

Baltimore Catholic Forensics League

Constitution

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ARTICLE 1. Name

The name of this organization shall be the Baltimore Catholic Forensics League (BCFL).

Section A. Affiliation

This organization shall be comprised for the purpose of affiliation with the National Catholic Forensics League (NCFL).

Section B. No independent BCFL Tournaments

Diocesan membership may not hold independent BCFL Tournaments.

ARTICLE II. Purpose

The purpose of the Baltimore Catholic Forensic League shall be the development of critical thinking and articulate leadership by the promotion of forensics activities in and among the teams of its member schools.

ARTICLE III. Membership

Section A. Eligibility

Any existing secondary school in the Baltimore metropolitan area shall be eligible for membership in the BCFL. Any exceptions to this rule must be voted upon by the existing membership.

Section B. Certification

Application for membership shall be made to the Secretary of this organization. Full rights of membership, including the right to vote at meetings, the right to participate in League competition, and the right to be enrolled as a member school of the BCFL, shall be granted only upon receipt of the full payment of dues as established by the Executive Committee. For the purposes of organization, the right to vote at the fall meeting of the Executive Committee will be granted to all schools in good standing or enrolling during the current school year.

Section C. Fees

The Executive Committee shall establish annual dues and tournament fees for the member schools. Individual schools shall be held accountable for payment of any penalty fees incurred as a result of that school's team/coaches decisions.

ARTICLE IV. Officers of the League

Section A. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall consist of the coaches or the adult representatives of the schools holding membership in the League. It shall determine League policy in all matters not covered by the Constitution or its By-Laws. It shall approve all expenditures not incurred in the ordinary administration of local tournaments.

Section B. Executive Council

The Executive Council shall consist of the League officers. The officers of the League shall be a Tournament Director and a Diocesan Director,

Assistant Director of Team Debate,
Assistant Director of Speech,
Assistant Director of Lincoln-Douglas Debate,
Assistant Director of Student Congress,
Assistant Director of Public Forum Debate,
Secretary/ Treasurer.

1. Election of Officers

- a. All officers shall be elected by the Executive Committee.
- b. All members of the Executive Committee shall be eligible for nomination. Nomination and election of officers listed in Section IV.B. shall take place at the fall meeting of the appropriate school year.

2. Term of Office

- a. The term of office for the Director, the Assistant Director of Team Debate, the Assistant Director of Speech, the Assistant Director of Lincoln-Douglas Debate, the Assistant Director of Student Congress, and the Secretary/Treasurer shall be for two years and will be eligible for reelection.
- b. Should a resignation occur, a special election at the next regularly scheduled Executive Committee meeting shall be held to fill the vacancy. In the interim, the Presiding Officer of the BCFL shall appoint the official.

3. Duties of the Officers

a. Tournament Director

- (1) The Director shall be responsible for the enforcement of all provisions of the Constitution and its By-Laws and all regulations enacted under its authority.
- (2) The Director shall have the authority over all tournament matters.
- (3) The Director shall be responsible, at his/her discretion, for the appointment of members of the Executive Committee to various duties.
- (4) The Director may call special meetings of the Executive Committee, the Executive Council, or other committees of the League when he/she deems it necessary.

b. The Assistant Directors

- (1) The Assistant Director of Team Debate shall act as Director in the absence of the Director or for an unexpired term, if that office becomes vacant.
- (2) In the absence of the Director and the Assistant Director of Team Debate, the Assistant Director of Speech shall act as Director.
- (3) In the absence of the Director and the Assistant Directors of Team Debate and Speech, the Assistant Director of Lincoln-Douglas Debate shall act as Director.

c. The Secretary/Treasurer

- (1) The Secretary shall conduct correspondence of the League.
- (2) The Secretary shall keep an accurate record of the proceedings of each League meeting and shall publish said minutes for distribution to the member schools.
- (3) Shall compile the annual Director of Member schools and Coaches.
- (4) Shall provide the membership with copies of the Constitution and its By-Laws.
- (5) Shall keep a history of the League.
- (6) Shall receive and pay all bills charged to the League
- (7) At each meeting of the Executive Committee, shall render an accounting of the League's expenditures and receipts to date.
- (8) At the end of each year, shall publish an itemized annual statement of receipts and expenditures.
- (9) Shall arrange for the purchase of awards required by the League.
- (10) Shall, in the absence of the of the Diocesan Director of the other Assistant Directors, shall act as Director.

d. – The Diocesan Director (NCFL) Representative

- (1) The Director of the BCFL shall serve as the representative of the Diocese to the NCFL.
- (2) If the Diocese is not represented by the Director, the League shall elect from its membership the NCFL Representative. This representative shall be a member of the Executive Council.

ARTICLE V. Tournament Officials

Section A. The Assistant Directors

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Each Assistant Director shall have complete charge of his/her respective division of all tournaments, in accordance with the rules of such tournaments as specified in the Constitution and its By-Laws.

1. Each Assistant Director shall be empowered to establish and promulgate such regulations and procedures as he/she deems necessary to facilitate conformity with such rules and/or efficient conduct of his/her respective division. All such procedures will be coordinated and approved by the Tournament Director.
2. Each Assistant Director shall adjudicate all disputes that may arise and make interpretations of the rules as may be necessary concerning the conduct of his/her respective division in conjunction with the Director.
 - a. Protests may only be registered by a coach or his/her properly designated assistant.
3. With the approval of the Tournament Director, each Assistant Director may delegate his/her authority to another member of the Executive Committee.
4. Each Assistant Director shall require participating schools to furnish competent judges to his/her respective division and shall establish and promulgate qualifications required to judge the categories within the division.
5. Each Assistant Director shall be responsible for the preparation of instructions for judges and the distribution of those instructions at each tournament.
6. Each Assistant Director may appoint one or more assistants to facilitate, under his/her supervision, the conduct of his/her respective division.
7. Each Assistant Director, in conjunction with the Director, may disqualify a judge for cause in writing. In the event where a bona fide Team Debate, Speech, Student Congress, Public Forum, or Lincoln-Douglas coach is disqualified in that respective division, in addition to other appeals stipulated in the By-Laws, he/she shall have the additional right to appeal to the membership at the next scheduled meeting of the Executive Committee.
8. The Assistant Director shall be responsible for the certification of those contestants who qualify to participate in the Qualifying Championship Tournament.
9. The Assistant Director of Speech shall be responsible for the preparation of an adequate number of topics concerning current events, which shall be, as far as possible, of equal weight and significance for use in extemporaneous speaking and Impromptu.

Section B. Tournament Directors and Asst. Tournament Directors

Each Tournament Director and/or Assistant Tournament Director shall fulfill the following duties for his/her respective division.

1. He/she shall be responsible for the preparation of all schematics.
2. He/she shall be responsible for the tabulation of all results.
3. He/she shall be responsible for the compilation and publication of results for all coaches of the league to review.
4. He/she shall be responsible for the assignment of judges.
5. He/she shall be empowered to establish and promulgate such regulations and procedures as are necessary or desirable for the execution of the above duties.
6. Any alterations to any event that should be deemed necessary can be implemented with the approval of the executive Committee with approval of member schools.

ARTICLE VI. Amendments

Section A. Amendment Proposals

An Amendment to this Constitution and/or its By-Laws may be proposed from any member school in writing prior to an official League meeting to be acted upon at the next meeting.

1. The Amendment proposal must be in the Tournament Director's possession at least thirty days prior to the meeting.
2. The Director must distribute copies of the proposed amendment to the member schools at least ten days prior to the meeting.

Section B. Amendment Proposed by Committee

An Amendment to this Constitution and/or its By-Laws may be proposed and acted upon at the same meeting if it results from a report of a committee established at a prior meeting and thereby placed on the agenda with due notice.

Section C. Quorum

1. A quorum shall consist of the members present and voting. There shall be no voting by proxy.
2. Each member school shall be granted one vote.

Section D. Amendment Ratification

1. Voting procedures shall be those defined in Article VII of this Constitution.
2. Approval must be by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of member schools present.
3. All Constitutional and/or By-Laws Amendments adopted at the fall meeting shall take effect immediately. Those Amendments adopted at the Winter or Spring meeting shall take effect the following competition year, unless a separate motion is made for the Amendment to take effect immediately, with this separate motion requiring a four-fifths (2/3) vote of member schools present to pass.

ARTICLE VII. Meetings of the League

Section A. Official Meetings

1. There shall be two regular meetings of the Executive Committee and general membership each year. One in May and one before the start of the season.
2. The Director may call other meetings of the Executive Committee when deemed necessary.

ARTICLE VIII. Voting Procedures

Section A. Voting

1. In all matters concerning the League as a whole, each school shall have one vote.

Section B. Restrictions

2. Only schools participating in Team Debate shall vote on matters concerning Team Debate alone. Each school shall have one vote.
3. Only schools participating in Speech shall vote on matters concerning Speech alone. Each school shall have one vote.
4. Only schools participating Student Congress shall vote on matters concerning Student Congress alone. Each school shall have one vote.
5. Only schools participating in Lincoln-Douglas Debate shall vote on matters concerning Lincoln-Douglas Debate alone. Each school shall have one vote.
6. Only schools participating Public Forum shall vote on matters concerning Student Congress alone. Each school shall have one vote.
7. A quorum shall consist of the members present and voting. There shall be no voting by proxy.

Section C. Vote by Mail or Telephone

1. The Tournament Director may call for a vote by email or telephone when he/she deems it necessary.
2. A quorum in such cases shall consist of the votes received by the deadline set

