

The Southern California Junior Forensics League (SCJFL) Charter & By-Laws  
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## The Southern California Junior Forensics League (SCJFL) Charter & By-Laws

### Charter

#### **I. Purpose**

The purpose of the SCJFL is to provide elementary and middle school students in California an opportunity to compete in speech and debate tournaments to hone their public speaking skills.

#### **II. Committee Meetings & Rules of Procedure**

##### A. Committee Meetings

1. The SCJFL shall have a minimum of one Coaches Committee Meeting each academic year. Each year, the meeting shall occur on the last Saturday of June at 10:00 a.m. Additional meetings may be scheduled if more time is needed to discuss issues.
2. Committee members must be present for deliberations (no proxies allowed). If a voting member is unable to attend a Coaches Committee Meeting, he/she may choose to designate an alternate with full participation and voting rights upon prior notification to the SCJFL Board President. The only exception to this policy is that no single person may cast more than one vote. Each school shall have one vote per agenda item.
3. The SCJFL, CMSF, and affiliated committees shall publish the minutes of the annual Coaches Committee Meeting on the official SCJFL website after they have been verified and approved by the SCJFL Board through an e-mail vote.
4. All SCJFL, CMSF, and affiliated committees shall audio record all meetings and publish this recording as soon as possible after the meeting so that those not in attendance may listen to the discussion.
5. During meetings, the Secretary should offer a live document (such as a Google Doc or other software which would enable multiple viewers at the same time) for the present coaches so that they can see the minutes of the meeting in real time.

##### B. Rules of Procedure

1. A simple majority vote of the voting members of the Coaches Committee Meeting shall be required for transaction of SCJFL business.

2. Provisions of this document may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting, or a simple majority vote in two consecutive years.
3. Meetings shall follow Robert's Rules of Order, except in instances that are outlined in this charter or by-laws.
4. If a meeting becomes unruly or so large that members' voices are not being heard, the acting committee head may institute a one (1) minute limit on speaking time. In extreme cases, the committee head may limit the number of times each member can speak (e.g. each member can only speak twice).
5. Committee heads may, in extreme circumstances, postpone new agenda items in order to address existing issues in the allotted time for the meeting.

### **III. Eligibility**

A. School eligibility: Any school, after-school program, or homeschool program shall be eligible to send participants to SCJFL tournaments, provided they adhere to the following requirements:

1. All programs must have a physical address on file with the SCJFL.
2. All programs have proof of commercial liability insurance or have signed a liability waiver of that insurance with the SCJFL. Proof of commercial liability insurance must be submitted to a board member and on file with the SCJFL office. Proof of commercial liability insurance may be waived for public schools. (Rationale: Some public schools have a difficult time dealing with the bureaucracy of trying to acquire proof of insurance.)
3. To gain eligibility, participating schools/programs must be in good standing with the financial requirements as established by the SCJFL Board.
4. All schools/programs must designate one tab room official to serve as either Tournament Director or apprentice at a tournament sometime throughout the season. Schools/programs in their first year of membership of SCJFL may waive this requirement.
5. Schools/programs that prevent students from competing for another school/program cannot be SCJFL members (e.g. if a school forbids a student from joining their team because that student competes for an after-school academy, then that school is not eligible to participate in SCJFL competitions). Schools in violation will receive a written warning from the board members and an opportunity reverse their policy.

6. Schools/programs cannot create sister-programs to generate more votes in the SCJFL (e.g. a program under the same ownership/instruction at two locations cannot use that as justification for two votes).

B. Competitor eligibility:

1. Participants in SCJFL middle school tournaments must be 6-8th grade or of comparable academic level in keeping with the spirit of middle school competition.

2. Participants in SCJFL elementary school tournaments must be students enrolled in 5th grade or lower.

3. Participants in any California Middle School Forensics (CMSF) must be 5-8th grade students.

4. In the event that a school has an odd number of debate competitors, three-person debate teams are not permitted. In such situations, that team may choose one of the following (the following applies only to team debate and not any individual events such as Duo):

a. Maverick: A single competitor may speak in both positions for the debate.

b. Hybrid: Competitors without partners may compete with a partner from a different school from his/her own.

In either situation (Maverick or Hybrid), such teams shall not advance to elimination rounds (applicable only at SCJFL sanctioned state or championship tournaments). Competitors are limited to one Maverick or Hybrid tournament per tournament season. Schools are not permitted to enter multiple Mavericks or Hybrids per tournament.

5. Students enrolled with multiple schools which participate in the SCJFL are permitted to split their entries between those schools. For example, if a student wishes to compete in Impromptu for School A and Storytelling for School B, this is permitted. However, the coaches for the student must notify the tournament in advance and clarify which school would handle any liability at the tournament.

#### **IV. SCJFL Board Membership Positions**

A. The SCJFL Board shall consist of the following members:

1. The President of the SCJFL Board: Orient all newcomers to the league and explain the processes, rules, and fees. Should also set agenda and run all SCJFL meetings. Should serve as Ombudsperson in situations arise in a conflict of interest with the vice president. Shall oversee elections in even-numbered years.
2. The Vice-President of the SCJFL Board: Should serve as Ombudsperson for tournament disputes. Should assist the president in carrying out league and tournament duties. Shall oversee elections in odd-numbered years.
3. The Secretary of the SCJFL Board: Keep accurate minutes of SCJFL meetings.
4. The Elementary-Chair of the SCJFL Board: Coordinate elementary portion of SCJFL. Establish at least two SCJFL sanctioned tournaments per year.
5. The Treasurer of the SCJFL Board: Keep accurate logs of SCJFL money and report to the league the yearly expenses. Should also file appropriate taxes to the IRS.
6. The Community Outreach Member of the SCJFL Board: Send out announcements of upcoming tournaments, try to recruit new schools to the league, and establish recipients of any SCJFL scholarships, pending board approval.
7. Webmaster of the SCJFL Board: Maintain the league website and listserv.

B. The SCJFL may oversee an annual state tournament organized and run by the California Middle School Forensics (CMSF) sub-committee. The CMSF committee has autonomy and the permission to alter the below charter and by-laws that affect the state tournament only.

1. The CMSF sub-committee should have three members. At least one of the members should be from northern-California and one member should be from southern-California.
2. Each year, the CMSF should elect a new member for a three-year term.
3. The annual CMSF tournament shall be held on the 3rd weekend of May.

C. Election Procedures

1. Each member of the board shall be elected at an annual coaches' meeting by a simple majority of votes. If more than one meeting is scheduled for a particular summer, the elections should be held at the first meeting and not postponed until later, unless a two-thirds majority vote is taken by all schools present.

2. The president, treasurer, and community outreach positions should be elected in odd-numbered years (2019, 2021, etc.), and vice-president, secretary, elementary-chair, and webmaster elected in even-numbered years (2018, 2020, etc.)

3. Nominations for positions should be announced one week prior to the annual SCJFL business meeting. If fewer than two nominations are secured, then more nominations will be requested at the meeting.

#### D. Term of Membership

1. All members shall be elected to a two-year term.

2. Terms of office shall begin immediately following the summer meeting of each year.

#### E. Officers

1. Other necessary officers shall be elected by and from within the membership of the voting members of the SCJFL.

2. A special election may be held to replace the board members, should they resign or be unable to fulfill duties of the office during the tenure of the office. If no election is possible because of time constraints, the remaining board members may elect a board pro tempore member until an official election can be held.

F. The Tournament Director and the Tournament Host of each tournament shall be appointed by the Board.

### **V. Duties**

The following rights shall be reserved to the SCJFL Board:

A. to review present practices and initiate, when necessary, uniform tournament procedures.

B. to hire contractors to assist in SCJFL management. This may include, but is not limited to: accountants, judges, secretarial work, special training, installation of equipment.

C. to establish and administer the SCJFL Tournament procedures with respect to: number and form of rounds, events and rules for each number of elimination rounds, number of elimination rounds, or other procedures which may be necessary to the function of the SCJFL.

D. The SCJFL Board shall be responsible for the establishment and execution of tournament and related policy with respect to: number of judges per round, qualification and selection of guest judges, payment of guest judges, social features (banquet, programs, publications, awards, etc.), eligibility of participants, selection of a Tournament Director, selection of a site, selection of ballots, publicity activities, appointment of subcommittees to assist the Tournament Director in the administration of the tournaments, maintaining an up-to-date list of institutions carrying on forensic programs, and the instructional staff of those programs.

## **VI. Procedures Governing Income and Disbursements**

A. Subscription Fees: Each member of the SCJFL shall pay a fee each year fee to the league. The following will be the amount of the fees charged each school: \$300 for schools that only compete at the elementary level; \$300 for schools that only compete at the middle school speech level; \$300 for schools that only compete at the middle school debate level; \$500 for schools that compete at the middle school speech and debate level (both); and \$600 for schools that compete at the elementary, middle school speech, and middle school debate level. Fees are payable on or before the first competition of the year for that team. These fees cover the costs of trophies, tabulation software, office supplies, and scholarship money.

1. League fee changes should be made during the annual coaches' meeting.
2. Financial hardship discounts may be made at the discretion of the SCJFL board members. Board members may ask for tax forms or any other financial verification needed to better inform their decision. Any financial discount vote shall require a two-thirds vote of the Board members.
3. Fees shall not be discounted for teams entering the SCJFL in the middle of a competition season (except in the case of financial hardship, above in section VI; A; 2).
4. Schools who sign up for a league competition but do not attend without prior notification to the Tournament Director may be subject to one or more of the following penalties:
  - a. Forfeit their league fees.

b. Requirement to pay double their registration fees (see VI; B below). These fees shall be split between the league and the Tournament Host.

c. Suspension of entry to further tournaments for up to one (1) year.

5. At the discretion of the CMSF sub-committee, league fees may be waived for teams only attending the CMSF state tournament.

6. Dissolution: In the event that the SCJFL is dissolved, any remaining fees, after all bills/debts have been paid, shall be equally divided among the member schools who participated in the most recent competition season.

7. Schools shall be permitted, once every five (5) years, to enter one (1) SCJFL tournament without payment of league fees. This allowance is intended to provide new or prospective member schools the opportunity to participate in a tournament, particularly if joining later in the season, without committing to the full annual league fee. Because the SCJFL does not allow for prorated league fees, this provision ensures that schools have a fair means to 'test the waters' of league participation without incurring the full cost. This opportunity may not be used more than once within a five (5) year period per school, and is not intended to allow schools to enter tournaments on an annual basis without payment of fees.

B. Registration Fees: Each Tournament Host may charge registration fees independent of the annual SCJFL fees.

C. Past-due Fees/Non-fulfillment of Obligations: Teams which have not paid their league fees, any registration fees, or have not fulfilled tab room duties may be dropped from subsequent tournaments until such fees are paid. As a general courtesy, teams may pay their fees at their first tournament of the year.

D. Grants and Subsidies: Procedure: SCJFL Board shall be the sole agency to negotiate with sponsoring individuals, groups, organizations, or institutions. All negotiations must be conducted by or at the direction of the Board. All agreements with sponsors are to be approved by the Board.

E. Disbursement of Funds:

1. The Treasurer, President, and Vice-President shall be authorized to receive and disburse funds in the name of the SCJFL Board.

2. The Treasurer shall be authorized to make cash advances to the President of the SCJFL, the Tournament Director of any SCJFL tournament, and the Tournament Host. Any cash advances are to be covered by receipts

and any balances are to be received by the Treasurer not later than 30 days following the tournament for which the advance was made.

3. The Treasurer, President, and Vice-President are authorized to make payments on receipts of invoice for goods and services. A written report of income and disbursements shall be prepared by the Treasurer and forwarded to the subscribing SCJFL schools at least one week before the annual summer meeting

F. The budget for the SCJFL tournaments: The budget for each SCJFL tournament is to be developed by the Tournament Director, the President of the SCJFL Board, and the Tournament Host. The SCJFL Board must be consulted when altering the standard items of the budget.

1. The standard budget includes the following:

a. The SCJFL will cover up to \$400 for trophy costs, though it is preferred to keep this to a minimum. If a tournament is hosting two competitions at the same time (e.g. a speech and debate competition on the same weekend), then this may be increased to \$650.

b. The SCJFL will cover the cost of any registration or tabulation software, so long as the registration/tabulation are done according to this charter and by-laws.

c. Tournament Directors and Ballot Table Directors shall receive a minimum of \$50 financial compensation. This payment may be waived if the SCJFL Board finds that the Tournament Director or Ballot Table Director were not sufficient in their job. Tournament Hosts may choose to pay more than the league minimum of \$50, if they so choose. Tournament Hosts may charge higher school fees at their discretion, not to exceed an additional \$25 per team per tournament, to pay tournament workers.

2. Only the President of the SCJFL Board, the Tournament Director, and the Tournament Host are authorized to incur indebtedness in the name of the SCJFL. Such indebtedness must be approved by the SCJFL Board members. The Treasurer is to be notified when such approval is given.

## **VII. Ratification & Amendments**

A. Upon passage by a majority vote of those SCJFL members present and voting at a regular SCJFL business meeting, this charter shall be adopted.

B. Amendments to the charter and by-laws will be made during the annual meeting and by a 2/3 majority of the present voting members.

C. Specific amendments to the by-laws should be issued to members electronically at least one week ahead of the annual SCJFL business meeting. If no members object by the start of the meeting, then these amendments may be 'bulk voted' at the beginning of the meeting in order to save time.

### By-laws

## VIII. Event Description and Guidelines

A. SCJFL Tournaments are required to use the following rules:

### Limited Preparation Events:

#### **Big Questions Debate:**

Big Questions debating format involves opposing contestants debating a topic concerning the intersection of science, philosophy, and religion. Competitors can compete as individuals or as a team, this means rounds can be 1 vs. 1; 2 vs. 2; or 1 vs. 2. Topics will address deeply held beliefs that often go unexamined. Competitors are assigned a side of the topic before each round and present cases, engage in rebuttal and refutation, and participate in a question period. Often, average members of the public are recruited to judge and observe this event.

Big Questions is designed to pit opposing world views against each other in an effort to lead students to explore levels of argumentation that are rarely reached in other debate formats. For that reason, the Negative is expected to present arguments that the resolution is actively false. Negative speaker(s) should view themselves as the Affirmative on the inverse resolution. Any prima facie burdens on the Affirmative debater(s) apply equally to the Negative debater(s). Negatives must do more than refute the Affirmative case.

#### Order of Speeches in Big Questions Debate:

Affirmative Constructive	5 minutes
Negative Constructive	5 minutes
Cross-Fire/Question Segment	3 minutes
Affirmative Rebuttal	4 minutes
Negative Rebuttal	4 minutes
Cross-Fire/Question Segment	3 minutes

Affirmative Consolidation	3 minutes
Negative Consolidation	3 minutes
Affirmative Rationale	3 minutes
Negative Rationale	3 minutes
Prep Time	3 minutes per side

### **Congress:**

Speakers compete in a mock legislative assembly competition. Competitors draft legislation (proposed laws) and resolutions (position statements), which they and their peers later debate and vote to pass into law by voting for or against the legislation.

Congress is a limited preparation event, thus, speeches should be delivered extemporaneously, which means spoken spontaneously based on an outline of notes, rather than recited word-for-word from a manuscript.

Legislation submitted for consideration to all SCJFL Congress events must follow the guidelines outlined in: <https://www.speechanddebate.org/wp-content/uploads/2017-Congressional-Debate-Guide.pdf>.

At CMSF tournaments, Congress students whose speeches are interrupted should be allowed to deliver their speech as originally intended without the assumption that they had repeated their speech.

A. Preliminary rounds are split into multiple sessions; each session:

1. Begins with electing a Presiding Officer.
2. Resets precedence and recency.

B. A Parliamentarian will be assigned to a chamber for all preliminary sessions. Parliamentarians call their chambers to order and will:

1. Announce they shall remain in the background but will not hesitate to step forward firmly when their presence is required. They will impress upon members of their chambers that their purpose is to debate legislation; no misuse of the parliamentary procedure will be tolerated. They will announce that in questions of procedure, priority is as follows:

- a. SCJFL rules and procedures.

- b. Rulings by the Tournament Director's designee, who will consult Robert's Rules of Order and other SCJFL officials if necessary.
  - c. The Parliamentarian may not add guidelines or suggestions that are not approved by SCJFL rules and/or the Tournament Director's designee. Parliamentarians should familiarize themselves with SCJFL rules and procedures and become acquainted with names of students in the chamber.
  - d. The Parliamentarian must be firm but fair at all times.
2. When each session begins, conduct a secret single-ballot election for Presiding Officer. Unless one candidate receives a majority of votes cast, the person with the fewest votes is dropped. If combined votes of the two lowest candidates do not equal votes of the next lowest candidate, both are eliminated. Once a candidate receives a majority, they will serve for the session immediately following the election. Note: a student may run for Presiding Officer each session, but once they are elected and serve, they may not be considered for future preliminary sessions unless no other student wishes to serve.
  3. Ensure that each session, each competitor is given the opportunity to speak before the round concludes. Each round should be extended long enough to provide an opportunity for every competitor in the chamber a chance to speak, if they desire to do so.
  4. Ensure proper speech times: up to three minutes for speaking.
  5. Ensure the precedence/recency chart is reset for each new session. Contestants should keep a record of how many speeches they have given and may confirm with the Parliamentarian. The preset recency chart should be used in order for speeches and in reverse order for questioning.
  6. Keep a record of all amendments, proposed and passed.
  7. Keep a list of speakers and the total number of speeches each gives, making notes of the strengths and weaknesses of each, but without consulting other judges. At the end of all preliminary rounds, the Parliamentarians will preferentially rank all of the students, with the top eight ranks tabulated with the other judges' as part of the cumulative rank total.
  8. There should be little consultation between the Parliamentarian and the judges concerning the chamber when it is in session. However the Parliamentarian should consult with judges to confirm the number of speeches actually given by each student.

- C. Once elected, the Presiding Officer will conduct business of the chamber:
1. At the beginning of session 1, the chamber will establish an agenda, either by caucusing committees who will propose agendas, or by nominating an agenda from the floor. Tournament staff may debrief the first session Presiding Officers while chambers determine agendas.
  2. Precedence/recency should reset each round.
  3. Standard questioning should be used for all preliminary rounds; direct questioning should be used for elimination rounds. The Presiding Officer will recognize questioners for a cross-examination period of no more than 30 seconds according to the preset questioning precedence.
  4. Ensure proper speech times: up to three minutes for speaking.
  5. Competitors should address new legislation each round.
  6. When more than one speaker seeks the floor, the Presiding Officer must follow the precedence/recency method:
    - a. First recognize competitors who have not spoken during the session.
    - b. Next recognize competitors who have spoken fewer times.
    - c. Then recognize competitors who spoke earlier (least recently).
  7. Before precedence is established, the Presiding Officer should explain their recognition process and it must be fair, consistent, and justifiable.
  8. Judges should consider a speaker's answers to cross-examination questions when evaluating speeches.
  9. Following the first two speeches on legislation, the Presiding Officer will alternately recognize affirmative and negative speakers, who will address the chamber for up to three minutes, followed by one minute of questioning by other delegates. If no one wishes to oppose the preceding speaker, the Presiding Officer may recognize a speaker upholding the same side.
  10. When no one seeks the floor for debate, the Presiding Officer may ask the chamber if they are "ready for the question," at which point, if there is no objection, voting may commence on the legislation itself.

11. The Presiding Officer should start timing questioning periods once they have recognized the first questioner, and keep the clock running continuously until the time has lapsed.

12. Speakers are encouraged to ask brief questions, and may only ask one question at a time (two-part/multiple-part questions are not allowed, since they monopolize time and disallow others to ask their questions). Presiding Officers should discourage competitors from making statements as part of questioning, since that is an abusive use of the limited time available.

13. The Presiding Officer will pause briefly between speeches to recognize any motions from the floor; however, they should not call for motions (at the beginning of a session, the Presiding Officer should remind members to seek their attention between speeches).

D. A speaker may yield time on the floor during debate (for questions or clarifications) but that speaker will remain in control of his/her three minutes.

E. Speeches introducing legislation are allotted up to three minutes, followed by two minutes of questioning by other delegates. A competitor from the school who wrote the legislation gets the privilege of recognition (called authorship), regardless of precedence; otherwise the Presiding Officer may recognize a 'sponsor' from the chamber, provided this recognition follows the precedence guidelines above. Should no competitor seek recognition for the authorship/sponsorship, the chamber will move to lay the legislation on the table until such time that a competitor is prepared to introduce it. The first negative speech must also be followed by two minutes of questions.

F. In the event a competitor speaks on the wrong side called for by the Presiding Officer and the error is not caught, the speaker shall be scored and the speech shall count in precedence. In the event a competitor speaks on an item of legislation not currently being debated, said speech shall count in precedence.

G. Amendments: Amendments must be presented to the Presiding Officer in writing with specific references to lines and clauses that change. This must be done in advance of moving to amend. The Parliamentarian will recommend whether the amendment upholds the original intent of the legislation, otherwise, it is considered dilatory. Dilatory amendments may be rejected by the Parliamentarian. The title of the legislation may be changed. A legislator may move to amend between floor speeches. Once that motion is made, the Presiding Officer will read the proposed amendment aloud and call for a second by one-third of those members present, unless he/she rules it dilatory. Should competitors wish to speak on the proposed amendment, the Presiding Officer will recognize them as per the standing precedence and recency, and the speech will be counted toward their totals, accordingly. Simply proposing an amendment

does not guarantee an “author/sponsor” speech, and any speeches on amendments are followed by the normal one minute of questioning. Amendments are considered neutral and do not constitute an affirmative or negative speech on the original legislation. If there are no speakers or the previous question is moved, the chamber may vote on a proposed amendment without debating it.

H. All major voting (such as the main motion/legislation) which a Congressman’s constituents should have a record of, shall be done with a counted vote.

I. Competitors should ask permission to leave and enter the chamber when it is in session (personal privilege). However, they should not interrupt a speaker.

J. Visual aids are permitted in Congressional Debate.

K. The use of Internet and/or computers is permitted, however, the tournament shall not be held responsible for providing Internet access.

L. Each tournament shall have one (1) piece of legislation per prelim round, and a final round with two (2) pieces of legislation (the first three (3) pieces of legislation will be designated as prelim-legislation and the final two pieces of legislation will be designated as final-legislation). CMSF or Southern California Championship tournaments may allow for more bills, but not fewer. Neither middle school nor elementary should prescribe legislation to a specific round, other than for elimination. As such, the competitors’ chamber assignment should not change in the preliminary rounds. All legislation that is submitted for consideration must be in the format as demonstrated on the SCJFL website. Legislation should be submitted 3 weeks prior to the tournament and released to the league 2 weeks prior to the tournament.

M. At the beginning of each quarterfinal, semifinal, and final session, the parliamentarian shall oversee a single-ballot PO election following the same procedures as in the preliminary session. In the event there is no student in a chamber wishing and/or eligible to preside, and the Parliamentarian will preside. There is no audition period.

N. Since the rules above ensure fairness for competition, they may not be suspended; the Presiding Officer should rule such motions out of order; except to extend questioning and allow for consecutive sides (Affirmative/Negative) to speak.

**Dialectic:**

Similar to SPAR, this event focuses on finding common ground. The goal is to come to a solution or compromise. Debaters should be ranked on their ability to get to a solution or compromise as well as their argumentation and presentation skills.

Debaters will be assigned to the pro or con side by the judge prior to the start of the round. Each pair will consider 3 issues/resolutions. The pro will strike one resolution and then the con will strike one of the two remaining resolutions, leaving the pair with one final resolution to debate. Both sides will have two minutes to prepare their arguments before speaking must commence. The pro speaker will give a two-minute speech in favor of the resolution; immediately after that speech, the con speaker will refute the position in a two-minute constructive. Strict adherence to the exact wording of the resolution is not required, but the debaters should at least regard the topic as a common frame-of-reference. Following the opening statements, there will be a four-minute open crossfire. The pair should question each other, and should be prepared to take at least a few questions from the audience of other competitors. Only other Spar competitors listed to speak in that round are permitted to ask crossfire questions (judges and other spectators are not permitted to ask questions). Two rebuttal speeches of the pro and con respectively complete the round. No preparation time during the debate is allowed. Spar competitors should be judged on the basis of overall wit, persuasion and quality argument construction. Competitors may not access the Internet during the prep time or during the round.

#### Order of Speeches in Dialectic:

Prep time	2 minutes
Pro Constructive	2 minutes
Con Constructive	2 minutes
Crossfire	4 minutes
Pro Rebuttal	2 minutes
Con Rebuttal	2 minutes

#### **Extemporaneous Speaking:**

Contestants will be given three topics in the general area of current events, choose one, and have 30 minutes to prepare a speech that is the original work of the competitor. Contestants may not leave the preparation area until dismissed by the Extemp proctor. Consultation with any person other than the Extemp proctor between the time of drawing and time of speaking is prohibited. Maximum time limit for the speech is 7 minutes. Once a speaker has spoken, they may listen to other speakers in that round. Use of Internet is optional, but it is not the responsibility of the tournament to provide Internet access. Different topic areas will be used for each round. News stories should be selected from the six (6) weeks prior to the tournament. The topic areas available to choose from are the following: domestic news, international news, sports news, pop

culture, economy, technology, and science. Tournament invitations should indicate which topic areas will be used for each round. Because Extemporaneous Speaking is an Individual event, contestants are expected to prepare speeches on their own without consultation with others. Attendance in the Extemporaneous Speaking Preparation Room is restricted to monitors appointed by the Tournament Director and contestants in the event.

### **Impromptu Speaking:**

An impromptu speech, substantive in nature, with topic selections varied by round and by section. Topics will be derived from concrete nouns, abstract nouns, proverbs, famous people, quotations, or additional topic areas at the discretion of the Tournament Host. Different topic areas must be used for each round. Tournament invitations should indicate which topic areas will be used for each round. Each speaker will draw three topics and choose one. Unless double-entered, competitors should remain inside the room to hear other competitors' speeches. Speakers may not consult with anyone else during their prep time. Speakers will have a total of 7 minutes for both preparation and speaking. Timing commences with the acceptance of the topics sheet. Judges/ designated timers should give audible time signals during competitors' prep time and visual signals during the speech. A blank single notecard not to exceed 4x6 may be used during the presentation. No props may be used. Speakers are not permitted to read the discarded topics aloud. Impromptu speakers may not use the same example in the same way in more than two rounds per tournament.

### **Lincoln-Douglas Debate:**

Resolution: The resolution will be one requiring a value judgment. Tournaments must use the current NSDA Lincoln-Douglas topic for the month in which the competition occurs. Refer to Rostrum or [www.speechanddebate.org/topics](http://www.speechanddebate.org/topics) for the current topic. No substitution of competitors is permitted once the tournament has begun. Excessive speaking speed is discouraged by the league.

Timing: A timekeeper is an option but isn't required. If no timekeeper is used, debaters may time themselves and their opponents. The use of Internet and/or computers is permitted, however, the tournament shall not be held responsible for providing Internet access.

#### Order of Speeches in LD:

Affirmative Constructive	6 minutes
Cross-Examination	3 minutes
Negative Constructive	7 minutes

Cross-Examination	3 minutes
Affirmative Rebuttal	4 minutes
Negative Rebuttal	6 minutes
Affirmative Rebuttal	3 minutes
Prep Time	4 minutes per debater

### **Policy Debate:**

The resolution will be one requiring a policy judgment. Tournaments must use the current NSDA Policy topic for the year in which the competition occurs. Refer to Rostrum or [www.speechanddebate.org/topics](http://www.speechanddebate.org/topics) for the current topic.

Entries: No substitution of competitors is permitted once the tournament has begun.

Prompting Philosophy: Oral prompting, except time signals, either by the speaker's colleague or by any other person while the debater has the floor, is discouraged though not prohibited and may be penalized by some judges. Debaters may, however, refer to their notes and materials and may consult with their teammate while they do not have the floor.

Timing: A timekeeper is an option but isn't required. If no timekeeper is used, debaters may time themselves and their opponents. The use of Internet and/or computers is permitted, however, the tournament shall not be held responsible for providing access.

### Order of Speeches in Policy Debate:

Affirmative Constructive Speech	8 minutes
Negative Cross-Examines Affirmative	3 minutes
Negative Constructive Speech	8 minutes
Affirmative Cross-Examines Negative	3 minutes
Affirmative Constructive Speech	8 minutes
Negative Cross-Examines Affirmative	3 minutes

Negative Constructive Speech	8 minutes
Affirmative Cross-Examines Negative	3 minutes
Negative Rebuttal	5 minutes
Affirmative Rebuttal	5 minutes
Negative Rebuttal	5 minutes
Affirmative Rebuttal	5 minutes
Prep time	8 minutes per team

### **Public Forum Debate:**

Public Forum Debate focuses on advocacy of a position derived from the issues presented in the resolution, not a prescribed set of burdens. Tournaments must use the current NSDA Public Forum topic for the month in which the competition occurs. If a tournament needs to use a different topic than the one outlined by NSDA, the Tournament Director must notify the league at least one month before the tournament. Refer to Rostrum or [www.speechanddebate.org/topics](http://www.speechanddebate.org/topics) for the current topic. Excessive speaking speed is discouraged by the league. The SCJFL Board has the power to select alternative age-appropriate resolutions for elementary tournaments at the discretion of the elementary chair. Changes of elementary resolutions should be distributed at least one month prior to the tournament.

Entries: No substitution of competitors is permitted once the tournament has begun.

Procedure: Prior to EVERY round and in the presence of the judge(s), a coin is tossed by one team and called by the other team. The team that wins the flip may choose one of two options: EITHER the SIDE of the topic they wish to defend (pro or con) OR the SPEAKING POSITION they wish to have (begin the debate or end the debate). The remaining option (SIDE OR SPEAKING POSITION) is the choice of the team that loses the flip. Once speaking positions and sides has been determined, the debate begins (the con team may lead, depending on the coin flip results). Following the first two constructive speeches, the two debaters who have just given speeches will stand and participate in a three-minute "crossfire". In "crossfire" both debaters "hold the floor." However, the speaker who spoke first must ask the first question. After that question, either debater may question and/or answer at will. At the conclusion of the summary speeches, all four debaters will remain seated and participate in a three-minute Grand Crossfire in which all four debaters are allowed to cross-examine one another. The speaker who gave the first summary speech must ask the first question.

**Prompting Philosophy:** Oral prompting, except time signals, either by the speaker's colleague or by any other person while the debater has the floor, is discouraged though not prohibited and may be penalized by some judges. Debaters may, however, refer to their notes and materials and may consult with their teammate while they do not have the floor and during the Grand Crossfire.

**Timing:** A timekeeper is an option but isn't required. If no timekeeper is used, debaters may time themselves and their opponents. The use of Internet and/or computers is permitted, however, the tournament shall not be held responsible for providing access.

**Plans/Counterplans:** Neither the pro or con side is permitted to offer a plan or counterplan (formalized, comprehensive proposal for implementation); rather, they should offer reasoning to support a position of advocacy. Debaters may offer generalized, practical solutions. New arguments are not permitted after the second Crossfire speech.

**Order of Speeches in Public Forum Debate:**

First Speaker – Team A	4 minutes
First Speaker – Team B	4 minutes
Crossfire	3 minutes
Second Speaker – Team A	4 minutes
Second Speaker – Team B	4 minutes
Crossfire	3 minutes
Summary – First Speaker – Team A	3 minutes
Summary – First Speaker – Team B	3 minutes
Grand Crossfire	3 minutes
Final Focus – Second Speaker – Team A	2 minutes
Final Focus – Second Speaker – Team B	2 minutes

Prep Time	3 minutes per team
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### **Reason for Decision (RFD):**

Competitors role play as a judge in a debate round. The competitor will read two debate cases on opposing sides of a resolution. The competitor will then decide which case would have won the imaginary debate round. The competitor will then give a speech not exceeding three (3) minutes explaining which case they believe won and why.

### **SPAR:**

Debaters will be assigned to the pro or con side by the judge prior to the assignment of the topic and prior start of the round. Each pair will consider 3 issues/resolutions. The pro will strike one resolution and then the con will strike one of the two remaining resolutions, leaving the pair with one final resolution to debate. Both sides will have two minutes to prepare their arguments before speaking must commence. The pro speaker will give a two-minute speech in favor of the resolution; immediately after that speech, the con speaker will refute the position in a two-minute constructive. Strict adherence to the exact wording of the resolution is not required, but the debaters should at least regard the topic as a common frame-of-reference. Following the opening statements, there will be a four-minute open crossfire. The pair should question each other, and should be prepared to take at least a few questions from the audience of other competitors. The competitors should select these questions (i.e. not the judge). Only other Spar competitors listed to speak in that round are permitted to ask crossfire questions (judges and other spectators are not permitted to ask questions). Two rebuttal speeches of the pro and con respectively complete the round. No preparation time during the debate is allowed. Spar competitors should be judged on the basis of overall presentation, wit, persuasion and quality argument construction. Competitors may not access the Internet during the prep time or during the round. Competitors may use blank paper or notecards, but may not consult pre-written notes or any other reference material.

### **Order of Speeches in Spar:**

Prep time	2 minute
Pro Constructive	2 minutes
Con Constructive	2 minutes
Crossfire	4 minutes

Pro Rebuttal	2 minutes
Con Rebuttal	2 minutes

### **World Schools:**

World Schools Debate consists of three-on-three debate focused around a specified motion which varies each round. The motions may be prepared or impromptu. Each debate team may have up to 5 members but only three may participate during the debate. Before the debate round begins, each team must inform the judge(s) which three members will speak and in what order. Non-speaking team members may not participate in the debate in any way nor communicate with the rest of the team once the debate has begun.

The Reply speech may only be given by the first or second speaker, never the third speaker.

The Proposition team proposes a case to uphold the motion. The Opposition team opposes the Proposition team's case. Debaters should primarily rely on logic and general knowledge to support their case. Debaters shall not cite published sources during the round. Judges should enforce this rule by giving more weight to a claim supported by strong general reasoning and logic than a claim supported purely by a citation.

SCJFL tournaments may pre-announce one or more topics as explained in the tournament invitation. Prepared topics will be released two weeks before the tournament. Certain prepared or impromptu motions may come with pre-written "Info Slides," which give some brief context or clarification to particularly confusing motions. These Info Slides may be referred to in round and should be considered as objective. If competitors don't understand either the wording or nature of an impromptu motion, they may ask for clarifications within the first 15 minutes, provided their opponents are also given that same answer.

During preparation time, all team members may communicate with each other. Opposing teams may communicate with each other. Debaters may communicate with their judge(s), but only when the opposing team is present. Debaters are also allowed to communicate with tournament staff to clarify tournament logistics. Other than that, debaters are not allowed to communicate with anyone (such as coaches or teammates) by any means during preparation time. Debaters may consult a dictionary, almanac, or single volume encyclopedia. Debaters may use computers and the Internet to store and to retrieve this material, but may not use any other materials during the prep time for Impromptu motions.

During the debate, a debater may access notes that were handwritten on paper by the debater or their partner after the motion was announced. The debater may also access

notes that were handwritten on paper and given to them by the opposing team after the motion was announced. Debaters may access and refer to a printed copy of these rules. Other than that, the debater may not access any pre-written material during the debate. Delivery should be extemporaneous and not manuscript.

During the first six speeches, an opponent may rise to ask or state a Point of Information (POI) at the discretion of the current speaker outside of protected time (first and last minute of the speech). POIs may take the form of a question or statement, both of which require a response from the speaker. POIs should be roughly 15 seconds in length. Time does not pause during POIs since they are at the discretion of the speaker. If a POI is rejected by the speaker, another one may not be given by any member of the team for another 15 seconds. Speeches should begin after one another; competitors should be aware of the next speech ready to speak such that there is very little time between speeches. No new arguments are permitted after the second speaker from each side has spoken.

'Iron Man' or 'Mavericks' (one- or two-person teams) are not allowed to compete.

#### World Schools Speech Times:

Prep time	60 minutes
Proposition - 1st Speaker	8 minutes
Opposition - 1st Speaker	8 minutes
Proposition - 2nd Speaker	8 minutes
Opposition - 2nd Speaker	8 minutes
Proposition - 3rd Speaker	8 minutes
Opposition - 3rd Speaker	8 minutes
Opposition - Reply (1st or 2nd speaker)	4 minutes
Proposition - Reply (1st or 2nd speaker)	4 minutes

### Platform Events:

#### **Assigned Platform:**

Competitors will pick from a list of topics which are released two weeks before the tournament. No visual or audio-aids are allowed. Competitors may choose any style (such as informative, persuasive, STE, Eulogy, etc.) but the speech should be the original work of the competitor. One notecard is permitted but competitors are encouraged to speak from memory or extemporaneously. Maximum time is 3 minutes.

#### **Informative Speaking:**

An original, factual speech by the competitor to fulfill the general aim to inform the audience. Audio-visual aids are optional. Multiple sources should be used and cited in the development of the speech. As this is a memorized event, notes are discouraged. Maximum time limit for middle school competitions is 10 minutes. Maximum time is 5 minutes for elementary school.

#### **Persuasive Speaking:**

An original speech by the competitor. The intent of the speech is to persuade about a problem in society. Any other purpose such as to inform or entertain shall be secondary. Audio-visual aids are optional. Multiple sources should be used and cited in the development of the speech. As this is a memorized event, notes are discouraged. Maximum time limit for middle school competitions is 10 minutes. Maximum time is 5 minutes for elementary school.

#### **Speech to Entertain:**

An original, humorous speech by the competitor, designed to exhibit sound speech composition, thematic, coherence, direct communicative public speaking skills, and good taste. The speech should not resemble a night club act, an impersonation, or comic dialogue. Audio-visual aids are optional. Multiple sources should be used and cited in the development of the speech. As this is a memorized event, notes are discouraged. Maximum time limit for middle school competitions is 10 minutes.

### Interpretation Events:

#### **Coldreading:**

A performance of age-appropriate script-like material is provided by the tournament. Competitors shall be given one minute to review the literature, then create an interpretation-based performance of that literature. This is not an acting event; thus, no costumes, props, lighting, etc., are to be used. While the preparation time is limited to

one minute, the duration of the performance should be dictated by the length of the literature provided (i.e. there is no time limit to the performance, only the prep time. Tournaments should keep this in mind when selecting literature). The tournament should provide one (1) piece of literature to all competitors in the round. Different topic areas will be used for each round. The topic areas available to choose from are the following: plays, screenplays, teleplays, radioplays, or webplays.

**Declamation:**

A memorized performance of a speech, not written by the contestant. The speech must have been delivered in public. The speaker should present an introduction that states the title, author, and date of the speech they are reciting. This is not an acting event; thus, no costumes, props, lighting, etc., are to be used. Maximum time limit for middle school competitions is 10 minutes including introduction. Maximum time is 5 minutes for elementary school.

**Dramatic Interpretation:**

A memorized performance of literature of literary merit, with the main intent to create a serious tone. This is not an acting event; thus, no costumes, props, lighting, etc., are to be used. Use of focal points and/or direct contact with the audience should be determined by the literature. Maximum time limit for middle school competitions is 10 minutes including introduction.

**Duo Interpretation:**

A memorized performance from one or more texts of literary merit, humorous or serious, involving the portrayal of two or more characters presented by two individuals. The material may be drawn from any genre of literature. This is not an acting event; thus, no costumes, props, lighting, etc., are to be used. Competitors are not permitted to touch each other nor make direct eye contact while performing except during the introduction. Maximum time limit for middle school competitions is 10 minutes including introduction. Maximum time limit for elementary competitions is 6 minutes including introduction.

**Humorous Interpretation:**

A memorized performance of literature of literary merit, with the main intent to create humorous tone. This is not an acting event; thus, no costumes, props, lighting, etc., are to be used. Use of focal points and/or direct contact with the audience should be determined by the literature. Maximum time limit for middle school competitions is 10 minutes including introduction.

**Original Duo:**

An original memorized performance of literature involving the portrayal of two or more characters presented by two individuals. The tone may be humorous or serious. More

than one written selection may be presented within the allotted time. This is not an acting event; thus, no costumes, props, lighting, etc., are to be used. Maximum time limit for middle school competitions is 10 minutes including introduction.

**Original Interpretation/Original Prose & Poetry:**

An original memorized performance of drama, prose, or poetry by an individual. The tone may dramatic, humorous, or a combination. More than one written selection may be presented within the allotted time. This is not an acting event; thus, no costumes, props, lighting, etc., are to be used. Maximum time limit is 5 minutes including introduction for elementary competitions. Maximum time limit for middle school competitions is 7 minutes including introduction for middle school competitions.

**Poetry Interpretation:**

A performance of poetry of literary merit, which may be drawn from more than one source. A primary focus of this event should be on the development of language. This is not an acting event; thus, no costumes, props, lighting, etc., are to be used. Play cuttings and prose works are prohibited. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time limit for middle school competitions is 7 minutes including introduction. Maximum time limit for elementary competitions is 5 minutes including introduction.

**Program Oral Interpretation:**

A performance of a program of literature of literary merit. A 'program' must consist of thematically-linked selections of literature chosen from two or three recognized genres of competitive interpretation (prose/poetry/drama). A primary focus of this event should be on the development of the theme through the use of narrative/story, language, and/or characterization. A substantial portion of the total time must be devoted to each of the genres used in the program. The material must appear in separate pieces of literature (e.g., a poem included in a short story that appears only in that short story does not constitute a poetry genre.) This is not an acting event; thus, no costumes, props, lighting, etc., are to be used. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time limit for middle school competitions is 10 minutes including introduction.

**Prose Interpretation:**

A performance of a single prose material (e.g. short stories, novellas, novels, articles, essays, etc.) of literary merit. A primary focus of this event is on the development of the narrative/story. Play cuttings, speeches, and poetry are prohibited. This is not an acting event; thus, no costumes, props, lighting, etc., are to be used. Use of manuscript is required. Competitors should largely remain in one place during the performance. Maximum time limit for middle school competitions is 7 minutes including introduction. Maximum time limit for elementary competitions is 5 minutes including introduction.

**Sightreading:**

A performance of age-appropriate script-like material is provided by the tournament. Competitors shall be given one minute to review the literature, then create an interpretation-based performance of that literature. This is not an acting event; thus, no costumes, props, lighting, etc., are to be used. While the preparation time is limited to one minute, the duration of the performance should be dictated by the length of the literature provided (i.e. there is no time limit to the performance, only the prep time. Tournaments should keep this in mind when selecting literature). The tournament should provide one (1) piece of literature to all competitors in the round. Different topic areas will be used for each round. The topic areas available to choose from are the following: short stories, essays, articles, etc.

**Storytelling:**

A memorized performance of a single published, printed story, anecdote, tale, myth, or legend. The story may be delivered standing or seated, thus one chair is permitted, however, this is not an acting event; thus, no costumes, props, lighting, etc., are to be used. Maximum time limit for both middle school and elementary school competitions is 5 minutes including introduction.

2. The following Middle School speech events shall be offered.

a. All SCJFL-sanctioned tournaments:

Informative  
 Impromptu  
 Storytelling  
 SPAR  
 Duo Interpretation  
 Prose  
 Poetry  
 Persuasive  
 Humorous Interpretation (HI)  
 Declamation  
 Assigned Platform  
 Dramatic Interpretation (DI)  
 Extemporaneous Speaking (EXTEMP)

b. The following events shall be offered only at the designated tournament dates each year:

October: Sightreading, Original Interpretation (OI)  
 November: Program Oral Interpretation (POI), Speech to Entertain (STE)  
 December: Cold Reading, Congressional Debate (Congress)  
 February: Dialectic, Original Duo (Orig Duo)

March: Sightreading, Program Oral Interpretation (POI)  
April: Dialectic, Cold Reading

B. Special Rules:

1. No publication restrictions are set for interpretation events, however, competitors must be prepared to demonstrate that the literature being performed was not written by the competitor (except in those events requiring the competitor to do so). Competitors may edit or remove content from the original source, but may not significantly alter the thematic intent of the author.
2. All materials used in competition shall not have been used by the competitor in any competition prior to July 1 of the current academic year.
3. All non-debate events will be granted a 30-second 'grace period' in the preliminary rounds, except Impromptu, Extemporaneous, and SPAR, which should have a 15-second grace period. Should a competitor go beyond the grace period, the competitor may not be ranked 1st. During elimination rounds, audience interaction, such as laughter, may be cause to extend this grace period (at the discretion of the judges). There is no other prescribed penalty for going over the grace period.
4. Competitors may be entered in two Duos/Duets, however, such a situation will count as two events. Contestants may not be double-entered in Duo/Duet with the same partner (i.e. if competitor A and B are competing in Duo, competitor A would have to be partnered with competitor C for the other Duo).
5. A contestant may not use the same cutting/content or any portion of that cutting/content in more than one prepared event at any given tournament.
6. All rounds of Impromptu and Extemporaneous Speaking will be timed by the judge or official designated by the tournament or judge, and time signals will be given to contestants unless otherwise specifically requested.
7. Use of Evidence:
  - a. Evidence Defined: All competitors are responsible for the validity of all evidence they introduce in the round. Evidence includes, but is not limited to: facts, statistics, or examples attributable to a specific, identifiable, authoritative source used to support a claim. Unattributed ideas are the opinion of the competitor and are not evidence.

b. Oral Source Citation: In all events, contestants are expected to, at a minimum, orally deliver the following when introducing evidence in a round:

- i. Primary author(s)' last name.
- ii. Year of publication.
- iii. Any other information such as source, author's qualifications, etc., may be given, but is not required.
- iv. Should two or more quotations be used from the same source, the author and year must be given orally only for the first piece of evidence from that source. Subsequently, only the author's name is required. Oral citations do not substitute for the written source citation. The full written citation must be provided if requested by a debate opponent or judge.

c. Written Source Citation/Cards: To the extent provided by the original source, a written source citations (otherwise known as 'cards') must include:

- i. Full name of primary author and/or editor
- ii. Publication date
- iii. Source
- iv. Title of article
- v. Date accessed for digital evidence
- vi. Full URL, if applicable
- vii. Author qualifications

d. Paraphrasing: If paraphrasing is used in a round, the competitor will be held to the same standard of citation and accuracy as if the entire text of the evidence were read.

e. Ellipses Prohibited: In all debate events, the use of internal ellipsis (...) is prohibited unless it is a replication of the original document. Debaters may omit the reading of certain words; however, the text that is verbally omitted must be present in the text of what was read for opposing debaters and/or judges to examine. The portions of the

evidence read including where the debater begins and ends must be clearly marked.

f. Availability of Evidence: In all events, any material (evidence, cases, written citations, etc.) that is presented during the round must be made available to the opponent (in debate) and/or judge after the round, if requested. When requested, the original source or copy of the relevant pages of evidence read in the round must be available to the debate opponent in a timely fashion during the round and/or judge at the conclusion of the round.

g. Original Sources Defined: Original source for evidence may include, but is not limited solely to, one of the following:

i. Accessing the live or displaying a copy of a web page (teams/ individuals may access the Internet to provide this information if requested).

ii. A copy of the page(s) the evidence is on, the page preceding, and the page following, or the actual printed (book, periodical, pamphlet, etc.) source.

iii. Copies or electronic versions of published handbooks (i.e., Baylor Briefs; Planet Debate, etc.).

iv. Electronic or printed versions or the webpage for a debate institute or the NDCA sponsored Open Evidence Project or similar sites.

h. Regardless of the form of material used to satisfy the original source requirement, competitors are responsible for the content and accuracy of all evidence they present and/or read.

i. In all debate events, distinguishing which parts of each piece of evidence are and are not read: In all debate events which require written evidence, debaters must mark their evidence in two ways:

i. Oral delivery of each piece of evidence must be identified by a clear oral pause or by saying phrases such as “quote/ unquote” or “mark the card.” The use of a phrase is definitive and may be preferable to debaters. Clear, oral pauses are left solely to the discretion of the judge.

ii. The written text/card must be marked to clearly indicate the portions read in the debate. In the written text the standard practices of underlining what is read, or highlighting what is

read, and/or minimizing what is unread, is definitive and may be preferable to debaters. The clarity of other means of marking evidence is left to the discretion of the judge. Since it would be impractical for opponents to read an entire piece of evidence during the debate, competitors must provide cards which clearly indicate which portions were read/cited in the debate.

j. Private communication prohibited Private, personal correspondence or communication between an author and the debater is inadmissible as evidence. However, platform speakers may use such sources.

8. Performative Plagiarism: Since Interpretation events are not original writings by the competitors, plagiarism becomes difficult to determine. If a speaker is accused of copying the performance of other performers (usually when a competitor copies the gestures and actions of a video performance from a previous competitor), this is considered 'performative plagiarism'. If such a violation is believed to have occurred, the following procedures shall be used:

- a. The team/individual alleging a violation must make a definitive indication that they are formally alleging a violation of performative plagiarism.
- b. The Ombudsman shall interview both the accused performer, his/her coach, and any other relevant persons about the violation. The accused performer may be permitted to continue competing while such an investigation is being conducted.
- c. The Ombudsman shall watch any additional materials, if applicable (e.g. YouTube videos).
- d. If the Ombudsman rules that performative plagiarism has not occurred, the accused speaker(s) may continue to compete without penalty. However, if the Ombudsman rules that performative plagiarism has occurred, the accused speaker(s) is disqualified.

9. Competitors may not use content from platform speeches when performing limited prep speeches. Examples and language should try to be specific to the topic and should not use recycled speeches or other speeches' content. The intention is to keep the content fresh and applicable to the topic given to the competitor. For purposes of this restriction, content shall include substantive wording excerpts or quotations. It shall not pertain to examples or evidence quoted in the speech.

## IX. Tournament Procedures

### A. Tournaments Offered:

1. The SCJFL should offer a number of forensic tournaments each season. These should include:

a. Four Individual Event tournaments for middle school students (6th-8th grade). These tournaments shall occur on the first full weekend (a weekend is defined as beginning on Friday) of the following months: October, November, December, February, March, April. SCJFL will offer online tournaments in November, February, and April. In-person tournaments shall occur in October, December, and March.

b. Four Debate tournaments for middle school students (6th-8th grade). These tournaments shall occur on the first full weekend (a weekend is defined as beginning on Friday) of the following months: October, November, December, February, March, April. SCJFL will offer online tournaments in November, February, and April. In-person tournaments shall occur in October, December, and March.

c. Four Individual Event/Debate tournaments for elementary school students (5th grade or younger). These tournaments shall occur on the second full weekend (a weekend is defined as beginning on Friday) of the following months: October, December, February, April.

d. One Southern California Championship (also called So-Cal Champs) tournament for middle school students (6th-8th grade) to be held the first full weekend (Friday-Sunday) in May.

i. The Southern California Champs is a qualification tournament, thus competitors are only permitted to enter events in which they qualify/earn a 'bid' at a previous SCJFL tournament in that season.

ii. Competitors may earn a bid/qualify for an event at Southern California Champs if they advance to a final round for that event at any previous SCJFL tournament that season.

iii. Southern California Champs shall offer a minimum number of slots for each event. Should not enough competitors take advantage of their bids, then the remaining slots shall be offered to competitors based on the prelim seeding of previous SCJFL tournament in that season.

iv. The minimum number of slots that Southern California Champs must offer are:

Impromptu, SPAR, Storytelling, Informative, Duo, Public Forum, LD, Policy, Big Questions = 12.

Declamation, Extemp, Prose, Poetry, OO/Persuasive, Speech to Entertain, Humorous Interp, Dramatic Interp = 6.

Congress = 15.

v. A wildcard qualification is permitted to compete at So-Cal Champs. Wildcard entries must submit a brief justification for the competitor attempting to qualify. An ad-hoc committee shall be formed to review and approve such applications.

e. One State Championship tournament for middle school students and fifth grade elementary students (5th-8th grade) hosted by the CMSF to be held the third full weekend (Friday-Sunday) in May.

2. All SCJFL tournaments must be listed on ForensicsTournament.net. This is vital to keep members up to date with the tournament dates and locations. While registration is allowed to occur on other sites such as Tabroom.com or SpeechWire.com, this practice is discouraged. In any event, an announcement of the tournament must always be made on ForensicsTournament.net.

3. The naming of each tournament shall follow a strict policy, so that league members can easily distinguish an SCJFL tournament from others listed on such registration sites. The naming structure should be as follows:

a. The name of the league should proceed all other information pertaining to the league.

b. The time frame of the tournament should be listed in the name, in order to distinguish from other SCJFL tournaments that might be listed.

c. The type of tournament should be used to distinguish between the speech-only and the debate-only tournaments.

d. Any honorary tournaments using alternate naming should be listed after the proceeding information.

e. Example: SCJFL 1st Quarter Speech Only Tournament - The Wolpert-Gawron Invitational.

B. Tournament Fees: Fees are to be developed by the Tournament Director, the President of the SCJFL Board, and the Tournament Host. Such fees should cover any costs accrued by the Tournament Host. Typically, each competitor is charged \$10 per event entered. Judge penalty fees and waving those fees is at the discretion of the Tournament Director, the President of the SCJFL Board, and the Tournament Host.

C. Deadline: The deadline to enter shall be determined by the Tournament Director, however, deadlines shall not be greater than one (1) week before the tournament date. Deadlines should not be altered due to large attendance; if the number of entries are larger than expected, the tournament should use the tournament limits as described in section IX; Q below.

D. Tournament Judge Requirements:

1. Individual Events/Congress: One (1) judge shall cover five (5) entries per pattern.
2. Debate Events: One (1) judge shall cover two (2) entries per pattern.
3. Congress Events: One (1) judge shall cover ten (10) entries per pattern.
4. Judges should be one year removed from the level of competition they are assigned to judge. For example, judges for the elementary-level (fifth grade and lower) should be in seventh grade or above. Judges for the middle school level (sixth through eighth grade competitors) should be in the tenth grade or above.
5. All judges are committed to be available in every obligated round (including finals) unless/until dismissed by the tournament staff. Failure to do so may result in fines to the offending team.
6. All judge training is the responsibility of the team entering that judge. Judges are also mandated to attend a judge training session at the start of the tournament, provided by the tournament host. Judges who are unfamiliar with events may be removed from the tournament at the discretion of the tournament staff, and fines may be applied. Judges should have received a training certification from National Online Forensics or the current season's NSDA Judge Training Certification.

7. Problematic judges that either cause disturbances, slow down the tournament, or are otherwise deemed unfit to judge by the tournament staff may be removed from the tournament, and fines may be applied.

E. Protests: All protests must be submitted in writing to the tournament Ombudsman by a coach (parents and students are not permitted to file protests). Supporting materials must accompany the protest, including an explanation of the occurrence being protested and the exact rule being violated. Protests will not be reviewed and considered until complete documentation has been provided by the person filing the protest. After the infraction has been observed/discovered, the protest must be filed in a timely manner. Decisions of the Ombudsman are final, except by appeal of the accused in section IX; F below. If a perceived violation occurs in a subsequent round, another protest may be filed. The competitor(s) may continue to compete without prejudice during the review.

1. The order of procedure for the Ombudsman after reviewing a protest should follow the steps below.

a. Determine if the protest is frivolous. Frivolous or dilatory protests may be denied by the Ombudsman. If the protest is determined to have merit, the Ombudsman shall continue to the following steps.

b. Speak with the coach filing the protest. The purpose should be to further clarify the instance and gather information to determine the course of the investigation

c. Speak to the judge in the round (if relevant). The Ombudsman should interview the judge and ask clarifying questions to determine the occurrence.

d. Speak to the coach of the school being protested against. At this point, the Ombudsman should inform the coach that a protest has been filed and explain the situation. This coach should determine one of two options:

i. No contest. If the coach of the school being protested against does not wish to defend against the protest, this coach can notify the Ombudsman of their decision, and the protest is immediately deemed valid.

ii. Defense of protest. If the coach of the school being protested against wishes to defend against the protest, then the students may be contacted and one further meeting with the Ombudsman is permitted. This coach may decide to include the competitors in that meeting, or not. Additionally,

this coach will determine if the competitor(s) will be informed of the protest or not. The Ombudsman should not direct this information to the competitors.

2. If, at any point in the process, the Ombudsman determines that the protest is invalid, the protest can be withdrawn, but in order for the protest to be carried to completion, all steps must be followed.

F. Appeals: The coach of the accused may appeal the decision of the Ombudsman to the Tournament Director. The Tournament Director's ruling may be appealed to a committee of present board members whose decision is final. If a coach is not on campus and is not reachable to discuss any appeals, then the Ombudsman's decision will stand (rationale: coaches not present at the tournament should be on-call to ensure that any problems that arise are easily dealt with and do not delay the tournament).

G. Forfeits & Disqualifications: In case of a disqualification of a contestant, all previous ranks and decisions of other contestants stand and no revision of past round ranks will take place.

1. Forfeits: A contestant who does not appear or notify the judge that he/she is double-entered shall be marked last in the round. A debate team more than 15 minutes late shall forfeit the round. The tournament staff may waive these penalties for valid reasons. Tournament staff should indicate which competitors are double-entered to the judges.

2. Disqualifications: Rule violations are defined as actions in which a competitor has presented material that does not fit within the guidelines of the activity in which they are participating. Such violations may include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, exceeding transitional material guidelines, using non-existent evidence, and misrepresenting the content of the literature being performed. In such instances, the following consequences will result:

a. The competitor will be immediately disqualified from the tournament. The disqualification will occur after all appeals have been exhausted and the decision that a rules violation has occurred is confirmed, thus the competitor's scores will not be adjusted by tournament officials until that time.

b. If in an elimination round, any placings or points earned by that competitor will be vacated. All competitors ranked lower than the disqualified competitor will be moved up one placement in that round. If multiple violations in the same event have occurred, competitors will be advanced accordingly (unless the disqualification is made post-tournament; see section IX; G; 2; c below). If a disqualification

occurs in the final round, no award shall be given or names announced during the awards ceremony. If the violation occurs prior to the elimination round, all previous placings will remain the same.

c. Post-round disqualifications will not alter the placement of competitors; once names are announced in the awards ceremony, disqualifications will not alter those placements. If a post-tournament disqualification is made, the competitor's placement shall not count toward So-Cal Champs.

3. Wrong Room/Section: If a competitor competes in the wrong section of a speech event or against the wrong opponent in a debate round—at no fault of their opponent or the tournament—that competitor/team will automatically receive last in the section in which they were assigned and zero speaker points for that round. Debaters will receive a loss for that particular round and zero speaker points. Rounds shall not be re-run in such circumstances.

4. Harassment: Harassment in any form at an SCJFL tournament is prohibited and grounds for disqualification. The definition of harassment shall be at the Ombudsman and Tournament Director's discretion.

5. Evidence Violations:

a. 'Evidence distortion' exists when the textual evidence itself contains added and/or deleted word(s), which significantly alters the conclusion of the author (e.g., deleting 'not'; adding the word 'not'). Additionally, failure to bracket added words would be considered distortion of evidence.

b. 'Non-existent evidence' means one or more of the following:

i. The debater citing the evidence is unable to provide the evidence card and/or the original source or copy of the relevant pages when requested by their opponent, judge, or tournament official.

ii. The original source provided does not contain the evidence cited.

iii. The evidence is paraphrased but lacks an original source to verify the accuracy of the paraphrasing.

iv. The debater is in possession of the original source, but declines to provide it to their opponent upon request in a timely fashion.

c. 'Clipping' occurs when the debater claims to have read the complete text of highlighted and/or underlined evidence when, in fact, the contestant skips or omits portions of evidence.

d. 'Straw Argument' is a position or argumentative claim introduced by an author for the purpose of refuting, discrediting or characterizing it. Reliance on a straw argument occurs in a debate round when a debater asserts incorrectly that the author supports or endorses the straw argument as his or her own position. (Note: A debater who acknowledges using a "straw argument" when verbally first read in the round, would not be misrepresenting evidence. However, if the debater fails to acknowledge the use of a straw argument and their opponent questions the use of such an argument, then that debater has committed an evidence violation.)

#### 6. Procedures for Resolving Evidence Violations:

a. Judges are responsible for resolving disputes between debaters regarding oral citations; written source citations; distinguishing between what parts of each piece of evidence are and are not read in a particular round. When the judge(s) have such a dispute in the round, they must make a written note on the ballot or inform the tabulation committee of the dispute. They must do so particularly if it impacts the decision in the debate.

b. An appeal can only be made if the issue has been raised in the round with the exception of the issues listed in IX.G.6.c (below). Appeals may only be made if judge(s) have misapplied, misinterpreted, or ignored a rule.

c. A formal allegation of violation of the evidence rules is permitted during the round only if the debater(s) allege a violation of IX.G.5.a (distortion); IX.G.5.b (nonexistent evidence); IX.G.5.c (clipping). If a formal allegation of violation of these rules is made during a round, the following procedures must be followed:

i. The team/individual alleging a violation must make a definitive indication that they are formally alleging a violation of an evidence rule.

ii. The team/individual alleging the violation of the evidence must articulate the specific violation as defined in section(s) IX.G.5.a (distortion); IX.G.5.b (nonexistent evidence); IX.G.5.c (clipping).

iii. The judge should stop the round at that time to examine the evidence from both teams/individuals and render a decision about the credibility of the evidence. If the judge determines that the allegation is legitimate and an evidence violation has occurred, the team/individual committing the violation will be given the loss in the round. If the judge determines that the allegation is not legitimate and that there is no violation, the team/individual making the challenge will receive the loss in the round. (Note: Teams/individuals may question the credibility and/or efficacy of the evidence without a formal allegation that requires the round to end. Teams/debaters may make in-round arguments regarding the credibility of evidence without making a formal allegation or violation of these rules. Such informal arguments about the evidence will not automatically end the round, and will be treated by the judge in the same fashion as any other argument.)

d. The Ombudsman is authorized to hear:

i. Appeals, pursuant to section IX.G.6.b, claiming that a judge ignored, misinterpreted or misapplied rules other than those from which no appeal is permitted pursuant to section IX.G.6.a.

ii. Appeals from a judge's decision, pursuant to IX.G.6.c, on a formal in-round allegation of distortion or non-existent evidence (note: judge decisions regarding clipping may not be appealed)

iii. A formal allegation of distortion or non-existent evidence that is made for the first time after conclusion of the debate.

e. The procedures for making an appeal or post-round formal allegation are as follows:

i. A coach or school-affiliated adult representative from the school(s) competing in the debate or a judge for the round must notify the Ombudsman of intent to submit an appeal or formal post-round allegation within 20 minutes of the end of the round. The 20-minute time period begins once the last ballot from the round in question (if flighted, both flights) has been collected by the tournament officials.

ii. The coach must submit the post-round formal allegation to the Ombudsman within 10 minutes of the formal notification of the intent to appeal. The allegation must be in writing and articulate the specific evidence violation that is being

challenged. The challenged contestant's coach shall be notified.

iii. If the Ombudsman determines that the original protest has merit, the coach will be given 20 minutes to provide evidence denying or to the contrary of the claim. If such evidence cannot be offered, the challenged competitor(s) will be given the loss in the round and may be subject to additional penalties. If the Ombudsman determines that the allegation is not legitimate and that there is no violation, the team/individual making the challenge will receive the loss in the round.

iv. The Tournament Director and/or Ombudsman have the discretion of extending the time limits for these actions if circumstances do not allow a coach to be available within the prescribed time limits.

f. The Ombudsman's decision to disqualify a competitor(s) can be appealed by the coach or school-affiliated adult by using the following procedure:

i. The appeal must be submitted in writing to the Tournament Director within 10 minutes of the notification to disqualify.

ii. The Tournament Director will contact the SCJFL Board members in attendance at the tournament once the written appeal has been received. Both sides will be able to provide written explanations and supporting evidence to defend their individual side.

iii. A decision will be rendered in a timely manner. The decision of the SCJFL Board shall be final and cannot be appealed.

iv. No more than one round may occur between the round being protested and the decision of the SCJFL Board.

v. If the appeal is successful and the contestant(s) may now continue in the tournament, they will be put into the appropriate round/bracket.

g. If appeals are made in rounds in which multiple judges are being used, normal procedures should be followed to ensure each judge reaches their decision as independently as possible. Judges will be instructed not to confer or discuss the charge and/or answer to the potential violation. It will be possible for one judge to determine that an evidence violation has occurred and the other judge(s) to

determine no violation has occurred. The Tournament Director will record the judge panel's decision as a normal win or loss; the outcome is thus tabulated in the same fashion as a round in which an evidence violation had not occurred. If the majority of the judge panel present finds an evidence violation did not occur, no sanction may be applied to the team/individual charged with the violation. If the majority finds a violation has occurred, the appropriate penalties will be administered.

## 7. Penalties for Evidence Violations

a. If the judge determines that a competitor has violated one of the rules listed in section IX.G.6.a or VIII.B.8.j (oral citation, written citation, indication of parts of card read or not read, use of private communication), the judge may at his or her discretion disregard the evidence, diminish the credibility given to the evidence, take the violation into account (solely or partially) in deciding the winner of the round, or take no action.

b. If a competitor commits an evidence violation for clipping (section IX.G.5.c), the use of a straw argument (section IX.G.5.d) or the use of ellipses (section VII.B.8.e) will result in a loss for the competitor(s) committing the evidence violation. The judge should award zero (0) speaker points (if applicable) and indicate the reason for the decision on the ballot.

c. If competitor(s) commits an evidence violation of distortion (section IX.G.5.a) or have used non-existent evidence (as defined by section IX.G.5.b) the offending competitor(s) will lose the round and be disqualified from the tournament. However, if a competitor(s) loses a round due to non-existent evidence (section IX.G.5.b) violation during an in-round formal allegation, but can produce it after the round within 20 minutes to the Ombudsman, the Ombudsman may decide not to disqualify the entry. The loss that was recorded by the judge may not be changed. If a post-round protest is levied against a debater for not providing evidence or an original source in round (non-existent evidence), and the judge confirms they in fact did not provide the evidence in a timely fashion when requested in round, the competitor(s) will lose the round and be disqualified from the tournament. However, if a competitor(s) produces the evidence within the post-round challenge period, that competitor(s) may avoid disqualification.

d. Depending on the severity, an offense may result in notification of said offense to the contestant's school administration and/or revocation of SCJFL membership.

H. Adjustments: Under no circumstance shall a tournament or part of a tournament be re-run because of a violation of rules. However, speakers may be asked to speak again in special circumstances (e.g. if a final round accidentally begins before all judges are present, a speaker may be asked to perform again in front of the judges who were not initially present).

1. Errors: If a tab room error results in an announcement at the awards assembly of an incorrect placement in an event, no contestant's place will be lowered. The higher position will be awarded the correct place and award. Ties may result.

2. In the event that a judge interferes with a round such that the Ombudsman deems the judge has nullified the round through no fault of the competitors (e.g. if the judge stops the round to give input to debaters or decides to leave the tournament in the middle of a round), the following will occur:

a. Individual Events/Congress:

i. Prelims: An average of other rounds will be applied.

ii. Elimination rounds: If the Ombudsman deems that the other judges' ballots were not compromised by the interference, then an average of their ballots would apply. Otherwise, competitor seeding based on the prelims shall be used to determine placement in the event.

b. Debate Events:

i. Prelims: A double-bye would occur; both teams will receive a win for the round and speaker points will be averaged from other rounds.

ii. Elimination rounds: If the Ombudsman deems that the other judges' ballots were not compromised by the interference, then an average of their ballots would apply. Otherwise, the top seeded team shall advance.

3. While a protest is being investigated, if an accused competitor competed in a round before a final decision regarding the protest has been reached, the result of that round will be recorded as follows:

a. Individual Events:

i. All preliminary rankings will not be adjusted, regardless of the outcome of the protest.

ii. If the protest is upheld, and a competitor is disqualified, all elimination rounds will be adjusted accordingly.

iii. If the protest is overruled, and the protesting competitor was found to not be in violation of any rule, no revision of the result on the ballot will take place.

b. Debate Events:

i. If the protest is upheld, and a debate competitor is disqualified, the opponent of the disqualified debater will receive a forfeit win.

ii. If the protest is overruled, and the protesting competitor won the protested round, no revision of the result on the ballot will take place.

iii. If the protest is overruled, the protesting competitor lost the protested round, and had no previous losses, no revision of the result on the ballot will take place.

iv. If the protest is overruled, the protesting competitor lost the protested round, and had a previous loss, the opponent will receive a forfeit win regardless of the result on the ballot.

I. Round Design:

1. Individual Events:

a. At least two (2) entries must register for any individual event, or that event will be canceled.

b. Preliminary Rounds (local and CMSF state/championship tournaments):

i. Each tournament shall normally consist of three (3) preliminary rounds with one (1) judge. In cases of low entry numbers where three full preliminary rounds are not feasible, the Tournament Director may reduce the number of preliminary rounds. Any reduction should maintain competitive fairness and allow each competitor an opportunity to perform at least twice.

ii. Competitors should be randomly assigned to a panel, but effort should be made to ensure that a competitor is not placed in the same panel as another competitor from the same school.

- iii. Speaking order of competitors should be randomized.
- iv. All competitors entered in the tournament shall be permitted to speak in these rounds, provided they are not unreasonably late or they have not been disqualified.
- v. Each prelim round should consist of at least 4 competitors and no more than seven (7) with the exception of SPAR and Dialectic, which may have up to eight (8) competitors per panel. Competitors should be evenly distributed amongst all panels. Events with fewer than 4 competitors may be the exception to this rule (See section IX, J for tabulation rules).
- vi. Competitors should not have the same judge for the same event in multiple prelim rounds.

c. Elimination Rounds for Local SCJFL Individual Events:

If an event has more than one panel in the prelim round, a final round should occur. Thus, if seven (7) competitors are in a single panel for all three prelims, no final round is required. If more than one panel is used for a prelim round, a final for that event is required. If time permits, a Tournament Director at a local tournament may elect to use the Southern California Champs/CMSF elimination round design (instead of festival finals).

i. Local SCJFL tournaments shall admit two (2) competitors per section of that event. For example, if an event has four (4) sections, then eight (8) competitors will be admitted into the final round. The Tournament Director may permit more finalists if there are ties. Additional sections may be added to the final round in order to accommodate the entries (also known as 'festival finals'). In any case, the Tournament Director should attempt to not have more than seven (7) competitors per final round section. Each final round shall have three (3) judges. Tournaments should not create a final round with more than half of the total number of competitors (thus, if six (10) competitors enter the tournament, no more than three (5) should be advanced to the final round). More than half the the total number of competitors may be advanced in the case of ties. If fewer than seven (7) competitors enter an event, elimination rounds may be canceled and event placement will be determined by preliminary round scores.

ii. Festival Finals: Each final round panel shall have three (3) judges. Competitors' scores will be totaled across the board

(i.e. competitors from one panel will not directly compete against competitors from the other panel, but their scores will be). Efforts should be made to separate competitors from the same school into separate festival finals panels. The festival finals panels will seed entries of approximately equivalent strength, based on preliminary rounds performance, protecting for school constraints first.

iii. Prelim scores will not carry over to elimination rounds except that for the purpose of scheduling the first elimination round. From that point on, scores reset after each round (the possible exception being the use of prelim scores for tie-breaking procedures outlined in sections IX; J; 1; d; v below).

iv. Unlike the preliminary rounds, elimination round rankings should not tie. If seven (7) competitors are advanced to an elimination round, then the judges should rank the competitors all the way to 7th place.

v. All elimination rounds are a 'clean slate' for judges. In other words, judges are permitted to adjudicate elimination rounds which feature a competitor they judged in a prelim round, however, this is heavily discouraged and should only be done in extreme situations.

d. Elimination Rounds for Southern California Champs and any CMSF State Tournament Individual Events:

If an event has more than one panel in the prelim round, a final round should occur. Thus, if seven (7) competitors are in a single panel for all three prelims, no final round is required. If more than one panel is used for a prelim round, a final for that event is required.

i. Southern California Champs and CMSF State Tournament events with 41 entries or less shall have a single final round with at least six (6) finalists. The Tournament Director may permit more than six finalists if there are ties. Each final round shall have three (3) judges. Tournaments should not create a final round with more than half of the total number of competitors (thus, if six (6) competitors enter the tournament, no more than three (3) should be advanced to the final round). More than half the the total number of competitors may be advanced in the case of ties. If fewer than seven (7) competitors enter an event, elimination rounds may be canceled and event placement will be determined by preliminary round scores.

ii. Southern California Champs and CMSF State Tournament events with 42 entries or more shall have a semifinal final round. This round will consist of two (2) panels, each with at least six (6) competitors. The three (3) top-ranked competitors from each section shall advance to a final round with six (6) total competitors. Each semifinal and final round shall have three (3) judges.

iii. Events with more than 84 entries shall have a quarterfinal final round. This round will consist of four (4) panels, each with at least six (6) competitors. The three (3) top-ranked competitors from each section shall advance to a semifinal round (see above). Each quarterfinal, semifinal, and final round shall have three (3) judges.

iv. Prelim scores will not carry over to elimination rounds except that for the purpose of scheduling the first elimination round. From that point on scores reset after each round (the possible exception being the use of prelim scores for tie-breaking procedures outlined in sections IX; J; 1; d; v below).

v. Unlike the preliminary rounds, elimination round rankings should not tie. If seven (7) competitors are advanced to an elimination round, then the judges should rank the competitors all the way to 7th place.

vi. All elimination rounds are a 'clean slate' for judges. In other words, judges are permitted to adjudicate elimination rounds which feature a competitor they judged in a prelim round, however, this is heavily discouraged and should only be done in extreme situations.

## 2. Debate Events

a. At least three (3) entries must register for any debate event, or that event will be canceled.

b. Pairing Priorities: These take absolute precedence over pairing methods. Priorities are more important than side alternation.

i. The first priority is the drawing of byes. A bye will be tabulated as a win, and the team receiving the bye will be awarded speaker points equal to their speaker point average in the other non-elimination rounds of competition. The bye will be assigned randomly in rounds one and two. In subsequent rounds the bye will go to the lowest seeded team. In the event

that the lowest seed has already received a bye the bye will advance to next lowest seed as no team will receive more than one bye.

ii. The second priority is to avoid the pairing of teams from the same school.

iii. The third priority is to avoid the pairing of teams who have met previously in the tournament, except to avoid the pairing of teams from the same school.

c. Local SCJFL Debate Tournaments

i. Each tournament shall normally consist of at least four (4) preliminary rounds. In the instance of low attendance or time constraints where additional rounds are impractical, the Tournament Director may reduce the number of preliminary rounds to a minimum of three (3) or create a round-robin style event. Such adjustments must be applied uniformly to all entries in the event.

ii. A preset schedule for the first two (2) preliminary rounds of the tournament will be prepared by computer. The remaining preliminary rounds will be 'power-matched' (i.e. teams with a 2-0 record will be matched against another team with a 2-0 record and competitors with a 1-1 record will be matched likewise). Power-matching should pair using a 'high-high' methodology. In other words, the top seeded team should be paired against the second highest seed and so on, unless school conflicts occur or if the teams have already competed against one another. In which case, a seed may be skipped. A tournament may 'lag power-match' if needed for time, however, this is not preferred (e.g. if a Tournament Director needs to base the round 3 power-match decision off of the first round results. This is done for time so that a Tournament Director doesn't have to wait for all of the round 2 ballots to return before pairing round 3. Hence, there is a "lag" to the power-matching). If a Tournament Director needs to lag power-match, he/she should make every attempt to announce such a decision well in advance of the tournament.

iii. Each team shall uphold three affirmatives and three negatives unless that team received a bye, except Public Forum rounds that always flip to determine sides and speaking order.

iv. In the unlikely event that tournament restraints force debate competitors to debate against each other twice in the

preliminary rounds, the competitors should switch sides, except Public Forum rounds that always flip to determine sides and speaking order.

v. Each tournament shall consist of two (2) 'elimination-preliminary' rounds. These rounds advance all winning debaters (i.e. all 4-0 teams and all 3-1 teams advance to round 5; all 5-0 teams and 4-1 teams shall advance to round 6). It should be noted that some 2-2 teams may advance to round 4 and some 3-2 teams may advance to round 6. This should only be done to allow for enough debates so that a school will not have to debate itself, however, the Tournament Director should not advance more than half of the event's entires.

vi. If the number of entries in an event are so large that it is impossible to force an undefeated team (i.e. if more than one team has a record of 6-0), then the tie breaking procedure outlined in section IX; J; 2; a below should be used to determine a winner. However, the final tiebreak procedure (IX;J;2;a;vii) of deciding from a random coin flip should be ignored. Instead, if a tie is unbreakable by this formula, all tied contestants shall receive the highest appropriate placement, and no award will be given for the next placement. For example, if the tournament has a three-way tie for 8th place, then all three competitors will receive 8th place. The tournament will not award a 9th and 10th place, and will resume awards with 11th place.

vii. Competitors should not have the same judge for the same event in multiple prelim rounds.

d. Preliminary and Elimination Rounds for Southern California Champs and CMSF state tournaments:

i. Each tournament shall consist of at least five (5) preliminary rounds, which follow the 'high-high power-matched' methodology outlined in the SCJFL prelims (above in section IX; I; 2; c). In the instance of unusually low entry numbers where a full schedule cannot reasonably be sustained, the Tournament Director may reduce the number of preliminary rounds, provided all competitors are afforded a fair and balanced competition. All competitors entered in the tournament shall be permitted to speak in these rounds, provided they are not unreasonably late or they have not been disqualified. If a debate event has an exceptionally small number of competitors, the Tournament Director may create a round-robin style structure to the

preliminary rounds. In such cases, no final round would be held.

ii. In the first elimination round the highest seed will debate the lowest seed, the second seed will debate the second lowest seed, so on. For example in octafinals the 1st seed would debate the 16th seed, the 2nd seed would debate the 15th seed, the 3rd seed would debate the 14th seed, the 4th seed would debate the 13th seed, and so on ending with the 8th seed debating the 9th seed.

iii. Elimination round brackets are not reseeded following each round. This means if the 16th seed defeats the 1st seed in octafinals then they assume the 1st seed.

iv. For Policy, Big Questions, and Lincoln-Douglas: If the entries paired to debate in out rounds met in prelims then they will debate on opposite sides in the elimination round. If the two entries have not met previously at the tournament then they will flip a coin for sides. Sides and speaker order in Public Forum will always be determined by coin toss. Spar sides will be determined by the judge.

v. Once elimination rounds begin, all scores reset (0-0), and the rest of the tournament will run with immediate elimination for any teams that lose the judges' decision.

vi. Once elimination rounds begin, school constraints no longer apply. In debate events, an entry may be paired to debate another entry from the same school. In such situations the coach of record for entries involved may opt to advance either entry without holding the actual debate (usually the higher seed), or the coach may decide to require the debaters to debate, in which case the tournament may conduct the round if the necessary judges and rooms are available. Similarly, in speech events, students may be paired in the same elimination round as other competitors from their school.

vii. Tournament Directors of Southern California Champs and CMSF State Tournament Debate Events may add additional elimination rounds (Octafinals, Double-octafinals, etc.) if time permits. Likewise, they may remove elimination rounds for time/low attendance, however this should be made known to competitors before the tournament begins. Partial elimination rounds may also be constructed in order to clear enough teams with winning records to fit the bracket, however, a tournament

should not break more than half of the number of teams entered in an event.

viii. Once all three judges have finalized their decision without the influence of other judges or spectators, all judges should disclose their decisions in all elimination and partial-elimination rounds.

ix. All elimination rounds are a 'clean slate' for judges. In other words, judges are permitted to adjudicate elimination rounds which feature a competitor they judged in a prelim round, however, this is heavily discouraged and should only be done in extreme situations.

### 3. Congress

a. There must be at least five (5) entries registered, or Congressional Debate will be canceled.

b. Prelim Rounds:

i. Each tournament shall consist of three (3) preliminary rounds with one (1) judge. Elementary tournaments may consist of only two (2) preliminary rounds.

ii. Preliminary Round Sectioning: Each panel/chamber shall not exceed 19 competitors for middle school and 14 competitors for elementary. In the occurrence that the tournament staff do not have enough parliamentarians to operate the round, then a coach or other person with conflicts may be permitted to serve as a non-ranking parliamentarian. In such a case, the tournament staff will also assign a ranking parliamentarian for all preliminary rounds. In this way, the non-ranking parliamentarian would oversee any Congressional procedures, whereas the unaffiliated ranking parliamentarian would be able to score the round without bias. In the occurrence that there is no one familiar with Congressional procedures available to the tournament, the tournament staff may provide a floating parliamentarian which could be summoned to the Congress room to help settle procedural disputes. The tournament staff should obviously use these tactics as a last measure, and take steps to provide a strong parliamentarian to avoid such occurrences.

iii. Competitors from the same school will be separated, except to allow for an affiliated judge to score in a panel/chamber without competitors from her/his school.

iv. Prelim rankings should stop at 8th place (i.e. only competitors ranked 1st - 8th place will be awarded points). Parliamentary prelim ranks should rank all of the competitors in the round (Nth place).

v. Competitors should not have the same judge for the same event in multiple prelim rounds.

vi. Competitors will remain in the same chambers for all prelim rounds.

vii. Parliamentarians should submit one cumulative ballot for all prelims. For example, if a Parliamentarian oversees three prelim rounds with the same competitors in the room for each round, then only one ballot would be submitted. This ballot should reflect the Parliamentarian's scoring of all prelim rounds.

c. Elimination Rounds:

i. If fewer than fourteen (14) competitors enter Congress and the tournament has not divided them into multiple panels for the prelim rounds, a final round is not required. If more than one panel has been created, even if fewer than fourteen (14) competitors enter, then a final round is required. If a final round is necessary, three (3) judges are required.

ii. If 14-40 competitors are entered, the top half will advance straight to finals.

iii. If 41 or more competitors are entered, the top half will advance into a semifinal round. The semifinal will consist of two panels/chambers and will seed entries of approximately equivalent strength, based on preliminary rounds performance, protecting for school constraints first.

iv. If 81 or more competitors are entered, the top half will advance into a quarterfinal round. The quarterfinal will consist of two panels/chambers and will seed entries of approximately equivalent strength, based on preliminary rounds performance, protecting for school constraints first.

v. All Congress elimination rounds shall have three (3) judges.

vi. All elimination rounds are a 'clean slate' for judges. In other words, judges are permitted to adjudicate elimination rounds which feature a competitor they judged in a prelim round, however, this is heavily discouraged and should only be done in extreme situations.

e. Parliamentarian: A Parliamentarian will be assigned to each chamber (or one of the judges will be designated as "Parliamentarian"). They will supervise each chamber: to call roll and ensure competitors are in assigned seats, to intervene in case a chamber becomes too deeply involved in parliamentary rules, and correct gross errors in procedure. They should remain in the background, but step forward firmly when her/his presence is required. The purpose of the Congress is to debate legislation, and it is the Parliamentarian's duty to see that this is done.

f. Presiding Officer: Interested competitors may run for election as Presiding Officer. If no competitors step forward, the Parliamentarian assigned to the chamber shall preside. The Presiding Officer shall call contestants to speak, serve as timekeeper, and ensure that tournament rules and parliamentary procedure are adhered to. The Parliamentarian will assist the Presiding Officer as necessary.

4. The number of competitors in an event shall be calculated by the number of those competitors who compete in at least two of the rounds. For example, if 37 competitors were entered into an event, but only 35 of them actually competed in two of the prelim rounds, then the total number of entries would be 35, regardless of how many competitors signed up.

#### J. Tabulation:

##### 1. All Individual Events & Spar:

All ballots shall be recorded as an eBallot (electronic ballot). If ballots are submitted with incomplete information, every attempt should be made to get information in order to complete ballot tabulations. Averages will be used if ballots remain incomplete. No speaker points shall be recorded for individual events.

a. Prelim ballots should not have a rank that exceeds 5th place. Thus, each ballot would result in a tie after 5th place.

b. Elimination rounds shall rank all competitors in the round. Thus, if a tournament were to break seven (7) competitors into a final round, that round will be ranked to the 7th place.

c. All SCJFL, CMSF, and SoCal Championship Individual Events breaking procedure: Advancement into an elimination rounds shall be based on the following priorities:

- i. Lowest cumulative ranks (ranks).
- ii. Reciprocal fractions (decimal).
- iii. Drop the highest rank (DropHighRank).
- iv. If a tie is unbreakable by this formula, all tied contestants shall advance.

d. All SCJFL, CMSF, and SoCal Championship Individual Events Tie Breaking Procedure: Competitor placement shall be based on the following priorities:

- i. Lowest final round rank total (Rank in Elim).
- ii. Judge preference of ranks in final round (Judge Pref in Elim).
- iii. Reciprocal fractions of final round ranks (Decimal in Elim).
- iv. Majority of first place ranks in event (Number of Firsts in Event).
- v. All rounds cumulative rank total (Total Rank in Event).
- vi. Advancement: If a tie is unbreakable by this formula, all tied contestants shall advance.
- vii. Placement: If a tie is unbreakable by this formula, all tied contestants shall receive the highest appropriate placement, and no award will be given for the next placement. For example, if the tournament has a three-way tie for 8th place, then all three competitors will receive 8th place. The tournament will not award a 9th and 10th place, and will resume awards with 11th place.

2. Debate (Policy, Public Forum, Big Questions, and Lincoln-Douglas): All ballots shall be recorded as an eBallot (electronic ballot). If ballots are submitted with incomplete information, every attempt should be made to get information in order to complete ballot tabulations. Averages will be used if ballots remain incomplete.

a. Elimination Seeding: Elimination rounds at all SCJFL-sanctioned (including CMSF and SoCal Championships) tournaments will be seeded and paired, based on the following priority:

- i. Total number of wins (Wins).
- ii. Adjusted speaker points with highest and lowest single-ballot points dropped (High Low Points).
- iii. Opposition win-loss record (Opp Wins).
- iv. Unadjusted speaker points (Total Points).
- v. Double adjusted speaker points with first and second highest and lowest single- ballot points dropped (Two High Low Points).
- vi. Judge variance (Z Score).
- vii. In the event of an unbreakable tie, the seeding of the teams in questions will be determined by a coin toss (Random).

b. Top Speaker Placement (Policy, Lincoln-Douglas, Big Questions, & Public Forum Debate): If top speakers are awarded in an event, the tournament staff shall not offer more than half the field with a top speaker award. Each ballot is to be recorded. If ballots are submitted with incomplete information, every attempt should be made to get information in order to complete ballot tabulations. Averages will be used if ballots remain incomplete. Each debate ballot shall have a speaker points value from 70-100. Fractions of points are not permitted. (Rationale: The use of fractions unfairly advantages competitors who debate in front of a judge who uses them. Meanwhile, this effectively disadvantages competitors who debate in front of judges who either don't know about fractions, refuse to use them, or believe they are only permitted to use half points [.5]. Thus, the easiest way to level all scoring biases is to eliminate the fraction from speaker points, entirely) Determination of the top speakers shall proceed as follows:

- i. Drop high and low speaker point values from all preliminary rounds (High Low Points).
- ii. Use total speaker points from preliminary rounds (Total Points).
- iii. Total prelim rank points (Rank).

iv. Drop a second set of high-low ballots from preliminary rounds (Two High Low Points).

v. The debater on the team advancing the furthest in the tournament.

vi. If a tie is unbreakable by this formula, all tied contestants shall receive the highest appropriate placement, and no award will be given for the next placement. For example, if the tournament has a three-way tie for 8th place, then all three competitors will receive 8th place. The tournament will not award a 9th and 10th place, and will resume awards with 11th place.

d. Award placement will be based on winning record of elimination bracket.

### 3. Congress:

All ballots shall be recorded as an eBallot (electronic ballot). If ballots are submitted with incomplete information, every attempt should be made to get information in order to complete ballot tabulations. Averages will be used if ballots remain incomplete. The following priorities determine advancement to elimination rounds and placing of awards:

a. All SCJFL, CMSF, and SoCal Championship Congress breaking procedure: Advancement into an elimination rounds shall be based on the following priorities:

- i. Low cumulative rank total, including Parliamentarian ballot. (Rank Points)
- ii. Sum of Reciprocal Fractions. (Decimal)
- iii. Adjusted rank total, after high and low ranks are dropped. (Adjusted Rank Points)
- iv. Sum of Reciprocal Fractions after high and low ranks are dropped. (Decimal from Adjusted High Low)
- iv. Parliamentarian's rank (Parli).

b. All SCJFL, CMSF, and SoCal Championship Congress Tie Breaking Procedure: Competitor placement shall be based on the following priorities:

- i. Low cumulative rank total, including prelim scores and parliamentarian ranks. (Rank)
- ii. Judge Preference. (JudgePref)
- iii. Sum of Reciprocal Fractions. (Decimal)
- iv. Adjusted rank total, after high and low ranks are dropped. (High-Low)

- iv. Sum of Reciprocal Fractions after high and low ranks are dropped. (Decimal from Adjusted High Low)
- iv. Parliamentarian's rank (Parli).

4. All tabulation shall be done through the use of ForensicsTournament.net. This is done so that there might be a familiarity with the program by all those working in the tab room. Any fees associated with the cost of using this software shall be incurred by the SCJFL. Tournament Directors who wish to use a different tabulation software may request a waiver through the SCJFL Board.

5. As much as possible, Tournament Directors shall practice an open-door policy with coaches/team representatives. Such practices include revealing the scores of competitors and producing ballots. Tournament Directors should take care that such practices do not slow the speed of the tournament. Parents and competitors are not allowed into the tab room.

#### K. Judges:

1. Judge Placement: One (1) computer-assigned judge will be used in all preliminary rounds. In a final round, any odd number of three (3) or more judges will be assigned. When possible a judge will not be scheduled to judge an entry more than once.
2. Disqualifications: Under no circumstances should a judge disqualify a competitor. If a rule violation is believed to have occurred, the Tournament Director and/or the Ombudsman shall determine the outcome. Judges should evaluate the round as if there were no rules violations, and inform tournament officials of any rule violations.
3. Oral Critiques: No ballot may be returned without a written reason for decision. Oral commentary is not considered a substitute for the written ballot. Judges should not disclose their decisions at all in Individual Events, Congress, or in the preliminary rounds of debate competition. However, they should disclose in debate elimination rounds after checking that each judge has finished his/her decision. Comments made by a judge (orally or written) should be constructive and professional.
4. Judge Conflicts: Contestants in any event who are about to be judged by someone who has taught them at any time must report that fact immediately to the Ombudsperson. Failure to comply may result in disqualification. A judge must recuse himself or herself from judging a competitor under the following conditions:

- a. The judge and the competitor may be perceived to have a competitive, personal, social, or financial agreement that may bias the judge's impartial evaluation of the round.
  - b. The judge does not believe they are able to fairly and impartially adjudicate a competition involving a particular competitor for whatever reason.
  - c. Judges may choose to recuse themselves from adjudicating a competitor under the following conditions. (If these conditions exist, it is the affirmative duty of the judge to make such information publicly available prior to the round beginning.)
    - i. The judge shares transportation and/or lodging with the competitor's team on a regular basis.
    - ii. The judge has a personal, financial, or familial relationship with the competitor's coach or member of the competitor's family.
    - iii. The judge is an administrator of, currently employed by, or anticipates employment from a forensic-related enterprise with whom a financial or advisory relationship exists or is sought with the competitor. NOTE: These guidelines do not prohibit lab leaders/institute staff from judging their lab competitors. However, if those lab leaders maintain consistent contact with those competitors and/or engage in personal relationships with them, they should recuse themselves from judging those specific individuals.
    - iv. All head coaches who instruct multiple schools must conflict all judges from all of those schools.
  - d. The expectation of competitors, judges, and coaches is to engage in the highest levels of professionalism and integrity. While the responsibility is on judges to aide transparency, the responsibility exists for coaches and competitor competitors as well. It is the affirmative duty of all coaches and competitors to assist efforts in transparency. No decisions will be modified as a result of disclosed information.
5. Judges are not to confer with one another until after they have rendered a decision. No decisions will be modified as a result of disclosed information.

6. Judge Procurement: The Tournament Host is expected to assemble a group of hired judges from the local area.

7. Each tournament shall offer a \$25 Amazon gift cards given out for ballots that stand out as being good (e.g. thorough and constructive). The gift card shall be purchased by the SCJFL. The selection process will be decided by the Tournament Director with the help of the Ballot Table Official.

8. Coaches are allowed and should be encouraged to judge.

9. All judges at SCJFL tournaments shall begin each round by reading the official SCJFL Judge Pre-Round Preamble. This preamble ensures consistency across all events, provides competitors with reminders about rules and procedures, and sets a professional tone for the round. The text of the preamble shall be published by the SCJFL Board and included in tournament materials. Judges are required to read the preamble aloud verbatim before the round begins, making adjustments only as necessary to fit the specific event (e.g., clarifying time signals, online procedures, or rules about Internet use).

“Hello everyone, and welcome.

My name is [Judge Name], and I will be your judge for this round of [Event Name]. I have read the rules for this event and will follow them as I make my decision. Before we begin, I need to share a few reminders:

- [If online] Please keep your video cameras turned on during the round.

- [If online] Keep your microphones muted unless it is your turn to speak.

- According to the rules for this event, Internet use is / is not allowed. If I am uncertain, I will contact the tab room before we proceed.

- For time signals: in this event [the judge should state whether time signals are being used, and if so, explain what the signals are].

- If you have any questions about the rules or about how the round will run, please ask me now.

- If there is something you need to check with the tab room, please do so before we begin.

Once everyone is ready, we will start the round.”

#### L. Awards:

1. Individual Events & Debate Awards:

a. Each contestant advancing to an elimination round shall be awarded for doing so. In the event that not enough awards are available during the awards ceremony (e.g. unforeseen ties necessitated trophies that were not ordered), then the Tournament Host should provide the competitor with a certificate or other physical award during the ceremony. A trophy should be ordered and given to the competitor at a later date.

b. The placement of awards shall be numerical. For example, a tournament shall award 1st-6th (no placements should be awarded as 'finalist'). The exception to this are for debate at CMSF or SoCal Champs tournaments which shall award 1st, 2nd, semifinalists, quarterfinalists, and so on. Local SCJFL debate tournaments shall award 1st-6th (no placements should be awarded as 'finalist'). Tournament directors may add additional placements, depending on the number of entries in that event. Such additional placements will count toward So-Cal Champs qualification. Under no circumstances should a Tournament Director award more than half the entries of an event.

c. An award for the top 10 speakers in Policy, LD, Big Questions, and Public Forum Debate shall be given if the tournament has more than 20 entries per event. The placement of awards shall be 1st-10th (no teams should be awarded unclear placements such as 'finalist').

d. Local SCJFL tournaments (both IE and debate) shall award at least the top six (6) places in each event, with the exception of events that offer fewer than twelve (12) competitors; a tournament is not expected to award more than half of the competitors.

2. Congress Awards: The top placing six (6) competitors will be recognized; remaining competitors will be designated as finalists. The final session Presiding Officer(s) also will be recognized. Tournament directors may add additional placements, depending on the number of entries in that event. Such additional placements will count toward So-Cal Champs qualification. Under no circumstances should a Tournament Director award more than half the entries of an event.

3. Top School Award (Sweepstakes): The top 3-5 schools may be recognized by the tournament at the discretion of the Tournament Director and Tournament Host. During the So-Cal Champs tournament, the elementary and middle school sweepstakes awards shall be separated; there shall not be a combined sweepstakes award. Events with a single school participating are not eligible toward sweepstakes points. The following formula shall be used to calculate any such award:

a. Individual Events (including Spar, but excluding Extemp). Extemp should double the following scoring (rationale: competitors entered in Extemp cannot be double-entered in other events, thus their scores should be worth more than a typical Individual Event):

Scoring:

For every 1st place = 10 points

For every 2nd place = 8 points

For every 3rd place = 6 points

For every 4th place = 4 points

For every 5th place = 2 points

For every 6th place or 7th place = 1 point

No additional points are awarded for 8th place or higher.

Events that warrant a semifinal shall award 5 points to each finalist, and each semifinal speaker shall receive 1 point.

Events that warrant a quarterfinal shall award 10 points to each finalist, 5 points to each semifinal speaker (for a total of 6 points), and each quarterfinal speaker shall receive 1 point.

Events with two competitors, such as Duo, shall not double the placement point value.

b. Debate Events (LD, Policy, Public Forum, Big Questions):

For every 1st place = 15 points

For every 2nd place = 10 points

For every semifinalist = 7 points

For every quarterfinalist = 5 points

For every octafinalist = 2 points

Additional placement awards = 1 point

If a school 'closes out' a debate event by having multiple debaters win first place, additional points will not be generated. For example, if a school 'closes out' with two teams taking first place, only 25 points would be awarded to the school sweepstakes points.

Likewise, if a school 'closed out' the top four places, only 39 points would be awarded to the school, even though the competitors would all receive 1st place trophies.

c. Congress

For every 1st place = 12 points

For every 2nd place = 10 points

For every 3rd place = 8 points

For every 4th place = 6 points

For every 5th place = 4 points

For every 6th place = 2 points

For every 7th place = 1 point

Any additional awards (excluding Top Presiding Officer) = 1 point

Top Presiding Officer = 6 points

Events that warrant a semifinal shall award 5 points to each finalist, and each semifinal speaker shall receive 1 point.

Events that warrant a quarterfinal shall award 10 points to each finalist, 5 points to each semifinal speaker (for a total of 6 points), and each quarterfinal speaker shall receive 1 point.

d. Tie-breaking procedures:

- i. Number of 1st places
- ii. Number of 2nd places
- iii. Number of 3rd places or debate semifinals
- iv. Number of 4th places
- v. Number of 5th places or debate quarterfinals
- vi. Number of 6th places
- vii. Number of 7th places or debate octafinals
- viii. Number of additional placements that did not earn points (8th place or higher; double-octafinialists; etc.)
- ix. If a tie is unbreakable by this formula, all tied contestants shall receive the highest appropriate placement, and no award will be given for the next placement. For example, if the tournament has a three-way tie for 5th place, then all three competitors will receive 8th place. The tournament will not award a 6th and 7th place, and will resume awards with 8th place.

4. Top Competitor Award (Sweepstakes): An individual sweepstakes award may be presented by the league to the competitor or team who accumulates the most points at a tournament or throughout the tournament season. Events with a single school participating are not eligible toward sweepstakes points. The points used to calculate Top Competitor Sweeps shall be the same as above in section IX; L; 3. If a school 'closes out' a debate event by having multiple debaters win first place, those first place points will be added toward the tournament/league Top Competitor Award.

5. In any event, if the tournament does not have a trophy or award on hand because of unexpected ties, then the Tournament Host shall see that all competitors are provided one promptly after the tournament.

6. The SCJFL does not cover the cost of shipping trophies. Schools are encouraged to either pick up their school's awards or arrange shipping through the trophy vendor.

M. Double-entry: Competitors may not enter more than two events for any given pattern at any SCJFL tournament. Competitors may not double-enter in a pattern if they are also entered in any of the following events in the same pattern: Policy, Lincoln-Douglas, Public Forum, Big Questions, Congress, and Extemp. Triple entry is not permitted.

N. At least one SCJFL Board member must be present at each tournament.

O. Hosting an SCJFL Tournament Requirements:

1. Documents:

- a. A letter of invitation from the principal officer of the institution;
- b. A statement of any goals and/or services to be provided by the institution;
- c. A statement of any charges to be made for use and care of any facilities.

2. Supplies:

- a. Rapid photocopy machine
- b. 1 high speed printer
- c. 7 reams of paper (for schedules/results, etc.)
- d. Office supplies: pens, pencils, legal pads, markers, tape, scissors, paper clips

3. Facilities:

- a. 1 Lecture Auditorium (seats between 100-300)
- b. 25-100 classrooms
- c. Appropriate rooms for tabulation

d. All costs for campus custodial/security/room rental are to be borne by the Tournament Host

4. Invitation:

a. Provide information regarding location (address, parking, etc.) and food amenities (on-campus or location of nearby options).

b. Amenities: Fringe benefits: Specify any add-on advantages which might be forthcoming should your school be selected as Host.

c. Postings area: Indicate where competitors, judges, and spectators should go once on campus.

d. Schedule: Indicate the times each round is scheduled to begin and end.

e. Events: Indicate which events will be offered.

f. Fees: Indicate the fees for schools and entries.

g. Judging requirements: Indicate judging obligations and the following language: "Teams, coaches, and judges are responsible for reviewing all applicable fines and penalties included in the SCJFL by-laws."

5. Judge Training: Provide judges' training and print league's judge handouts for the events offered at the tournament.

6. Tournament Hosts should retain all master ballots for at least two weeks after the tournament so that any protests can be made. After that time, the master ballots can be discarded.

P. The CMSF state tournament should abide by the rules and regulations outlined in these by-laws, however, they may create a three-person committee that would govern changes in the state tournament. The rules and by-laws in this document specific to the state tournament may be altered by a state committee. Each year, the state tournament should hold an election of a new member to be elected for a three-year term (thus, committee members may be elected to a shorter term for the initial formation). If a state-committee member cannot or will not fulfill his/her duties, an emergency election can be conducted via the state tournament listserv. If no one is able or willing to run, a member of the SCJFL board may be drafted to serve the rest of the term.

Q. Entry Limits/Divisions:

1. If a Tournament Host must restrict the number of entries in a tournament, the following procedure must be used (this measure should be used only as a fail-safe; the SCJFL should always attempt to include as many competitors as possible)

- a. Each school shall rank their entire team in terms of preference.
- b. The Tournament Director shall take the first competitor from each school's list, beginning with the first school to enter a finalized list of competitors to the tournament (i.e. late adds, drops, or changes will move a school to the back of the line). Each school enters their top rated competitor.
- c. Once each school has entered their first choice for competitors, the Tournament Director then admits each school's second choice, and so on until all rooms in the tournament are filled.

2. From time to time, a Tournament Director may wish to divide an event into various divisions to keep entry numbers at an acceptable level. In such situations, they may consult with the SCJFL board (for middle school events) or Elementary Chair (for elementary events) to ask permission to add a division. The following are the available divisions and their definitions:

- a. Rookie: a competitor who has never before attempted any event at any tournament setting. Rookie competitors may double-enter at that tournament. Rookie awards will not count toward So-Cal Champs qualifications.  
Rookie events with fewer than 20 competitors may be collapsed into the novice division.
- b. Novice: a competitor who has participated in four or fewer forensic tournaments and who has never advanced into finals or received an award. Novice competitors may double-enter at that tournament. Novice awards will not count toward So-Cal Champs qualifications.  
Novice events with less than 20 competitors may be collapsed into the open division.
- c. Open: any SCJFL-eligible competitor.
- d. If a competitor is entered into the wrong division (either by mistake or fraudulently), the competitor will be immediately disqualified. Additionally, the competitor's school will be warned. The second time a school is found to have entries in the incorrect division, the school will be charged \$100 per infraction (payable to SCJFL). The third

time a school makes an incorrect division entry, will result in the suspension of the school from the league for a time determined by board members. Coaches must notify Tournament Directors of any students entered in incorrect divisions at a minimum 24 hours before the tournament in order to move them to the correct division. Failure to do so will result in the student being removed from the tournament and a loss of associated entry fees.

R. Tournament Mistakes: Sometimes a tournament might make a mistake in the way it runs an event (e.g. the tournament assigns sides for Public Forum instead of having the competitors flip for sides; Impromptu topics are not distributed correctly; a tournament invitation contains information that is counter to these by-laws; etc.). In such circumstances, the tournament should correct the mistake as quickly as possible. This may result in slight inconsistencies. For example, if a tournament assigns sides for Public Forum in the first round and then the tabulation staff is notified of the violation with SCJFL policy, the tournament must change the event to adhere to these rules. The result would be that a tournament might accidentally assign sides for the first round, but the subsequent rounds would be corrected to flip for sides. Mistakes happen, but the tournament should make efforts to adhere to the rules designed in these by-laws.

In debate events, if a tabulation error is discovered that was not the fault of either team debating, and a subsequent round has already begun, then the tournament should award a double-win. For example, if a judge erred in round 2 by picking the wrong team, but the error wasn't discovered until round 4, then the ballot should be adjusted to a double-win for round 2.

If a tabulation error causes a competitor to not advance to an elimination round, that competitor will receive the next highest placement available. For example, if a competitor did not advance into a semifinal round but should have, then the competitor will receive a semifinal award. Likewise, if a competitor did not advance into finals, but should have, that competitor will receive a finalist award.

If a Tournament Director/Host refuses to adhere to these rules, the league may do any of the following:

1. Penalize the Tournament Director/Host by suspending their league membership.
2. Disallow the Tournament Director/Host from directing/hosting future competitions.
3. Refuse financial support for trophies or other costs that the league would normally reimburse.
4. Refuse to allow the results of the tournament to count toward season sweepstake points (either individual and/or team points).

5. Create an ad hoc committee of present SCJFL board members to investigate and recommend actions to the SCJFL board.

S. Results Posting: Tournament Directors should post the results onto the registration site within 48 hours of the completion of the tournament.

#### **X. Scholarships:**

The SCJFL may offer scholarships to competitors. The selection process and amount given are dependent upon a specialized SCJFL Scholarship Sub-Committee.

#### **XI. Recordings and Research:**

All recordings and research administered at and SCJFL event must be coordinated with the SCJFL President. Unsanctioned research or recordings at any SCJFL event is not permitted. Violators may be disqualified or asked to leave the tournament. Repeated offenses by teams may lead to the revocation of league membership. It is the responsibility of teams to inform parents and spectators that the SCJFL has a strict policy against recording speeches.

#### **XII. Sanctions:**

Should a contestant/judge/school misrepresent or violate the ethics implicit in the SCJFL, such contestant/judge/school may be denied participation in the league for one to three years. A decision to impose sanctions on a contestant/judge/school shall be based on a decision by the SCJFL Board. The Board shall allow the offending contestant/judge/school to either speak in-person during a Board meeting or to write a brief summary of defense prior to their decision. The SCJFL Board shall notify a coach/school in writing of the decision and no further appeal is permitted.

#### **XIII. Conduct:**

Tournaments are presumptively open to the public, but at the discretion of the tournament staff, observers and speakers may be asked to leave. Misconduct is grounds for removal from the tournament.

#### **XIV. Honors:**

From time to time, the SCJFL may choose to honor current or past members by naming tournaments after them. In so doing, a majority of board members must vote for such an honor, however, a board member may be excluded (though not required) for this vote if he/she is the person being honored, thus keeping the honor a surprise.

A. The naming structure of tournaments shall be outlined in rule IX; A; 3.

B. The first Individual Event tournament of the SCJFL season will be named after Heather Wolpert-Gawron. The full name of the tournament shall be: The Wolpert-

Gawron Invitational (see section IX; A; 3; e for full tournament naming procedures).

C. The third elementary tournament of the SCJFL season will be named after Daniel "Danny" Cantrell and his family. The full name of the tournament shall be: The Cantrell Invitational (see section IX; A; 3; e for full tournament naming procedures).