

National Online Forensics

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Charter

I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be National Online Forensics (NOF).

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization is to organize, promote, and hold an annual National Online Forensics (speech and debate) Championship tournament for college, high school, middle, and elementary school students; and promote best practices for online forensics competition.

III. OFFICERS

- A. Authority: The authority of this organization shall be administered by NOF Executive Board Members.
- B. Executive Board Members
 1. The Executive Board shall consist of three members: Robert Cannon, Daniel Cantrell, and Mike Kyle.
 2. Each Executive Board member shall have one vote. Unless otherwise specified in this charter, all decisions require a majority vote by the Executive Board.
 3. Executive Board members will serve indefinitely.
 4. The Executive Board shall select a Chair from within its membership for a one-year term. The Chair is responsible for:
 - a) Organizing the annual Committee Meeting, preparing the agenda, and running the meeting.
 - b) Acting as the point of contact for NOF throughout the calendar year.
 - c) Ensuring all legal paperwork is current.
 5. The Executive Board shall select a Treasurer from within its membership for a one-year term. The Treasurer is responsible for:
 - a) Collecting all tournament fees and paying all organization and tournament expenses.
 - b) Preparing a financial statement for the annual Committee Meeting with sufficient detail to show the operating expenses and profits of the organization.
 - c) Ensuring all taxes and legal expenses are paid in a timely manner.
 6. The Executive Board shall select a Secretary from within its membership for a one-year term. The Secretary is responsible for:

- a) Recording minutes at all Executive Board Meetings and Committee Meetings.
 - b) Keeping the Charter and By-laws are updated.
 - c) Receiving proof of liability insurance for all schools attending NOF tournaments.
- 7. Executive Board members may receive a stipend if agreed to by the Executive Board.
- 8. If an Executive Board Member resigns or is unable to fulfill their duties:
 - a) The remaining Executive Board members, through a unanimous vote, may temporarily appoint an acting Executive Board member to serve for the remaining academic year.
 - b) Following the academic year, the Executive Board shall convene an emergency meeting to reorganize.
- C. Advisory Board Members
 - 1. As needed, the Executive Board may appoint Advisory Board members whose expertise assist NOF operations.
 - 2. Advisory Board Members may be appointed by a unanimous vote of the Executive Board for a period of one (1) academic year.
 - 3. Advisory Board member appointments may be renewed subject to a unanimous vote by the Executive Board.
 - 4. Advisory Board Members will provide input, suggestions, and feedback to the Executive Board during Committee meetings but shall have no vote.
 - 5. Advisory Board Members may receive a stipend if agreed to by the Executive Board.

IV. CALENDAR

NOF shall operate on an academic calendar year starting August 1st and ending on July 31.

V. COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- A. NOF shall have a minimum of one Committee Meeting each year.
 - 1. It is expected that this meeting will take place prior to the start of the next calendar year following the conclusion of the final NOF tournament.
 - 2. The meeting is expected to be held on the last Saturday in July at a time and place arranged by the Executive Board Chair.
- B. All Executive Board members must be present to call the meeting.
- C. The Executive Board Chair shall be responsible for running this meeting.
- D. Additional meetings may be scheduled if more time is needed to discuss issues.
- E. Committee members must be present for deliberations (no proxies allowed).

VI. RULES OF PROCEDURE

- A. A simple majority vote of the Executive Board shall be required for transaction of NOF business unless otherwise stated in this charter.
- B. Provisions of this document may be amended by unanimous vote of the Executive Board.
- C. Meetings shall follow Robert's Rules of Order, except in instances that are outlined in this charter or by-laws.
- D. If a meeting becomes unruly or so large that members' voices are not being heard, the chair may institute a one (1) minute limit on speaking time. In extreme cases, the chair may limit the number of times each member can speak (e.g. each member can only speak twice).
- E. The chair may, in extreme circumstances, postpone new agenda items in order to address existing issues in the allotted time for the meeting.

VII. POWERS AND DUTIES

- A. Oversee annual National Championship Tournaments.
- B. Hire contractors to assist in NOF management.
 - 1. This may include, but is not limited to: accountants, judges, secretarial work, special training, installation of equipment.
 - 2. Expenses shall be paid from NOF general funds.

VIII. PROCEDURES GOVERNING INCOME AND DISBURSEMENTS

- A. Registration Fees: The Executive Board shall establish registration fees for participation at NOF tournaments.
- B. Past-due Fees: Teams which have not paid registration fees may be dropped from subsequent tournaments until such fees are paid. Teams may also not receive trophies until registration fees are paid.
- C. Grants and Subsidies: The Executive 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 Executive Board. All agreements with sponsors are to be unanimously approved by the Executive Board in consultation with the Advisory Board.
- D. Disbursement of Funds:
 - 1. The Treasurer shall be authorized to receive and disburse funds in the name of NOF.

2. Upon unanimous vote of the Executive Board, cash advances may be made for NOF operations by the Treasurer. Any cash advances are to be covered by receipts and any balances are to be received by the Executive Board not later than 30 days following the tournament for which the advance was made.
 3. The Treasurer is 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 Advisory Board at least one week before the annual Committee meeting
- F. The budget for the NOF tournaments:
1. The budget for each NOF tournament is to be developed by the Tournament Director and the Executive Board in advance of the tournament.
 2. Standard Expenses include reasonable:
 - a. Trophy costs including procurement and shipping.
 - b. Tabulation software.
 - c. Stipends for hired judge(s).
 - d. Stipends for professional experts who assist in tournament operations.
 - e. Expenses for office supplies needed to run the tournament.
 3. Each tournament should aim to avoid losing money.
 - a. If the Tournament Director, Executive Board, or NOF Committee foresee a tournament losing money, the tournament should be cancelled or fees adjusted accordingly.
 - b. Exceptions to tournament cancellation due to financial expenses may be approved by a unanimous vote of the Executive Board.
 - c. Unanticipated shortages will be paid from NOF general funds but any egregious expenses may become the responsibility of the Tournament Director.

IX. RATIFICATION & AMENDMENTS

- A. Upon passage by a unanimous vote of the Executive Board, this charter shall be adopted.
- B. Amendments to the charter and by-laws will be made during the annual Committee Meeting and by a unanimous vote of the Executive Board.
- C. Specific amendments to the by-laws should be issued to the full Committee electronically at least one week ahead of the annual Committee 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.

X. DISSOLUTION

- A. Upon dissolution of the organization, the Executive Board Treasurer is authorized to pay any outstanding debts.

B. Any remaining funds is to be distributed to appropriate forensics organizations as allowed by law.

By-Laws

I. ELIGIBILITY

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

1. All programs must have a physical address on file with NOF.
2. To gain eligibility, participating schools/programs must be in good standing with the financial requirements as established by the NOF Board.

B. Competitor eligibility:

1. Participants in NOF College tournaments must be undergraduates in good standing at their university or college. Students may compete in no more than four (4) NOF college tournaments in their academic career. No students may register outside of an official university or college recognized team.
2. Participants in NOF High School tournaments must be 9-12th grade or of comparable academic level in keeping with the spirit of high school competition.
3. Participants in NOF Middle School tournaments must be 6-8th grade or of comparable academic level in keeping with the spirit of middle school competition.
4. Participants in NOF Elementary School tournaments must be students enrolled in 5th grade or lower.

II. SPECIAL RULES

A. 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.

B. All materials used in competition shall not have been used by the competitor in any competition prior to August 1 of the current academic year.

C. All non-debate events will be granted a 30-second 'grace period' in the preliminary rounds for high school/middle and elementary. 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.

D. 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).

E. 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.

F. 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.

G. Use of Evidence:

1. 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.
2. Oral Source Citation: In all events, contestants are expected to, at a minimum, orally deliver the following when introducing evidence in a round:
 - a. Primary author(s)' last name.
 - b Year of publication.
 - c Any other information such as source, author's qualifications, etc., may be given, but is not required.
 - d. 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.
3. Written Source Citation: To the extent provided by the original source, a written source citation must include:

- a. Full name of primary author and/or editor
- b. Publication date
- c. Source
- d. Title of article
- e. Date accessed for digital evidence
- f. Full URL, if applicable
- g. Author qualifications

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

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

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

9. 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.

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

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

12. 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.

13. 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:

14. 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.

15. The written text 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.

16. 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.

H. 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:

1. The team/individual alleging a violation must make a definitive indication that they are formally alleging a violation of performative plagiarism.

2. 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.

3. The Ombudsman shall watch any additional materials, if applicable (e.g. YouTube videos).

4. 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.

I. 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.

J. 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):

1. Maverick: A single competitor may speak in both positions for the debate.
2. 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. Schools are not permitted to enter multiple Mavericks or Hybrids per tournament.

III. TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES

- A. NOF tournaments will follow standard tournament practices unless otherwise specified in these by-laws and/or the tournament invitation. If a discrepancy exists between the invitation and the by-laws, the by-laws will take precedence.
- B. On balance, decisions should be made giving the benefit of the doubt to the student and to encourage more opportunities to compete, not less.
- C. After consultation with the Advisory Board, the Executive Board will appoint the following individuals for each NOF tournament
 1. Tournament Director:

The tournament director will be responsible for preparing the invitation, arranging for tab staff, securing any needed hired judges, procuring an ensuring prompt shipment of trophies, and other related duties
 2. Tournament Ombudsperson:

The tournament ombudsperson will be responsible for hearing any appeals of rules violations during the tournament as specified in these by-laws.
 3. Other staff as necessary may be appointed.

D. Tournament Fees: Fees are to be developed by the Tournament Director in consultation with the NOF Committee. Such fees should cover any costs accrued by the Tournament. Judge penalty fees and waiving those fees is at the discretion of the Tournament Director in consultation with the Executive Board.

E. 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.

F. 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. 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. Judges for High School should be finished with high school. Judges for College should be finished with their undergraduate college education. Exceptions to this rule may be made to the Tournament Director.
4. 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. All judges are "full commitment" judges. For example, a team with only one debate entry is still obligated for all preliminary rounds.
5. All judge training is the responsibility of the team entering that judge. Judges who are unfamiliar with events may be removed from the tournament at the discretion of the tournament staff, and fines may be applied.
6. 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.

G. Protests:

1. All protests must be submitted in writing to the Tournament Ombudsperson.
2. Supporting materials must accompany the protest.
3. Protests will not be reviewed and considered until complete documentation has been provided by the person filing the protest.
4. After the infraction has been observed/discovered, the protest must be filed in a timely manner which is normally the same day of the infraction.
5. Decisions of the Ombudsperson are final.
6. If a perceived violation occurs in a subsequent round, another protest may be filed.
7. The competitor(s) may continue to compete without prejudice during the review.
8. The team's coach in attendance will decide if the competitor(s) will be informed of the protest.
9. In the event that a decision must be made in a timely manner, the Ombudsperson may have to speak to competitors before speaking with their coach, though this is discouraged.
10. In the event the Tournament Ombudsperson is affiliated with either party, the tournament director will make the final decision.
11. In the event both the Tournament Ombudsperson and Tournament are affiliated with either party, another member of the Executive Committee will make the final decision.

H. 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.

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 the NOF tournament is prohibited and grounds for disqualification. The definition of harassment shall be at the Ombudsperson 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 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 Ombudsperson 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 Ombudsperson 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 Ombudsperson 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 Ombudsperson 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 Ombudsperson 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 Ombudsperson 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.

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 an 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 NOF membership.

I. 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. Tabulation 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 Ombudsperson 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 Ombudsperson 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 Ombudsperson 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.

J. Round Design:

1. Individual Events:

- a. At least three (3) entries must register for any individual event from two (2) or more schools, or that event will be cancelled.
- b. Preliminary Rounds :
 - i. Each tournament shall consist of three (3) preliminary rounds with one at least (1) judge.
 - 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 IE prelim round should consist of at least 3 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.
 - vi. Competitors should not have the same judge for the same event in multiple prelim rounds.
- c. Elimination Rounds
 - i. If an event has more than one panel in the prelim rounds, 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. The number of entries in an event is determined by those competing in the first round.

ii. 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. The Gold round shall have seven (7) judges (judge pool permitting). The final round should not have 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 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.

iii. Events with 42-90 entries shall have two (2) elimination rounds. At least twenty (20%) percent of the event shall advance to elimination rounds (plus ties). Elimination Round 1 will consist of multiple panels (not to exceed 3 panels) with a maximum panel size of seven (7) competitors in each panel. Based on panel size, the ranked competitors from each section shall advance to a final round. Each Bronze Round shall have five (5) judges (judge pool permitting).

iv. Events with more than 91 entries shall have three (3) elimination rounds. At least twenty (20%) percent of the event shall advance to elimination rounds (plus ties) with a maximum of forty-two (42) competitors advancing regardless of total event size. Elimination Round 1 will consist of multiple panels (not to exceed 6 panels) with a maximum panel size of seven (7) competitors in each panel. Based on panel size, the ranked competitors from each section shall advance to elimination round 2. Each Honors Round shall have three (3) judges.

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 from at least two (2) schools must register for any debate event, or that event will be cancelled.

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 the 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. Preliminary

The tournament shall consist of at least four (4) preliminary rounds. 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.

d. Elimination Rounds

- i. Debate elimination rounds will consist of a two elimination round Bronze-Gold format. All advancing teams will debate in the Bronze round. Winning teams will then advance to the Gold round. Debaters who lose in the first elimination round will receive a Bronze award. Debaters who lose in the second elimination round will receive a Silver award. Debaters who win both the first and second elimination rounds will receive a Gold award.
- 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 Elim 1 if sixteen (16) teams advance, 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. 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 or be randomly assigned sides by the tabulation software at the discretion of the Tournament Director. Sides and speaker order in Public Forum will always be determined by coin toss. Spar sides will be determined by the judge.
- v. Once all three judges have finalized their decision without the influence of other judges or spectators, all judges should disclose their decisions in the first elimination round. Judges should not disclose in the second elimination round.
- 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.

3. Congress

- a. There must be at least five (5) entries registered from three (3) or more schools, or Congressional Debate will be cancelled. The number of entries in an event is determined by those competing in the first round.
- b. Prelim Rounds:
 - i. Each tournament shall consist of three (3) preliminary rounds with at least one (1) judge. Elementary tournaments may consist of only two (2) preliminary rounds.
 - ii. Preliminary Round Sectioning: Competitors will ideally be assigned to panels/chambers of 18-24 competitors a piece. Each panel/chamber shall not exceed 24 competitors.
 - 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).
 - 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.

c. Elimination Rounds:

i. If only one panel/chamber has been created during preliminary rounds, there will be no final round held.

ii. If more than one panel/chamber has been created during preliminary rounds, then at least thirty percent (30%) of the event shall advance to elimination rounds (plus ties). A minimum of 15 students shall advance regardless of the event size. The Gold round shall have seven (7) judges (judge pool permitting) while the Bronze round shall have five (5) judges (judge pool permitting).

iii. 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.

K. Tabulation:

1. All Individual Events & Spar:

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. 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. 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. Individual Events Tie Breaking Procedure: Competitor placement shall be based on the following priorities:

- i. All rounds cumulative rank total (Total Rank in Event).
- ii. Majority of first place ranks in event (Number of Firsts in Event).
- iii. Rank Total of respective elimination round (Rank in Elim).
- iv. Reciprocal fractions of respective elimination round ranks (Decimal in Elim).
- ii. Judge preference of respective elimination round (Judge Pref in Elim).
- vi. Advancement: If a tie is unbreakable by this formula, all tied contestants shall advance.
- vii. Placement: five percent (5%) of the event entry (plus ties) shall be awarded a Gold medal. Ten percent (10%) of the event entry (plus ties) shall be awarded a Silver medal. The remaining competitors who advanced to elimination rounds will receive a Bronze medal. For example, if an event has 100 entries, the top five (5) competitors shall receive Gold. The next five (5) competitors shall receive Silver. The rest of the competitors in elimination rounds shall receive Bronze. In the event of ties, if more than ten percent (10%) of competitors receive a Gold medal, then no Silver medal will be awarded.

2. Debate:

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.

- a. Elimination Seeding: Elimination rounds will be seeded and paired, based on the following priority:
 - i. Total number of wins (Wins).
 - ii. Unadjusted speaker points (Total Points).
 - iii. Adjusted speaker points with highest and lowest single-ballot points dropped (High Low Points).
 - iv. Judge variance (Z Score).
 - v. Opposition win-loss record (Opp Wins).
 - vi. In the event of an unbreakable tie, the seeding of the teams in questions will be determined by a coin toss (Random).
- b. Advancement into an elimination rounds at Nationals shall be based on the following priorities:
 - i. All teams with a winning record (more wins than losses) shall advance to the Bronze elimination round.
 - ii. Additional teams (based on preliminary ranking) may be pulled up to complete the next bracket divisible by 4 without violating the 50% rule (e.g. if there are 21 teams with a winning record, 3 additional teams will be pulled up, however, if there are 20 teams with a winning record, the bracket will be considered complete and no additional teams will be pulled up).
- c. Regular season tournaments will use the SCJFL Prelim-Elim system.
 - i. All teams will participate in four preliminary rounds.
 - ii. Teams with 2 or more losses will then be eliminated from subsequent rounds except to make an even bracket one 2 loss team may be advanced.
- d. Top Speaker Placement: Each debate ballot shall have a speaker points value from 70-100. Fractions of points are not permitted in high school/middle/elementary tournaments. (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. Use total speaker points from preliminary rounds (Total Points).
- ii. Drop high and low speaker point values from all preliminary rounds (High Low Points).
- iii. Total prelim rank points (Rank).
- iv. Judge Variance (Z-Score).
- v. 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.

3. Congress:

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. The following priorities determine advancement to elimination rounds and placing of awards:

a. 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. Parliamentarian's ballot.

b. Congress Tie Breaking Procedure: Competitor placement shall be based on the following priorities:

- i. All rounds cumulative rank total (Total Rank in Event).
- ii. Majority of first place ranks in event (Number of Firsts in Event).
- iii. Rank Total of respective elimination round (Rank in Elim).
- iv. Reciprocal fractions of respective elimination round ranks (Decimal in Elim).
- ii. Judge preference of respective elimination round (Judge Pref in Elim).
- v. Parliamentarian's ballot of respective elimination round.
- vi. Advancement: If a tie is unbreakable by this formula, all tied contestants shall advance.
- vii. Placement: five percent (5%) of the event entry (plus ties) shall be awarded a Gold medal. Ten percent (10%) of the event entry (plus ties) shall be awarded a Silver medal. The remaining competitors who advanced to elimination rounds will receive a Bronze medal. For example, if an event has 100 entries, the top five (5) competitors shall receive Gold. The next five (5) competitors shall receive Silver. The rest of the competitors in elimination rounds shall receive Bronze. In the event of ties, if more than ten percent (10%) of competitors receive a Gold medal, then no Silver medal will be awarded.

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.

L. Judges:

1. Judge Placement: At least 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. Coaches are allowed and should be encouraged to judge.

M. Awards:

1. Individual Events & Congress:

a. Each contestant advancing to an elimination round shall be awarded for doing so.

b. five percent (5%) of the event entry (plus ties) shall be awarded a Gold medal. Ten percent (10%) of the event entry (plus ties) shall be awarded a Silver medal. The remaining competitors who advanced to elimination rounds will receive a Bronze medal. For example, if an event has 100 entries, the top five (5) competitors shall receive Gold. The next five (5) competitors shall receive Silver. The rest of the competitors in elimination rounds shall receive Bronze. In the event of ties, if more than ten percent (10%) of competitors receive a Gold medal, then no Silver medal will be awarded.

c. Under no circumstances should a tournament director award more than half the entries of an event.

2. Debate Awards:

a. All advancing teams will debate in the Bronze round. Winning teams will then advance to the Gold round. Debaters who lose in the first elimination round will receive a Bronze award. Debaters who lose in the second elimination round will receive a Silver award. Debaters who win both the first and second elimination rounds will receive a Gold award.

b. 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 debate events shall be given if the tournament has more than 20 entries per event. The placement of awards shall be 1st-10th (no competitors should be awarded unclear placements such as 'finalist').

3. Top School & Competitor Award (Sweepstakes): The top five (5) schools may be recognized by the tournament in various divisions as approved by the Executive Board (e.g, University and Community College divisions). The following formula shall be used to calculate any such award:

a. Individual Events (including Spar & Duo):

Scoring:

For every Gold = 10 points

For every Silver = 7.5 points

For every Bronze = 5 points

For every Honors = 2 points

b. Individual Events that are limited to 1 entry per pattern (ie, Extemp at High School) (justification: competitors are limited to the single event while other competitors may double enter, and thus earn more points).

For every Gold = 15 points

For every Silver = 11 points

For every Bronze = 7 points

For every Honors = 5 points

c. Debate:

For every Gold = 15 points

For every Silver = 11 points

For every Bronze = 7 points

For every Honors = 5 points

d. Congress Events

Scoring:

For every Gold = 10 points

For every Silver = 7.5 points

For every Bronze = 5 points

For every Honors = 2 points

Top Presiding Officer = 6 points

d. Tie-breaking procedures:

- i. Number of Golds
- ii. Number of Silvers
- iii. Number of Bronzes
- iv. Number of Honors

ix. If a tie is unbreakable by this formula, all tied competitors/schools 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 3rd place, then all three competitors/schools will receive 3rd place. The tournament will not award a 4th or 5th place.

4. Season-Long Sweepstakes: Schools & Competitors which compete at multiple NOF tournaments are eligible for a season-long sweepstakes award. Schools & Competitors will have their sweepstakes points at all NOF tournaments combined. The top ten (10) schools will be recognized.

5. The Tournament Host shall see that all competitors are promptly shipped trophies after the tournament as long as schools have met their financial obligations.

N. Tournament Directors may determine whether double or triple entry is allowed for their tournament. Tournament invitations should clearly delineate rules for double or triple entry.

O. Entry Limits/Divisions:

1. If the Tournament Director 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; NOF 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.

P. 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, 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.

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.

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

IV. RECORDINGS AND RESEARCH

All recordings and research administered at a NOF event must be coordinated with the Executive Board. Unsanctioned research or recordings at any NOF event is not permitted. Violators may be disqualified or asked to leave the tournament. Repeated offenses by teams may lead to the loss of good standing and eligibility to compete at future NOF events. . It is the responsibility of teams to inform parents and spectators that the NOF has a strict policy against recording speeches.

V. SANCTIONS

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

VI. 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.

VII. EVENT DESCRIPTION AND GUIDELINES

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 – exemplum gratia, the Negative on “Resolved: Socrates is a man” should view themselves

as the affirmative on “Resolved: Socrates is not a man.” 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 at NOF tournaments must follow the guidelines outlined in: <https://www.speechanddebate.org/wp-content/uploads/2017-Congressional-Debate-Guide.pdf>.

Competitors should elect a presiding officer each round. Secret balloting is used when voting for presiding officer. The presiding officer must be elected with a majority of the vote: if one candidate does not receive a majority of votes, eliminate the candidate with the fewest votes and vote again. If candidates are tied for the fewest number of votes, vote to determine which of the tied candidates should remain in contention. Repeat this process until one candidate receives a majority.

Precedence/recency should not reset each round. Competitors should address new legislation each round, unless tabled from previous preliminary rounds. Competitors are not required to speak during the round. 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.

When more than one speaker seeks the floor, the presiding officer must follow the precedence/recency method:

- 1) First recognize competitors who have not spoken during the session.
- 2) Next recognize competitors who have spoken fewer times.
- 3) Then recognize competitors who spoke earlier (least recently).

Before precedence is established, the presiding officer should recognize speakers fairly and consistently. They may not link recognition of speakers to previous recognition of competitors asking questions, moving motions, or longest standing (standing time). Before precedence is established, the presiding officer should explain their recognition process and it must be fair, consistent, and justifiable.

Judges should include answers to questions when evaluating speeches.

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.

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.

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.

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.

There is no 'minimum cycle' rule, however, if debate gets one-sided, the chamber may decide to move the previous question.

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.

The presiding officer should fairly and equitably recognize members to ask questions following each speech. 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.

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). There is no formal 'permission to preface,' however, presiding officers should discourage competitors from making statements as part of questioning, since that is an abusive use of the limited time available.

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).

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.

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

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

Visual aids are permitted in Congressional Debate.

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

The NOF 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). Tournament officials 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 NSDA format as demonstrated on the NOF website.

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, provided the tournament staff permits doing so.

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 minute
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. Consultation with any person other than the Extemp proctor and tournament official 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. 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. 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. Different topic areas must 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 single notecard may be used during the presentation. Impromptu speakers may not use the same example in the same way in more than two rounds per tournament.

Lincoln-Douglas Debate (elementary, middle, and high school divisions):

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

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 (elementary, middle, and high school divisions):

The resolution will be one requiring a policy judgment. The Tournaments will use the current NSDA Policy topic for the year in which the competition occurs. Refer to Rostrum or 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. The Tournament will 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 at least one month before the tournament. Refer to Rostrum or www.speechanddebate.org/topics for the current topic. Excessive speaking speed is discouraged by the league. The NOF Committee has the power to select alternative age-appropriate resolutions for elementary tournaments at their discretion. 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 both teams and judge(s), a coin is tossed by the judge and called by one 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.

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

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.

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

NPDA Parliamentary Debate:

Parliamentary Debate consists of two-on-two debate focused around a specified resolution which varies each round. Unless otherwise specified in these bylaws or the tournament invitation, the NOF tournament will follow current NPDA bylaws for tournament competition. As noted, no three person teams are allowed. Maverick and hybrid-teams are allowed to compete in preliminary rounds but are not eligible for elimination round competition.

Order of Speeches in NPDA

Prep time	20 minutes
First Proposition Constructive Speaker	7 minutes
Opposition Flex Time	2 minutes
First Opposition Constructive Speaker	8 minutes
Proposition Flex Time	2 minutes
Second Proposition Constructive Speaker	8 minutes
Opposition Flex Time	1 minute
Second Opposition Constructive Speaker	8 minutes
Opposition Rebuttal by First Speaker	4 minutes
Proposition Flex Time	1 minute
Proposition Rebuttal by First Speaker	5 minutes

NFA Lincoln Douglas Debate:

NFA-LD consists of one-on-one debate focused on the national topic. Unless otherwise specified in these bylaws or the tournament invitation, the NOF tournament will follow current NFA bylaws for NFA-LD tournament competition.

First Aff. Constructive	6 minutes
Cross Examination	3 minutes
First Neg. Constructive	7 minutes
Cross Examination	3 minutes
First Aff. Rebuttal	6 minutes
Neg. Rebuttal	6 minutes
Second Aff Rebuttal	3 minutes
Prep Time	4 minutes

IPDA Debate:

IPDA debate consists of one-on-one debate focused around a specified resolution which varies each round. Unless otherwise specified in these bylaws or the tournament invitation, the NOF tournament will follow current IPDA bylaws for tournament competition.

British Parliamentary Debate:

British Parliamentary (WUDC) debate consists of two-on-two debate focused around a specified resolution which varies each round. Unless otherwise specified in these bylaws or the tournament invitation, the NOF tournament will follow current WUDC bylaws for tournament competition.

Platform Events:

Informative Speaking:

An original, factual speech by the competitor to fulfill the general aim to inform the audience. Audio-visual 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. As this is a memorized event, notes are discouraged. Maximum time 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 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. As this is a memorized event, notes are discouraged. Maximum time 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 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. As this is a memorized event, notes are discouraged. Maximum time limit is 5 minutes.

Communication Analysis:

An original speech by the student designed to offer an explanation and/or evaluation of a communication event such as a speech, speaker, movement, poem, poster, film, campaign, etc., through the use of rhetorical principles.

Audio-visual aids may or may not be used to supplement and reinforce the message. Manuscripts are permitted. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

Interpretation Events:

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 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. Manuscripts (books) are optional in college. Manuscripts (books) are prohibited in high school/middle/elementary divisions. Maximum time 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. Manuscripts (books) are optional in college. Manuscripts (books) are prohibited in high school/middle/elementary divisions. Maximum time limit for elementary competitions is 6 minutes including introduction. Maximum time limit for college/high school/middle is 10 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 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 is 10 minutes including introduction.

Original Interpretation:

An original memorized performance of drama, prose, or poetry by an individual. The tone may be 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 10 minutes including introduction. Maximum time limit is 5 minutes including introduction for elementary 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 college competitions is 10 minutes including introduction. 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 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. Maximum time is 10 minutes including introduction. Maximum time limit for middle school competitions is 7 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, plays, screenplays, teleplays, radioplays, or webplays.

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 is 5 minutes including introduction.

Experimental Events:

Sports Extemp:

Similar to extemporaneous but all topics will be drawn from the last six weeks of Sports Headlines.

Historical Extemp:

Similar to extemporaneous but all topics will be drawn from significant historical events.

Eulogy Extemp:

Students will have 30 minutes to prepare a 3 minute Eulogy on a given deceased person. Round 1 will be someone who has passed in the past year; Round 2 past 10 years; Round 3 past 100 years; Elims past 1000 years.

Sales Pitch:

Students will have 30 minutes to prepare both a 30 second elevator pitch along with a subsequent 3 minute sales pitch. Topics will generally be new inventions and technological breakthroughs. The first round will be prepared while subsequent rounds will be run similar to extemporaneous.

Assigned Informative:

Similar to informative but students will need to pick from a list of topics which are released three weeks before the tournament.