

ARTICLE I – GENERAL GUIDELINES

SECTION I- ENTRY:

- A. Each tournament should consist of four preliminary rounds (except for policy, which will have three preliminary rounds in both divisions) of debate; and semi's and finals in each division. (except in policy where there will be three preliminary rounds, semi's, and finals in both divisions.)
- B. Individual events should consist of three preliminary rounds, and finals in each division. (except for United States and Foreign Extemp, which will consist of two preliminary rounds, and finals in both divisions.) The maximum number of students per section is 7.
- C. Individual events shall consist of two panels, to be alternated each tournament. Panel A: Dramatic Interpretation, Duo Interpretation, United States Extemporaneous Speaking, Informative Speaking, Storytelling. Panel B: Original Oratory, Impromptu Speaking, Humorous Interpretation, Program Oral Interpretation, Foreign Extemporaneous Speaking.
- D. Each school may enter up to 15 students/teams in each division of each event.
- E. COLLAPSED DIVISION: In order to build confidence in novice competition and ensure and encourage the growth of the event:
 - 1. If there are five or fewer Novice teams, the divisions will be collapsed. Novice teams that earn their second break in a collapsed division situation will be moved to the Senior division. Novice teams that do not break, or experience their first break in a collapsed division will return to the Novice division.
 - 2. If there are 4 or fewer entries in any debate event, it will be collapsed.
 - 3. If there are 3 or fewer entries in any speech event, it will be collapsed.

SECTION II-DIVISIONS PLACEMENT:

- A. When a novice speaker places first, second or third twice in any individual event they shall proceed to senior division in all individual events during further NNFL competition.
- B. When a novice debater places first, second, or third twice in any debate event they shall proceed to senior division for all further NNFL debate competitions.
- C. If a student has been competing in any combination of debate or IE events, at any time during two school years, that student will be moved to the senior division regardless of placement record.
- D. A partnership standing is based upon the senior member standing. Once having debated or presented in the senior division, a competitor must stay at the senior level.
- E. A coach may move a competitor up at his/her discretion prior to this requirement.

*Placement for students with specific modification needs will be considered on an individual basis by the Executive Committee prior to their participation in further NNFL competitions.

SECTION III-TRAVEL:

The decision to delay or alter a tournament in consideration of travel problems for a squad shall be left to the Executive Committee. Tournaments proceed when three-quarters of the competing schools are present.

SECTION IV—JUDGES:

- A. First year out students may only judge novice division competition.
- B. Judges may be removed from the pool under certain circumstances at the discretion of the Executive Committee; however, the NNFL practices a non-strike policy, which means that no judge will be removed from judging certain teams based upon philosophical differences or preferences.
- C. The NNFL practices the following non-disclosure policy: judges & coaches are prohibited from sharing the results of any round with competitors or spectators until after the awards ceremonies.
- D. Once a judge has seen a specific competitor, they may not judge that competitor in the same event at the same tournament. Only in extreme cases (when there are no other “clean” judges available) will an exception to this rule be made, and in those cases, the judge must be seeing the competitor on the opposite side of the debate.
- E. Each school shall be responsible for providing the number of judges indicated as their entry requirement on Tabroom to be present and available during all rounds of competition. Exceptions may be granted by the Executive Committee for traveling teams or upon exceptional circumstances.

SECTION V—FEES:

- A. Annual NNFL dues are \$50 per school.
- B. Tournament fees are \$50 per school, per tournament.
- C. Entry Fees are \$7 for individual entries and \$14 per team entries.
- D. Tournament fees are determined at the close of Registration on Tabroom.com.
- E. Teams are responsible for paying for entries that are dropped after registration closes.
- F. Schools that are 60 days overdue on fees will be barred from competition until their accounts are solvent.

SECTION VI—COMPED ENTRY FEES:

- A. Purpose - The League may provide limited complimentary tournament entries (“comped entries”) to support equitable participation among member schools.
- B. Eligibility - Up to five (5) tournament entries per eligible school per Speech and Debate season may be provided at no cost to the school, provided that annual league dues and all required tournament fees (excluding the comped entries) have been paid.

Schools eligible for consideration include:

- 1. Under-Resourced Schools – Schools that operate with limited funding, staffing, materials, or infrastructure and that serve high populations of economically disadvantaged students.
- 2. Schools Experiencing Hardship – Schools facing unexpected financial challenges, significant budget reductions, or severe resource limitations that threaten the continuation of extracurricular programs, including speech and debate.
- 3. Brand New Programs – Schools in their first year of establishing a speech and debate team or newly chartered chapters with the National Speech & Debate Association (NSDA).
- C. Application and Approval - Eligible schools must submit a written request to the Executive Committee prior to the applicable tournament registration deadline. The Executive Committee shall review requests and determine approval based on available funds and demonstrated need.
- D. Limitations

1. Approval is subject to available league funds.
 2. The Executive Committee may establish additional procedures to ensure fairness and sustainability of the program.
- E. Annual Review- The Executive Committee shall review the program annually to assess financial impact and continued viability.

NNFL Constitution

ARTICLE II – DEBATE GUIDELINES

*As a general rule, the NNFL defaults to the rules set by the NSDA, please make sure you have referred to the NSDA High School Manual for event rules, in addition to this document. If/when rules are in conflict, please notify the Executive Committee for clarification.

SECTION I:

- A. Rounds one and two shall be randomly matched, rounds three and up to semi-finals should be power matched (all 2-0 teams against each other, all 1-1 teams against each other, and all 0-2 teams against each other). In semi's the highest team (determined first by a won/lost record, then team speaker points totals, then by team point rankings, then opponent's records) is matched against the lowest team. NSDA District Tournament Manual rules apply in breaking brackets.
[order of priorities: school protect, priors met, side constraints]
 - 1. In policy, Round 1 will be randomly paired. Round 2 will power matched based on round 1, Round 3 will be power matched based on Round 2. In semi's the highest team (determined first by a won/lost record, then team speaker points totals, then by team point rankings, then opponent's records) is matched against the lowest team. NSDA rules apply in breaking brackets. **[order of priorities: school protect, side constraints, priors met]**
- B. If debaters have met before, they change sides. If they haven't met before, they will flip for sides. (except in PF where ALL rounds are flip)
- C. When a school comprises more than half of the competing teams, inter-squad competition is plausible. Teams or debaters from the same school shall be given no special bracketing considerations. That is, teams or debaters from the same school may compete against each other in semi-final and final rounds, or be advanced at the discretion of the coach.
- D. When seven or fewer teams compete, there will only be a final round in which the top two teams advance.

SECTION II - NO FLOW AND RETRIEVAL RULE:

- A. No one is allowed to flow any preliminary or semi-final debate round except the teams competing in the round and assigned judges. Spectators may flow final debate rounds. The judge(s) is/are responsible for enforcing this rule in the round.
- B. Judges may use a computer to take notes while judging during competition.
- C. All electronic recording (photos, video, tape recording, etc.) shall be barred except those having obtained prior consent from coaches and competitors in the round.
- D. The use by contestants of electronic retrieval systems are allowed in Policy, Public Forum, Lincoln Douglas, Big Questions, Congress, and Extemporaneous Speaking in accordance with Appendix I: Computer Use in Debate Rounds & Extemp specific rules (see Section 2.C.3 & Section 3.E.3). [Electronic retrieval devices are defined as laptop computers, netbooks, iPads, or other portable electronic retrieval equipment including devices such as flash drives or external hard drives.]
- E. **Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence:** In debate events, generative AI should *not be cited as a source*; while generative AI may be used to guide students to articles, ideas, and sources, the original source of any quoted or paraphrased evidence must be available if requested.
- F. Penalties are at the discretion of the Executive Committee and may result in disqualification.

SECTION III – NO SHOW RULE:

Failure to compete in one round will result in a loss; failure to compete in more than one round will result in disqualification. (See Article V, Sec. 8)

SECTION IV – DEBATE RULES:

A. Policy Debate

1. Question: The question shall be the national high school debate topic.
2. Teams: Each team shall be made up of two members from the same school, and shall be prepared to uphold both sides of the question.
3. Method: The following cross-examination method shall be used:
 - a. Length and order of speeches
 1. First affirmative constructive, 8 minutes
 2. Cross-examination of first affirmative, 3 minutes
 3. First negative constructive, 8 minutes
 4. Cross-examination of second affirmative, 3 minutes
 5. Second affirmative constructive 8 minutes
 6. Cross-examination of second affirmative, 3 minutes
 7. Second negative Constructive, 8 minutes.
 8. Cross examination of the second negative, 3 minutes.
 9. First negative rebuttal, 5 minutes
 10. First affirmative rebuttal, 5 minutes.
 11. Second negative rebuttal, 5 minutes.
 12. Second affirmative rebuttal, 5 minutes.
 - b. Special Cross-Examination Rules:
 1. Eight minutes of prep time is given for both senior and novice divisions.
 2. Members of the same team may not speak to each other during their constructive speeches, or rebuttals. They may speak to each other during their prep time.

B. Lincoln-Douglas Debate

1. Question: The question shall be the national high school debate topic.
2. Method:
 - a. Length and Order of Speeches
 1. Affirmative constructive, 6 minutes.
 2. Negative cross-examination, 3 minutes.
 3. Negative constructive, 7 minutes.
 4. Affirmative cross-examination, 3 minutes.
 5. Affirmative rebuttal, 4 minutes.
 6. Negative rebuttal, 6 minutes.
 7. Affirmative rebuttal, 3 minutes.
 3. Four minutes of preparation time is given to both senior and novice divisions.

C. Public Forum Debate

1. Question: The question shall be the national high school debate topic.
2. Teams: Each team shall be made up of two members from the same school, and shall be prepared to uphold both sides of the question.
3. Method:
 - a. Coin Toss: Prior to each round, teams will flip a coin. The team winning the coin toss may choose either: side of topic: pro or con or order of speaking: first or last. Once the coin toss winner selects either a side or a speaker position, the coin toss loser then has a choice. If the winner selects a side, the loser selects a speaker position. If the winner selects a speaker position, then the losing team selects the side of the topic.
 - b. Length and Order of Speeches:

1. First Speaker—Team A=4 minutes
2. First Speaker—Team B=4 minutes
3. Crossfire=3 minutes
4. Second Speaker—Team A=4 minutes
5. Second Speaker—Team B=4 minutes
6. Crossfire=3 minutes
7. Summary-First Speaker—Team A=2 minutes
8. Summary-First Speaker—Team B=2 minutes
9. Grand Crossfire=3 minutes [teammates may speak to one another during Grand Crossfire]
10. Final Focus—Second Speaker—Team A= 2 minute
11. Final Focus—Second Speaker—Team B= 2 minute
12. There will be three minutes of preparation time per team given to both senior and novice divisions.

D. Congressional Debate

See ARTICLE III, SECTION IV for information regarding this event.

E. Big Questions Debate

1. Question: The question shall be the national high school debate topic.
2. Method:
 - a. Length and Order of Speeches
 1. Affirmative constructive, 5 minutes.
 2. Negative constructive, 5 minutes.
 3. Questioning, 3 minutes.
 4. Affirmative rebuttal, 4 minutes.
 5. Negative rebuttal, 4 minutes.
 6. Questioning, 3 minutes.
 7. Affirmative consolidation, 3 minutes.
 8. Negative consolidation, 3 minutes.
 9. Affirmative rationale, 3 minutes
 10. Negative rationale, 3 minutes
3. Three minutes of preparation time is given to both senior and novice divisions.

FOR A COMPLETE EXAMINATION OF DEBATE, SEE THE NSDA COMPETITION EVENTS GUIDE
OR ANY MATERIAL GENERATED SOLELY BY THE NSDA.
ARTICLE III – INDIVIDUAL EVENT GUIDELINES

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SECTION I –

- A. All rounds of Individual Events should be randomly matched. Attention should be given to having speakers not meet each other twice. Six speakers shall advance to finals except in the

- event of a tie, in which case seven is preferable, and five is acceptable. Speaker order in finals will be determined by random draw.
- B. If there are three or fewer students/teams entered into an IE division, the event will be collapsed. Novice students/teams that earn their second break in a collapsed division situation will be moved to the Senior division. Novice students/teams that do not break, or experience their first break in a collapsed division circumstance will return to the Novice division.

SECTION II – INDIVIDUAL EVENTS PANEL A

Generative Artificial Intelligence: in events in which speeches must be the original created work of a competitor (OO, INF, IX, USX, IMP) students are prohibited from quoting or paraphrasing text directly from generative AI sources. Generative AI should *not be cited as a source*. The exception is that a student delivering a speech about the topic of AI may quote AI to illustrate their points about AI, in accordance with existing quoted word limits. While generative AI may be used to guide students to articles, ideas, and sources, the original source of any quoted or paraphrased evidence must be available if requested.

In Interpretation events, students are prohibited from performing material created by generative AI sources. Generative AI should *not be used as a source of material*; while generative AI may be used to guide students to articles, ideas, and material, the original source of any material that is performed must be available if requested.

A. Informative Speaking

1. The informative speech is to be delivered by the student who composes it. Any appropriate subject may be used, but the intent of the informative speech is to inform. Visual aids are allowed, but not mandatory. Programs such as PowerPoint are not allowed. The emphasis should be placed on the student's own oral presentation.
2. All speeches must have been prepared during the current school year. They must not have been performed in any previous school year.
3. Costumes are not allowed. Visual aids are acceptable, though not mandatory.
4. The informative speech shall require not more than ten minutes to deliver. The timing shall begin at the start of presentation. There is no minimum time requirement.
5. One four inch by six inch note card is permitted in novice division.

B. Dramatic Interpretation

1. Selections used in these contests shall be cuttings from published/printed, novels, short stories, plays or poetry (see NSDA publishing rules. Adaptations may be for purpose of continuity only. Monologues are acceptable. During the presentation the contestant must name the author and the book or magazine from which the cutting was made.
2. The contestant may not use a cutting from the same novel, short story, play, or poetic work, which he/she used in any contest previous to this school year. A cutting must be from a single source.

3. Presentations shall be from memory and without the use of physical objects or costumes.
4. Interpretations shall be no more than ten minutes including introduction: there is no minimum time limit.

C. United States Extemporaneous Speaking

1. Students shall draw from topics prepared by the NSDA referencing current events.
2. Each contestant will draw three topics for each round. The contestant shall immediately choose one topic for the speech and the topic shall be promptly recorded. He/she shall not speak twice on the same subject area. Each contestant shall draw thirty minutes before the contest.
3. Preparation: As soon as a question is chosen, the contestant will prepare a speech without consultation and without references to prepared notes. Students may consult published books, magazines, newspapers and journals or articles, including internet enabled devices either used in the draw or those materials published from internet sources, provided:
 - a. They are originals or copies of whole pages.
 - b. Provided those originals or copies are uncut.
 - c. There is no written material on that original or copy other than citation information.
 - d. Topical index without annotation may be present.
 - e. Files stored either on a computer or electronic device hard drive or cloud storage system. All files in this format must meet the same guidelines as printed sources.
 - f. Active research from the internet during the round that meets the established criteria found in the "Guidelines for Use of Internet Enabled Devices."
4. No other material will be allowed in the Extemp prep room other than stated above. Extemp speeches, handbooks, briefs and outlines, including those stored on cloud storage systems or published on websites created for that purpose, are prohibited from the Extemp prep room. Students may not use the internet to gain help from coaches, other students, or any person, such that it would prevent the speech from being the original work of the competitor. Students are prohibited from accessing outlines and speeches that have been written prior to their draw time. Underlining or highlighting in Extemp will be allowed if done in only one color on each article or copy. Electronic device use must comply with the "Guidelines for Use of Internet-Enabled Devices in Debate Events." (See Appendix II). Printed copies of information from online computer services may be used. Electronically retrieved evidence used in any Association Extemp competition must conform to the same citation standards as evidence used in debate events as described in the Unified Manual.
5. No notes are allowed to senior division speakers in the presentation of this speech. One note card (not to exceed four by six inches) shall be allowed to the novice division in the presentation of this speech.
6. Contestants shall not speak more than seven minutes. There is no minimum time limit.

7. There will be a three-minute cross-examination in all final rounds of senior level competition.

D. Duo Interpretation

1. Selections used in these contests shall be cuttings from published/printed, novels, short stories, plays or poetry (see NSDA publishing rules). Adaptations may be for purpose of continuity only. Monologues are acceptable. During the presentation the contestant must name the author and the book or magazine from which the cutting was made.
2. No scripts, props, or costumes may be used. There shall be no physical contact between Duo Interpretation participants. Focus may be direct during the introduction (the performers may look at each other) but must be indirect (off-stage) during the performance itself.
3. The contestant may not use the same cutting nor a cutting from the same novel, short story, play, or poetic work, which he/she used in any contest previous to this school year. A cutting must be from a single source.
4. Duo interpretations shall be no longer than ten minutes; there is no minimum time limit.

E. Storytelling Rules

1. A single published/printed story, anecdote, tale, myth, or legend must be retold without notes or props (other than a single chair).
2. The maximum time is 5 minutes, but the story may be briefer without penalty. Any introduction must be included within the 5 minute time limit.
3. The student may not tell a story s/he used in any contest previous to this school year.
4. The delivery must be extempore, not read. No book or script may be used. The story may be delivered standing or seated.
5. Gestures, pantomime and characterization, may be used with restraint but the focus must be on the narrative.
6. The retelling must be true to the original tale. The contestant may not add original material or materially change the content of the story.

SECTION III – INDIVIDUAL EVENTS PANEL B

Generative Artificial Intelligence: in events in which speeches must be the original created work of a competitor (OO, INF, IX, USX, IMP) students are prohibited from quoting or paraphrasing text directly from generative AI sources. Generative AI should *not be cited as a source*. The exception is that a student delivering a speech about the topic of AI may quote AI to illustrate their points about AI, in accordance with existing quoted word limits. While generative AI may be used to guide students to articles, ideas, and sources, the original source of any quoted or paraphrased evidence must be available if requested.

In Interpretation events, students are prohibited from performing material created by generative AI sources. Generative AI should *not be used as a source of material*; while generative AI may be used to guide students to articles, ideas, and material, the original source of any material that is performed must be available if requested.

A. Original Oratory

1. All orations entered must be persuasive in nature and the work of the contestants. Orations, which have been used in tournaments or service club contests in previous years, shall be disqualified. Any non-factual reference, especially a personal one, must be so identified.
2. Orations shall be no longer than ten minutes; there is no minimum time limit.
3. Not more than 150 words of an oration may be direct quotations from another speech or writing. A written copy of the oration must be available for the tournament director upon request. Failure to produce such a copy before the next round of competition shall result in disqualification.
4. No notes, manuscripts or visual aids shall be permitted.

B. Program Oral Interpretation

1. Selections: Only published/printed works may be used (see NSDA publishing rules). A student may not use the same source s/he used in Duo, Dramatic or Humorous Interpretation at any previous tournament.
2. Genres: POI is a program of oral interpretation of thematically---linked selections chosen from two or three genres: prose, poetry, drama (plays). At least two pieces of literature that represent at least two separate genres must be used
3. The contestant may not use the same cutting nor a cutting from the same novel, short story, play, or poetic work, which he/she used in any contest previous to this school year.
4. Interpretations shall be no more than ten minutes including introduction: there is no minimum time limit.
5. Presentation: Performances must be from a manuscript. Reading from a book or magazine is not permitted.

C. Humorous interpretation

1. Selections used in these contests shall be cuttings from published/printed, novels, short stories, plays or poetry (see NSDA publishing rules). Adaptations may be for purpose of continuity only. Monologues are acceptable. During the presentation the contestant must name the author and the book or magazine from which the cutting was made.
2. The contestant may not use the same cutting nor a cutting from the same novel, short story, play, or poetic work, which he/she used in any contest previous to this school year. A cutting must be from a single source.
3. Presentations shall be from memory and without the use of physical objects or costumes.
4. Interpretations shall be no more than ten minutes including introduction; there is no minimum time limit.

D. Impromptu Speaking

1. Three types of topics shall be used. Round I (abstracts) – one word abstract topics such as “thrift” or “charity.” Round II (quotations) – brief, thought-provoking quotations such as “Adversity introduces a man to himself.” Round III (current events) – a general topic of current importance and interest. Finals – the topic will be at the tournament host’s discretion.
2. Each contestant shall draw three topics each round and shall be given thirty seconds to choose one.
3. No more than two minutes of preparation shall be allowed the speaker. Timing shall begin at the conclusion of the two minutes, or when the speaker begins his/her presentation, whichever comes first. Silence shall be enforced during the speaker’s preparation time.
4. No notes shall be allowed any speaker in the presentation of the speech, either senior or novice.
5. Contestants shall not speak for more than five minutes; there is no minimum time limit.

E. Foreign Extemporaneous speaking

1. Students shall draw from topics prepared by the NSDA referencing current events.
2. Each contestant will draw three topics for each round. The contestant shall immediately choose one topic for the speech and the topic shall be promptly recorded. He/she shall not speak twice on the same subject area. Each contestant shall draw thirty minutes before the contest.
3. Preparation/Internet Use: As soon as a question is chosen, the contestant will prepare a speech without consultation and without references to prepared notes. Students may consult published books, magazines, newspapers and journals or articles, including

internet enabled devices either used in the draw or those materials published from internet sources, provided:

- a. They are originals or copies of whole pages.
 - b. Provided those originals or copies are uncut.
 - c. There is no written material on that original or copy other than citation information.
 - d. Topical index without annotation may be present.
 - e. Files stored either on a computer or electronic device hard drive or cloud storage system. All files in this format must meet the same guidelines as printed sources.
 - f. Active research from the internet during the round that meets the established criteria found in the “Guidelines for Use of Internet Enabled Devices.”
4. No other material will be allowed in the Extemp prep room other than stated above. Extemp speeches, handbooks, briefs and outlines, including those stored on cloud storage systems or published on websites created for that purpose, are prohibited from the Extemp prep room. Students may not use the internet to gain help from coaches, other students, or any person, such that it would prevent the speech from being the original work of the competitor. Students are prohibited from accessing outlines and speeches that have been written prior to their draw time. Underlining or highlighting in Extemp will be allowed if done in only one color on each article or copy. Electronic device use must comply with the “Guidelines for Use of Internet-Enabled Devices in Debate Events.” (See Appendix II). Printed copies of information from online computer services may be used. Electronically retrieved evidence used in any Association Extemp competition must conform to the same citation standards as evidence used in debate events as described in the Unified Manual.
 5. No notes are allowed to senior division speakers in the presentation of this speech. One note card (not to exceed four by six inches) shall be allowed to the novice division in the presentation of this speech.
 6. Contestants shall not speak more than seven minutes. There is no minimum time limit.
 7. There will be a three-minute cross-examination in all final rounds of senior level competition.

SECTION IV – CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE

A. Organization

The congress shall be arranged as a group of houses and a senate. Every effort will be made to create houses and a senate chamber of 20-25 students. A maximum of 15 students from each school will be allowed to enter House/Novice chambers and a maximum of 15 students from each school will be allowed to enter Senate/Senior chambers. In the event that there are not enough Senior/Senate entries, chambers will be collapsed.

B. Legislation

1. Maximum legislation guidelines:

Each school, using the format established in the NSDA District Guidelines, will present a one piece of legislation. NSDA legislation packets will be used in addition to pieces submitted by schools. School pieces will be placed at the front of the docket.

2. Legislation submission deadlines:

- a. Schools will submit legislation to the NNFL Chairperson –in accordance with the schedule determined at the beginning of the season.
- b. Legislation that is incorrectly formatted, deemed inappropriate or poorly constructed, or is submitted after the deadline is subject to refusal at the discretion of the NNFL Congress Chairperson.
- c. The docket will be set by each chamber at the start of Session 1a

C. Parliamentarian

1. Qualifications: the Parliamentarian for each house chamber shall be a NNFL Coach, Assistant Coach, or qualified person approved by the NNFL Chairperson.
2. Responsibilities: sit with the same chamber for both sessions, rank all competitors at the conclusion of session 2, ensure that all parliamentary procedures (as delineated in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order as well as NNFL instructions and bylaws) are followed. They will be responsible for the following.
 - a. That the proceedings are conducted in a businesslike and dignified manner, specifically ensuring that all profane, obscene, abusive, ethnic or gender offensive language is not allowed.
 - b. That questions and/or speeches, with the sole intent of eliciting laughter, are not allowed as this distracts from the quality and seriousness of the intellectual discourse.

If any Congressperson violates any of the rules of debate or decorum, the Parliamentarian shall take the following action(s):

1. On the first occasion the student will be told to stop speaking and return to his/her seat.
2. On the second occasion the student will be expelled from the chamber and disqualified from congressional competition for the remainder of the tournament and the coach will be notified at the earliest opportunity.

D. Presiding Officer

1. Election of a presiding officer. Legislators will nominate Presiding Officers. After all nominations, candidates will be granted 10 seconds each to speak. The presiding officer must be elected with a majority of a single-ballot blind vote. If one candidate does not receive a majority of votes, eliminate the candidate with the fewest votes and vote again. If candidates are tied for the fewest number of votes, vote to determine which of the tied candidates should remain in contention. Repeat this process until one candidate receives a majority of votes.

*A new PO may be elected for session 1b.

2. The presiding Officer will receive one score per complete hour from the judge(s) for their time as PO.

E. Sessions

1. When there are more than 2 chambers in a division, there will be 1 prelim session broken into 2 blocks (1a & 1b) followed by a Super Session.
 - a. One docket will be used for the prelim session. A new docket will be published for the Super Session.
 - b. Session 1b will have a new PO and new judges.
2. Using cumulative ranks, at least 25% of the field will break to the Super Session.
3. When only 1 chamber exists, that chamber will conclude at the completion of Session 1b.

F. Speech Limits: each competitor will be limited to one speech per piece of legislation.

G. Recency: Preset, randomized recency will be used in every session.

H. Direct questioning will be used in every session. The presiding officer will recognize questioners for a cross-examination period of no more than 30 seconds according to the preset questioning precedence.

I. Scoring: Each competitor will be scored and ranked by two judges in each session. All competitors will also be ranked by a parliamentarian who sits through both sessions with the chamber. Speech scores will be used only for NSDA purposes and tie breaking purposes. Students with the lowest cumulative rank will place 1st, 2nd, 3rd in each chamber.

ARTICLE IV – SWEEPSTAKES CALCULATIONS

SECTION I - FINALIST CALCULATIONS: Sweepstakes points shall be awarded as follows:

<u>Events & Debate</u>	<u>Congress</u>	<u>Debate Speaker Points</u>
1 st Place – 10 points	1 st place – 10 points	1–10 receive 1 point
2 nd Place – 7 points	2 nd place – 7 points	
3 rd Place – 4 points	3 rd place – 4 points	
Finalists – 1 point	Finalists – 1 point	

SECTION II – INDIVIDUAL EVENTS’ SWEEPSTAKES CALCULATIONS

- A. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place bowls shall be awarded in each NNFL individual event.
- B. Cumulative finalist points from each NNFL tournament in both novice and senior divisions shall determine awards.
- C. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place Grand I.E. Sweepstakes bowls shall be awarded to the top three cumulative totals for all I.E.’s

SECTION III – DEBATE SWEEPSTAKES CALCULATIONS

- A. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place bowls shall be awarded in Policy, Lincoln-Douglas, Public Forum Debate, Big Questions Debate, and Congressional Debate.
- B. Cumulative finalist points from each NNFL tournament in both novice and senior divisions (house and senate) shall determine awards (speaker points are not included in debate totals).
- C. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place Grand Debate Sweepstakes bowls shall be awarded to the top three cumulative totals for all Debate Events.

SECTION IV – SPEAKER POINTS SWEEPSTAKES CALCULATIONS

- A. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place bowls shall be awarded.
- B. Cumulative points for the top ten speakers in both divisions of Policy, Lincoln Douglas, Public Forum, and Big Questions shall determine the awards.

SECTION V- TABULATION ERRORS

Tabulation errors resulting in a student’s failure to advance to out rounds shall result in an honorary finalist trophy, and five sweepstakes points shall be awarded to the team in the event in which the error was made.

SECTION VI – GRAND SWEEPSTAKES CALCULATIONS

- A. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place bowls shall be awarded based upon the cumulative finalist points in all I.E.’s, debate, congress and speaker points.
- B. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place bowls shall be awarded to the top three small schools based upon the cumulative finalist points in all I.E.’s, debate, congress, and speaker points.
- C. Member schools with less than an average of 15 entries (a double entered student counts as two entries) per tournament over the current season may designate themselves as eligible for the small schools grand sweepstakes bowl.
- D. Designation as a small school renders the designee ineligible for the large school grand sweepstakes awards.
- E. In the event that a bowl is lost, it is the responsibility of the school that lost the trophy to purchase a new one prior to the last tournament of the year.

ARTICLE V – VIOLATIONS, INFRACTIONS, and PROTESTS.

1. Violations of any rules may be grounds for disqualification at the discretion of the executive committee of the NNFL.
2. An infraction on time restraints for any event, of less than thirty seconds, shall not result in the lowering of more than one rank. Penalties for larger infractions will be discretionary.
3. Failure to produce a complete manuscript or script of any prepared I.E. upon request during the tournament shall result in disqualification for that event.
4. Plagiarism shall result in disqualification.
5. A student failing to speak on the extemporaneous topic chosen shall be disqualified.
6. All claims that may result in disqualification must first be presented to the claimant's coach, who is responsible for presenting the issue in writing to the executive committee.
7. During the tournament, protests should be lodged in writing in the following order:
 - a. Coaches must present the protest in writing to the president.
 - b. The president informs any other coaches involved in the protest.
 - c. The president calls a meeting of the coaches involved in the dispute and the executive committee. In case the protesting coach is an executive committee member, a coach of that person's choosing will act in his/her stead.
 - d. Each coach involved in the dispute will present his/her side.
 - e. The secretary will take minutes of the meeting.
 - f. A secret written vote may be taken.
 - g. The tournament director will function as the arbiter at executive committee meetings.
8. Disqualification means elimination from competition, forfeiture of award and forfeiture of sweepstakes points.
9. The Executive Committee will determine disqualifications and the vote of the committee will be final.
10. A debate team not present within 15 minutes of the judge's and opponents' arrival shall forfeit the round.
11. Any interpersonal conflicts between coaches that cannot be resolved and might interfere with tournament competition and efficiency should be brought to the Executive Committee for arbitration after the tournament.

NORTHERN NEVADA FORENSIC LEAGUE CONSTITUTION BYLAWS

ARTICLE I – NAME

SECTION I – The name of this organization will be the Northern Nevada Forensic League.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSES

SECTION I – To encourage and promote a broader, more extensive speech program at the high school level, to aid the development of curricular as well as extracurricular public speaking activities. **This organization is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.**

SECTION II – To assist in the organization of the Forensic Tournaments by performing the following functions: (1) Establishing lines of communication between the member schools, (2) Providing a master calendar of Forensic Tournaments to avoid scheduling conflicts, (3) Aiding host schools in matters of providing judges, establishing rules, and extending invitations, (4) To run efficient and equitable tournaments.

SECTION III – To maintain contact with the National Speech and Debate Association and other organizations dedicated to the furthering of effective public speaking.

SECTION IV – To aid in the preparation of students who participate in the Nevada State Forensic Tournament.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

SECTION I – Membership in the Northern Nevada Forensic League will be open to schools of all 9-12 grade students upon payment of their school's dues.

SECTION II – All member schools will have equal voting privileges. Each member school will have one vote. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the member schools present at officially designated meetings.

SECTION III – Membership will be maintained as long as member schools display an interest in the organization and are not more than six months behind in the payment of dues.

SECTION IV – A member school may assign its proxy to any other voting member of the NNFL upon notification of the president of the NNFL.

ARTICLE IV – EXECUTIVE POWERS

SECTION I – The executive powers of the organization will be vested in a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and congress chairperson. **The Board shall consist of no fewer than three (3) directors in accordance with Nevada law.** A Tournament Director may be elected if one of the Executive Committee members cannot fulfill that role.

SECTION II – The president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, congress chairperson, and tournament director (when needed) will be elected from and by the membership of the Northern Nevada Forensic League.

SECTION III – Funds shall be used only for 501(c)(3) purposes. The fiscal year shall be determined by the Board. No part of the net earnings shall inure to the benefit of any private individual. The organization shall not participate in political campaigns and shall not engage in substantial lobbying.

SECTION IV – The president will perform the following functions: (1) Preside at all meetings for the Northern Nevada Forensic League, (2) Represent this organization in all professional relationships, (3) Distribute awards at league tournaments in conjunction with the tournament host.

SECTION V – The vice-president will maintain sweepstakes points for each tournament and assume the president's powers in the absence of the president.

SECTION VI – The secretary will maintain such records as are deemed necessary and conduct correspondence.

SECTION VII – The treasurer is responsible for the following functions: (1) will receive and disburse the funds of the organization as directed by the president and voting members, (2) report the balance of accounts at each league meeting, (3) in the event a school has three unpaid tournaments, write letters to school administrations requesting outstanding fees be sent to the league.

SECTION VIII – The congress chair will see to distribution of materials, judge preparation, and running of committees. The chair, along with the Parliamentarian, will help to solve parliamentary concerns during congressional sessions. The chair will see to the supervision of the chambers.

SECTION IX - Tournament Director: When the other members of the Executive Committee (President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Congress Chair) deem it necessary to add the position of Tournament Director, this position will be voted upon.

SECTION X – Using Tabroom.com. the tournament director will receive all entries, compile panels for all speech and debate events, enter results for rounds into the software, provide tournament results to the membership and to the NNFL Vice-President for sweepstakes accounting.

SECTION XI – ELECTIONS:

A. VACANCIES

1. In the event a vacancy occurs in any executive position, prior to the annual election meeting, the secretary shall notify the voting membership of said vacancy.
2. Voting members shall have 3 weeks to nominate a replacement.
3. As soon as the 3-week nominating period is closed, or after all member schools have responded to the call for nominations, whichever occurs first, the secretary shall send email ballots to all member schools. Each school shall have one vote.
4. The voting period shall remain open for a period of one week from the date the ballots were sent to the member schools.
5. The secretary shall notify the Board and the membership of the results of the vote.
6. The newly elected executive member shall hold the position until the next designated election meeting.

- B. **REGULAR ELECTIONS:** Regular elections will be held in the spring of the school year and executive officers will hold their positions until the following year's election meeting.

SECTION XII – CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY:

- A. **PURPOSE:** The purpose of this conflict of interest policy is to protect the organization's interest when it is contemplating entering into a transaction that might benefit the private interest of an officer or director.
- B. **DEFINITIONS:** A conflict of interest arises when a person has a financial or personal interest in a transaction involving the organization.
- C. **PROCEDURES:** An interested person must disclose the existence of the conflict. The Board shall determine whether a conflict exists and, if so, vote on whether to approve the transaction without the interested person present.
- D. **RECORDS:** The minutes shall contain the names of persons who disclosed conflicts and the Board's decisions.
- E. **ANNUAL STATEMENTS:** Each director shall annually sign a statement affirming that they have received and agree to this policy.
- F. **COMPENSATION:** A voting member of the Board who receives compensation may not vote on matters pertaining to their compensation.

SECTION XIII – DISSOLUTION:

- A. **VOTE TO DISSOLVE:** In the event of a motion to dissolve the Corporation (aka League) a vote of 2/3rds of the member schools in good standing is required.
- B. **DISSOLUTION OF ASSETS:** Upon the dissolution of this corporation, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose.

ARTICLE V – LEGISLATIVE POWERS

SECTION I – The legislative powers of this organization shall be vested in the voting membership who may perform the following functions: (1) Establish an initiation fee, dues, and/or assessments when necessary, (2) Admit new members into the organization, (3) Establish a master calendar of forensic activities, (4) Determine the financial needs of the organization and provide for the expenditure of funds, (5) By a two-thirds vote instruct the president to call a special meeting, (6) Elect a tournament director.

ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS

SECTION I – At least two meetings will be held every year one in the spring and one in the fall.

SECTION II – Special meetings may be called at the discretion of the president or as provided in Article V, Section I, part 5.

SECTION III – The last league tournament is designated as the election meeting; the new executive officers will assume their responsibilities at the conclusion of that tournament.

SECTION IV – The membership will establish a tournament calendar for the following year at the last league tournament.

ARTICLE VII – AMENDMENTS

SECTION I – Proposed amendments to this constitution may be initiated by any member school or committee of the Northern Nevada Forensic League.

SECTION II – Amendments must be ratified by a two-thirds majority of the eligible voting members.

ARTICLE IX – STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

It is never the intent nor the desire to interfere with or circumvent the authority or any coach. Yet, because a tournament is an event that requires coaches and other supervising adults to be occupied with tournament duties for varying periods of time, it may happen that coaches become aware of inappropriate behaviors involving competitors from other teams. Inasmuch misconduct rarely affects only one team, it is incumbent upon the body of coaches to develop a Code of Conduct for competitors as well as a continuum of consequences as a guideline for insuring appropriate conduct.

Therefore a uniform Competitors Code of Conduct is included in the Northern Nevada Forensics League constitution and is binding as such.

A copy of this Code of Conduct will be provided to all competitors and must be signed by themselves and their parents prior to competition. The signed agreements will be kept by the coach for each competition season.

Amendment to the NNFL Constitution

For all purposes “coach” includes traveling coaches and chaperones.

1. Competitors will treat all adult supervisors with respect.
2. Competitors will treat venue and community hosting the tournament with respect.
3. Competitors will follow rules and guidelines set forth by their respective districts and schools.
4. Competitors will follow all rules and guidelines outlined in both the NNFL and NSDA constitutions.

Inappropriate behaviors will be reported to the coach for resolution. That resolution is determined by the team’s head coach(es). In the event inappropriate behaviors continue or escalate, further action is warranted:

- a. coach will conference with student
- b. executive council will conference with student
- c. remove student from tournament with forfeiture of standing and awards for that tournament
- d. exclude student from competition for the remainder of the year
- e. permanently exclude student from any and all NNFL events
- f. notify law enforcement

Competitor Name: _____ Competitor Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

ARTICLE X – HOSTING A TOURNAMENT

SECTION I – Judges

Provide 40 judges per round

Have judges plan to arrive according to the schedule (page 2). They should be there and signed in at least 15 min before their scheduled round

SECTION II – Extemporaneous topics – written by the Vice President

SECTION III – Impromptu topics (ONLY on Panel B tournaments) written by host school with topics as follows:

Round 1 – abstract words such as “thrift” or “charity”

Round 2 – short thought provoking quotations

Round 3 – current events

Final round – host school’s choice (Be Creative)

SECTION IV – Copy facilities & Paper

need to be available throughout the tournament

SECTION V – Map of school – copies need to be available for the Tab room, Judges and competitors; labeled with room numbers

SECTION VI – Classrooms

1. 40 for rounds
 - a. a room list must be provided to the Tournament Director by the Tuesday preceding the Tournament
2. 1 room with large tables and chairs for the tab room
3. 1 room with tables for judges/coaches’ lounge
 - a. Judge and Tab rooms need to be within close proximity of each other
4. 1 room with tables and chairs for extemporaneous prep
5. 1 common area for students to wait in between rounds

SECTION VII – Signs

1. Classroom doors – Do not enter until a judge is present, No food or drink
2. Tab room – Coaches only!
3. Judges’ Lounge – Judges and coaches only
4. Signs for each team attending the tournament to be hung in the common area

SECTION VIII – Food for judges/coaches

1. You will be provided up to **\$1,200** by the league to feed the judges and coaches. Receipts must be presented, within not more than weeks following the tournament, to the Executive Committee before a check for reimbursement is written
 - a. Plan to feed 60 people 4 times.
 - i. Friday: Dinner & snacks on the tables in judges/coaches’ lounge and Tab
 - ii. Saturday: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner, & snacks on the tables in judges/coaches’ lounge and Tab

SECTION IX – Concessions for students are the responsibility of the host school to provide. No league money will be allotted to the purchase of concessions items.

SECTION X – You will be provided up to \$500 by the league to pay for custodial fees incurred during tournament. Invoice must be presented, within not more than weeks following the tournament, to the Executive Committee before a check for reimbursement is written

Northern Nevada Forensic League Tournament Schedule

Friday – Individual Events

3:00 Extemp Prep Begins
3:30 I.E. Round I
4:30 Extemp Prep Begins
5:00 I.E. Round II
6:15 I.E. Round III
7:30 I.E. Finals

Saturday – Debate Events

8:30 Debate Round I
9:30 Student Congress Begins (roll call / discussion)
10:30 Debate Round II / Congress
12:30 Debate Round III
2:30 Debate Round IV
5:00 Debate Semi Finals
7:00 Debate Finals
8:30 Awards Ceremony

APPENDIX I – GUIDELINES FOR USE OF INTERNET-ENABLED DEVICES IN DEBATE EVENTS

These rules apply to Policy Debate, Public Forum Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, and Big Questions Debate. These rules also apply to Extemporaneous speaking- in addition to Extemp specific rules (see Section 2.C.3 & Section 3.E.3)

- A. Contestants may use electronic devices (including laptop computers, tablets, and/or cell phones) to access the internet during debate rounds with the following conditions:
 - 1. Computers or other electronic devices may not be used to receive information for competitive advantage from non-competitors (coaches, assistant coaches, other non-competing students) inside or outside of the room in which the competition occurs. Information that would be restricted would include but not be limited to coach/non-participating competitor generated arguments, advice on arguments to run, questions to ask during cross examination, and other information not generated by the participating competitors in your round.
 - 2. Internet access may be used to retrieve files, exchange evidence and/or arguments, research arguments, and partner to partner communication, and communication between other participants in the round. These electronic device guidelines do not limit communication between debate partners during the debate round.
- B. Penalty: Contestants found to have violated these provisions will be disqualified from the tournament and will forfeit all rounds and merit points in that event.
- C. Availability of Evidence: Contestants electing to use computers have the responsibility to promptly provide a copy of any evidence read in a speech for inspection by the judge or opponent. Printers may be used. Evidence may be printed in the round or produced electronically but must be provided in a format readable by the opposing team and the judge.
- D. Contestants electing to use computers are responsible for providing their own computers, batteries, extension cords, and all other necessary accessories. Tournament hosts will not be responsible for providing computers, printers, software, paper, or extension cords for contestants. Host schools may provide wireless internet access, but will not guarantee that contestants will be able to gain access when needed.
- E. Contestants choosing to use laptop computers and/or related devices accept the risk of equipment failure. Judges and/or contest directors will give no special consideration or accommodation, including no additional speech time or prep time, should equipment failure occur.
- F. By choosing to use electronic devices in the round, debaters and other relevant parties are consenting to give tournament officials the right to search their devices in the event of a protest. The device may only be searched by tournament officials and must be restricted to files and/or electronic exchanges relevant to the protest. Failure to comply would result in the upholding of the protest. Debaters and coaches should be present as their device is searched. Debaters who do not wish to consent should not use electronic devices in the round.