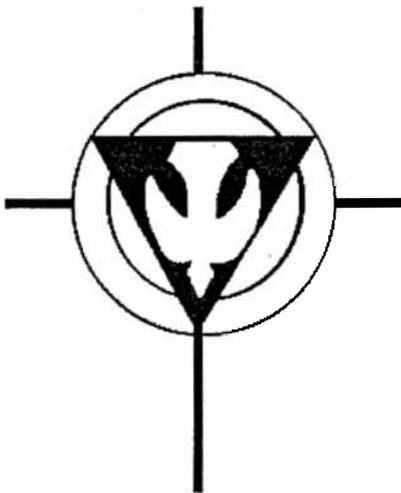


Philadelphia Catholic Forensic League Senior Division



Handbook

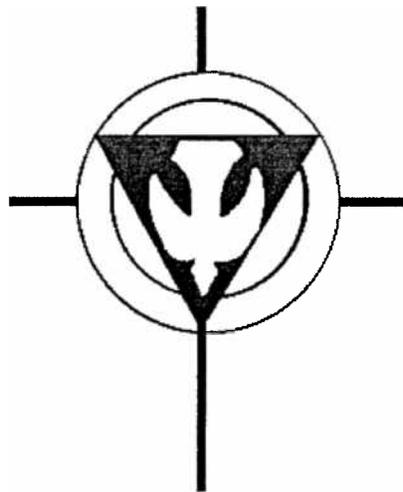
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**Philadelphia Catholic
Forensic League
Senior Division**

Constitution and By-laws



**Philadelphia Catholic Forensic League Senior Division
Constitution and By-Laws**

Preamble

The Philadelphia Catholic Forensic League (PCFL) is established as an autonomous organization within the Superintendent's Office of Catholic Education in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia in order to promote leadership through speech by means of interscholastic speech activities among students from grades 6 through 12. The PCFL, fostering the ideals of the Judeo-Christian and American traditions, will consist of two divisions with each functioning independently of the other: senior division for students in grades 9 through 12 and junior division for students in grades 6 through 8.

Section I: DEFINITION OF FORENSIC

FORENSIC is an argumentative contest, either written or oral (Webster's unabridged dictionary). In this document FORENSIC will be a generic term which constitutes all the activities in which students compete during the year as members of the Philadelphia Catholic Forensic League. Specifically, it is defined as any debate, speech, or student congress activity.

ARTICLE 1: ORGANIZATION

Section I: LEAGUE AUTHORITY

League authority resides with the moderators of member schools meeting in deliberative session. Outside such a session, this authority rests upon their duly elected representatives, the Executive Committee. When the Committee is not in session, the authority rests with the President.

Section II: LEAGUE COUNCIL

- A. The League Council is a meeting of moderators or official school representatives in deliberative session. Other meetings of moderators do not have deliberative power.
- B. Quorum
 - 1. A meeting of moderators shall be considered a League Council meeting only if a quorum is present.
 - 2. A quorum shall be defined as half of the number of member schools, rounded up in the case of an odd number of members, or one-plus-half in case of an even number of members.
 - 3. A member school is considered "present" at the meeting if a coach or officially designated representative is present and voting. Officially designated representatives must be identified by the coach in a message to the League President.
 - 4. No individual may represent more than one school for purposes of quorum calculation.
 - 5. Members schools meet all requirements of membership outlined in Article 2. At the September meeting, all active member schools from the previous school year are considered active. Only full member schools count towards quorum.
- C. Meetings: There shall be at least one Council meeting a year, to be held at the beginning of the school year. The Council may determine other meetings. The President may call council meetings at other times with the approval of the Executive Committee and after consultation with other moderators.

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- D. By-Laws: At the September meeting, the Council may make or change by-laws by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present and voting. The Philadelphia Catholic Forensic League Handbook is to be considered a part of the PCFL Constitution and By-Laws, and therefore, all Constitutional provisions are applicable to the Handbook.

Section III: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- A. Composition: The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Tournament Director, Judge Coordinator, and the Immediate Past-President.
- B. Terms of Office: The President shall be elected for a two-year term at the Fall Council meeting of every odd-numbered year. This officer shall not succeed him/herself. The Vice-President, Treasurer, Tournament Director and Judge Coordinator shall be elected for two-year terms at the same meeting.
- C. Qualifications: All of the above mentioned officers must be an officially designated moderator and/or coach in a member school when elected.
- D. Elections shall be by majority vote of the members present and voting.
- E. Vacancies in the Executive Committee shall be filled for the remaining term of office at the next Council meeting.
- F. Quorum: If an unforeseen emergency arises, the President should attempt to poll the Executive Committee by telephone or any other reasonable means. A decision shall be termed "official" when two-thirds of the Executive Committee (4 members) have voted.

Section IV: DUTIES OF OFFICERS

A. PRESIDENT

1. General duties: The President shall preside at all League meetings, supervise all League activities, be the official representative of the League (or designate a representative), and perform NCFL duties as per the national constitution. The President shall encourage new member schools to join the league and coordinate the league calendar with neighboring leagues and invitational tournament schedules. The President shall also be responsible for arrangements at the League Banquet.
2. Term of office and restrictions: The President shall be elected for a two-year term. The President cannot be re-elected to a successive term.

B. VICE-PRESIDENT

1. General duties: The Vice-President shall assist the President and shall assume the duties of the President in the latter's absence. The Vice-President shall also be responsible for league communications, including informing members of meeting and tournament schedules and recording and disseminating the minutes of the League Council. The Vice President shall assemble and disseminate Student Congress legislation. The Vice President shall also assist league schools in coordinating potential travel, lodging, and judge sharing at invitational tournaments and transportation to the National Tournament if the Executive Committee so desires.
2. Term of office and restrictions: The Vice-President shall be elected to a two-year term.

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C. TREASURER

1. General duties: The Treasurer shall take care of League financial matters and at the Fall Council meetings shall submit a financial report of the previous year. The Treasurer shall develop and maintain a 3-year financial plan for the league.
2. Term of office and restrictions: The Treasurer shall be elected to a two-year term.

D. TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

1. General duties: The Tournament Director shall have primary responsibility for scheduling, operating, and tabulating all league tournaments. The Tournament Director shall track eligibility for National Qualifiers as per the Bylaws.
2. Term of office and restrictions: The Tournament Director shall be elected to a two-year term.

E. JUDGE COORDINATOR

1. General duties: The Judge Coordinator shall assist the Tournament Director in scheduling, operating, and tabulating tournaments. The Judge Coordinator shall assemble and distribute appropriate materials for training and briefing judges and ensure that judges are prepared for their assignments. The Judge Coordinator will evaluate the qualification of judges submitted by schools for National Qualifiers, as per the Bylaws. The Judge Coordinator will also seek out qualified, independent judges and make these judges available for hire by league schools.
2. Term of office and restrictions: The Judge Coordinator shall be elected to a two-year term.

F. IMMEDIATE PAST-PRESIDENT

1. General duties: The Immediate Past-President shall assist each member of the Executive Committee to ensure that each member has the resources needed to fulfill their duties. The Immediate Past-President shall also function as the liaison between the senior and junior divisions of the PCFL.
2. Term of office and restrictions: Two years subsequent to functioning as President

ARTICLE 2: MEMBERSHIP

Section I: SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY

Any diocesan school, private catholic school or public school in the Philadelphia Archdiocese automatically has a right to apply for membership in the League.

Section II: MEMBER SCHOOLS

A. A member school is one who:

1. Pays dues for the current year.
2. Submits the NCFL membership form for the current year by December 1.
3. Abides by the provisions of the PCFL constitution.

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4. Hosts at least one League-sponsored activity every two years.

B. Associate Members

1. Associate members may compete at all PCFL regular season tournaments, but may not participate in the Finals tournaments.
2. Associate members shall pay ½ of the full league member fee.

Section III: INACTIVE STATUS

Once a school has been accepted as a PCFL member, that school remains an active member if they abide by the provisions of the PCFL constitution and by-laws which includes payment of PCFL dues and participation in, and periodic hosting of, PCFL tournaments. The executive committee may declare a school's membership to be inactive for failure to pay PCFL dues, to participate in, and periodically to host, PCFL tournaments. The executive committee, upon the school's compliance with the dues and tournaments criteria, may reinstate "Active status". If a school has been inactive for two years, they may submit a letter from their school administration to the league president stating their intention to reactivate their membership.

Section IV: FAULTY STATUS/COACH

"Faculty status" shall be defined as anyone officially appointed by the school as the speech/debate/congress coach. A faculty member and/or adult representative is responsible for students from a member school. All League responsibilities would be handled by this coach. This coach should also serve as the school representative at League tournaments and as the liaison between member schools.

Section V: STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

A student is eligible to compete in the PCFL if that student is regularly enrolled in a member school that is in good standing.

Section VI: LEVELS OF COMPETITION

Each regular season PCFL tournament will have two levels of competition: Varsity and or Junior Varsity.

- A. Junior Varsity (JV) shall be defined as any ninth or tenth grader, any eleventh grader in the first year of forensic competition, or any senior in the first semester of their first year of forensic competition.
- B. Varsity competition is open to any student regardless of experience, but required for students who do not meet the JV definition in part (A).
- C. In partnership events, both partners must meet the requirements of the level at which the team enters a tournament.

ARTICLE 3: DUES AND FEES

Section I: DUES

Member schools are required to pay a yearly amount in order to belong to the PCFL. This amount will be set at the annual Fall meeting and is subject to change. Annual membership lasts from the beginning of the Fall meeting of the

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current year until the end of the next Fall meeting.

Section II: FEES

Member schools are required to pay for participation in PCFL tournaments, registration for participation at the NCFL Grand National Tournament, and ticket costs to attend the PCFL banquet. These fees are subject to change.

Section III: PENALTY

Failure to pay assessed fees will result in a revocation of the right to membership.

Section IV: FINES

Schools may be fined \$10 for each instance of the following infractions, at the discretion of the PCFL Executive Committee:

- A. Failure to arrive and register for a PCFL tournament by the appointed time.
- B. Failure to notify the registration table of contestant drops. Drops at registration are not penalized, unreported drops are penalized.
- C. Failure to fulfill judging obligations.
- D. Failure to notify the tab room (and receive approval for) a judging obligation swap.
- E. Changing the division or event of a registered student after the close of online registration when such a change is feasible given tournament constraints.

ARTICLE 4: CONSTITUTIONAL AND BY-LAWS

AMENDMENTS

The League Council may amend the constitution by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present and voting. For validity, each member school must receive notice of any proposed change at least two weeks prior to a League Council meeting.

ARTICLE 5: STATEMENT OF ETHICS

- I. Tabulation room personnel should not reveal information to anyone.
- II. Judges and coaches should not reveal decisions or ranks to anyone.
- III. Competitive coaching should not occur during a tournament.
- IV. Judges and coaches should not discuss selections, performances, cases, or students during a tournament.
- V. Judges should never consult with each other during a round prior to rendering a decision and submitting ballots.

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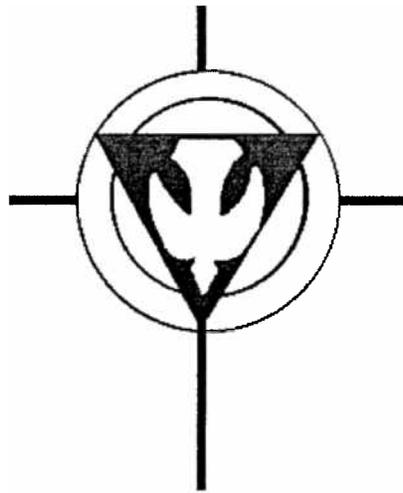
- VI. Judges and coaches should give suggestions for students only on a ballot (i.e. NO ORAL CRITIQUES unless explicitly stated at the opening assembly!)
- VII. Coaches and moderators are responsible for judges being properly trained and adhering to ethical behavior expectations.
- VIII. All coaches, judges are expected to act in a manner that conveys professionalism and impartiality at all times.
- IX. All coaches, judges, students, and observers are NEVER to engage in any behavior that could be construed as distracting a competitor during an event.
- X. Coaching & scouting in debate events are prohibited:
 - A. Coaching is defined as but not limited to:
 - i. The passing of flows during a tournament between coaches, judges, and competitors.
 - ii. The handling of opponent's evidence by a school's coach, judge, or observer prior to the round starting.
 - B. Scouting is defined as but not limited to: Observing/listening to a round in which one's school is not currently competing, while a member of that school remains in the competition in that event.
- XI. Personal biases relating to competitors or schools on the part of the judge should NEVER be incorporated into rendering a rank.
- XII. It is incumbent upon judges to maintain proper decorum during a round and to notify the tab room of any problems.

Violation of any of these principles should be reported in writing to the executive committee. A grievance form will be available for you to compete from the tab room at the conclusion of the round wherein the violation would occur. At no point should the round be interrupted to address the potential violation. All infractions will be discussed at an executive committee meeting. The executive committee, by a two-thirds majority vote of members present, will determine if any sanctions are warranted. Repeated violations will jeopardize a school's PCFL membership.

Philadelphia Catholic Forensic League Senior Division
Competitive Events

Philadelphia Catholic Forensic League Senior Division

Description and Guidelines for Competitive Events



**Philadelphia Catholic Forensic League Senior Division
Competitive Events**

Section I. Debate

A. Cross-Examination (Team) Debate

1. **Definition:** Cross-Examination debate is a forensic event where propositions of policy are debated by a two-person affirmative team who support the resolution, versus a two-person negative team who support the status quo or a counter-plan and refute the affirmative team's contentions. Cross-Examination debate is "switch-sides" because over the course of a typical 2 round tournament, a team will debate an affirmative round and a negative round. If a third round is held, it will be a "flip round", where sides will be determined by a coin toss. If the teams have already met during the tournament, sides will be reversed from the previous meeting.
2. **Resolution:** In Cross-Examination debate, only propositions (resolutions) of policy are debated. Such resolutions usually call for the Federal Government to adopt a general course of action involving a change in the status quo. Examples of resolutions used in previous years include:
 - a. Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially curtail its domestic surveillance.
 - b. Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase its non-military exploration and/or development of the Earth's oceans
3. **Scheduling:** The determination of scheduling for debate events will be overseen by the Tournament Director. The schedule may vary from one tournament to another dependent on the number of schools and teams registered.
 - a. Small tournaments may require teams from the same school to compete against each other or to be judged by a judge from their school.
 - b. In all instances, the priority will be to debate rather than to have byes.
 - c. In all instances, scheduling will be as "random" as possible.
4. **Format:** Each team shall be allotted a total speaking time of 32 minutes distributed in the following sequence (also known as the "Oregon-style" debate format) as below. It should be noted that there is no set grace period: debaters may finish their sentence of paragraph and judges should use their discretion.

<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Speech</u>	<u>Time Limit</u>
1st Aff	Constructive	8 minutes
	Cross-Examination (2nd Neg)	3 minutes
1st Neg	Constructive	8 minutes
	Cross-Examination (1st Aff)	3 minutes
2nd Aff	Constructive	8 minutes
	Cross-Examination (1st Neg)	3 minutes
2nd Neg	Constructive	8 minutes

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Competitive Events**

	Cross-Examination (2nd Aff)	3 minutes
1st Neg	Rebuttal	5 minutes
1st Aff	Rebuttal	5 minutes
2nd Neg	Rebuttal	5 minutes
2nd Aff	Rebuttal	5 minutes

5. Preparation Time:

- a. Each team should receive a total of 5 minutes of preparation time, which can be used in whole or in part before any speech or questioning period.
- b. The timekeeper or judge shall record the amount of preparation time cumulatively used by each team, announcing the passage of such time in one-minute intervals, with a warning when 30 seconds remain.
- c. Debaters, and their partners, may time and give time signals as long as the judge is timing as well.

6. Judges:

- a. Ordinarily, a single judge will decide debate rounds. At the varsity level, this must be a debate coach, an experienced college debater, or other experienced adult in the event.
- b. The executive committee reserves the right to reject judges they deem unqualified. This rejection does not relieve schools of their judging requirement.
- c. It is expected that a judge give his or her judging paradigm to the competitors before the round begins. This can entail: preferred style of delivery, types of arguments preferred, judge's debate background, and any other information that will assist students in adapting.
- d. It is expected that judges not intervene in the round. "Intervention" occurs when a judge votes on an argument or issue that neither team has presented in the round. The judge is limited only to the arguments that are presented before them.
- e. Arguments that have been "dropped" (intentionally or unintentionally not addressed) by one team are considered concessions.
- f. Arguments that are "dropped" by both teams are not voting issues. In other words, if an argument is not expressed in a 2nd rebuttal, then it is not a voting issue and a judge may not vote on it.
- g. At the JV level, experienced high school seniors may also judge.

7. Ballots:

- a. Competent judging includes an effort to take notes (flow) on the arguments each team presents and to weigh the merits of those arguments against one another before rendering a decision.

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Competitive Events**

- b. Judges should write comments on a ballot that will help the debaters (and coach) understand the basis for the judge's decision. Positive feedback and constructive criticism are encouraged.
 - c. There are "low point" wins in the PCFL, but they must be noted clearly on the ballot.
 - d. Before returning a ballot to the tabulation room, judges should carefully check the ballot for completeness. Each debater should be awarded points, which fit within the scale established on the ballot. The relative performances of each debater should be ranked, the best debater receiving the rank of "1" and the least effective debater receiving "4."
 - e. Judges of Junior Varsity debaters are encouraged to be sensitive with their comments. These younger debaters should not be measured against a Varsity standard but against one another. However, they should not receive overly generous points that might distort the relative rankings of each team.
 - f. Judges must follow the speaker point scale provided by the tab room.
 - g. Ties in individual ranks are not permitted, although cumulative ranks may be tied.
 - h. Ties in individual and team points are allowed. The negative should win the ballot where cumulative points and ranks are tied. This is due to the affirmative not meeting their burden of affirming the resolution.
 - i. Each individual debate round exists in a vacuum. It is expected that every judge leave their personal beliefs outside of their decision making process.
8. **Additional information** may be found in the Appendix
9. **For further information** see NCFL Bylaws Art II, Sec C, Item 3a.

B. Lincoln-Douglas Debate

1. **Definition:** Lincoln-Douglas is a debate event involving a proposition of value. One person, called the affirmative, attempts to prove the resolution, while the other, called the negative, attempts to disprove the resolution. A value resolution asks the debaters to argue underlying principles of the question, as opposed to specific policy implementation, such as in traditional two-person debate.
2. **Resolution:** Examples of sample value resolutions include:
 - a. Resolved: Civil disobedience in a democracy is morally justified.
 - b. Resolved: Adolescents ought to have the right to make autonomous medical choices.
 - c. Resolved: Just governments ought to ensure food security for their citizens.
3. **Scheduling:** The determination of scheduling for debate events will be overseen by the Tournament Director. The schedule may vary from one tournament to another dependent on the number of schools and teams registered.
 - a. Small tournaments may require debaters from the same school to compete against each other or to be judged by a judge from their school.
 - b. In all instances, the priority will be to debate rather than to have byes.
 - c. In all instances, scheduling will be as "random" as possible.

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Competitive Events**

4. Format: The format and time limits in Lincoln-Douglas debate are as follows. It should be noted that there is no set grace period: debaters may finish their sentence or paragraph and judges should use their discretion.

<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Speech</u>	<u>Time Limit</u>
Affirmative	Constructive	6 minutes
Negative	Cross-Examination	3 minutes
Negative	Constructive	7 minutes
Affirmative	Cross-Examination	3 minutes
Affirmative	Rebuttal	4 minutes
Negative	Rebuttal	6 minutes
Affirmative	Rebuttal	3 minutes

5. **Preparation Time:**

- a. Each debater should receive a total of 4 minutes of preparation time, which can be used in whole or in part before any speech or questioning period.
- b. The timekeeper or judge shall record the amount of preparation time cumulatively used by each time, announcing the passage of such time in one-minute intervals, with a warning when 30 seconds remain.
- c. Debaters may time themselves or each other as long as the judge is timing as well.

6. **Judges:**

- a. Ordinarily, a single judge will decide rounds. At the Varsity level, this must be a debate coach, an experienced college debater, or other experienced adult.
- b. The executive committee reserves the right to reject judges they deem unqualified. This rejection does not relieve schools of their judging obligation.
- c. It is expected that judges not intervene in the round. "Intervention" occurs when a judge votes on an argument or issue that neither team has presented in the round. The judge is limited only to the arguments that are presented before them.
- d. Arguments that have been "dropped" (intentionally or unintentionally not addressed) by one debater are considered concessions.
- e. Arguments that are "dropped" (intentionally or unintentionally not addressed) by both debaters are not voting issues. In other words, if an argument is not expressed in a final rebuttal, then it is not a voting issue and a judge may not vote on it.
- f. At the JV level, experienced high school seniors may also judge.

7. **Ballots:**

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Competitive Events**

- a. Competent judging includes an effort to take notes (flow) on the arguments each team presents and to weigh the merits of those arguments against one another before rendering a decision.
 - b. Judges should write comments on a ballot that will help the debaters (and coach) understand the basis for the judge's decision. Positive feedback and constructive criticism are encouraged.
 - c. Before returning a ballot to the tabulation room, judges should carefully check the ballot for completeness. Each debater should be awarded points, which fit within the scale established on the ballot.
 - d. There are no "low point" wins in the PCFL.
 - e. There are no ties in Lincoln-Douglas debate. The points should match the decision.
 - f. Judges of Junior Varsity debaters are encouraged to be sensitive with their comments. These younger debaters should not be measured against a Varsity standard but against one another. However, they should not receive overly generous points that might distort the relative rankings of each debater.
8. Judges must follow the speaker point scale provided by the tab room. **Additional information** may be found in the Appendix
 9. **For further information** see NCFL Bylaws Art II, Sec C, Item 3b.

C. Public Forum Debate

1. **Definition:** Public Forum Debate is a team event that advocates or rejects a position posed by the resolution. Each team shall be comprised of two debaters, each representing the same member school. The focus of the debate is a clash of ideas in a persuasive manner that can be understood by a "lay" judge. Good debaters should display logic and analysis. They should use evidence when needed. They should win their case and refute that of their opponents. They should communicate effectively, using fundamentals of good speaking. There are no burdens on either side.
2. **Resolution:** Examples of resolutions used in previous years include:
 - a. Resolved: The United States Federal Government ought to pay reparations to African Americans.
 - b. Resolved: Committing United States ground combat troops to fight ISIL is in the best interest of the United States.
 - c. Resolved: On balance, economic globalization benefits worldwide poverty reduction.
3. **Scheduling:** The determination of scheduling for debate events will be overseen by the Tournament Director. The schedule may vary from one tournament to another dependent on the number of schools and teams registered.
 - a. Small tournaments may require teams from the same school to compete against each other or to be judged by a judge from their school.

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Competitive Events**

- b. In all instances, the priority will be to debate rather than to have byes.
- c. In all instances, scheduling will be as "random" as possible.

4. **Format:** The format and time limits in Public Forum debate are as follows. It should be noted that there is no set grace period: debaters may finish their sentence or paragraph and judges should use their discretion. In addition, unlike other leagues, there is no coin flip in the PCFL.

<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Speech</u>	<u>Time Limit</u>
1st Pro	Constructive	4 minutes
1st Con	Constructive	4 minutes
Crossfire	1st Pro & 1st Con: Con asks the 1 st question	3 minutes
2nd Pro	Constructive	4 minutes
2nd Con	Constructive	4 minutes
Crossfire	2nd Pro & 2nd Con: Pro asks the 1 st question	3 minutes
1st Pro	Summary	2 minutes
1st Con	Summary	2 minutes
Grand Crossfire	All debaters: Pro asks the 1 st question	3 minutes
2nd Pro	Final Focus	2 minutes
2nd Con	Final Focus	2 minutes

5. **Preparation Time:**

- a. Each team should receive a total of 2 minutes of preparation time, which can be used in whole or in part before any speech or questioning period.
- b. The timekeeper or judge shall record the amount of preparation time cumulatively used by each time, announcing the passage of such time in one-minute intervals, with a warning when 30 seconds remain.
- c. Debaters may time themselves or each other as long as the judge is timing as well.

6. **Judges:**

- a. Ordinarily, a single judge will decide rounds. At the Varsity level, this must be an adult.
- b. Though judges may be experienced, judges with little, or no previous experience, will not be discouraged.
- c. It is expected that judges not intervene in the round. "Intervention" occurs when a judge votes on an argument or issue that neither team has presented in the round. The judge is

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Competitive Events**

limited only to the arguments that are presented before them.

d. At the JV level, experienced high school seniors may also judge.

7. **Ballots:**

a. Competent judging includes an effort to take notes (flow) on the arguments each team presents and to weigh the merits of those arguments against one another before rendering a decision.

b. Judges should write comments on a ballot that will help the debaters (and coach) understand the basis for the judge's decision. Positive feedback and constructive criticism are encouraged.

c. Before returning a ballot to the tabulation room, judges should carefully check the ballot for completeness. Each debater should be awarded points, which fit within the scale established on the ballot.

d. There are no "low point" wins in the PCFL.

e. There are no ties in Public Forum debate. The points should match the decision.

f. Judges of Junior Varsity debaters are encouraged to be sensitive with their comments. These younger debaters should not be measured against a Varsity standard but against one another. However, they should not receive overly generous points that might distort the relative rankings of each debater.

8. Judges must follow the speaker point scale provided by the tab room. **Additional information** may be found in the Appendix

9. **For further information** see NCFL Bylaws Art II, Sec C, Item 3c.

Section II. Speech Events

A. Oral Interpretation of Literature (Prose and Poetry Reading)

1. **General Information:** On the Varsity level, students will come prepared with two programs: one in prose and one in poetry. If, through the flip of a coin, the first round is designated as a prose round, all students will present their prose program. During the second round, all students will present their poetry program. During the third round, all students will present their prose program, and so forth.

2. **What is a prose program?** A short story, a selection from a novel, a non-fictional work that has some emotional impact will qualify as prose.

3. **What is a poetry program?** One long poem (unrhymed or rhymed) or several poems related thematically or written by the same author will qualify as poetry.

4. **The Introduction:** Each student should have an introduction to his/her presentation. It is not uncommon for students to begin with a part of the selection or with another short piece before they offer the audience the introduction they composed. The use of such a "Teaser" is appropriate but

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not necessary. The introduction should include a combination of the following:

- a. It should provide necessary background information such as character, situation, and/or setting
 - b. It should set up expectations that are then fulfilled in the presentation. The result is listener satisfaction, because if the student performed the material correctly, he/she delivered what was promised. Consider a segment of an introduction for the play *The Foreigner*: "Although initially shy and reticent, Charlie finds that he has what it takes to be the life of the party and the hero he'd always wished he were."
 - c. It should advance the argument -- the moral, social, philosophical point -- of the literature, justifying the importance/significance. Consider a segment of an introduction for the play *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me*: "By employing their vivid imaginations to help them cope with their imprisonment, the two political captives demonstrate how the human spirit can triumph over the most insurmountable odds." NOTE: this approach places the interpretation within a rhetorical mode, justifying it as a "forensic" demonstration.
 - d. It MUST name the author and title.
5. **Type of Literature:** Decide if the literature is meant to be humorous (witty, slapstick, sarcastic, ribald, nice) or serious (melancholy, angry, mysterious, bitter, unpleasant) or a mixture of both. Then listen to the literature and decide if the performer is accurately capturing its tone and mood. DOES THE PERFORMER'S TONE, ATTITUDE, AND VOCAL VARIETY ELICIT THE EMOTIONS AND IDEAS SUGGESTED BY THE MATERIAL?
6. Additional information may be found in the appendix.

B. Dramatic Performance

1. **Choice of Selection:** A student in this category may perform any of the following. All these choices are valid, interesting, and challenging in their own unique ways. The student must perform the selection from memory.
 - a. A monologue from a single play
 - b. A two, three, four, etc. person scene (continuous in form) from a single play
 - c. A series of monologues and/or scenes from a single play that focus around a theme but do not develop a plot-line
 - d. A two, three, four, etc. person scene from a play (not continuous but broken down into a series of scenes, logically arranged and separated by pauses)
 - e. A selection from any prose piece.
2. **Introduction**
 - a. Refer to the comments under the ORAL INTERPRETATION OF LITERATURE section.

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3. Special Concerns:

- a. As this event is called a "performance," students are encouraged to imbue as much physical, vocal and emotional life into their characters as is necessary to make them vital and vibrant beings.
- b. Judge on the performance, not on the material alone. A selection may not make you laugh or cry, but if it is performed well -- if characters are real, distinct, developing; if there is a sense of focus and space and visualization -- it must be ranked higher than a performance that emotionally moves you to laugh or to tears but whose characters are not fully realized or believable, not well developed and whose concept of space is hazy.

4. Additional information may be found in the appendix.

C. Duo Performance

1. Choice of Selection

- a. The literature can be humorous, serious, or a combination of both.
- b. Selections can be from plays, stories, or poems. Most, however, are from plays.

2. Introduction

- a. Refer to the comments under the ORAL INTERPRETATION OF LITERATURE section.

3. Technique

- a. The two performers, standing center stage, establish focal points; both, when looking straight ahead, or when angling inward, are looking at each other; when one or both turn outward in any way, direct eye contact between the characters is not being made. If "A" is in the room and "B" is not, but is just about to enter -- "A" faces the audience, "B" faces in the opposite direction, then "B" turns inward, pivoting in the direction of the audience.
- b. Manuscripts and binders are optional for JV competition until JV City Finals when manuscripts are prohibited.

4. Cuttings

- a. A cutting from a play may be continuous, without pauses or breaks.
- b. A cutting from a play may also be episodic, consisting of several scenes, the former ones leading logically into the later ones. At the end of each scene, it is customary for the actors to freeze and to turn their pages when using a binder, both indicating that a new scene is beginning. As well, to designate scene shifts, actors slightly alter their off focus angles, sometimes playing them more inward, sometimes playing them more outward.
- c. Both types of cutting are acceptable.

5. Additional information may be found in the appendix.

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D. Original Oratory

1. **Topic:** The speech's purpose should be to convince, stimulate, inspire, persuade, and/or call to action.
2. Additional information may be found in the appendix.

E. Extemporaneous Speaking

1. A good extemporaneous speech should directly answer the question in an organized fashion with supporting facts and evidence, while demonstrating principles of effective public speaking.
2. Additional information may be found in the appendix.

F. Oratorical Declamation

1. **Choice of Selection:** Any speech that has been delivered before an audience may be used in this event. Thus political, eulogistic, ceremonial, forensic, and any other types are appropriate.
2. **Introduction**
 - a. Composed by the speaker, the introduction an establish the speech's theme, set the mood, motivate the listeners as to the need to hear what the speech is about, provide background information, etc.
 - b. It must describe the context in which the speech was originally delivered, minimally citing the date, occasion, place and name of the original speaker.
3. **Suitability:** Ideally, the speaker should capture the spirit of the speech's original performance without being imitative of it. He/she should demonstrate an intellectual and emotional maturity as well as poise and sincerity commensurate with the speech's content and style. If the speaker cannot sound "at home" with the speech's idea and language, if would do him/her well to choose another oration.
4. Additional information may be found in the appendix.

Section III. Student Congress

A. Overview

1. Of all the areas of Forensics, Student Congress is one of the most fascinating -- it combines aspects from both debate and speech competition in a unique blend. In the PCFL, Student Congress is held at the same competition levels as other events.
2. Competitors debate legislation, which is written by students from the schools participating in the PCFL, using Parliamentary Procedure.
3. Additional information may be found in the appendix.

B. Legislation

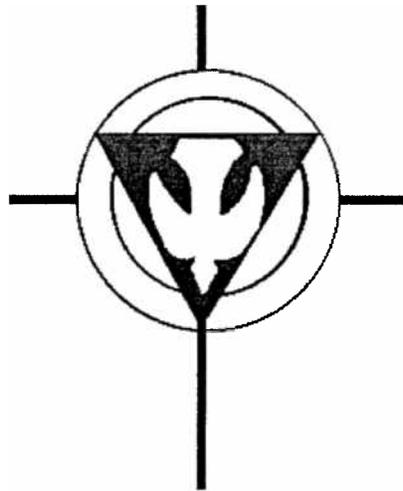
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1. There are four types of legislation in Student Congress:
 - a. Resolutions: Resolutions, which are relatively general in scope, recommend action or set forth policy. They commonly contain "Whereas" clauses, as explained in the appendix.
 - b. Bills: Bills, which are relatively specific in scope, are intended for enactment into law. They must include details such as the effective date and methods of enforcement funding. Bills must not contain "Whereas" clauses.
 - c. Amendments: Competitors may propose amendments to the U.S. Constitution
 - d. Joint Resolutions: Joint resolutions are rare in the PCFL or NCFL since they are intended mainly for bi-cameral legislatures (e.g. Student Congress in the National Forensic League or Pennsylvania High School Speech League).

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Philadelphia Catholic Forensic League Senior Division

Description and Guidelines
for Tournaments and
National Qualifiers



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Section 1. National Qualifiers -- City Finals

A. GENERAL QUALIFICATION

1. No school that is not a member in good standing of the League shall be permitted to enter any of the qualifying tournaments of the PCFL. League dues must be paid in full before contestants representing a particular school will be allowed to compete. (PCFL Grand Tournament Procedures). Any student who has qualified for the NCFL Grand Tournament in a category (debate, speech, Student Congress) may not compete in another category.
2. Qualifying tournaments are only those hosted by the PCFL, exclusively for the PCFL. Open invitationals hosted by PCFL schools shall not be considered qualifying tournaments. Students are not required to compete in the Varsity division to earn a qualification.
3. A student may only enter one event at National Qualifiers in a given year.

B. CROSS-EX/LINCOLN-DOUGLAS/PUBLIC FORUM DEBATE

1. **PRELIMINARY QUALIFICATION:** A team shall be considered qualified for the PCFL city finals in debate if both students have participated in all preliminary rounds of a debate event in at least one tournament designated by the League as a qualifying tournament.
2. **NUMBER OF STUDENTS/TEAMS EACH SCHOOL CAN ENTER**
 - a. Schools may enter two entries per event.
 - b. In case of an uneven number of LD, CX, or PFD entries, a school may be allowed to bring a third varsity team or debater to serve as a swing team/debater. The Tournament Director will solicit interest in providing a swing team in advance of the qualifier tournament and will hold a blind draw among eligible teams, offering the swing slot to each school in turn.
3. **NUMBER OF STUDENTS/TEAMS QUALIFYING TO NATIONALS**
 - a. The number of students that qualify in LD, CX, or PFD is determined by the number of member schools with the League by December 1.
 - b. The number of students/teams qualifying to nationals will be announced at the winter PCFL meeting of each year.
4. **TOURNAMENT PREPARATION**
 - a. Invitations will be posted on tabroom.com at least two weeks before the tournament.
 - b. All registration information must be submitted four days before the tournament (i.e. Tuesday before a Saturday tournament).
 - c. Judging requirements
 1. LD judges: 2 judges for one contestant, 3 judges for two contestants

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2. CX judges: 2 judges for one team, 3 judges for two teams
3. PFD judges: 2 judges for one team, 3 judges for two teams
- d. The executive committee reserves the right to reject judges they deem unqualified. This rejection does not relieve schools of their judging obligation.
- e. The registration form must include citation of the PCFL sponsored or sanctioned tournament that the student/team has attended.

5. PROCEDURES ON DAY OF TOURNAMENT

- a. One adult representative from each school must report to the registration table. An adult representative must be present during the tournament.
- b. Any outstanding fees must be paid at that time.
- c. At the registration table, the coach/adult representative will receive one copy of the registration form and all scheduling information.
- d. Once competition begins, no coaching shall be permitted during the process of a debate. (PCFL Grand Tournament Procedures)
- e. If a CX/PFD team or LD debater is at least 15 minutes late for a scheduled round of debate, it shall forfeit the round. In cases of delays because of a function of the tournament and not the individual team or debater, the Executive Committee shall have the power to reverse the forfeit. (PCFL Grand Tournament Procedures)
- f. If there are 12 or more entries in the event, 3 preliminary CX rounds and/or 4 preliminary LD/PFD rounds will be held. If there are 10 or fewer entries in the event, 2 preliminary CX and/or 3 preliminary LD/PFD rounds will be held.
- g. Pairing for the preliminary rounds of competition are as follows:
 1. The first two rounds are paired randomly. Efforts should be made to avoid team/debaters competing against the same school in these rounds.
 2. Round 3 and 4 (if held) is paired hi-low. This means the team/debater with the best record and speaker points will be paired against the team/debater with the same record and lowest speaker points, the second highest with the second lowest, and so on.

Adjustments should be made to ensure that a debater has not met the same opponent previously in the tournament.
- h. The placement round will be paired as follows: The top seeded team/debater will debate the eighth seeded team/debater, two will debate 7, three will debate 6, and four will debate five.
- i. Ties will be broken in the following manner. In the case of 8 or less teams registered to compete in an event, two judges will be used in each round and total wins will be ignored as a tiebreaker:

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1. Total wins
 2. Total ballots
 3. High/low points
 4. Total points
 5. Total ranks (CX)
- j. The winners of the four placement round debates will qualify to the National Tournament (based on the expectation of qualifying 6 entries by virtue of reaching 26 member schools in PCFL). The non-advancing debaters of the placement round debates will be paired as per the bracket. The bracket will be paired such that the non-advancing debater(s) from the 1/8 round will debate the non-advancing debater(s) of the 4/5 round. The non-advancing debater(s) from the 2/7 round will debate the non-advancing debater(s) of the 3/6 round. The winners of the consolation rounds will qualify to the National Tournament (based upon our historic complement of 6 qualifiers).
- k. Final placement for awards is determined according to the tie-breaking procedures in section (i), excepting that the winners of the placement round and consolation round must rank 1st through 6th. For tie-breaking purposes, the winners of the first placement debates will receive a 3-0 bye win in place of the consolation round.
- l. Announcement of the teams/debaters qualifying to the National Tournament will be made at a closing assembly on the day of the tournament. Final placement will be announced at the League awards banquet.
6. **AWARDS PRESENTED AT THE BANQUET:** Trophies will be presented to the top six students in each event. Certificates are awarded to the seventh through tenth place students.

C. SPEECH

1. **PRELIMINARY QUALIFICATION:** A student shall be considered qualified for the PCFL city finals if the student has participated in all preliminary rounds in a speech event at one tournament designated by the league as a qualifying tournament.
2. **NUMBER OF STUDENTS/DUO-INTERP TEAMS EACH SCHOOL CAN ENTER**
 - a. Schools may enter two entries per event.
 - b. A freshman who qualified to the National Tournament is eligible for JV or varsity competition the next year in the same event.
 - c. No selection or speech may be used in any category that was used by the student in a previous year under penalty of disqualification. Any question should be directed to the president of the League.
 - d. On the day of the tournament a typed copy of the Original Oratory to be delivered by a student competing in that event must be submitted to the president of the League. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.

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3. NUMBER OF STUDENTS/DUO-INTERP TEAMS QUALIFYING TO NATIONALS

- a. The number of students qualifying in each event is determined by the number of member schools that register with the League by December 1.
- b. The number of students/teams qualifying to nationals will be announced at the winter PCFL meeting of each year.

4. TOURNAMENT PREPARATION

- a. Invitations will be posted on tabroom.com at least two weeks before the tournament.
- b. All registration information must be submitted four days before the tournament (i.e. Tuesday before a Saturday tournament).
- c. Judging requirements: One judge for every two contestants.
- d. The registration form must include the listing of the title and author of each OI, DI, DUO, or DEC selection.
- e. The registration form must include citation of the PCFL sponsored or sanctioned tournament that the student has attended.

5. TOURNAMENT SCHEDULING

- a. The Executive Committee usually meets two days before the tournament to review:
 1. registration sheets have been properly completed
 2. students have properly qualified to finals
 3. schools have met their judging responsibilities
 4. judges who are unfamiliar to the Executive Committee have filled out a JQP (Judge's Qualification Profile).
- b. Sectioning the tournament
 1. The number of sections is based upon the number of students registered in each event (7 is the maximum number per section).
 2. The Executive Committee schedules the events.
- c. Judging/scheduling constraints
 1. No judge should judge a student from his/her own school.
 2. No judge should judge the same event in preliminary rounds, where possible.
 3. Students from the same school may be scheduled in the same section in one of the three preliminary rounds if there are only two sections in that event.
 4. A panel shall consist of two judges from two different schools.

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5. When feasible, a panel should include one judge with at least two years judging experience.

6. PROCEDURES ON DAY OF TOURNAMENT

- a. One representative from each school (the coach) must report to the registration table.
- b. Any outstanding fees must be paid at that time.
- c. At the registration table, the coach will receive one copy of the registration form and all scheduling information.
- d. Once competition begins, no coaching shall be permitted during the process of the tournament (PCFL Grand Tournament Procedures).
- e. Announcement of students qualifying to the National Tournament will be made at a closing assembly on the day of the tournament. Final placement will be announced at the League awards banquet.

7. TABULATING PROCEDURES

- a. Materials for the tab room
 1. ballots
 2. tab sheets
 3. rulers, staplers, extra paper, pencils
- b. Tabulation procedures
 1. Three preliminary rounds are held in each event. In Oral Interpretation, the order (Prose/Poetry) is determined before the tournament begins by a coin toss.
 2. Each round is judged by a panel of two judges. Students' ranks for each round are recorded on the tab sheets.
 3. In preliminary rounds, no student is ranked below sixth place regardless of the number of students in the round. No student may receive a rank lower than the smallest number of students in a section of their event.
 4. All three rounds for all events are randomly paired. Students from the same school can only be placed in the same section for one of the rounds if there are only two sections in the event.
 5. The top 5 of the 6 ranks from the preliminary rounds are used to determine the seeding for the final round.
 6. The top two seeds from the preliminary rounds automatically qualify to the National Tournament.
 7. If a two-way tie for first place is unbreakable (tiebreakers: 1) reciprocals, 2) sixth rank from preliminaries), both students automatically qualify to nationals

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and are designated co-champions.

8. If there is an unbreakable three-way tie for first place, all three students automatically qualify to nationals and are designated tri-champions. A final round of five is held to determine the remaining three positions for the National Tournament.
 9. If there is an unbreakable tie for second place, only the first place contestant automatically qualifies to nationals. A final round of seven will be held to determine the remaining five positions for the National Tournament.
 10. The next six students on the basis of top 5 of six preliminary ranks are scheduled for the final round. In the case of ties to advance into the final round, the following tiebreakers will be used:
 - a. reciprocal ranks
 - b. adding in the dropped rank
 11. The students going to the National Tournament are determined based on the total of five best judges' ranks in the prelims and the three ranks in the final round. In case of ties, the following tiebreakers will be used:
 - a. judge's preference in the final round
 - b. reciprocals of the final round
 - c. reciprocals of preliminary and final round
 - d. adding in the dropped rank
 12. If ties still exist to determine the final national qualifier(s), those students tied will compete in an additional round with three judges
8. **AWARDS PRESENTED AT THE BANQUET:** Trophies will be presented to the top six students in each event. Certificates are awarded to the seventh through tenth place students.

D. STUDENT CONGRESS

1. **CHAMBER TERMINOLOGY:** At Student Congress finals, the Varsity-level Student Congress is referred to as a Senate and the Junior-Varsity (JV) Student Congress is referred to as a House.
2. **ENTRY QUALIFICATION:** A student shall be considered qualified for the PCFL city finals if the student has participated in all preliminary sessions of Congress at one tournament designated by the League as a qualifying tournament.
3. **NUMBER OF STUDENTS EACH SCHOOL CAN ENTER**
 - a. Two students per school will be permitted to compete in the Senate.
4. **NUMBER OF STUDENTS QUALIFYING TO NATIONALS FROM THE PCFL**
 - a. The number of students qualifying to nationals in the Senate is determined by the number

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of member schools that have registered with the PCFL by December 1.

- b. The number of students qualifying to nationals will be announced at the winter PCFL meeting of each year.

5. TOURNAMENT PREPARATION

- a. Invitations will be posted on tabroom.com at least two weeks before the tournament.
- b. All registration information (registration forms and citation of the PCFL sponsored or sanctioned tournament that the student has attended) must be submitted four days before the tournament (i.e. Tuesday before a Saturday tournament).
- c. Judging requirements: One judge for one or two students in Varsity.
- d. The Parliamentarian and Presiding Officer (for each preliminary and Super session) for the Varsity Senate shall be experienced, PCFL appointed impartial adult judges (coaches) with basic knowledge of Student Congress procedures.
- e. Each student competing in the Varsity Senate must submit one piece of legislation to be debated at the Finals.
 - 1. Legislation may be rejected if it does not meet current PCFL formatting instructions or if it was previously used in the PCFL.
 - 2. Deadline date: This must occur no later than one month before the date of the Congress qualifier tournament.
- f. If two pieces have been submitted from a school, each school will designate which piece of legislation should be used for the preliminary sessions if a Super Session is required. If a Super Session is required, those bills/resolutions not slated for the preliminary session will be used.

6. TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES

- a. Students will compete in a unicameral chamber when the number of competitors registered is 24 or less. In the event of a unicameral chamber, there will be no Super Session held. Students will compete in bicameral chambers when the number of competitors registered is 25 or more. In the event of bicameral chambers, the top 4 nominees from each chamber would advance to a Super Session.
- b. The length of preliminary sessions is set by the PCFL Executive Committee at three equal or almost-equal sessions of about 90 minutes to two hours each and the agenda shall include one legislation item from each school actually present.
- c. There will be two scorekeepers scheduled to judge each session of the Varsity Senate. Every attempt will be made to find unaffiliated judges.
- d. Each scorekeeper will rank the top ten speakers (in his/her own opinion) at the end of the session. The scorekeeper will judge every student who speaks in the session, unless the student is from the scorekeeper's own school. In the event that a student from the scorekeeper's school is recognized to speak, the Parliamentarian will serve as the

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student's second judge. A scorekeeper may rank a student from his/her own school on his/her own ballot but must be judicious.

- e. At the end of the third session, the Parliamentarian will rank the top ten students in his/her own opinion based upon their performance across both sessions.
- f. Students ranks are placed on the tab sheet. Any student not ranked in the top ten on a judge's ballot will have an "11" placed on their sheet.
- g. The ranks from the six judges are added to the ranks from the Parliamentarian (seven ranks total) to reach a final total. The student with the lowest numerical total will be placed first, next lowest will be placed second, and so on. Ties are broken based upon judge's preference and then Parliamentarian rank. At this point,
 1. If the Senate is unicameral, the top six students would place to the National Tournament (based upon our historic complement of six qualifiers).
 2. If the Senate is bicameral:
 - a. The top four students from each chamber will advance to the Super Session. The fifth place student in each chamber will be announced for purposes of banquet awards for ninth and tenth place.
 - b. The Super Session agenda shall be a random sequence of that legislation not debated in any preliminary chamber. Once the announcement of the eight finalists is made, the Parliamentarian will remove the bills/resolutions submitted by those schools with finalists from the packet.
 - c. The Parliamentarian would shuffle the remaining pieces of legislation and the order would be announced to the students. The first speech could be a Sponsorship or Affirmative speech on the legislation. The Super Session shall continue until each competitor who so desires has been afforded two speeches. With dual consent of Presiding Officer and Parliamentarian, the chamber may opt to allow additional debate time up to a time limit of one hour and 15 minutes when debate is ended.
 - d. Three "clean" scorekeepers will judge the 75-minute Super Session. Every attempt will be made to use scorekeepers who are not from the finalists' schools and not having judged a preliminary session.
 - e. The Parliamentarian and Presiding Officer will be adults, and may be the same person functioning in both capacities.
 - f. Once the debate has ended, the scorekeepers would each rank the students from first to eighth and submit those ranks and ballots to the Tab Room.
 - g. The Parliamentarian would also rank the students and submit those ranks to the Tab Room.
 - h. The six students who will go to Nationals will be determined by the

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following formula: Preliminary judge ranks + Preliminary parliamentarian rank + Super Session judge 1 rank + Super Session judge 2 rank + Super Session judge 3 rank + Super Session Parliamentarian rank = Total. The student with the lowest numerical total would place first, next lowest would place second, and so on.

- i. Ties would be broken by 1) Judges' preference in the Super Session, 2) Reciprocals of ranks or re-ranks used in the formula above, 3) Parliamentarian rank in the Super Session.
 - h. Announcement of the students qualifying to the National Tournament will be made at a closing assembly on the day of the tournament. Final placement will be announced at the League awards banquet.
7. **AWARDS PRESENTED AT THE BANQUET:** Trophies will be awarded to the top six students in Student Congress. Certificates will be awarded to seventh through tenth place students.

E. PROTESTS AT PCFL TOURNAMENTS

All protests regarding rules violations or judge's misconduct shall be made at the time such violations occur and never later than 72 hours after the conclusion of the event at which the violation occurred. Such protests shall be heard by the League Director (President), and a protest committee (ad hoc) appointed by the League Director. The decision of this committee shall be final. All such protests shall be made in writing.

Section 2. Junior Varsity League Finals (all events)

A. PRELIMINARY QUALIFICATIONS

Students are eligible to compete at JV Finals according to the PCFL definition of Junior Varsity, so long as they have not qualified to attend the NCFL Grand National Tournament in the current season.

B. NUMBER OF STUDENTS/TEAMS EACH SCHOOL CAN ENTER

- 1. LD/CX/PFD DEBATE
 - a. Each school may send 6 entries total, with a maximum of 3 entries per event
- 2. SPEECH
 - a. Each school may fill a maximum of three entries teams per event but no more than 14 entries in all categories combined.
- 3. STUDENT CONGRESS
 - a. Each school may send two students to the JV House

C. JUDGES

- 1. Seniors who judge at JV finals should have previous judging experience

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2. Quotas
 - a. CX debate: 1 judge for 1 or 2 teams, 2 judges for 3 teams
 - b. LD debate: 1 judge for 1 or 2 contestants, 2 judges for 3 teams
 - c. PFD debate: 1 judge for 1 or 2 teams, 2 judges for 3 teams
 - d. Speech: 1 judge for 1 to 4 contestants/teams, 2 judges for 5 to 8 contestants/teams, 3 judges for 9 to 12 contestants/teams, 4 judges for 13 to 14 contestants/teams
 - e. Student Congress: 1 judge for 1 or 2 contestants
3. If a senior covering as a speech judge is not competent to judge all events, then a school must provide another senior who is competent in the other areas. **THUS, A SCHOOL MAY NEED TO SUPPLY TWO SENIOR JUDGES TO COVER ONE JUDGING OBLIGATION.**
4. A school must supply a JQP form for all judges sent to JV speech finals. The areas of judging competency must be included on this form.

D. TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES

1. Three randomly paired rounds of CX and four randomly paired rounds of PFD/LD will be held. Two Congress sessions will be held. Three randomly paired rounds of Speech, with a final round in events with multiple preliminary rooms.
2. One judge will score each Speech and Debate round; two judges (as well as a Parliamentarian) will score each Congress session.
3. Final placement is determined by adding preliminary ranks and final round ranks. Ties are broken by 1) judge preference in the final round, 2) reciprocal ranks in the final round, and 3) reciprocal ranks in all rounds. Final placement in Debate is determined by wins, then high/low points, then total points, then ranks (CX only). Final placement in Congress is determined by the sum of the four judge ranks and the Parliamentarian's rank, with unranked contestants receiving a rank of 11, and ties broken by judges' preference.
4. Awards are presented at the annual banquet, with trophies and certificates presented to the top ten contestants as designated in Section 3E.

Section 3. Awards presented at the PCFL Banquet

- A. Five PCFL School Overall Sweepstakes Awards would be awarded each year at the PCFL Awards Banquet. These five Overall School Awards would be permanent awards, not traveling.
- B. The five Overall Sweepstakes Awards would be based on an overall participation in all areas of PCFL activities in both Varsity and Junior Varsity levels.

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1. Policy, Lincoln Douglas and Public Forum Debate
2. Rhetorical Events -- Extemp, Original Oratory, and Declamation
3. Interpretive Events -- Oral Interpretation, Dramatic Performance and Duo Interpretation
4. Student Congress

C. OVERALL SWEEPSTAKES CALCULATION

1. Points are awarded based on the following placements:

Placement	Varsity Points	JV Points
1 st	21	7
2 nd	18	6
3 rd	15	5
4 th	12	4
5 th	9	3
6 th	6	2
7 th	3	1
8 th	3	1
9 th and below	1	1

2. Each school's Overall Sweepstakes total is the sum of points earned by these seven entries (in both Varsity and JV, for a total of 14 entries):
 - i. Best debate entry
 - ii. Second-best debate entry
 - iii. Third-best debate entry
 - iv. Best Rhetorical Events entry
 - v. Best Interpretive Events entry
 - vi. Next-best entry in any Speech event
 - vii. Best Student Congress entry
3. Schools are not required to have all 14 entries in order to win the Overall Sweepstakes.

D. OTHER SWEEPSTAKES AWARDS

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1. The top five schools in each of these areas will receive awards
 - i. JV Speech Sweepstakes -- counting five best entrants from Rhetorical and Interpretive events. The first place award is named the Sister Maria Veronica Sweepstakes trophy.
 - ii. Varsity Speech Sweepstakes -- counting five best entrants from Rhetorical and Interpretive events.
 - iii. Student Congress Sweepstakes -- counting top two entrants in JV House and top two entrants in Varsity Senate. The first place award is named the Maria Carusi Sweepstakes trophy.
 - iv. JV Debate Sweepstakes -- counting four best entrants in Policy, Lincoln-Douglas, and/or Public Forum Debate.
 - v. Varsity Debate Sweepstakes -- counting four best entrants in Policy, Lincoln-Douglas, and/or Public Forum Debate.
 - vi. Overall Speech Sweepstakes -- combined total of Varsity and JV speech sweepstakes.
 - vii. Overall Debate Sweepstakes -- combined total of Varsity and JV debate sweepstakes. The first place award is named the Carl Grecco Sweepstakes trophy.

E. INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

1. **Varsity Awards:** Trophies will be awarded to the top 8 Varsity LD contestants, CX debate teams, Individual speech event contestants/teams and Student Congress contestants. Ninth and tenth place speakers/teams will receive certificates.
2. **Junior Varsity Awards:** Trophies are awarded according to the following scale:
 - i. 1-3 contestants/teams: 1 trophy
 - ii. 4-5 contestants/teams: 2 trophies
 - iii. 6-7 contestants/teams: 3 trophies
 - iv. 8-9 contestants/teams: 4 trophies
 - v. 10-11 contestants/teams: 5 trophies
 - vi. 12 or more contestants/teams: 6 trophies
3. Certificates will be awarded to the remainder of the top ten contestants in each event.

Section 4. Other PCFL sponsored tournaments

A. Local tournaments

Throughout the course of the school year, the PCFL member schools host competitions in forensic events of their choice. The same basic procedures used at the qualifying tournaments should be followed at these tournaments.

**Philadelphia Catholic Forensic League Senior Division
Tournaments and National Qualifiers**

B. Purpose

The purpose of tournament competition is to afford the students an opportunity to face their peers in forensic competition.

C. Procedures

All procedures described in Section 1 should be followed

D. Awards

Certificates: Awarded to students who have excelled in their particular events. The top half of competitors, rounding up, will be recognized, with a minimum of three and maximum of six awards. Schools can opt to give trophies or plaques based on event categories (Speech, Debate, Student Congress). Each tournament host has the option of awarding any and all trophies or plaques.

**E. CALCULATING SWEEPSTAKES POINTS AT LOCAL
TOURNAMENTS**

The Executive Committee will use the sweepstakes calculation features of the tabulation software to award Speech, Congress, and Debate sweepstakes awards, approximating the sweepstakes awards for league finals.