

NATIONAL CATHOLIC FORENSIC LEAGUE

FALL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 24 AND 25, 2010
MARRIOTT WARDMAN PARK HOTEL, WASHINGTON, DC

I. INVOCATION

II. ROLL CALL

III. REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT: CATHERINE LUHR
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT: GREG CUNNINGHAM
SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT: CHARLIE SLOAT
EXECUTIVE SEC/TREASURER: MIKE COLLETTI
PUBLICITY/RECORDING SEC: ROBERTA HYLAND
TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR: ROLAND BURDETT

IV. TOURNAMENT REPORTS: JENNIFER JEROME, OMAHA, 2010
ROBERTA HYLAND/ANN MARIE PHILLIPS,
ARLINGTON/WASHINGTON, 2011
CHARLES DONOVAN, BALTIMORE 2012

V. FUTURE TOURNAMENT BIDS: 2013 – PHILADELPHIA
2014 – CHICAGO

VI. POLICY DEBATE SELECTION COMMITTEE: CATHERINE LUHR

VII. FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 2009-2010: MIKE COLLETTI

A. TREASURER'S PROPOSALS:

1. "The NCFL annual school membership dues shall be twenty-five dollars (\$25) per school."
2. Change Article II, Section B, 2, sentence three to read "The fee levied for registration in the NCFL Grand National Tournament shall be \$50 per student"

VIII. CHANGES IN THE CONSTITUTION

- A. Amend the Constitution, Article V, Section E, 5, b, 4 to insert the phrase "and for Public Forum Debate" after "Lincoln-Douglas Debate"; and to replace the phrase "publish it in the March Newsletter" with "publish them".
(Arlington)

B. Change Constitution Article 3 Section 8:

Membership forms and annual dues should be postmarked no later than December 10 of each academic year. A ten percent (10%) penalty on dues will be levied against schools and Leagues which submit same after December 10. Failure of a League to submit forms

and dues postmarked by January 10 will result in the League's not being permitted to enter the Grand National Tournament for that academic year. Contestant quotas for the Tournament will be based upon forms and dues received by January 10. **(Sacramento)**

Rationale: The current By-Laws and Constitution are somewhat vague about whether due dates are received or postmark dates. As a result, I have felt compelled to spend upwards of \$80 per year to send dues, cards, and nationals entries and fees by Federal Express. Clarifying that the due dates are postmark dates would save substantial unnecessary costs. In addition, the penalty provision for nationals entries mentions certified mail cards but nothing anywhere else in the By-Laws or Constitution mandates mailing by certified mail. For clarity, the proposal deletes this provision.

IX. CHANGES IN THE BY-LAWS:

- A. Amend the ByLaws to replace the phrases "Permanent Tournament Director" and "Tournament Director" with the phrase "Grand Tournament Director". "Permanent" occurs twice, and "Tournament Director" occurs six times.
- B. Change Article ?, Section C, 5., e.: "Judges are prohibited from reading any materials presented in any speech unless falsification is suspected and the original source in question is available in the round. The reading of complete citations is required only when requested by the opposing team." [the underlined replaces the word "evidence"]
(Philadelphia)

Rationale: The situation last year was that an item presented in the speech, but not evidence, was questioned. The intent of the rule as written was to prohibit judges from looking at things the debaters read from, so the rule should reflect that.

- C. Change Article ?, Section C, 4., b., which should be changed to read as follows (the underlined is an insertion, no text is changed):

Rounds I and II: random pairing along geographical grounds.

Round III: direct power pairing, "high-high," based on Rounds I and II.

Round IV : high-low power within bracket based on W/L and ballots from Rounds I, II and III. Side constraints.

Round V: high-low power within bracket based on W/L and ballots from Rounds I, II, III and IV. Flip for sides.

NOTE: in Rounds I-V, debaters from the same Diocesan League cannot meet, nor can any debater or team meet the same debater or team a second time.

Round VI (Double octo-final): pairing will be made in bracket with the top team meeting the bottom team. The bracket is not to be broken from this point onward. It will serve as the basis for pairings for the octo-, quarter-, semi-final, and final rounds. Thus, debaters and teams from the same Diocesan League or school may meet, and debaters and teams which have met previously may also meet.

And inserting Section C, 4., c.: The Tab Chair, in consultation with the Tournament

Director, may elect to pair Round III or Round IV without inclusion of the previous round if tournament situations prevent full power pairing within a reasonable time frame. **(Philadelphia)**

Rationale: I think that language gives us significant leeway to adjust the schedule if we need to for whatever reason. That language lets us do the best for the competitors, whether that means emphasizing better pairings or ending before dark.

- D. Amend NCFL Lincoln-Douglas Debate Ballot to change the LD Debate Prep Time to 4 minutes. "Each debater shall have up to 4 minutes of preparation time..." **(Houston-Galveston)**
- E. Amend Article II, Section C, 3, c, 2, j & k: "Second Pro Final Focus: 2 minutes" and "Second Con Final Focus: 2 minutes". **(Houston-Galveston)**
- F. Amend Article II, Section D, 8: "Disqualified speakers shall receive no ranks in any round(s) in which said violation occurred, or in subsequent round(s). The disqualified speaker may not participate in any further rounds after the disqualification is determined, will receive no award or final placement, and will receive no sweepstakes points." **(Tournament Director)**
- G. Amend Article II, Section D, 2, a: ... "All two-way ties should be broken based on Judges' Preference within the round. All three-way (or more) ties should be broken using the method of reciprocal fractions (converting each rank into a decimal, and totalling them, as follows: 1st = 1.00, 2nd = 0.50; 3rd = 0.33; 4th = 0.25; 5th = 0.20; 6th = 0.17)." **(Tournament Director)**
- H. Amend Article II, Section C, 2: "Speech Events Procedures - f. set up for the Semi-final round"

"The set-up for the Semi-Final round, is as follows, and cannot be changed, even if students from the same diocese are meeting in the section:

Section A	Section B
A1	B1
C1	D1
B2	C2
D2	A2
A3	B3
D3	C3

Semi-final sections may be altered in the event students from the same school are to meet, in which case the next ranked contestant shall be moved, in order to balance sides.

In the event there are more contestants from the same school than sections, contestants are to maintain their rank, unless all fall within the same section; the middle ranked contestant(s) shall be switched with the next ranked contestant in the opposite section, in order to balance sides." **(Kansas City, KS)**

- I. Delete Article II, Section C, 3 (Debate), b (LD), 7, and Article II, Section C, 3 (Debate), c (PF), 5. Renumber remaining paragraph appropriately. Insert into NCFL ByLaws, Article II, Section C, 4 (Debate Procedures), e. the following:

The NCFL President will appoint a three to six person LD and PF Debate Topic Wording Committee not later than January 30 each year. Members of the committee should be members of the NCFL Executive Council, the NCFL Executive Committee, active NCFL Member LD or PF Debate Coaches, or experts as determined by the NCFL President. The Chair of the Committee will be the NCFL First Vice President.

The First Vice President will solicit suggestions for topics and/or topic areas from the general membership of the NCFL for the NCFL L-D and/or PF Debate Topic. The Executive Council will choose four topic areas each for L-D and PF Debate at the Winter Meeting and submit these to the Topic Wording Committee not later than January 30 each year.

The Wording Committee will prepare between four and six topics each for L-D and PF Debate based on the given topic areas. At least three of the topic areas each for L-D and PF Debate should be reflected in the prepared topics. The Committee will submit their recommended L-D Debate Topics not later than March 7, and their recommended PF Debate Topics not later than March 28, to the Tournament Director.

Not later than March 14, the Tournament Director will provide a ballot listing the recommended L-D Debate topics prepared by the Wording Committee to the Diocesan Directors. Diocesan Directors will return their vote, each voting not more than once, for the L-D Debate topics not later than March 28. The topic receiving the most number of votes will be the topic for the NCFL Grand National L-D Debate Tournament. The Tournament Director will publish the topic not later than March 31.

Not later than April 4, the Tournament Director will provide a ballot listing the recommended PF Debate topics prepared by the Wording Committee to the Diocesan Directors. Diocesan Directors will return their vote, each voting not more than once, for the PF Debate Topics not later than April 18. The topic receiving the most number of votes will be the topic for the NCFL Grand National PF Debate Tournament. The Tournament Director will publish the topic not later than April 25.

Without authorization from the President, First Vice President, or Tournament Director, the members of the Executive Council and Wording Committee may not release, publish, or discuss the list of Topic Areas or any of the proposed, rejected, or working versions of resolutions to persons not on the Executive Council or current year's Wording Committee until the ballots for topic voting are released. If a member of these groups does release this information then their school may not enter that year's NCFL LD or PF Debate National Tournaments, and the person

who released the information may not serve on the Wording Committee again.
(Scranton)

J. Oral Interpretation of Literature: By Laws Article II Section C part d, 1: After” ... cutting is permitted” insert “If the presentation is a series of cuttings or several pieces, the program presented must showcase separate pieces, not a new piece created by a seamless blending (intertexting) of several poems or prose pieces.” **(Green Bay)**

K. Duo Interpretation of Literature: By Law Article II Section C part f, 1: After “...a series of poems permitted.” Insert “If the presentation is a series of cuttings or several pieces, the program presented must showcase separate pieces, not a new piece created by a seamless blending (intertexting) of several poems or prose pieces. **(Green Bay)**

L. Dramatic Performance: By Law Article II Section C part b, 2. After “ Fictional work”” Insert “If the presentation is a series of several prose pieces, the program presented must showcase separate pieces, not a new piece created by a seamless blending (intertexting) of several prose pieces. **(Green Bay)**

M. Dramatic Performance: Bylaw Article II Section C b, 2
Oral Interpretation of Literature: By Law Article II Section C d, 1
Duo Interpretation of Literature: By Law Article II Section C f, 1

After TFFN insert:” "eBook Number and Library Name." **(Green Bay)**

N. Include the By Laws on the back of the Ballots, I know it is more to be read and some won't read it, but there is information there that clarifies and might be helpful, especially to new judges. **(Green Bay)**

O. Under Section C.1.b.2) Dramatic Performance – Change “The presentation must be from a single published play, single published script, or single published fictional or non-fictional work.” TO NOW READ – “The presentation must be from published plays, published scripts, or published fictional or non-fictional works.” The intent is to allow more than one work to be used in a single DP. **(Palm Beach)**

P. Under Section C.1.f.1) Duo Interpretation of Literature – Change “The selection, . . . , must be from a single play, fictional or non-fictional work.” TO NOW READ – “The selection, . . . , may be from any number of works: plays, fictional or non-fictional works.”

Under Section C.1.f.2) Change . . . “depending on the work selected” TO “depending on the work(s) selected.”

Under Section C.1.f.5) Change “The introduction should name the work” TO “The introduction should name the work(s).” **(Palm Beach)**

Rationale: The intent is to allow more than one work for duo.

Q. IN THE STUDENT CONGRESS MANUAL (THE 1996 VERSION IS THE ONE ON THE WEBSITE): On page 7, item 4. – Change “When 2 ½ minutes have elapsed, gavel once. When 3 minutes have elapsed, gavel twice. At 3 1/2 minutes, gavel down the speaker and ask the speaker to relinquish the floor.” TO NOW READ “When 2 minutes have elapsed, gavel once. When 2 ½ minutes have elapsed, gavel twice. At 3 minutes, gavel down the speaker and ask the speaker to relinquish the floor.”

(Palm Beach)

R. On the public forum ballot, the first cross-fire speaker is listed as the con. The con just spoke so shouldn't the pro get to ask the first question?

(Palm Beach)

S. Change By-Laws Section B, 3

Forms: No later than 45 days prior to the date of the Tournament, the Host Director, with the assistance of the Secretary/Treasurer of the LEAGUE, shall provide each member League and independent School member with the appropriate information and necessary forms for official Tournament registration. These shall include, but not be limited to the following: Contestant and judge master registration forms, individual events tabulation cards, tentative schedule, and lodging information. Failure to register a Diocesan League for the Grand National Tournament by mail postmarked the date set and communicated by the Secretary/Treasurer will result in a fine of fifty dollars (\$50.00) per day up for up to 7 days. The fine is assessed to the Diocesan League. After the 7th day, the League may not register for the Tournament and therefore may not compete that year. The postmark on the envelope containing registration materials will be used to determine the number of days. The tardy Diocesan League may not compete in future Grand National Tournaments until the fine is paid. No change in registration of students except a cancellation or the substitution of one student for another in the same event is permitted. After May 1, each change to a Diocesan League's judge assignments shall be assessed a fine of \$10.

(Sacramento)

T. Change By Laws Section B, 1, c, 1:

One person per Diocesan League. Any Diocesan League which does not have a person as a representative on the Tournament Staff will pay a fine of six hundred dollars (\$600.00). The League will not be allowed to participate in future Grand National Tournaments unless it is paid by January in the year in which they choose to participate. The fine will not be imposed if all entries from the Diocesan League are dropped by May 15.

(Sacramento)

U. By Laws Section B, 1, c, 2:

The total complement of judges from a Diocesan League shall include at least one judge from each member school represented in its student registration for the Tournament and every judge must have a designated affiliation with a participating member school(s). No Diocesan League will be permitted to drop registered judges without substitution later May 15, nor to provide judges without the required previous judging experience. The penalty for a violation of this rule will be a fine of four hundred dollars (\$400.00). In addition, there will be a fifty dollar (\$50.00) fine for

each round of the assignment that cannot be covered by a judge from that League. This fine will be levied against the school in question and such school will not be allowed to participate in future Grand National Tournaments if the fine is not paid by January in the year in which they choose to participate. No hired judges will be made available for the Tournament except in case of emergency. **(Sacramento)**

V. Change ByLaws Section B3

Forms: No later than 45 days prior to the date of the Tournament, the Host Director, with the assistance of the Secretary/Treasurer of the LEAGUE, shall provide each member League and independent School member with the appropriate information and necessary forms for official Tournament registration. These shall include, but not be limited to the following: Contestant and judge master registration forms, individual events tabulation cards, tentative schedule, and lodging information. Failure to register a Diocesan League for the Grand National Tournament by the date set and communicated by the Secretary/Treasurer will result in a fine of fifty dollars (\$50.00) per day up for up to 7 days. The fine is assessed to the Diocesan League. After the 7th day, the League may not register for the Tournament and therefore may not compete that year. The postmark on the certified mail card will be used to determine the number of days. The tardy Diocesan League may not compete in future Grand National Tournaments until the fine is paid. No change in registration of students after May 15 except a cancellation or the substitution of one student for another in the same event is permitted. After May 15, each change to a Diocesan League's judge assignments shall be assessed a fine of \$10. No fine for any missed judge assignment will be imposed for any the judging commitment for any drops that occur prior to May 15. **(Sacramento)**

Rationale: It is very difficult to line up judges 45 days before NCFL Nationals. This problem has been a big barrier to west coast schools participating in NCFL Nationals. Allowing drops without assessing the penalty for missed rounds of judging until May 15 will make it far easier for teams coming long distances to be able to find judges. It will also encourage schools to make the effort to try and find judges because the change will greatly reduce the risk of a judging penalty that is far too big for a program to pay by allowing drops without paying the judging penalty if judges cannot be located. Now, schools are choosing not to enter at all because of the risk of being unable to find judges and being charged several hundred dollars in judging penalties and the \$600 tab room assignment fee even if all entries from the league drop.

This change should not be a great imposition on tournament administration because entries are now computerized. The website can remain open until May 15 for drops, name changes and judges. It should not be difficult to move those changes into the system that is used for tournament tabulation and judging assignment. However, this change will greatly increase the possibility for west coast schools to at least consider being able to attend NCFL Nationals because it will alleviate the fear of large fees even if a school cannot meet judging requirements and as a result cannot attend.

W. Change By-Laws Section B, 1, c

3. The host league will create a list of qualified persons that may be hired by schools who travel more than 1,000 miles to attend NCFL Nationals. This list shall be posted on the NCFL Nationals tournament website no later than May 1. There shall be no guarantee that any particular judge will be available for hire or the amount that any person on the list may charge or be paid to be hired to judge. All contact with judges on the list potentially available for hire shall be between the hiring school and the judge. There shall be no minimum or maximum number of people on the list. The host league shall make a good faith effort to have names of qualified persons on the list. The hiring of a judge from the list shall not excuse a school's judging requirement. The school will fined in accordance with paragraph 2 above if a person hired from the list does not judge and that assignment is not otherwise covered.
4. At its option and sole discretion, the host league may coordinate hiring of judges by schools that travel more than 1,000 miles to attend NCFL Nationals. The host league may charge a fee of up to \$50 per judge for this service to be retained by the host league. In accordance with paragraph 2 above, nothing in this rule shall be construed as the NCFL hiring judges or creating any employment or independent contractor relationship between any judge and the NCFL, regardless of how that judge is paid.

(Sacramento)

Rationale: The judging requirements for NCFL nationals are a primary reason for west coast schools not joining NCFL and attending NCFL nationals. Several west coast coaches have told me that they would seriously consider joining NCFL and attending NCFL Nationals but for the judging requirements. Last year, several other schools in the San Jose league would have attend NCFL Nationals but decided they could not afford to attend because of the judging requirement. Particularly in this time of economic downturn, steps should be taken to make NCFL nationals more affordable, particularly for teams that need to travel long distances.

This proposal is an attempt to create an accessible but limited pool of local judges for schools that must travel a long distance to attend NCFL Nationals. This proposal should not be a large burden on the host league because the pool will be limited to schools traveling more than 1,000 miles, meaning there does not need to be a large number of judges on the list. The proposal also only requires a good faith effort by the host league, so the league will not need to spend extensive time on this project. Making the list available by May 1 works with proposal #2 above changing dates for judges and drops from nationals to May 15. The limitation of the pool to schools that travel more than 1,000 should also alleviate the concern that the judging pool will be too localized because a limited number of schools travel more than 1,000 miles to NCFL nationals. The proposal also addresses any concerns about NCFL's legal liability for hired judges.

X. OTHER ITEMS