where two teams from the same school meet and choose not to debate shall be considered byes.

- 5) For the purposes of determining qualifiers to the Metropolitan Championship Final rounds and to the NCFL Grand National Tournament, ties on record will be broken by dropping one high and one low ballot; then points and ranks.

(b) Elimination Rounds

- 1) Semis: #1 Arlington vs #2 Washington.  
#2 Arlington vs #1 Washington.
- 2) Finals: Winner vs Winner

b. Junior Varsity

- (1) If 5 or fewer teams compete: double round robin.
- (2) If 6 or 10 teams compete: single round robin.
- (3) If 11 or more teams compete:
  - (a) Round I and II -- random -- no school meeting itself; no teams meeting for a second time; side constraints in Round II.
  - (b) Round III -- straight power on the basis of rounds one through two -- no school meeting itself; no teams meeting for a second time.
  - (c) Round IV -- power bracketed on the basis of rounds one through three -- side constraints; no school meeting itself; no teams meeting for a second time.
  - (d) Round V -- straight power on the basis of rounds one through four -- no school meeting itself; no teams meeting for a second time.
  - (e) Round VI -- power bracketed on the basis of rounds one through five -- side constraints; no school meeting itself; no teams meeting for a second time.
  - (f) Semi-Finals -- top four teams based on wins and losses. The round shall be paired so that #1 seed debates the #4 seed, and the #2 seed debates the #3 seed.
- (4) If a tie on record occurs, drop one high and one low ballot.

c. Judging

- (1) All judges in Varsity and Junior Varsity must be Varsity qualified with at least one year experience judging Varsity level. No high school students may be used as judges for Junior Varsity.

- (2) Preliminary rounds in Varsity -- two judge panels; pairing resting on ballots, points, and ranks.
  - (3) Preliminary rounds in Junior Varsity -- one judge; pairing resting on ballots, points, and ranks.
  - (4) Elimination rounds -- three judge panels.
3. Speech Procedures
- a. Double entry, but no triple entry will be allowed.
  - b. Judging requirements will be one judge for every three entries.
  - c. No more than six contestants will be in any section.
  - d. If six or fewer participants are in any speech event from one diocese there will be three rounds with one judge.
  - e. In all other cases, there will be four preliminary rounds with two judges per section.
  - f. The top three in each diocese will advance to a Metropolitan Final Round, with three judge panels in each event.
4. Student Congress Procedures
- a. A seeding list, based on performance in all preliminary congresses, will be published and mailed to all schools involved.
    - (1) Presiding Officers will be selected based on this list.
    - (2) Committee Chairpersons will be based on this list.
    - (3) Ties in seeding will be broken first by the number of congresses attended, then by the total average score for the student during WACFL preliminary tournaments.
  - b. Judging requirements will be one judge, with at least two WACFL Student Congresses judged, for every five students or fraction thereof.
  - c. Qualifications for the NCFL Grand National Tournament and Metropolitan Finals:
    - (1) Three speeches shall be required for qualification for the NCFL Student Congress.
    - (2) Three speeches shall be required for qualification for WACFL Metropolitan Finals.
    - (3) Top eight speakers from each diocese will qualify for the Metropolitan Final Congress.

- d. Qualification for Metropolitan Award.
  - (1) A speaker must speak twice or speak once and preside for one hour.
  - (2) Presiding Officers for Metropolitan Finals will be chosen based on the seeding of the students who served as presiding officers during the diocesan rounds of the tournament. Seeding will be based on presiding officer scores, with ties broken by appeal to parliamentary score and then to speaker point scores. One presiding officer from each diocese will be selected for the Metropolitan Final Rounds.
  
- 5. Lincoln-Douglas Debate Procedures.
  - a. Varsity
    - (1) Six preliminary rounds breaking to semi-finals.
      - (a) Preliminary (within Diocese).
        - 1) If 5 or 6 compete in a diocese ... round robin.
        - 2) If 7 or more compete:
          - a) Round I and II -- random -- no school meeting itself; no debaters meeting for a second time; side constraints.
          - b) Round III and IV -- straight power -- no debaters meeting for a second time. If 14 or more debaters compete, no school meets itself; side constraints.
          - c) Round V and VI -- straight power -- no debaters meeting for a second time. In Round VI, if power breaks side constraints, debaters will flip in the room.
      - 3) During Rounds V and VI, when school can meet school, the following procedures will be followed: When the pairing for Round V (VI) is completed, but before the judges are assigned, the pairings will be posted in the judges lounge or area of the Tab Room. The posting will indicate: Win-Loss record; number of Ballots; Ranks and Points.
        - a) The coaches will have ten (10) minutes from posting time to inform the Tab Room how to handle school meeting school.
        - b) The coach may indicate win, loss, or split decision.
      - 4) For the purposes of determining qualifiers to the Metropolitan Championship Final rounds and to the NCFL Grand National Tournament, ties on record will be broken by dropping one high and one low ballot, then points and ranks.

- (b) Elimination Rounds
  - 1) Semis - #1 Arlington vs #2 Washington.  
#2 Arlington vs #1 Washington.
  - 2) Finals - Winner vs Winner
  
- b. Junior Varsity. There will be no Metropolitan Championship Tournament for Novice Lincoln-Douglas Debate.
  - (1) If 5 or fewer debaters compete ... double round robin.
  - (2) If 6 or 10 debaters compete ... single round robin.
  - (3) If 11 or more debaters compete ... use the following procedure:
    - (a) Round I and II -- random -- no school meeting itself; no teams meeting for a second time; side constraints in round II.
    - (b) Round III -- straight power on the basis of rounds one through two -- no school meeting itself; no teams meeting for a second time.
    - (c) Round IV -- power bracketed on the basis of rounds one through three -- side constraints; no school meeting itself; no teams meeting for a second time.
    - (d) Round V -- straight power on the basis of rounds one through four -- no school meeting itself; no teams meeting for a second time.
    - (e) Round VI -- power bracketed on the basis of rounds one through five -- side constraints; no school meeting itself; no teams meeting for a second time.
    - (f) Semi-Finals -- top four teams based on wins and losses. The round shall be paired so that #1 seed debates the #4 seed, and the #2 seed debates the #3 seed.
  - (3) If a tie on record occurs, drop one high and one low ballot.

c. Judging

- (1) All judges in Varsity and Junior Varsity must be Varsity qualified with at least one year experience judging Varsity level. No high school students may be used as judges for Junior Varsity.
- (2) Preliminary rounds in Varsity -- two judge panels; pairing resting on ballots, points, and ranks.
- (3) Preliminary rounds in Junior Varsity -- one judge; pairing resting on ballots, points, and ranks.
- (4) Elimination rounds -- three judge panels.