

## National Forensic Association

### By-Laws

I. GENERAL: All amendments to the Constitution apply to the following:

II. EVENTS AT THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT:

A. The events at the National Championship Tournament are:

#### 1. Extemporaneous Speaking

PURPOSE: A speech designed to motivate audience consideration of a significant argument related to a current national or international issue or event.

DESCRIPTION: Extemporaneous speeches are characterized by content that is directly and specifically topical, clearly stated and well-supported arguments, demonstration of a knowledge of current events, credible sources, timeliness, and vocal and nonverbal delivery choices that reflect the speech's purpose.

#### RULES:

1. Students will construct and deliver a 5 to 7 minute speech\*, after choosing from among three questions, with 30 minutes of preparation. The use of limited notes is encouraged.

2. Extemporaneous speeches must be the original work of the speaker. Consultation with coaches, teammates, other speakers, or anyone else after the draw has begun is strictly prohibited.

3. Extemporaneous speeches should be prepared after topics have been drawn. While speakers are encouraged to draw from their own knowledge of current events, no student is allowed to speak from outlines, briefs, or other materials prepared before the round. Students are encouraged to consult and reference research from a variety of sources including newspapers, magazines, journals, books, websites and blogs - providing these resources lack excessive notation and alteration.

4. Electronic methods of resource material storage and retrieval may be used within the previously prescribed parameters. Students should be able to retrieve cited material upon judge request. Students may not obtain new research during their preparation time through the use of electronic devices such as but not limited to computers, cell phones, and personal data assistants.

\* Unlike other event rules, minimum and maximum time limits provided for ALL events are enforced at the discretion of the individual judge rather than the association.

#### PROCEDURES:

1. The National Championship Tournament host and National Forensic Association are not responsible for supplying support of any kind for electronic storage or retrieval methods.

2. The National Championship Tournament host and National Forensic Association are not responsible for the security of computers or other devices stored in the extemporaneous preparation room.

3. Standard time signals should be given noting the time remaining for the speaker beginning at five minutes remaining and indicating each minute thereafter, the final 30 seconds and the closing five seconds nonverbally.

## 2. Impromptu Speaking

PURPOSE: A speech designed to motivate audience engagement of a significant argument.

DESCRIPTION: Impromptu speeches are characterized by a clearly articulated argument comprising a specific, direct response to the given prompt, well-supported claims, clear structure, uniqueness, and vocal and nonverbal delivery choices that reflect the speech's purpose.

### RULES:

1. Students will construct and deliver an original argument in response to a prompt from one of two platforms: short format (7 minutes total) and long format (9 minutes total).

Limited notes are encouraged.

2. Short Format Impromptu prescribes a limit of 7 minutes, with speeches lasting at least 5 minutes.\* Short Format prompts include ideas that can be comprehended and interpreted quickly such as quotations, both actual (from history or contemporary culture) and fictional (from movies, plays, novels etc.), single-frame cartoons, song lyrics, proverbs, rhetorical situations etc..

3. Long Format Impromptu prescribes a limit of 9 minutes, with speeches lasting at least 5 minutes.\* Long Format prompts include texts that require more time for comprehension and interpretation. Examples include: editorials, speech excerpts, essays or essay excerpts, literary pieces, speech, drama, film or other social criticism, video clips, songs etc.

\* Unlike other event rules, minimum and maximum time limits provided for ALL events are enforced at the discretion of the individual judge rather than the association.

### PROCEDURES

1. Standard time signals should be given noting the expiration of preparation time verbally in 30-second intervals, and the remainder of speaking time beginning at five minutes remaining and indicating each minute thereafter, the final 30 seconds and the closing five seconds nonverbally.

2. Contestants who have not spoken should not watch the performance of their competitors.

3. One judge per section will receive a prompt with their ballot, and is responsible for delivering the provided prompt to each contestant in the round.

### 3. Rhetorical Criticism

PURPOSE: A speech designed to describe, analyze and evaluate the rhetorical choices related to a significant rhetorical artifact or event.

DESCRIPTION: Rhetorical Criticisms are characterized by enlightening critical insight, in-depth analysis, description and application of rhetorical principles or a theoretical framework, topic significance, credible sources, and vocal and nonverbal delivery choices that reflect the speech's purpose.

#### RULES:

1. All speeches should be original, constructed and delivered by the student.
2. Speeches should adhere to the NFA Code of Ethics, Rules and Procedures.
3. Plagiarism in any form is prohibited.
4. Source citation should be specific, accurate and honest.
5. Although limited notes are permitted, speeches should be delivered from memory.
6. Audio-visual aids are permitted.
7. Maximum time limit of 10 minutes.\*

\* Unlike other event rules, minimum and maximum time limits provided for ALL events are enforced at the discretion of the individual judge rather than the association.

### 4. Persuasive Speaking

PURPOSE: A speech designed to influence audience attitudes and/or actions.

DESCRIPTION: Persuasive speeches are characterized by sound rhetorical strategy, well-supported arguments, credible sources, effective organization, timeliness, significance, and vocal and nonverbal delivery choices that reflect the speech's purpose.

#### RULES:

1. All speeches should be original, constructed and delivered by the student.
2. Speeches should adhere to the NFA Code of Ethics, Rules and Procedures.
3. Plagiarism in any form is prohibited.
4. Source citation should be specific, accurate and honest.
5. Although limited notes are permitted, speeches should be delivered from memory.
6. Audio-visual aids are permitted.
7. Maximum time limit of 10 minutes.\*

\* Unlike other event rules, minimum and maximum time limits provided for ALL events are enforced at the discretion of the individual judge rather than the association.

### 5. Informative Speaking

PURPOSE: A speech designed to clarify and/or explain a significant development, process, concept, person, place or topic.

DESCRIPTION: Informative speeches are characterized by in-depth content development that likely enhances audience understanding beyond what was previously known, well-established topic relevance, clear organization, credible sources, timeliness, and vocal and nonverbal delivery choices that reflect the speech's purpose.

RULES:

1. All speeches should be original, constructed and delivered by the student.
2. Speeches should adhere to the NFA Code of Ethics, Rules and Procedures.
3. Plagiarism in any form is prohibited.
4. Source citation should be specific, accurate and honest.
5. Although limited notes are permitted, speeches should be delivered from memory.
6. Audio-visual aids are permitted.
7. Maximum time limit of 10 minutes.\*

\* Unlike other event rules, minimum and maximum time limits provided for ALL events are enforced at the discretion of the individual judge rather than the association.

## 6. After-Dinner Speaking

PURPOSE: A speech designed to entertain by advancing a relevant point through the use of humor.

DESCRIPTION: After-Dinner speeches are characterized by humorous content development, creativity, uniqueness, timeliness, clear organization, significance, credible sources, and vocal and nonverbal delivery choices that reflect the speech's purpose.

RULES:

1. All speeches should be original, constructed and delivered by the student.
2. Speeches should adhere to the NFA Code of Ethics, Rules and Procedures.
3. Plagiarism in any form is prohibited.
4. Source citation should be specific, accurate and honest.
5. Although limited notes are permitted, speeches should be delivered from memory.
6. Audio-visual aids are permitted.
7. Maximum time limit of 10 minutes.\*

\* Unlike other event rules, minimum and maximum time limits provided for ALL events are enforced at the discretion of the individual judge rather than the association. Exceptions will be made in the Final Round at the National Championship Tournament.

## 7. Prose Interpretation

PURPOSE: An interpretive performance designed to engage the audience through the development of a narrative/story.

DESCRIPTION: Students choose, excerpt and/or cut (with due respect paid to issues of literary integrity), and perform a selection or selections of original and/or published prose material of literary merit.

RULES:

1. Prose material can include essays, novels, short stories, diaries, interviews, journalism, (auto)ethnographies, and/or personal narratives. Both material originally created for performance and poetry are prohibited.
2. Use of manuscript is required.
3. Maximum time is 10 minutes, including any introductory and/or transitional comments.\*

\* Unlike other event rules, minimum and maximum time limits provided for ALL events are enforced at the discretion of the individual judge rather than the association.

## 8. Dramatic Interpretation

PURPOSE: An interpretive performance designed to engage the audience through the development of multiple characters within a dramatic context.

DESCRIPTION: Students choose, excerpt and/or cut (with due respect paid to issues of literary integrity), and perform a selection or selections of original and/or published dramatic material of literary merit.

RULES:

1. Dramatic material which promotes the development of characters must be created for performance, and can include plays, screenplays, movies, documentaries, docudramas, graphic novels, comic books/strips, broadcast content, stand-up comedy, and/or improvisational sketches. Both prose and poetry are prohibited.
2. Multiple characters must be present. Monologues may be used as long as multiple monologues/characters are present.
3. Use of manuscript is required.
4. Maximum time is 10 minutes, including any introductory and/or transitional comments.\*

\* Unlike other event rules, minimum and maximum time limits provided for ALL events are enforced at the discretion of the individual judge rather than the association.

## 9. Dramatic Duo

PURPOSE: An interpretive performance by two individuals designed to engage the audience through the interaction of multiple characters within a dramatic context.

DESCRIPTION: Students choose, excerpt and/or cut (with due respect paid to issues of literary integrity), and perform a selection or selections of original and/or published material of literary merit. This is not an acting event.

RULES:

1. Any type of material(s) of literary merit may be used as long as the performance highlights dramatic interaction.
2. Use of manuscript is required, which prohibits physical contact between performers.
3. Off-stage focus is required.
4. No costumes, props, etc. are to be used.
5. Maximum time is 10 minutes, including any introductory and/or transitional comments.\*

\* Unlike other event rules, minimum and maximum time limits provided for ALL events are enforced at the discretion of the individual judge rather than the association.

10. Poetry Interpretation

PURPOSE: An interpretive performance designed to engage the audience through the development of linguistic imagery.

DESCRIPTION: Students choose, excerpt and/or cut (with due respect paid to issues of literary integrity), and perform a selection or selections of original and/or published poetry of literary merit.

RULES:

1. Poetry can include poems, slam poetry, and lyrics. Both material originally created for performance (with the exception of slam poetry) and prose material are prohibited.
2. Use of manuscript is required.
3. Maximum time is 10 minutes, including any introductory and/or transitional comments.\*

\* Unlike other event rules, minimum and maximum time limits provided for ALL events are enforced at the discretion of the individual judge rather than the association.

1. Persuasion: An original speech by the student, designed to inspire, reinforce or change the beliefs, attitudes, values or actions of the audience. Audiovisual aids may or may not be used to supplement and reinforce the message. Multiple sources should be used and cited in the development of the speech. Limited notes are permitted. Maximum time is 10 minutes.

2. Extemporaneous: 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 student. Limited notes are permitted. Students will speak in the listed order. Maximum time is 7 minutes.

3. Impromptu: In each section, contestants will be given a topic of a proverb nature and will have a total of seven minutes to divide between preparation and speaking. Limited notes are permitted.

4. Rhetorical Criticism: An original speech by the student designed to offer an explanation and/or evaluation of a rhetorical event. Any legitimate critical methodology is permissible. Audiovisual aids may be used to supplement and reinforce the message. Limited notes are permitted. Maximum time is 10 minutes.

~~5. Informative: An original, factual speech by the student on a realistic subject to fulfill the general purpose to inform the audience. Audiovisual aids may be used to supplement and reinforce the message. Multiple sources should be used and cited in the development of the speech. Limited notes are permitted. Maximum time is 10 minutes.~~

~~6. Prose: A selection or selections of prose material of literary merit, which may be drawn from more than one source. Play cuttings and poetry are prohibited. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time is 10 minutes including original introduction.~~

~~7. Poetry: A selection or selections of poetry of literary merit, which may be drawn from more than one source. Play cuttings and prose works are prohibited. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time is 10 minutes including original introduction.~~

~~8. After-Dinner: An original, humorous speech by the student, 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 dialog. Audiovisual aids may be used to supplement and reinforce the message. Limited notes are permitted. Maximum time is 10 minutes.~~

~~9. Dramatic Duo: A cutting from a play, humorous or serious, involving the portrayal of two or more characters presented by two individuals. This is not an acting event; Thus, no costumes, props, etc., are to be used. Presentation is from manuscript and focus should be off-stage. Maximum time is 10 minutes including original introduction.~~

1011. Lincoln-Douglas Debate:

DESCRIPTION: This event is one-person, policy debate on traditional stock issues. It is a communication event in which competitors are evaluated on their analysis, use of evidence, and ability to persuasively organize, deliver and refute arguments. Judges will assign each contestant in a round a win or loss with between 1-30 speaker points. Time limits are:

Affirmative Constructive 6 minutes  
Cross-Examination 3 minutes  
Negative Constructive 7 minutes  
Cross-Examination 3 minutes  
Affirmative Rebuttal 6 minutes  
Negative Rebuttal 6 minutes  
Affirmative Rebuttal 3 minutes  
Prep time per debater 4 minutes

B. The following rules apply to all events:

1. All must be presented in the English language.
2. No speech or program used by the contestant in competition should have been used prior to September 1, preceding the National Championship Tournament.
3. No student may perform two cuttings from the same literary work at the National Championship tournament in the same year.

C. The following rules apply to all interpretation events:

**[\*\*Informational Note: This general rule seeks to establish the general principle that, in the case of “interpretation programs” which include any quotations from pre-existing literary texts, the “genre identity” of all such material would be determined by the intent of the original/first author(s).]**

**The genre to which any given work of literature belongs shall be determined as follows:**

**A. Under normal circumstances, the genre classification intended by the first author of the original source material/text shall be accepted as definitive;**

**B. Material originally composed by the student and/or his/her coaches and/or other writers who have not “published” their work in standard publication outlets shall have its genre defined by the intent of the author(s) of that material;**

**C. Material adapted (by students, their coaches, and/or any other adapters primarily concerned with the use of that material in forensics performances) in whole or in part from texts written by others (identifiably distinct “first authors”) shall be bound to adhere to the genre definitions of the original author(s) of any such texts. Adaptation and/or compilation is not an act of original authorship.**

**D. When the first author’s genre intent is not clearly apparent, the National Council reserves the right to make such genre determination based on all available evidence.**

**CD.** Experimental event at the National Championship Tournament:

1. All proposals for any experimental event at the National Championship Tournament must be submitted for consideration to the National Council by April 1. Proposals must include event name, rules, rationale, and names and affiliations of authors.
2. The National Council will select worthy proposals to submit to the Student Assembly at the National Championship Tournament.
3. The Student Assembly, if it chooses to do so, will pick from National Council submissions an Experimental Event for implementation at the following year's National Championship Tournament.
  - a. A maximum of one (1) experimental event may be implemented in any tournament year.
  - b. The experimental events will not be part of sweepstakes or pentathlon at the National Championship Tournament.
  - c. Other appropriate elements of the association’s Constitution, By-laws, and Code of Ethics will apply to the experimental event. An implemented experimental event cannot be added to the slate of regular events unless it constitutionally replaces another event.
  - d. Execution of the experimental event is contingent upon available space.

### III. QUALIFICATION PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS

**A. In order for a student to qualify any of the events in Section II (except L-D) of the By-Laws for competition at the National Tournament, the following criteria must be met:**

1. The student must be an undergraduate student enrolled at the institution which they represented at the qualification tournament.
2. At least 7 schools entered in the qualification tournament.
3. At least 11 entrants in the event. \*
4. At least 3 performances. \*\*
5. At least 3 ballots.
6. Reaching the final round, which is defined by the top 6 competitors after preliminary rounds. Ties deemed unbreakable may allow for more than 6 to advance, in which case all finalists will qualify.

\*In the event that there are less than 11 entrants, criteria 2, 4 and 5 must still be met, and if so, the top fifty percent of the entrants will qualify.

\*\*In the event that there are less than 8 entrants who all compete in the same section, criteria 2 and 5 must still be met, and if so, the top fifty percent of the entrants will qualify.

In the event that there are more than 60 entrants, the top ten percent will qualify.

In cases where both novice and open divisions of the same event are offered, the finalists in both divisions will qualify, as long as they still meet the above criteria.

A student may qualify for any of the events in Section II (except L-D) of the By Laws by being in a final round or in the top 10% of that event at a tournament that had at least seven schools participating. The tournament must have had at least two preliminary rounds and at least 12 contestants in the event. When an event has less than 12 contestants in preliminary rounds, the top 50% (rounding up) of the entrants will qualify for I. E. Nationals.

B. In order for a student to qualify Lincoln-Douglas Debate for competition at the National Tournament, the following criteria must be met:

1. At least 3 schools entered in the debate tournament.
2. The debate tournament must employ the NFA Lincoln-Douglas topic and rules.
3. At least 4 preliminary rounds of competition. (Elimination rounds are encouraged but are optional.
4. The number of qualifications is based on the following formula:
  - 5-8 entrants = 2 qualifiers
  - 9-16 entrants = 4 qualifiers
  - 17-32 entrants = 8 qualifiers
  - 33+ entrants = 16 qualifiers

, tournaments, which employ the NFA L-D topic and rules, will qualify for nationals. There must be a minimum of 3 schools in attendance and a minimum of four preliminary rounds. Elimination rounds are encouraged but are optional. Students qualify for nationals based on their placement according to the following

formula: Entrants: Qualifiers:

5-8-2

9-16-4

17-32-8

33+16

C. Each qualification application must be submitted to the **National** Tournament Director with written proof of meeting the requirements stated above.

D. Regardless of event size, only one set of **finalists competitors** per event may qualify for the National Championship Tournament. **In cases where both novice and open divisions of the same event are offered, they will be considered separate events.**

E. **Events Tournaments** that restrict entry to only those who have not yet qualified for the National Championship Tournament shall not be accepted as qualifying **events tournaments**.

F. Students who graduate during the academic year may compete **at the National Championship Tournament** in those events in which they qualified between September and the date of **their** graduation.

G. The third Monday prior to the beginning of the National Championship Tournament shall be the tournament qualification **and tournament entry** deadline. **The third Wednesday prior to the beginning of the National Championship Tournament shall be the mail entry deadline.**

#### IV. ELIGIBILITY OF CONTESTANTS

A. Contestants must be enrolled undergraduates at the school they represent at the National Championship Tournament. Exceptions will be made for those students who graduate in mid-year. Contestants need not be full time students but must be enrolled at their institution for more than **just** a course in forensics.

B. Contestants may not have received a baccalaureate degree or its equivalent. **The only exception is noted in Article III, Section F- Exceptions will be made for those students who graduate in mid-year.**

C. A student is allowed the equivalent of eight semesters of competitive eligibility. **Attendance at Competition in** 3 or more tournaments and/or any national tournament (as defined **in Article IV, below in** Section D) within a semester constitutes a semester of eligibility.

D. Contestants are limited to four **national tournament** years **of national tournament competition**. These years need not be consecutive. These national tournaments include those sponsored by NFA, PKD, DSR-TKA, IOA, PRP, CEDA, NPDA, AFA, and Novice Nationals or any other forensic national competition added to this list by the **NFA Executive National** Council.

E. Transfer Students: Qualifications go with the student. If the school to which the student transfers does not have a forensic program or does not attend the NFA National Tournament, the student may compete for the former school in those events for which he/she qualified while attending the former school.

F. Any student who judges at a collegiate forensic tournament forfeits any remaining competitive eligibility.

**FG.** All Contestants must meet the minimum standards of eligibility for participation in intercollegiate activities as determined by their respective institutions.

**GH.** Final determination of a student's eligibility to compete in the tournament will be made by the President along with the National Council.

#### V. **INDIVIDUAL EVENTS** TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES

##### Section 1:

The schematic should include the following items and procedures:

- A. Maximum rotation--ideally, contestants should meet new competition each round.
- B. Sections should be no more than six and not fewer than five contestants.
- C. Four preliminary rounds of competition plus quarterfinal, semifinals, and final rounds in each event.
- D. Each contestant in an event shall have a different code number for that event. Schematics will use only those numbers. The contestant's school (by name or code) shall not be identified in the schematic or in any posting and/or announcement of elimination rounds.
- E. Contestants will not compete against contestants from their own school if mathematically possible. If not, then such conflicts should be kept to a minimum.

##### Section 2:

Tournament Schedule

- A. Schedule no more than three events per time bracket.
- B. Schedule time for the National Assembly and Student Assembly meetings.

##### Section 3:

Assignment of Judges.

- A. Any potential judge who is not an active college/university forensic instructor must be certified approved by Judges are scheduled at the discretion of the National Tournament Committee.
- B. No judge will judge students from his/her current school or from any other school he/she declares an association with on the certification entry form. Such declarations might include: recent coaching at any other school entered in the tournament; recent coaching of any individual student entered in the tournament by another team; or any other potentially significant conflict of interest.

C. Two judges will be assigned to each section in preliminary rounds. Judges should not judge the same contestant in preliminary rounds more than once in the same event. Under no circumstances should this occur more than twice. Judges should not judge with the same partner more than once. Each preliminary round section should not have more than one hired judge.

D. No judge hired by the host school will judge contestants from that school. Exceptions may be granted by the **National** Tournament Committee when necessary due to availability of judges, for judges hired by the host school solely for National Tournament judging.

E. Two judges will be assigned to each section in preliminary rounds in random order. Five judges from five different states will be randomly assigned by the **National** Tournament Committee for each section of elimination rounds. Judges should not judge the same event more than once in elimination rounds.

F. Last names of judges assigned to rounds will be printed in the tournament schematic.

Section 4:

Judging Tournament Ballots.

Association-approved ballots will be utilized. They will include ranks, ratings, and space for written comments. All contestants will be ranked from 1-5 in preliminary rounds and from 1-6 (or when necessary, 1-7) in all elimination rounds. All contestants will be given rating points from 100-70 in both preliminary and elimination rounds. There can be no ties given in ratings points. In addition, there can be no ties on ranks other than a 5 in preliminary rounds.

Section 5:

Tabulation and Results Recording

A. The Tabulation Sub-Committee of the National Tournament Committee The National Tournament Director shall be in charge of the tabulation room.

B. No one in with knowledge of results at any time shall judge in a following round except in an emergency. If such an emergency occurs then the judge(s) shall be selected by random draw from those available.

C. Specific Procedures for Tabulation.

1. Record rank and rating for each entry at the end of each round from the judge's ballots which are his/her signed official decision.
2. Record sweepstakes points for each entry at the end of each round.
3. At the end of the preliminary rounds, calculate total ranks calculated, and total ratings. Drop the lowest rank and rating for each contestant. Total ratings calculated, drop to the lowest rating. Determine the top 24 contestants in each event. Rank top 24 in order from 1 to 24 using first total ranks than total points ratings. Record pentathlon and sweepstakes points on appropriate record sheets. Repeat procedure for semifinals and final rounds. Total pentathlon and sweepstakes.

4. All tabulations will be double-checked by the tabulation staff.

~~D. Ranks and ratings will be recorded for each contestant for each round from the Judge's Individual Ballots which are his/her signed official decision.~~

~~D. At the end of the preliminary rounds, the lowest rank and lowest rating will be deleted for each contestant (this does not affect sweepstakes.) Sweepstakes points are based on all preliminary round ranks, including those that were dropped to determine advancement into elimination rounds.~~

E. ~~Ranks will be totaled.~~ The 24 contestants in each event with the lowest **adjusted** ranks **enter advance to** quarterfinals. The following procedure will be used in case of ties in ranks: (1) total ratings points; (2) **use "**greatest number of firsts in preliminary rounds"; **(3)** If a tie still exists at this point, the additional person(s) will **be added advance** to quarterfinals.

F. Quarterfinals sections shall be made up of the following ranked contestants:

Section A - 1, 8, 9, 16, 17, 24; **(25)**

Section B - 2, 7, 10,15, 18, 23; **(26)**

Section C - 3, 6, 11,14, 19, 22; **(27)**

Section D - 4, 5, 12,13, 20, 21. **(28)**

There will be no exceptions to this section assignment (such as two or more contestants from the same school in the same section). Seeding ties will be broken using the same criterion **as in Section 5f outlined** above, except that in quarter-final rounds, if a tie still exists, seeding will be **randomly assigned determined by a single coin flip.**

G. The top three contestants from each quarterfinal section will advance to the semifinals.

The top three contestants from sections A and D will comprise one semifinal section and the top three contestants from sections B and C will comprise the other semifinal section. The top three contestants from each semifinal section will advance to the final round.

If a tie exists in any elimination round, the tie-breaking procedure will be:

1. Total rank;
2. Total rate;
3. Judge's preference.

H. Speaking order in all elimination rounds will be determined by random draw.

I. Contestants earn 3 sweepstakes points for each first place; 2 points for each second place; and 1 point for each third place **ballot rank** received in the four preliminary rounds. Thus, the maximum points would occur when a contestant received eight firsts equaling 24 points. The total preliminary points are halved **for team sweepstakes and pentathlon calculation.**

J. All students in quarterfinals and semifinals will be awarded three sweepstakes points. In the final round, sweepstakes points are allotted as follows: 1st-12; 2nd-10; 3rd-8; 4th-7; 5th-5; 6th-3.

~~K. When the preliminary rounds are completed, ranks totaled and sweepstakes points for each contestant are computed, Regardless of the number of entries, each school receives the sweepstakes points for its top three contestants in preliminary rounds in each event. (Three contestants with the most points.)~~

Section 6 VI: Lincoln-Douglas Procedures.

Lincoln-Douglas Debate rounds at the NFA National **Championship** Tournament will be paired as follows:

A. The first two rounds of the tournament will be pre-set with debaters randomly matched with debaters outside their own geographical region as determined by the tab room staff.

B. Power matching should begin with the third round.

1. The odd number rounds should use a direct power match scheme since there is not a problem with side constraints in the odd number rounds.
2. The even number rounds should use a high/low power match scheme within win/loss brackets to allow for side constraints.

C. So far as possible, a judge should not judge a debater from a school within their own geographical region in any round.

D. The formula for determining the number of debaters advancing to elimination rounds will be stated in the tournament invitation.

Breaking to Double-Octo's:

A. Take debaters with a record of 4-2 or better.

1. If there are more than 32 debaters with a 4-2 or better record, break on speaker points.
2. If there is a tie in speaker points, then the tie will be broken using the following tie-breaking procedure: first, dropping the highest and lowest assigned speaker points; second, strength of the opponent; and third, z-score or judge variance.

B. If there are not enough 4-2 debaters to make a full bracket of 32, take the debaters with the highest 3-3 records. Break ties by the same method used above. There should be no byes in elimination rounds.

C. Pairing shall be as follows: 1-32; 2-31; 3-30; 4-29; 5-28 etc. to 16-17.

## VII. CATEGORIES OF SWEEPSTAKES AWARDS

### A. Individual Events

There will be four categories of sweepstakes. The top 10 percent of schools with the most entered slots are eligible only for open sweeps; the next 15 percent - President's One (I), the next 20 percent - President's Two (II), and the remainder President's Three (III). Categories are determined the Sunday before the National Championship Tournament. All numbers will be rounded up when categories are calculated. Schools winning an award in one of the Presidential categories are also

eligible to win an award in the Open Division. Categories will be announced at the awards ceremony on Monday.

#### B. Lincoln-Douglas Debate

There is one open division in Lincoln-Douglas Debate.

#### C. Pentathlon

1. Students entered in five or more events are eligible for Pentathlon awards (Two duos do NOT count as two events in determining Pentathlon eligibility). In determining these awards, only the student's best 5 slots in preliminary and/or elimination rounds will be considered.

2. In the event of a tie in Pentathlon, the tie-breaking procedure will be:

a. Number of events in final rounds;

b. Number of events in semifinal rounds;

c. Number of events in quarterfinal rounds;

d. If a tie still exists, the tie will be broken on placement in elimination rounds, beginning with finals.

#### VI VIII. SANCTIONS FOR VIOLATION OF NFA CODE OF ETHICS, RULES AND PROCEDURES

A. Directors, coaches and students Contestants, and coaches bear the burden of ensuring must ensure their compliance with NFA the association's ethics, rules and procedures. Any director, coach or student who violates NFA these ethics, rules or procedures is subject to the sanctions as indicated in the Code of Ethics and as applied at the discretion of the NFA National Council.

B. Those in doubt as to compliance with these ethics, rules or procedures should correspond with the President or National Tournament Director of the association in advance of the National Championship Tournament to ensure their compliance. Those suspecting violations of ethics, rules or procedures should report alleged violation(s) to an officer of the NFA a member of the National Tournament Committee as soon as practical and if at all possible, well in advance of the National Championship Tournament.

#### CODE OF ETHICS

##### 1. Repetition of Materials (In Prepared & Interpretation Events)

It is unethical for students to reuse materials from year to year.

##### 2. Literary Definitions for Interpretive Events

Contestants must use literary selections in the appropriate event category and must perform those selections primarily in English.

##### 3. Authorship of Materials Used in Competition

Students should author their own materials in non-interpretation events and should cite sources for any materials they employ which are not original.

#### 4. Timing

The judge(s) in each round must ensure accurate timing of all performances and provision of accurate time signals in limited preparation events.

#### 5. Student Affiliation with an Institution

Students who attend more than one institution may only represent one institution at the National Championship Tournament. Students may compete at the National Championship Tournament only in those events they qualified. Students who officially transfer from one institution to another may compete in any events for which they have qualified.

#### 6. Student Status

Students who compete at the National Championship Tournament must be making progress toward an initial undergraduate degree.

#### 7. Evidence

Students should only use evidence that is accurate and thoroughly referenced. Institutions should be prepared to provide source verification of all materials used in competition at the National Championship Tournament. Students may use evidence from non-written sources as long as the veracity of the evidence may be confirmed.

#### 8. Ethical Judging Behavior

Judges should act professionally and demonstrate respect for academic freedom when engaged in the critique, ranking and rating of students.

#### Violation(s) of Ethics, Rules and Procedures:

1. Challenges or disputes arising from the provisions of the association must be submitted in writing to a member of the National Tournament Committee (the President of the association, the National Tournament Director or the Vice President for Administration). The written challenge must include the violation, a statement of the nature of the violation, the name of the alleged offender, the school they represent, and evidence in support of the allegation of violation. The National Tournament Committee will make a preliminary review of the written challenge as soon as practical and within 24 hours if the allegation occurs during the National Championship Tournament. The National Tournament Committee will utilize any and all means at its disposal to determine the validity of the allegations and the circumstances of the situation(s) surrounding them, including video and audio tapes, student manuscripts, ballots, judges' comments, etc. Any person in attendance at the National Championship Tournament may file a challenge for any alleged violation.

2. After the preliminary review of the National Tournament Committee of a written challenge, the National Tournament Committee will report its findings to the National Council. The National Council will either conduct a formal hearing to investigate the allegation, dismiss the allegation, or defer action until further evidence can be made available. All parties involved will be given notice of the National Council's actions. Public

notice of the National Council's ruling will be given to all member institutions.

3. The National Council may request written statements, oral testimony or interrogatories from those involved in the allegations. Failure to cooperate in the Council's investigation will be considered a violation and subject to the penalties noted elsewhere.

4. The National Council will keep accurate records of its proceedings and any testimony received in connection with an allegation of violation(s). These records will be confidential and subject to disclosure only to the person or persons alleged to be in violation. Individuals may petition the National Council in writing to have their testimony exempted from confidentiality provisions.

5. The findings of the National Council in an allegation of violation are subject to appeal to the National Assembly.

#### Sanctions for Violations:

1. The National Council, after its deliberations and a determination by 2/3 vote of the members present and voting, may impose penalties for violation of ethics, rules, and/or procedures. The imposition of penalties will be made public, as will the votes of the individual Council members to impose penalties. Student representatives of the National Council will not take part in the investigation of violations nor will they be permitted to vote in such matters if the challenge is presented during the National Championship Tournament.

2. For violations involving a specific event, the penalties will be selected from the following:

- A. Disqualification from the event in question;
- B. Issuance of letter(s) of censure to the individual(s) and/or institution(s) in violation;
- C. Issuance of letter(s) of reprimand to the individual(s) and/or the institution(s) in violation;
- D. Disallowance of sweepstakes points or honors achieved in the event in question.
- E. Prohibition from attendance at future national competitions.

3. For violations involving eligibility, the penalties will be selected from the following:

- A. Disqualification from the National Championship Tournament;
- B. Issuance of letter(s) of censure to the individual(s) and/or the institution(s) in violation;
- C. Issuance of letter(s) of reprimand to the individual(s) and/or the institution(s) in violation;
- D. Disallowance of sweepstakes points or honors achieved at the National Tournament,
- E. Prohibition from attendance at future national competitions.

4. For violations involving conduct of a coach and/or a judge, the penalties will be selected from the following:

A. Issuance of letter(s) of reprimand to the individual(s) and/or the institution(s) in violation;

B. Disallowance of sweepstakes points for the institution(s) the individual(s) represents;

C. Prohibition from attendance at future national competitions.

#### VII IX. CATEGORIES OF SWEEPSTAKES AWARDS

##### A. Individual Events

There will be four categories of sweepstakes. The 10 schools with the most entered slots are eligible only for open sweeps; the next 15 – President's I, the next 20 – President's II, and the remainder for President's III. Categories are determined the Sunday before Nationals. All numbers will be rounded up when categories are calculated. Schools winning an award in one of the Presidential categories are also eligible to win an award in the Open Division. Categories will be announced at the awards ceremony on Monday.

##### B. Lincoln-Douglas Debate

There is an open division in Lincoln-Douglas Debate, and there will be five sweepstakes awards given in Lincoln-Douglas Debate.

##### C. Pentathlon

1. Students entered in five or more events are eligible for Pentathlon awards (Two duos do NOT count as two events). In determining these awards, only the student's best 5 slots in prelims and/or finals will be considered.

2. In the event of a tie in Pentathlon, the tie-breaking procedure will be:

a. Number of events in final rounds;

b. Number of events in semifinal rounds;

c. Number of events in quarterfinal rounds;

d. If a tie still exists, the tie will be broken on placement in final rounds.