

# WASHINGTON ARLINGTON CATHOLIC FORENSIC LEAGUE

## CONSTITUTION

### ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Washington Arlington Catholic Forensic League (WACFL).

#### SECTION A. NCFL Affiliation

This organization shall be technically comprised of two memberships only for the purpose of affiliation with the National Catholic Forensic League (NCFL).

1. One membership shall include schools located within the Archdiocese of Washington.
2. One membership shall include schools located within the Diocese of Arlington.

#### SECTION B. Joint Tournaments

Neither Diocesan membership may hold independent WACFL tournaments.

### ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Washington Arlington Catholic Forensic League shall be the development of critical thinking and articulate leadership by the promotion of speech activities in and among the teams of its member schools.

### ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

#### SECTION A. Eligibility

Any existing secondary school in the Washington metropolitan area shall be eligible for membership in the WACFL.

#### SECTION B. Certification

Application for membership shall be made to the Secretary of this organization. Full rights of membership, including the right to vote at meetings, the right to participate in League competition, and the right to be enrolled as a member school of the NCFL, shall be granted only upon receipt of the full payment of dues as established by the Executive Committee. For the purposes of organization, the right to vote at the Fall meeting of the Executive Committee will be granted to all schools in good standing during the previous school year.

#### SECTION C. Fees

The Executive Committee shall establish dues and fees for the member schools.

## ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS OF THE LEAGUE

### SECTION A. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall consist of the coaches or the adult representatives of the schools holding membership in the League. It shall determine League policy in all matters not covered by the Constitution or its By-Laws. It shall approve all expenditures not incurred in the ordinary administration of local tournaments.

### SECTION B. Executive Council

The Executive Council shall consist of the League officers. The officers of the League shall be a President, a Vice President for Policy Debate, a Vice President for Speech, a Vice President for Lincoln-Douglas Debate, a Vice President for Student Congress, a Secretary-Treasurer, a Tournament Director for Policy Debate, a Tournament Director for Speech, a Tournament Director for Lincoln-Douglas Debate, a Tournament Director for Student Congress, and a Director of Publicity.

1. Election of officers.
  - a. All officers shall be elected by the Executive Committee.
  - b. All members of the Executive Committee shall be eligible for nomination.
  - c. Nomination and election of officers listed in IV.B.2.a. shall take place at the May Meeting of the appropriate school year.
  - d. Nomination and election of officers listed in IV.B.2.b. shall take place at the first meeting of the appropriate school year.
  - e. All elections shall be the first item on the agenda, following the roll call, the reading of the minutes, and the treasurer's report.
2. Term of Office
  - a. The term of office for the President, the Vice President for Policy Debate, the Vice President for Speech, the Vice President for Lincoln-Douglas Debate, the Vice President for Student Congress, the Secretary-Treasurer, and the Director of Publicity shall be for two years, eligible for re-election.
  - b. The term of office for the Tournament Director for Policy Debate, the Tournament Director for Speech, the Tournament Director for Lincoln-Douglas Debate, and the Tournament Director for Student Congress shall be for one year, eligible for reelection.
  - c. Should a resignation occur, a special election at the next regularly scheduled Executive Committee meeting shall be held to fill the vacancy. In the interim, the Presiding Officer of the WACFL shall appoint the official.
3. Duties of the Officers
  - a. President
    - (1) The President shall be responsible for the enforcement of all provisions of the Constitution and its By-Laws and all regulations enacted under its authority.
    - (2) He shall have the authority over all tournament matters not related to policy debate alone, to speech alone, to Lincoln-Douglas debate alone, or to student congress alone. (see V.A.)
    - (3) He shall be responsible, at his discretion, for the appointment of members of the Executive Committee to various duties.
    - (4) He may call special meetings of the Executive Committee, the Executive Council, or other committees of the League when he deems it necessary.

b. The Vice Presidents

- (1) The Vice President for Policy Debate shall act as President in the absence of the President or for an unexpired term, if that office becomes vacant.
- (2) In the absence of the President and the Vice President for Policy Debate, the Vice President for Speech shall act as President.
- (3) In the absence of the President and the Vice President for Policy Debate, and the Vice President for Speech, the Vice President for Lincoln-Douglas Debate shall act as President.
- (4) In the absence of the President and the Vice President for Policy Debate, and the Vice President for Speech, and the Vice President for Lincoln-Douglas Debate, the Vice President for Student Congress shall act as President.

c. The Secretary-Treasurer

- (1) The Secretary-Treasurer shall conduct correspondence of the League.
- (2) He shall keep an accurate record of the proceedings of each League meeting and shall publish said minutes for distribution to the member schools.
- (3) He shall compile the annual Directory of Member Schools and Coaches.
- (4) He shall provide the membership with copies of the Constitution and its By-Laws.
- (5) He shall keep a history of the League.
- (6) He shall receive and pay all bills charged to the League.
- (7) At each meeting of the Executive Committee, he shall render an accounting of the League's expenditures and receipts to date.
- (8) At the end of each year, he shall publish an itemized annual statement of receipts and expenditures.
- (9) He shall arrange for the purchase of awards required by the League.
- (10) In the absence of the President and four Vice Presidents, he shall act as President.

d. Director of Publicity

- (1) The Director of Publicity shall bring public focus upon the goals and activities of the League.
- (2) He shall introduce the WACFL opportunities to prospective member schools.
- (3) He shall publish a monthly newsletter during the school year.

e. Tournament Directors

- (1) The Tournament Directors of their respective divisions will fulfill those duties as specified in (V.B.).
- (2) They shall fulfill those responsibilities assigned to them by the Vice Presidents of the respective divisions.

f. NCFL Representatives

- (1) The President of the WACFL shall serve as the representative of his diocese to the NCFL.
- (2) The diocese not represented by the President shall elect from the membership of that diocese the NCFL Representative. This representative shall be a member of the Executive Council.

g. President Emeritus

- (1) The President Emeritus position shall be held by Miss Eleanor Wright until her resignation from that position.
- (2) The President Emeritus shall be a member of the Executive Council.

## **ARTICLE V. TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS**

### **SECTION A. The Vice Presidents**

Each Vice President shall have complete charge, except as noted in IV.B.3.a.(2) of his respective division of all tournaments in accordance with the rules of such tournaments as specified in the Constitution and its By-Laws.

1. Each Vice President shall be empowered to establish and promulgate such regulations and procedures as he deems necessary to facilitate conformity with such rule and/or efficient conduct of his respective division.
2. Each Vice President shall adjudicate all disputes that may arise and make interpretations of the rules as may be necessary concerning the conduct of his respective division.
  - a. Protests may only be registered by a coach or his properly designated assistant.
3. With the approval of the President, each Vice President may delegate his authority to another member of the Executive Committee. The concurrence of the President is not obligatory when obtaining such approval would be difficult or impractical.
4. Each Vice President shall require participating schools to furnish competent judges to his respective division and shall establish and promulgate qualifications required to judge the categories within the division.
5. Each Vice President shall be responsible for the preparation of instructions for judges and the distribution of those instructions at each tournament.
6. Each Vice President may appoint one or more assistants to facilitate, under his supervision, the conduct of his respective division.
7. Each Vice President may disqualify a judge for cause in writing. In the event where a bona fide Policy Debate, Speech, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, or Student Congress Coach is disqualified in that respective division, in addition to other appeals stipulated in the By-Laws, he shall have the additional right to appeal to the membership at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Executive Committee. A disqualified non-coach may be reinstated at the discretion of the League Officers.
8. The Vice Presidents shall be responsible for the certification of those contestants who qualify to participate in the Metropolitan Championship Tournament.
9. The Vice President of Speech shall be responsible for the preparation of an adequate number of topics concerning current events, which shall be, as far as possible, of equal weight and significance for use in extemporaneous speaking.

**SECTION B. Tournament Directors**

Each Tournament Director shall fulfill the following duties for his respective division.

1. He shall be responsible for the preparation of all schematics.
2. He shall be responsible for the tabulation of all results.
3. He shall be responsible for the compilation and publication of results.
4. He shall be responsible for the assignment of judges.
5. He shall be empowered to establish and promulgate such regulations and procedures as are necessary or desirable for the execution of the above duties.

**ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS OF THE LEAGUE**

**SECTION A. Official Meetings**

1. There shall be two regular meetings of the Executive Committee each year.
2. The President may call other meetings of the Executive Committee when deemed necessary.

**ARTICLE VII. VOTING PROCEDURES**

**SECTION A. Quorum**

A quorum shall consist of the members present and voting. There shall be no voting by proxy.

**SECTION B. Number of Votes**

1. In all matters concerning the League as a whole, each school shall have one vote.
2. Only schools participating in Policy Debate shall vote on matters concerning Policy Debate alone. Each school shall have one vote.
3. Only schools participating in speech shall vote on matters concerning speech alone. Each school shall have one vote.
4. Only schools participating in Lincoln-Douglas Debate shall vote on matters concerning Lincoln-Douglas Debate alone. Each school shall have one vote.
5. Only schools participating in student congress shall vote on matters concerning student congress alone. Each school shall have one vote.

**SECTION C. Vote by Mail or Telephone**

1. The President may call for a vote by mail or telephone when he deems it necessary.
2. A quorum in such cases shall consist of the votes received by the deadline set by the President.

## **ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENTS**

### **SECTION A. Amendment Proposed at a Meeting**

An amendment to this Constitution and/or its By-Laws may be proposed at any official meeting by any member of the Executive Committee to be acted upon at the following League Meeting.

### **SECTION B. Amendment Proposed by Mail**

An amendment to this Constitution and/or its By-Laws may be proposed in writing prior to an official League meeting to be acted upon at that meeting.

1. The amendment proposal must be in the President's possession at least thirty days prior to the meeting.
2. The President must mail copies of the proposed amendment to the member schools at least ten days prior to the meeting.

### **SECTION C. Amendment Proposed by Committee**

An amendment to this Constitution and/or its By-Laws may be proposed and acted upon at the same meeting if it results from a report of a committee established at a prior meeting and thereby placed on the agenda with due notice.

### **SECTION D. Amendment Ratification**

1. Voting Procedures shall be those in Article VII.
2. Approval must be a two-thirds (2/3) vote.
3. All Constitutional and/or By-Laws changes adopted at the Fall meeting shall take effect immediately. Those changes adopted at the Spring meeting shall take effect the following competition year, unless a separate motion is made for the change to take effect immediately with this separate motion requiring a four-fifths (4/5) vote to pass.