

NATIONAL CATHOLIC FORENSIC LEAGUE

**FALL MEETING, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2021
ONLINE VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING
12:00 PM EDT**

I. INVOCATION

II. ROLL CALL

III. REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS:

- A. PRESIDENT - SUSAN PEEBLES
- B. FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT - ANN MARIE DUFFY
- C. SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT - THOMAS BECK
- D. PUBLICITY/RECORDING SECRETARY - KATY BLAIR CECIL
- E. TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR - ROLAND BURDETT
- F. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY/TREASURER - MIKE COLLETTI
NFHS Policy Debate 2022-23 Topic Selection Meeting
Financial Statement for 2020-2021

IV. TOURNAMENT REPORTS:

- A. NCFL 2021 ONLINE
- B. WASHINGTON, DC, 2022 & 2026
- C. LOUISVILLE, KY, 2023
- D. CHICAGO, 2024 & 2025
- E. MINNEAPOLIS, 2027

V. BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Executive Board Emergency Powers
 - 1. Under continued Pandemic Operations authorization:
 - a. League quotas from 2018-2019 will remain the minimum for each League in 2021-2022. Leagues can increase their quota from 2018-2019, or 2019-2020, but they won't be reduced regardless of the number of schools that join a Local Diocesan League.

- b. Allow the NCFL Executive Council to meet virtually if necessary for their Winter Meeting instead of requiring a trip to Washington, DC.
- 2. Procedure Changes Not Requiring By-Laws Changes:
 - a. An Informational Diocesan Directors meeting may be held virtually on the Saturday before NCFL 2022.
 - b. On-Line Judge Training and a Ballot Test may be held during the week preceding NCFL 2022.
 - c. Equity Training for judges will be made available for NCFL 2022.
 - d. Two-tiered Online Registration, League and then School, on Thursday and Friday of NCFL 2022 will be held.
 - e. A Virtual Help Desk will be maintained, like we had for NCFL 2021.
- 3. We ARE planning for an in-person NCFL 2022 DC:
 - a. Tournament Entry and Judge Quotas for NCFL 2022 DC will return to following the ByLaws.
 - b. LD and PF Debate will be double-flighted, with a Play-In round per the ByLaws.
- 4. Reminder that:
 - a. School Membership Fees are \$50 if paid by Dec 20, 2021; \$55 if paid by Jan 15, 2022; \$60 if paid by Jan 31, 2022.
 - b. Tournament Entry Fees are \$60 per person per entry due by April 15, 2022.

B. Finance Committee Recommendations

1. Constitutional Amendment: Article V, Section D, 1

Currently reads:

- 1. Fall Executive Committee Meeting. There shall be a meeting of the Executive Committee of the LEAGUE on the last Friday and Saturday of September of each year. This shall be considered the NCFL Annual Business Meeting of the LEAGUE. The agenda for this meeting will comprise topics submitted by the members of the Executive Committee. Topics must be submitted to the Executive Secretary not later than September 1st before each meeting. Amendments to the By-Laws and/or Constitution can only be made at this meeting if they have been published by the Executive Secretary prior to this meeting. The agenda may also include the selection of a site for the next Fall Executive Committee Meeting.

Proposed Amendment:

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Topics must be submitted to the Executive Secretary not later than September 1st before each meeting. Amendments to the By-Laws and/or Constitution can only be made at this meeting if they have been published by the Executive Secretary prior to this meeting. The agenda may also include the selection of a site for the next Fall Executive Committee Meeting. **At its fall meeting in odd-numbered years, the Executive Committee shall review biennial operational, tournament, and cost-of-living changes for the purpose of making adjustments in membership dues and/or tournament registration fees.**

2. By-Law Article I - League Membership Dues

Currently reads: The annual membership dues payable to the Secretary/Treasurer of the LEAGUE shall be determined at the Fall Meeting of the Executive Committee and announced in the Fall Newsletter.

Proposed Amendment:

1. The annual membership dues payable to the Secretary/Treasurer of the LEAGUE shall be determined at the Fall Meeting of the Executive Committee and announced in the Fall Newsletter.
2. **The Executive Council shall create a permanent Standing Committee of Finance to work in conjunction with the Secretary/Treasurer to evaluate ongoing operational and tournament expenses and annual cost-of-living changes to make recommendations to the Executive Committee regarding membership dues.**

3. By-Law Article II, Sec. B, 2. Fees

Currently reads:

2. Fees: A registration fee will be levied for each student entered in competition at the Tournament. The fee will be determined by the Executive Committee at the Fall meeting and will be payable to the LEAGUE at the time of registration. The fee levied for registration in the NCFL Grand National Tournament shall be \$60 per student staying in the designated NCFL Tournament Hotel Blocks. For students not staying in the designated NCFL Tournament Hotel Blocks the fee will be \$120 each. The League shall have the ability at the Fall Executive Committee Meeting to waive this additional fee on a year-by-year basis. After satisfaction of expenses, the Secretary/Treasurer will deposit the balance of monies with the LEAGUE.

Proposed Amendment:

2. Fees: A registration fee will be levied for each student entered in competition at the Tournament. **The permanent Standing Committee of Finance will work in conjunction with the Secretary/Treasurer to evaluate ongoing operational and tournament expenses and annual**

cost-of-living changes to make recommendations to the Executive Committee regarding tournament registration fees. The fee will be determined by the Executive Committee at the Fall meeting and will be payable to the LEAGUE at the time of registration. The fee levied for registration in the NCFL Grand National Tournament shall be \$60 per student staying in the designated NCFL Tournament Hotel Blocks. For students not staying in the designated NCFL Tournament Hotel Blocks the fee will be \$120 each. The League shall have the ability at the Fall Executive Committee Meeting to waive this additional fee on a year-by-year basis. After satisfaction of expenses, the Secretary/Treasurer will deposit the balance of monies with the LEAGUE.

VI. ADDITIONAL AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

None

VII. CHANGES IN THE BY-LAWS:

- A. To change the date that judge obligations lock to 1 week before Nationals instead of 2.

By-Laws, Article II, Section B, 1, c, 2. ... No Diocesan League will be permitted to drop registered judges without substitution later than ~~2~~ **1** weeks prior to the Tournament ...

- B. To return Policy Debate Prep Time to 8 minutes.

By-Laws, Article II, Section C, 3, a, 3) Preparation Time: ~~5~~ **8** minutes per team.

- C. To allow internet connectivity in Extemp Prep.

By-Laws, Article II, Section C, 1, c, 8) Extemp: ... ~~Broadband or internet connectivity, and Prepared speeches are not allowed.~~

By-Laws, Article II, Section D, 9. The use of computers, electronic storage and retrieval devices, etc is allowed in rounds of Policy Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Public Forum Debate, and Student Congress, and in the Extemporaneous Speaking Preparation Room. They are not allowed in any other event. ~~In the Extemporaneous Speaking Preparation Room, connectivity is not allowed. This includes the prohibition of the use of wired or wireless local, or wide, area networks; cell phones; etc. The establishment of such a connection will constitute a violation of this rule.~~ In Policy Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Public Forum Debate, **Extemporaneous Speaking Preparation or Competition**, and Student Congress, connectivity to any persons other than the competitors or judges in the round is not allowed. Competitors violating this rule will be disqualified from competition. No

guarantee of power or of internet connectivity should be presumed. Students wishing to use digital devices must be responsible for providing these resources and for having an alternative plan if the digital devices fail.

D. To update the Congress ByLaws & Student Congress Manual accordingly to provide smaller chambers.

By-Laws, Article II, Section C, 6. Student Congress will consist of three preliminary sessions, and a Semi-Final and Final Session.

- a. ~~Congress will consist of chambers as described in the NCFL Student Congress Manual.~~ The goal for size of preliminary chambers will be ~~22~~ **18** members. If there are ~~220~~ **216** entries or less, as of ~~2~~ **1** weeks prior to the Grand National Tournament, there will be ~~40~~ **12** preliminary chambers. If there are more than ~~220~~ **216** entries prior to the Grand National Tournament, then there will be an additional chamber added for every ~~22~~ **18** entries above ~~220-216~~, or fraction thereof. ~~Six~~ **Five** members will advance from each Chamber to the Semi-Finals. Selection will be as defined in the NCFL Student Congress Manual.
 - b. The qualifiers for Semi-Finals will be distributed into ~~three~~ **approximately equal** chambers **of 16 to 20 students**. There will be four Scorers and a Parliamentarian for each Semi-Final Chamber. **Six to Eight** members will advance from each Semi-Final Chamber to the Grand Final Session **of 24 students**. Selection will be as defined in the NCFL Student Congress Manual.
 - c. ~~The 8 students from each Semi-Final chamber will compete in a Grand Final Session of 24 students.~~ There will be four Scorers and a Parliamentarian for the Grand Final Session. Selection to determine the National Champion will be as defined in the NCFL Student Congress Manual.
 - d. The Chambers will hold three preliminary sessions, meeting for a total of ~~9.5~~ **7.5** hours, preceded by a 30 minute caucus and committee session to set the Preliminary Agenda. Semi-Finals ~~will consist of one 3.5 hour session.~~ and Grand Finals will consist of two two-hour sessions, with two Presiding Officers elected for each. ~~Finals will consist of two two-hour sessions.~~
- E. By-Laws, Article II, Section B, 1, b.
A League must identify one judge with Student Congress judging experience if entering Congress contestants. A league entering ~~more than 3 or 4~~ contestants in student congress competition must provide a congress judge experienced as a parliamentarian and identify that person as such in their registration, **a league entering 5 or 6 contestants must provide two such qualified parliamentarians.**
- F. To update the Congress ByLaws & Student Congress Manual accordingly to change the way legislation is selected and distributed throughout the sessions, and to remove authorships.

By-Laws, Article II, Section C, 6. Insert new para e.

- a. The bills and resolutions that will be debated by the chambers are placed in a packet by the NCFL Clerk of Congress. The Clerk of Congress attempts to select legislation that encourages educational debate on a wide range of subjects. Each diocese entering students is encouraged to submit legislation, and may submit up to two items. Submission of legislation for the tournament must be done using the templates found on the NCFL website; legislation that does not utilize the templates will not be accepted. **A committee established by the NCFL National Tournament Director and the Clerk of the Congress shall select four pieces of submitted legislation for each of the Preliminary sessions, and five pieces of legislation for each of the Elimination sessions. Submitting legislation, and its selection by the committee, does not confer authorship, sponsorship, or other special rights on any student representing the diocese during competition.**

G. The Harassment and Discrimination Policy from the Equity Committee

By-Laws, Article II, Section H.

NCFL Harassment & Discrimination Policy:

The National Catholic Forensic League (NCFL) is committed to providing participants, judges, coaches, and volunteers the opportunity to pursue excellence in their endeavors. This opportunity can exist only when each member of our community is assured an atmosphere of mutual respect. The NCFL prohibits all forms of harassment and discrimination. Accordingly, all forms of harassment and discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, citizenship, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected by any applicable federal, state, or local law are prohibited, whether committed by participants, judges, coaches, volunteers, and/or observers. The NCFL reserves all rights to subject violators to the full range of sanctions, up to and including removal from the tournament premises and referral to appropriate authorities. Any individual or group of individuals who believes they have been a victim of harassment and/or discrimination should report it to an Equity Advocate or appropriate authority immediately.

Any tournament participant, including students, coaches, judges, and observers, who believe they have been the subject of harassment and/or discrimination in violation of the NCFL Harassment and Discrimination policy are encouraged to contact an equity advocate and report the alleged violation.

H. To establish the Equity Committee similar to the Protest Committee.

By-Laws, Article II, Section D, 8. Disqualification:

c. This disqualification shall be decided by the Executive Council and Tournament Director, in consultation with a **Protest or Equity Committee** upon notice properly given to it on the official challenge form.

Insert new e, renumber remaining paragraphs. **Members of the Equity Committee will be assigned by the Executive Council and Tournament Director prior to the beginning of the Grand National Tournament and shall consist of past NCFL Presidents and/or other coaches or directors from NCFL Member Schools or associated organizations or experts as the Executive Council and Tournament Director deem appropriate. The Equity Committee is empowered to investigate and adjudicate all equity, diversity, or inclusiveness challenges at the Grand National Tournament. Such challenges may be brought by any participating student, coach, or judge.**

g (new h). The challenge form must be filed, or the **Protest or Equity Committee** must be notified ...

i (new j). ... the **Protest or Equity Committee** shall review ... and/or sending **Protest or Equity Committee** members ...

l (new m). ... The appeal shall be heard by ... and by the **Protest or Equity Committee**. ...

By-Laws, Article II, Section D, 5 g. Judge Disqualification:

Judges will be disqualified from judging at the Grand National Tournament if 1) the selected Tournament Chair of the Event (Team Debate, L-D Debate, Public Forum Debate, Speech, Student Congress) **or the Tournament Chair of the Equity Committee**, submits, in writing, the reason for disqualification; ... The judge in question and the selected Tournament Chair of the Event **or Equity Committee** have the right to appear before the Executive Subcommittee and the full Executive Committee.

VIII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. NCFL Finance Committee Recommendations
- B. Discussion about adding INFO Speaking as a category.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Richard Gaudette Service Award selection committee.
- B. NCFL Officer Nominating Committee

X. OTHER ITEMS.

- A. Motion to adjourn.