

By-Laws
National Forensic Association
(Updated January 2023)

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

II. EVENTS AT THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT:

A. The events at the National Championship Tournament are:

1. Extemporaneous Speaking

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

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

RULES:

- a. Students will construct and deliver a 5 to 7 minute speech*, after choosing from among three questions, with 30 minutes of preparation. The use of limited notes is allowed.
- b. Extemporaneous speeches must be the original work of the speaker. Consultation with coaches, teammates, other speakers, or anyone else after the draw has begun is strictly prohibited.
- c. Extemporaneous speeches should be prepared after topics have been drawn. While speakers are encouraged to draw from their own knowledge of current events, no student is allowed to speak from outlines, briefs, or other materials prepared before the round. Students are encouraged to consult and reference research from a variety of sources including newspapers, magazines, journals, books, websites and blogs - providing these resources lack excessive notation and alteration.
- d. Electronic methods of resource material storage and retrieval may be used.

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

PROCEDURES:

- a. The National Championship Tournament host and National Forensic Association are not responsible for supplying support of any kind for electronic storage or retrieval methods.
- b. The National Championship Tournament host and National Forensic Association are not responsible for the security of computers or other devices stored in the extemporaneous preparation room.
- c. Standard time signals should be given noting the time remaining for the speaker beginning at five minutes remaining and indicating each minute thereafter, the final 30 seconds and the closing five seconds nonverbally.

2. **Impromptu Speaking**

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

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

RULES:

- a. Students will construct and deliver an original argument in response to a prompt. Limited notes are allowed.
- b. Impromptu prescribes a limit of 7 minutes, with speeches lasting at least 5 minutes.
 - * Prompts include ideas that can be comprehended and interpreted quickly such as quotations, both actual (from history or contemporary culture) and fictional (from movies, plays, novels etc.), single-frame cartoons, song lyrics, proverbs, rhetorical situations etc.
 - * Unlike other event rules, minimum and maximum time limits provided for ALL events are enforced at the discretion of the individual judge rather than the association.

PROCEDURES:

- a. Standard time signals should be given noting the expiration of preparation time verbally in 30-second intervals, and the remainder of speaking time beginning at five minutes remaining and indicating each minute thereafter, the final 30 seconds and the closing five seconds nonverbally.
- b. Contestants who have not spoken should not watch the performance of their competitors.
- c. One judge per section will receive a prompt with their ballot, and is responsible for delivering the provided prompt to each contestant in the round.

3. **Rhetorical Criticism**

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

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

RULES:

- a. All speeches should be original, constructed and delivered by the student.
- b. Speeches should adhere to the NFA Code of Standards, Rules and Procedures.
- c. Plagiarism in any form is prohibited.
- d. Source citation should be specific, accurate and honest.
- e. Although limited notes are permitted, speeches should be delivered from memory.
- f. Audio-visual aids are permitted.
- g. Maximum time limit of 10 minutes.*
 - * Unlike other event rules, minimum and maximum time limits provided for ALL events are enforced at the discretion of the individual judge rather than the association.

4. **Persuasive Speaking**

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

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

RULES:

- a. All speeches should be original, constructed and delivered by the student.
- b. Speeches should adhere to the NFA Code of Standards, Rules and Procedures.
- c. Plagiarism in any form is prohibited.
- d. Source citation should be specific, accurate and honest.
- e. Although limited notes are permitted, speeches should be delivered from memory.
- f. Audio-visual aids are permitted.
- g. Maximum time limit of 10 minutes.*

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

5. **Informative Speaking**

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

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

RULES:

- a. All speeches should be original, constructed and delivered by the student.
- b. Speeches should adhere to the NFA Code of Standards, Rules and Procedures.
- c. Plagiarism in any form is prohibited.
- d. Source citation should be specific, accurate and honest.
- e. Although limited notes are permitted, speeches should be delivered from memory.
- f. Audio-visual aids are permitted.
- g. Maximum time limit of 10 minutes.*

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6. **After-Dinner Speaking**

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

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

RULES:

- a. All speeches should be original, constructed and delivered by the student.
- b. Speeches should adhere to the NFA Code of Standards, Rules and Procedures.
- c. Plagiarism in any form is prohibited.
- d. Source citation should be specific, accurate and honest.
- e. Although limited notes are permitted, speeches should be delivered from memory.
- f. Audio-visual aids are permitted.
- g. Maximum time limit of 10 minutes.*

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

7. Prose Interpretation

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

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

RULES:

- a. Prose material includes: short stories, novels, essays, and story-centered new media. Prose material from new media should first be referenced against the original source to ensure it is not drama. If the original source is non-genre specific then material where the performance focuses on the development of story would be acceptable. Focus of non-genre specific material as described above will be critiqued by the preference of the judging pool, not cause for disqualification.
- b. Use of manuscript is required.
- c. Maximum time is 10 minutes, including any introductory and/or transitional comments.
* Unlike other event rules, minimum and maximum time limits provided for ALL events are enforced at the discretion of the individual judge rather than the association.

8. Dramatic Interpretation

PURPOSE: An interpretive performance designed to engage the audience through the development of character(s) within a dramatic context.

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

RULES:

- a. Dramatic material includes: plays, material written for stage/screen/radio, documentaries, and character(s)-centered new media. Dramatic material from new media should first be referenced against the original source to ensure it is not Prose. If the original source is non-genre specific then material where the performance focuses on the development of character(s) would be acceptable. Focus of non-genre specific material as described above will be critiqued by the preference of the judging pool, not cause for disqualification.
- b. Use of manuscript is required.
- c. Maximum time is 10 minutes, including any introductory and/or transitional comments.
* Unlike other event rules, minimum and maximum time limits provided for ALL events are enforced at the discretion of the individual judge rather than the association.

9. **Duo Interpretation**

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

DESCRIPTION: Students choose, excerpt and/or cut (with due respect paid to issues of literary integrity), and perform a selection or selections of original and/or published material of literary merit. This is not an acting event. Selected literature must present the perspectives of multiple characters, representing those different characters using voice and/or body. The focus of this event is the interaction of multiple and related voices

RULES:

- a. Any type of material(s) of literary merit may be used as long as the performance highlights interaction.
- b. Use of manuscript is required, which prohibits physical contact between performers
- c. Off-stage focus is required
- d. No costumes, props, etc. are to be used.
- e. Maximum time is 10 minutes, including any introductory and/or transitional comments.
* Unlike other event rules, minimum and maximum time limits provided for ALL events are enforced at the discretion of the individual judge rather than the association.

10. **Poetry Interpretation**

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

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

RULES:

- a. Poetry can include poems, slam poetry, and lyrics - any material with poetic elements.
- b. Use of manuscript is required.
- c. Maximum time is 10 minutes, including any introductory and/or transitional comments.
* Unlike other event rules, minimum and maximum time limits provided for ALL events are enforced at the discretion of the individual judge rather than the association.

11. **Program Oral Interpretation**

PURPOSE: An interpretive performance designed to engage the audience through the development of a theme or argument using multiple genres of literature as support.

DESCRIPTION: Students choose, excerpt and/or cut (with due respect paid to issues of literary integrity), and perform a selection or selections of original and/or published prose, poetry, drama, etc., of literary merit. Selections should be constructed around a theme, argument or thesis and should utilize at least two different genres of literature.

RULES:

- a. Any material(s) of literary merit may be used.
- b. Use of manuscript is required
- c. Maximum time is 10 minutes, including any introductory and/or transitional comments.
* Unlike other event rules, minimum and maximum time limits provided for ALL event are enforced at the discretion of the individual judge rather than the association.

12. Lincoln-Douglas Debate:

PURPOSE: A debate event designed to engage the audience through a policy-oriented dialogue.

DESCRIPTION: NFA Lincoln-Douglas Debate is a one-person, persuasive, policy debate. It is a communication event, in which competitors will be evaluated on their analysis, use of evidence, and ability to effectively and persuasively organize, deliver and refute arguments.

RULES:

1. Recommended paradigm for Judging Lincoln-Douglas Debate – While the official decision making paradigm of NFA-LD is that of Stock Issues: Harm (Advantage or Goals), Inherency, Solvency, and Topicality, judges are also encouraged to develop a decision-making paradigm for adjudicating competitive debate and provide that paradigm to students prior to the debate. Under the stock issues paradigm: The affirmative is required to propose a plan that meets four initial burdens. The plan need not be detailed, but should be sufficient to prove the plan’s propensity to solve the problem area.
2. The affirmative must prove:
 - a). The harm of the present system or that a comparative advantage or goal can be achieved over the present system;
 - b). The inherency which prevents solving those harms or achieving those advantages or goals;
 - c). The proposed plan’s propensity to solve the harm or achieve the advantage or goal claimed by the affirmative; and
 - d). The topical nature of the proposed plan as an inductive proof of the resolution. If, at the end of the debate, the negative has convinced the judge that the affirmative proposal has violated the parameters set by the resolution, then the decision in the debate should be awarded to the negative. However, the plan does not need to deal with all the possible problem areas suggested by the resolution. Topicality is a voting issue.
3. The negative may attack any of these issues, but need only win one to win the debate. Additionally, the negative may argue that one or more disadvantages to the proposed plan outweigh its benefits. The negative may also present one competitive counterproposal specific to the affirmative problem area and not dealing with the form of government, economic system, or need for further study (unless specifically identified as a key issue in the resolution).
4. Counterproposals should be logically consistent with all other negative arguments constructed during the debate. If inconsistencies arise and the affirmative points them out, the judge should reject the arguments inconsistent with the counterproposal. Counterproposals are subject to the same burden of solvency as are required of affirmative plans.
5. Rebuttals are to be used to respond to the opposition’s lines of argument and to extend arguments made in constructive speeches. No new lines of argument may be presented in rebuttals. By new lines of argument, we mean those which are not clarifications or responses made to arguments made in constructive, but those which are completely new and unrelated to previous argumentation. New evidence to extend or clarify constructive arguments is permitted in rebuttal.
6. Since LD debate adheres to the communication principles of individual events, judges are encouraged to give a verbal warning to debaters speaking too rapidly in a round. If the speaker does not heed the warning in that particular round, the judge is strongly encouraged to give that speaker a loss for that round even if the student has otherwise “won” the debate on the basis of the stock issues.
 - a. Use of Evidence in Lincoln-Douglas Debate: Students are required to use accurate and directly quoted evidence with proper respect to the context of the original source. Debaters are required to make available to their opponent and judges copies of any evidence used in the round for the duration of the debate. At the conclusion of the debate, judges may review evidence in the round

and competitors are required to provide the evidence and source citation upon the request of judges.

- b. Violations of the Code of Standards, Rules and Procedures: If a debater, during the course of the debate, charges his/her opponent with violating a standard or rule, as established by the National Forensics Association Code of Standards, Rules and Procedures, the debate shall immediately cease. The judge will bring the students to a member of the tournament committee and the debater making the charge will fill out a formal complaint according to the provisions under(1) in the section “Violation of the Code of Standards.” The complaint will then be adjudicated as in any other complaint. If the debater making the charge during the round refuses to file a formal complaint, that debater will receive a loss for the debate. Complaints made after a round will follow the standard procedure listed in the “violation” section of the Code of Standards, Rules and Procedures.
- c. Electronic devices may be used in the round (e.g. cell phones as timers, laptops with evidence or for notes), but competitors must agree to NOT communicate with anyone else, either inside or outside the room, during the course of the debate via their electronic devices.
- d. Time Limits for Lincoln-Douglas Debate
 - Affirmative Constructive 6 minutes
 - Cross-Examination 3 minute
 - Negative Constructive 7 minutes
 - Cross-Examination 3 minutes
 - Affirmative Rebuttal 6 minutes
 - Negative Rebuttal 6 minutes
 - Affirmative Rebuttal 3 minutes
 - Prep time per debater 4 minutes

B. The following rules apply to all events:

- 1. No speech or program used by the contestant in competition should have been used prior to September 1, preceding the National Championship Tournament.
- 2. No student may perform two cuttings from the same literary work at the National Championship tournament in the same year.
- 3. All students will be granted reasonable accommodations at the NFA National Championship tournament, including but not limited to wheelchair accessible rooms, the opportunity to use a notetaker, extended preparation time, and the provision of an ASL interpreter. Accommodations requests shall be privately submitted to the National Tournament Director and will not be released publicly. Regional tournament directors are strongly encouraged to follow the same procedure.

C. Novice Finals at the National Championship Tournament:

- 1. Novice is defined as a student who is in their very first year of forensic competition. This includes high school and collegiate experience.
- 2. Students must be designated by their coaches, during the registration process, to be eligible for these elimination rounds.

D. Experimental event at the National Championship Tournament:

- 1. All proposals for any experimental event at the National Championship Tournament must be submitted for consideration to the National Council by April 1. Proposals must include event name, rules, rationale, and names and affiliations of authors.
- 2. The National Council will select worthy proposals to submit to the Student Assembly at the National Championship Tournament.

3. The Student Assembly, if it chooses to do so, will pick from National Council submissions an Experimental Event for implementation at the following year's National Championship Tournament.
 - a). A maximum of one (1) experimental event may be implemented in any tournament year.
 - b). The experimental events will not be part of sweepstakes or pentathlon at the National Championship Tournament.
 - c). Other appropriate elements of the association's Constitution, By-laws, and Code of Standards, will apply to the experimental event. An implemented experimental event cannot be added to the slate of regular events unless it constitutionally replaces another event.
 - d). Execution of the experimental event is contingent upon available space.

III. QUALIFICATION PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS

- A. In order for a student to qualify any of the events in Section II (except L-D) of the By-Laws for competition at the National Tournament, the following criteria must be met:
1. The student must be enrolled at the institution which they represented at the qualification tournament.
 2. At least 7 schools entered in the qualification tournament.
 3. At least 11 entrants in the event. *
 4. At least 3 performances. **
 5. At least 3 ballots.
 6. Reaching the final round; which is defined by the top 6 competitors after preliminary rounds. Ties deemed unbreakable may allow for more than 6 to advance, in which case all finalists will qualify.
 7. Qualification tournaments may not systematically employ current competing students in the judging pool.
 8. In the event that a state tournament does not meet the 7 school requirement expected of open invitational tournaments, qualifications will be granted provided that a minimum of 3 schools are in attendance. No state may request an exemption for more than one tournament in any given academic year. The request for a waiver of the 7 schools requirement must be submitted to the Tournament Director of the NFA's National Championship Tournament within two weeks of the date of the state tournament by the state tournament director or other state organization officer.
 9. When a tournament has six schools competing at the start of the tournament, the Tournament Director may apply for a waiver of the "seven-schools" requirement if (1) at least seven schools had officially entered the tournament and (2) the "seventh school" failed to give 24 hours' notice of their withdrawal before the start of competition. The tournament director must apply for the waiver within two weeks by contacting the Tournament Director for the NFA's National Championship Tournament. The NFA's Tournament Director may request supporting materials such as a letter from the withdrawing school or registration materials for the withdrawing school.
 10. In the event that there are less than 11 entrants, criteria 2, 4 and 5 must still be met, and if so, the top fifty percent of the entrants will qualify.
 11. In the event that there are less than 8 entrants who all compete in the same section, criteria 2 and 5 must still be met, and if so, the top fifty percent of the entrants will qualify.
 12. For tournaments with 60 or more entrants in an event where no semifinal rounds are held, then the top 10% of entrants will qualify for the national tournament. In the case where there are 60 or more entrants in an event and semifinal rounds are held, then all semifinalists will qualify for the national tournament. In the case where there are more than 90 entrants in an event and 'super semis' or quarter final rounds are held, then all contestants in the appropriate elimination rounds will qualify for the national tournament.
 13. In cases where both novice and open divisions of the same event are offered, the finalists in both divisions will qualify, as long as they still meet the above criteria.
- B. In order for a student to qualify Lincoln-Douglas Debate for competition at the National Tournament, the following criteria must be met:
1. The student must be enrolled at the institution that they represented at the qualification tournament
 2. At least 3 schools entered in LD.
 3. A total of at least 5 students entered in LD.
 4. The debate tournament must employ the NFA Lincoln-Douglas topic and rules.
 5. At least 4 preliminary rounds of competition (elimination rounds are encouraged but are optional qualification to the National Championship Tournament is determined based on preliminary round seeding).

6. The number of qualifications is based on the following formula:
 - 5-8 entrants = 2 qualifiers
 - 9-16 entrants = 4 qualifiers
 - 17-32 entrants = 8 qualifiers
 - 33-65 entrants = 16 qualifiers
 - 65-128 entrants = 32 qualifiers
 - 129 + entrants = 64 qualifiers
 7. In the event that an entrant has a winning record (i.e. 3-1 or 4-2, NOT 2-2 or 3-3) and falls outside of the qualifier range, that student would also qualify. Winning records will always qualify and sometimes a 2-2 or 3-3 record will qualify.
 8. In cases where both open, junior varsity and novice divisions of Lincoln-Douglas debate are offered, students may qualify from any division so long as the above criteria are met.
- C. Each qualification application must be submitted to the National Tournament Director with written proof of meeting the requirements stated above.
- D. Regardless of event size, only one set of competitors per event may qualify for the National Championship Tournament. In cases where both novice and open divisions of the same event are offered, they will be considered separate events.
- E. Tournaments that restrict entry to only those who have not yet qualified for the National Championship Tournament shall not be accepted as qualifying tournaments.
- F. The third Monday prior to the beginning of the National Championship Tournament shall be the tournament qualification and tournament entry deadline.

IV. ELIGIBILITY OF CONTESTANTS

- A. Contestants must be enrolled at the school they represent at the National Championship Tournament. Contestants need not be full time students but must be enrolled at their institution for more than a course in forensics.
- B. Contestants may not have received a baccalaureate degree or its equivalent. Automatic exceptions are granted for students who graduate mid-year. Students who graduate during the academic year may compete at the National Championship Tournament in those events in which they qualified between September and the date of their graduation.
- C. Under unusual circumstances, involving educational justification, students who have received a bachelor's degree may participate if one of the following criteria apply and a waiver has been appealed for and granted by the National Tournament Committee.
 - 1. The student is in an advanced/accelerated/combined bachelor's/master's program, has completed their bachelor's degree, and is finishing their master's degree at the same institution. The student would be allowed (with a waiver) to compete for two consecutive semesters.
 - 2. The student obtained their bachelor's degree within a three-year time frame and is continuing on with their Masters at the same school. The student would be allowed (with a waiver) to compete for two consecutive semesters.
 - 3. The student is at a school which has a forensics program and obtained a bachelor's degree from a school which did not have forensics program available for the student. The student would be allowed (with a waiver) to compete for two consecutive semesters and must meet all other eligibility requirements.
- D. A student is allowed the equivalent of eight semesters of competitive eligibility. Competition in 3 or more tournaments and/or any national tournament (as defined below in Section E) within a semester constitutes a semester of eligibility.
- E. Contestants are limited to four years of national tournament competition. These years need not be consecutive. These national tournaments include those sponsored by NFA, PKD, DSR-TKA, IOA, PRP, CEDA, NPDA, AFA, and Novice Nationals or any other forensic national competition added to this list by the National Council.
- F. Transfer Students: Qualifications go with the student.
- G. Any student who judges any of the events described in section 2, "Events at the National Championship Tournament" at an intercollegiate qualification tournament during the NFA competitive season forfeits any remaining competitive eligibility at the National Championship Tournament. A student who judges at a tournament before otherwise exhausting his or her competitive eligibility may petition the NFA National Council to have eligibility reinstated.
- H. All Contestants must meet the minimum standards of eligibility for participation in intercollegiate activities as determined by their respective institutions.
- I. All eligibility appeals should be sent to the NFA Tournament Director and final determination of a student's eligibility to compete in the tournament will be made by the Tournament Committee.
- J. Any student who competed in the Fall of 2019 or the Spring of 2020 with the intention of competing at the 2020 National Tournament, and meets all other requirements for eligibility, will receive a ninth semester of eligibility to qualify to compete at their fourth NFA Nationals. This section will expire with the 2024 National Tournament.

V. INDIVIDUAL EVENTS TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES

Section 1: The schematic should include the following items and procedures:

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

Section 2: Tournament Schedule

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

Section 3: Assignment of Judges.

- A. Judges are scheduled at the discretion of the National Tournament Committee.
- B. No judge will judge students from their current school. No judge will judge students from any other school where the judge served as a competitor or coach until a minimum of 2 years has passed after that judge has left the program. In addition, no judge will judge individual competitors or students from a school with which that the judge declares an additional type of association or conflict. Such declarations might include but are not limited to: recent coaching at another school entered in the tournament; recent coaching of any individual student entered in the tournament by another team; an interpersonal connection which the judge feels would promote bias; or any other potentially significant conflict of interest.
- C. Two judges will be assigned to each section in preliminary rounds. Judges should not judge the same contestant in preliminary rounds more than once in the same event. Judges should not judge with the same partner more than once. Each preliminary round section should not have more than one hired judge.
- D. No judge hired by the host school will judge contestants from that school. Exceptions may be granted by the National Tournament Committee when necessary due to availability of judges, for judges hired by the host school solely for National Tournament judging.
- E. Five judges representing at least three states, with no more than 2 judges from one state and no more than one judge from any one school, will be assigned by the National Tournament Committee for each section of elimination rounds. However, in octafinals, at least three of the five judges assigned will be from three different states. Judges should not judge the same event more than once in elimination rounds.

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

Section 4: Tournament Ballots.

Association-approved ballots will be utilized. They will include ranks, ratings, and space for written comments. All contestants will be ranked from 1-5 in preliminary rounds and from 1-6 (or when necessary, 1-7) in all elimination rounds. All contestants will be given rating points from 1-30 in both preliminary and elimination rounds. There can be no ties given in rating points. In addition, there can be no ties on ranks other than a 5 in preliminary rounds.

Section 5: Tabulation and Results Recording

A. The National Tournament Director shall be in charge of the tabulation room.

B. No one with knowledge of results at any time shall judge in a following round except in an emergency.

C. Specific Procedures for Tabulation.

1. Record rank and rating for each entry at the end of each round from the judge's ballots which are his/her signed official decision.
2. Record sweepstakes points for each entry at the end of each round.
3. At the end of preliminary rounds, calculate total ranks and total ratings. Drop the lowest rank and rating for each contestant. Determine the top 48 contestants in each event. Rank top 48 in order from 1 to 48 using first total ranks than total ratings. Record pentathlon and sweepstakes points on appropriate record sheets. Repeat procedure for quarterfinals, semifinals and final rounds. Total pentathlon and sweepstakes.
4. All tabulations will be double-checked by the tabulation staff.

D. Sweepstakes points are based on all preliminary round ranks, including those that were dropped to determine advancement into elimination rounds.

E. The 48 contestants in each event with the lowest adjusted ranks advance to octafinals. The following procedure will be used in case of ties in ranks: (1) total ratings points; (2) greatest number of firsts in preliminary rounds. If a tie still exists at this point, the additional person(s) will advance to octafinals.

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

- Section A – 1, 16, 17, 32, 33, 48; (49)
- Section B – 2, 15, 18, 31, 34, 47; (50)
- Section C – 3, 14, 19, 30, 35, 46; (51)
- Section D – 4, 13, 20, 29, 36, 45; (52)
- Section E – 5, 12, 21, 28, 37, 44; (53)
- Section F – 6, 11, 22, 27, 38, 43; (54)
- Section G – 7, 10, 23, 26, 39, 42; (55)
- Section H – 8, 9, 24, 25, 40, 41; (56)

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

- G. After all competitors have been advanced to the first out-round in an event, up to six top remaining novice competitors in individual events will be assigned to Novice Final Rounds.
- a. A minimum of 7 non-advancing students must remain in each individual event for a Novice final to occur.
 - b. No more than 50% of the non-advancing field will be awarded.
 - c. Final rounds will occur at the same time as the first out-round in that event, if possible. Judge availability permitting, a three judge panel will be assigned.
- H. The top three contestants from each octafinal section will advance to quarterfinals. Quarterfinal sections shall be made up of the following contestants:
- Section A: OA1, OA3, OD2, OE2, OH1, OH3
 - Section B: OD1, OD3, OE1, OE3, OA2, OH2
 - Section C: OB1, OB3, OG1, OG3, OC2, OF2
 - Section D: OC1, OC3, OF1, OF3, OB2, OG2
- I. The top three contestants from each quarterfinal section will advance to the semifinals. The top three contestants from each semifinal section will advance to the final round. Semifinal sections shall be made up of the following contestants:
- Section A – QA1, QD1, QB2, QC2, QA3, QD3
 - Section B – QB1, QC1, QA2, QD2, QB3, QC3
- J. If a tie exists in any elimination round, the tie-breaking procedure will be:
1. Total rank;
 2. Total rate;
 3. Judge's preference.
- K. Speaking order in all elimination rounds will be determined by random draw.
- L. Contestants earn 3 sweepstakes points for each first place; 2 points for each second place; and 1 point for each third place rank received in the three preliminary rounds. Thus, the maximum points would occur when a contestant received six firsts equaling 18 points. The total preliminary points are halved for team sweepstakes and pentathlon calculation.
- M. All students in octafinals, quarterfinals and semifinals will be awarded three sweepstakes points. In the final round, sweepstakes points are allotted as follows: 1st-12; 2nd-10; 3rd-8; 4th-7; 5th-5; 6th-3.
- N. Regardless of the number of entries, each school receives the sweepstakes points for its top three contestants in preliminary rounds in each event.

VI. LINCOLN-DOUGLAS PROCEDURES

A. Preliminary Rounds:

1. The National Championship Tournament shall consist of 6 preliminary rounds of competition in Lincoln-Douglas debate.
2. The first two rounds of the tournament will be pre-set with debaters randomly paired.
 - a. The debaters shall be randomly matched as determined by the tab room staff.
 - b. So far as possible, a judge should not judge a debater from a school within their own geographical region in all preliminary rounds.
3. Power matching should begin with the third round.
 - a. The odd number rounds should use a direct power match scheme (high/high) since there is not a problem with side constraints in the odd number rounds.
 - b. The even number rounds should use a high/low power match scheme within win/loss brackets to allow for side constraints.
 - c. If there are an uneven number of teams within a win loss bracket, the tab room will pair the debater with the weakest opposition seed from the higher bracket against the debater with the strongest opposition seed from the lower bracket. The tab room will not pull up debaters more than one time per national tournament, and no debater should receive more than one pull up during each national tournament. The tab room will not pull any debater up or down more than one bracket above or below their win loss bracket.
4. If the field consists of an odd number of entries the bye should be randomly assigned in rounds one and two. In rounds three through six the bye should be assigned to the lowest seed that has not already received a bye.
5. Under no circumstances should contestants from the same school meet in preliminary rounds.
6. A single judge will be assigned to adjudicate each preliminary round. Judges will assign each contestant in the round a win or loss with between 1-30 speaker points. A judge should not judge the same contestant more than once in preliminary rounds.
7. All competitors in Lincoln-Douglas debate shall be allowed to “strike” five judges from the judging pool. Struck judges will not judge rounds with competitors that have struck them. Judge strikes are restricted only to a list of judges provided by the tournament on the Monday prior to the start of the National Tournament. Judge strikes shall be privately submitted to the National Tournament Director and will not be released publicly. The strikes will only be known to the Tournament Committee and the Lincoln-Douglas tabulation staff.

B. Elimination Rounds:

1. The top 2 seeds will advance to the single-elimination rounds unless there are more than 32 competitors with a winning record. A winning record is defined as 4-2 or better. In the event that more than 32 competitors have a winning record, all competitors with a winning record will advance to the single-elimination rounds. The initial seeding order of debates advancing to elimination rounds will be determined by the following criteria:
 - a. Number of wins
 - b. Adjusted speaker points – adjusted by dropping the high and low scores
 - c. Total speaker points
 - d. Judge variance/Z Score – the average number of points that each judge gave the debater relative to the number of points that judge gave to all other debaters adjudicated.
 - e. Strength of opponent – the number of wins earned by the debaters opponents in preliminary rounds
 - f. Double adjusted speaker points – adjusted by dropping the two highest and two lowest scores
 - g. Random

2. As soon as possible after the end of round 6, the tab room will release publicly the names of the debaters who have qualified for the elimination rounds and the tournament will make available the bracket for elimination rounds.
 3. Brackets will not be broken to prevent debaters from the same school meeting in elimination rounds.
 4. Sides in all elimination rounds will be determined by a coin toss unless the two debaters have met in the preliminary rounds. The debater listed on the left side of the pairing will call side in the coin toss.
 5. Panels of three judges will adjudicate all elimination rounds through the quarterfinal round. A panel of five judges will adjudicate the semifinal rounds and seven judges will adjudicate the final round. In the event that there are insufficient judges to fill the panels the Tournament Director may reduce the size of the panels for any stage of the elimination rounds to ensure the smooth running of the tournament, although the number of judges shall be the same in each individual round held at that time.
 6. All judges who are committed to judging Lincoln-Douglas debate must be available through the octafinals round, or one round beyond the elimination of their last competitor if they advance a student to elimination rounds. Judges may volunteer to judge beyond their commitment.
 7. Judges will have a clean slate once the elimination rounds begin. They may judge a contestant in elimination rounds that they judged in the preliminary rounds. Additionally, judges may judge the same contestant twice in elimination rounds if necessary.
 8. Each contestant in the event shall have a code for Lincoln-Douglas debate. Schematics will use the code to identify competitors. The code will consist of a three or four letter designation for the school and the student's initials. In the event that students on the same team share initials, additional initials will be used. On any elimination round postings the full name of the competitor may be used.
- C. After all competitors have been advanced to the first out-round in an event, the top two remaining novice competitors in LD will be assigned to a Novice Final Round.
1. A minimum of 4 non-advancing students must remain for a Novice final to occur.
 2. No more than 50% of the non-advancing field will be awarded.
 3. If there are more than 8 novice debaters, LD will break to a Novice Semifinal.
- D. Disclosure: Post-round discussion may or may not include a disclosure of the win/loss and the round. All wins and losses will be posted online and in a "warm room" document that will be displayed in the same area as schematics for the preliminary rounds. Decisions in all elimination rounds, except for finals, will be disclosed immediately following the round.
- E. Tabulating Sweepstakes:
1. The top ten schools entered in Lincoln-Douglas Debate will receive an award as determined by the following formula: 3 points per preliminary round win counting only the top 3 debaters from the school; 5 points per elimination round win, counting only the top 5 debaters.
 2. In the event of a tie in Lincoln-Douglas Sweepstakes, the tie breaking procedure will be:
 - a. Number of debaters in elimination rounds
 - b. Number of debaters advancing to second elimination round
 - c. Number of debaters advancing to third elimination round
 - d. Number of debaters advancing to fourth elimination round
 - e. Number of debaters advancing to fifth elimination round
- F. Tabulating Speaker Awards: The top ten speakers at the tournament will receive an award as determined by the speaker points assigned to them in the preliminary rounds. Speaker order shall be determined by the following criteria:
1. Adjusted Points: Speaker points after dropping high and low scores

2. Total Points: Total speaker points
3. Judge Variance/Z-Score: The average number of points greater or fewer that each judge gave the speaker relative to all other speakers to which the judge assigned points
4. Double-Adjusted Points: Speaker points after dropping the two highest and the two lowest scores
5. Number of Wins: The speaker's number of wins in the preliminary rounds
6. Opposition Wins: The strength of the speaker's competition as defined by the number of preliminary round wins earned by the speaker's opposition
7. If all the speakers involved in a tie are indistinguishable based on all of the above criteria, then an "unbreakable tie" will be declared.

G. Lincoln Douglas Topic

1. The Lincoln-Douglas debate committee, chaired by the Lincoln-Douglas Representative to the National Council, will be responsible for the overseeing and facilitating the topic selection process.
2. The general topic area for NFA-LD will rotate on four-year cycles. Within every four-year period beginning with the 2021-2022 season, the topic areas will include international relations, a domestic social or legal issue, and a domestic economic or technological issue. There will be no restrictions for one year out of every four during this cycle. The LD chairperson is charged with choosing and announcing the general topic area for future seasons. This announcement will be made at the NFA-LD forum at the national tournament and on the NFA-LD Facebook group two years in advance of the season in which the topic area will be debated, with the exception of the 2021-2022 topic which will require only one year notice. Potential topic paper authors are encouraged to consult with the LD chairperson to ensure their potential specific topic area comports with the general topic area for the following season.
3. The LD chairperson will solicit four (4) topic papers by members of the community during August of each year to be submitted by May 1 for determining the following year's topic. These members need not be members of the LD committee, although they are encouraged to participate in the process. The proposed areas of these papers will be agreed upon by both the author and members of the committee. Additionally, the community is encouraged to submit unsolicited topic papers by the same deadline.
4. The purpose of topic papers is to provide an argument for why a given topic area would be able to sustain debates for an entire season. The topic papers should describe, in as much detail as possible, the direction and viability of potential resolutions. As such, papers should include the following:
 - a. A topic justification or rationale.
 - b. A set of definitions of potential mechanisms and crucial limiting words for potential topic wordings.
 - c. A set of 5-6 potential resolutional wordings.
 - d. A description of and examples of available solvency advocates that would be topical under potential resolutions. Solvency advocates are understood as authors that provide explicit descriptions of specific actions to be taken by a resolutional actor.
 - e. A description, and multiple citations for, 6-7 potential affirmative advantage areas under a proposed topic.
 - f. A description, and multiple citations for, core negative ground on a topic, including: 3-4 generic disadvantages, 2-3 generic counterplans, and 3-4 critiques.
 - g. A works cited section that provides information on how to access all of the cited sources.

5. If between 4 and 6 papers that meet the requirements are submitted, they will all be distributed to the LD community for a vote. If, however, fewer than 4 appropriate papers are submitted, the LD chairperson will include acceptable papers from previous years to fill out the ballot. If more than 6 papers are submitted, the LD committee will narrow the field down to 6 briefs using a ranked choice voting system. The LD chairperson will solicit votes from committee members who should then vote according to their judgements about the quality of the submitted papers. The LD chairperson should count the votes. The paper(s) with the fewest first-place votes should be eliminated. The ballots choosing the eliminated paper(s) as their first choice will then be counted as votes for their second choice, after which the paper(s) receiving the fewest votes for the second round will also be eliminated. This process should continue until there are 6 papers remaining.
6. By May 8, the LD chairperson will distribute the briefs to the LD community and the membership of the NFA via links to a file sharing platform embedded within the NFA-LD Facebook group as well as a mass email to all NFA member schools for discussion and consideration. A ballot will also be distributed online. Using this ballot, schools should rank all of their choices and return to the NFA President by May 22. Again, the topic paper will be selected using a ranked choice voting system. This time, however, the goal will be to achieve a paper with an outright majority rather than a ballot of 4-6.
7. The selected topic area will be announced on May 25.
8. At the direction of the LD chairperson, the committee will be tasked with choosing, and modifying the wording of, at least 3 resolutions specified in the selected topic paper. The LD committee should work exclusively with terms of art outlined in the paper but may otherwise reword the proposed topics. The LD chairperson will solicit community volunteers to participate in research within the selected topic paper to guide modifications of the proposed resolution wordings. The volunteers will be assigned an area of research and they will be expected to identify major issues and themes within the topic area as well as relevant terms of art in a written report. The committee will host an open forum after the topic area is announced to gather community input and will refine the resolutions via e-mail and conference calls.
9. By June 8, a ballot will be sent out with at least three resolutions for consideration. In order for a ballot to be counted, all resolutions must be rank ordered. The ballots must be returned to the NFA President by June 22. A rank choice voting system will again be used to determine the winning topic. Ties will be broken by the President of the NFA, who may at their discretion, consult with the LD debate committee.
10. The resolution will be announced by July 1. The winning resolution will be known only to the President of the NFA until it is announced.

VII. CATEGORIES OF SWEEPSTAKES AWARDS

A. Individual Events

There will be four categories of sweepstakes. Schools with 1-12 entered slots will be in President's Three (III) schools with 13-29 entered slots will be in President's Two (II), schools with 30-55 entered slots will be in Presidents One (I) and schools with 56 or more entered slots will only be eligible for Open sweepstakes. Schools winning an award in one of the Presidential categories are also eligible to win an award in the Open Division.

In the event of a tie in Team Sweepstakes, the tie-breaking procedure will be:

- a. Number of events in final rounds;
- b. Number of events in semifinal rounds;
- c. Number of events in quarterfinal rounds;
- d. If a tie still exists, the tie will be broken on placement in elimination rounds, beginning with finals.

B. Lincoln-Douglas Debate

There is one open division in Lincoln-Douglas Debate.

C. Pentathlon

1. Students entered in five or more events are eligible for Pentathlon awards. In determining these awards, only the student's best 5 slots in preliminary and/or elimination rounds will be considered. Students must compete in at least two genres (public address, oral interpretation, limited preparation) to be eligible.
2. In the event of a tie in Pentathlon, the tie-breaking procedure will be:
 - a. Number of events in final rounds;
 - b. Number of events in semifinal rounds;
 - c. Number of events in quarterfinal rounds;
 - d. If a tie still exists, the tie will be broken on placement in elimination rounds, beginning with finals.

D. Community College

2-year colleges are eligible to receive a Community College Sweepstakes award. 2-year colleges are also eligible to win awards in the other sweepstakes categories.

VIII. NFA CODE OF STANDARDS, RULES AND PROCEDURES

- A. Directors, coaches and students must ensure compliance with the association's standards, rules and procedures. Any director, coach or student who violates these standards, rules or procedures is subject to the sanctions as indicated in the Code of Standards and as applied at the discretion of the National Council.
- B. Those in doubt as to compliance with these standards, rules or procedures should correspond with the President or National Tournament Director in advance of the National Championship Tournament to ensure compliance. Those suspecting violations of standards, rules or procedures should report alleged violation(s) to a member of the National Tournament Committee as soon as practical and if at all possible, well in advance of the National Championship Tournament.

C. CODE OF STANDARDS

- 1. Repetition of Materials (In Prepared & Interpretation Events)
It is unethical for students to reuse any portion of a performance script from year to year.
- 2. Literary Definitions for Interpretive Events
Contestants must use literary selections in the appropriate event category.
- 3. Authorship of Materials Used in Competition
Students should author their own materials in non-interpretation events and should cite sources for any materials they employ which are not original. Violations of this rule include all forms of plagiarism. Students shall not represent another's words or ideas as their own. Examples include, but are not limited to, delivering a speech authored by another student or a coach in the event "Persuasive Speaking," paraphrasing a personal story found in a magazine without citing the source, presenting a professional comedian's joke as if it were your own, or cutting and pasting the definition of a term from Wikipedia into the introduction of a Poetry program without verbally attributing it to the website. Violations also include fabrication, the invention or falsification of information or citations. Examples include citing the wrong source for the nation's GDP in an extemporaneous speech or updating a citation in an informative speech with a new source that does not contain the information claimed. When citing a source, the NFA recommends including the name of the publication, and the date it was published. Students should only use evidence that is accurate and thoroughly referenced. Institutions should be prepared to provide source verification of all materials used in competition at the National Championship Tournament. Students may use evidence from non-written sources as long as the veracity of the evidence may be confirmed.
- 4. Interpretation of Literature
Competitors are discouraged from significantly altering existing text (with the exception of cutting out). Altering the *text* includes but is not limited to changing the narrator's point of view, changing the names, altering the pronouns to change the sex or genders of characters, or rewriting any part of the script beyond transitional lines and creating narratives that a cutting necessitates. These examples are not referencing the performance choices the student makes, the students should feel empowered to make their individual performance choices; rather, in attempt to stay true to the author's original written intent, the *text* should not be significantly altered in the aforementioned ways.
- 5. Limited Preparation Events
 - a. Competitors should not use the same material, in the same way, to prove the same point, at the same tournament.
 - b. The NFA forbids competitors from listening through the door to performances preceding their own.
 - c. The NFA expects that prompts will not be shared with others prior to the completion of a given round.

6. Student Affiliation with an Institution
Students who attend more than one institution may only represent one institution at the National Championship Tournament. Students may compete at the National Championship Tournament only in those events they qualified. Students who officially transfer from one institution to another may compete in any events for which they have qualified.
7. Student Status
Students who compete at the National Championship Tournament must be making progress toward an initial undergraduate degree or with a waiver: be enrolled in a combined bachelor's/master's program; in their first year of graduate school (at the same school they attended for their bachelor's) after graduating with a bachelors after less than three years, or in their first year at a school with a forensics program after graduating with a bachelor's from a school where forensics was not available to them.
8. Judging Behavior
 - a. Judges should not threaten students.
 - b. Judges must pick up their ballots in a timely manner.
 - c. Judges that start a round, should finish judging a round.
 - d. Judges affiliated with a program should not judge students also affiliated with their program.
 - e. The National Forensics Association is a community based on inclusion and therefore judges shall not include in oral critiques or on ballots any comments which alienates, marginalizes, attacks, threatens, or insults a person or group on the basis of national origin, ethnicity, color, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability.
9. Statement of Inclusion
The NFA embraces human diversity as a core value. We express this value best in the inclusion and affirmation of the various identity groups to which our members and participants belong. This commitment to inclusiveness embraces identities and social roles that arise from but are not limited to race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, religion, or ability status. We affirm and uphold the right to basic human dignity and respect across these diverse forms of human expression.
Participation in NFA events is by invitation. As such, NFA is firmly committed to maintaining an environment that is free from acts that are inconsistent with the inclusiveness it seeks to foster. When actions deemed contrary to this core value are reported to the Tournament Director, the behavior will be investigated promptly, and appropriate remedial actions will be taken.
10. Students must abide by the rules of the events, the procedure for the events, and the code of standards. Protest of ethical violations should be filed in writing with the tournament director of the National Championship Tournament.

D. VIOLATION(S) OF STANDARDS, RULES and PROCEDURE

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

2. After the preliminary review of the National Tournament Committee of a written challenge, the National Tournament Committee will report its findings to the National Council. The National Council will either conduct a formal hearing to investigate the allegation, dismiss the allegation, or defer action until further evidence can be made available. All parties involved will be given notice of the National Council's actions. Public notice of the National Council's ruling will be given to all member institutions.
3. The National Council may request written statements, oral testimony or interrogatories from those involved in the allegations. Failure to cooperate in the National Council's investigation will be considered a violation and subject to the penalties noted elsewhere.
4. National Council will keep accurate records of its proceedings and any testimony received in connection with an allegation of violation(s). These records will be confidential and subject to disclosure only to the person or persons alleged to be in violation. Individuals may petition the National Council in writing to have their testimony exempted from confidentiality provisions.
5. The findings of the National Council in an allegation of violation are subject to appeal to the National Assembly.

E. SANCTIONS FOR VIOLATIONS

1. The National Council, after its deliberations and a determination by 2/3 vote of the members present and voting, may impose penalties for violation of standards, rules and/or procedures. The imposition of penalties will be made public, as will the votes of the individual Council members to impose penalties. Student representatives of the National Council will not take part in the investigation of violations nor will they be permitted to vote in such matters if the challenge is presented during the National Championship Tournament.
2. For violations involving a specific event, the penalties will be selected from the following:
 - a. Disqualification from the event in question;
 - b. Issuance of letter(s) of censure to the individual(s) and/or institution(s) in violation;
 - c. Issuance of letter(s) of reprimand to the individual(s) and/or the institution(s) in violation;
 - d. Disallowance of sweepstakes points or honors achieved in the event in question.
 - e. Prohibition from attendance at future national competitions.
 - f. In the case of Lincoln Douglas Debate, a round result reversal in the round challenged with an ethical violation.
3. For violations involving eligibility, the penalties will be selected from the following:
 - a. Disqualification from the National Championship Tournament;
 - b. Issuance of letter(s) of censure to the individual(s) and/or the institution(s) in violation;
 - c. Issuance of letter(s) of reprimand to the individual(s) and/or the institution(s) in violation;
 - d. Disallowance of sweepstakes points or honors achieved at the National Tournament,
 - e. Prohibition from attendance at future national competitions.
4. For violations involving conduct of a coach and/or a judge, the penalties will be selected from the following:
 - a. Removal from the judging pool. If the judge is hired, pay will be rescinded. If the judge is a school judge, the school will pay the drop fee for the judge.
 - b. Issuance of letter(s) of reprimand to the individual(s) and/or the institution(s) in violation;
 - c. Disallowance of sweepstakes points for the institution(s) the individual(s) represents;
 - d. Prohibition from attendance at future national competitions.

IX. NFA CODE OF ETHICS

- A. Believing strongly in the purpose of the National Forensic Association and its' pillars of pedagogy, scholarship, and competition, member teams and individuals strive to uphold the following values:
- 1. Inclusivity** – The National Forensic Association community believes we are stronger when we include all individuals with diverse experiences and stories.
 - 2. Honesty** – Our community believes in honestly presenting and performing work without the blight of plagiarism or misrepresentation.
 - 3. Integrity** – Our community works to uphold the highest ethical standards as stated in our organizational bylaws in order to create a society of fairness and pride.
 - 4. Respect** – Our community respects the voices and perspectives of other members within the community and works to create comradery within our diversity.
 - 5. Education** – Our community believes that by focusing on education as a pedagogy and a competitive practice, we can foster the growth of strong, civically minded citizens.
 - 6. Involvement** – Our community encourages involvement of students, alumni, coaches, and outside community members because many perspectives enrich the learning experience at our tournament.