

**2019 NCFL Fall Director's Meeting  
September 27-28, 2019  
New Orleans, Louisiana**

Meeting came to order at 5:05 p.m.

Invocation

Roll Call conducted

**Reports of the officers**

President, Barbara Fontenot: Thank you to Milwaukee for a great 2019 Tournament

First Vice President, Susan Peebles:

- Topic areas and volunteers for the for LD and PF working committees are due by January 10, 2020
- NSDA Conference Update provided

Second Vice President, Ann Marie Duffy:

- Extemp topic area suggestions due by January 10, 2020

Publicity Director, Tommy Beck (absent from meeting; Ann Marie Duffy delivered): Social Media Updates

- Twitter, Facebook, Instagram
- Twitter handle: **@NCFL2020** - for social and fun
- Twitter handle: **@NCFL\_Updates** - for tournament updates
- Instagram: **#NCFL2020** (post away); and search for **NCFLS** and follow us
- Like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram

Tournament Director, Roland Burdett:

- Thank you to 2019 Tab Rooms in Milwaukee
- On-line balloting in Speech was a success
- Concerns regarding the timing of Posting on Saturday night was addressed; the Tournament Director needs the time to resolve protests, triple check results, and ensure Postings are accurate; there really is no delay in Postings, we aren't waiting, we post as soon as we can; hopefully with OnLine Balloting we can continue to make that earlier
- Apology on behalf of the Board and the NCFL was offered to the students who were affected and delayed from going to observe Ramadan prayers during the 2019 Tournament
- Tournament Director and President formed a Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee to address larger diversity and inclusion issues in the league. That committee will report on Saturday, all input is welcome.

Treasurer, Mike Colletti:

- NFHS Policy Debate Topic Selection Committee
  - All league directors should return their vote for the Policy Debate for 2020-2021 to Mike ASAP
  - Topic areas for 2019-2020 are:
    - Climate Change
    - Criminal Justice Reform
    - Commercial Agriculture
    - Election Reform
    - Health Coverage
- Financial Report
  - Discussion of need to have money to cover at least 2 tournaments
  - Motion was made and seconded to increase tournament fees by \$15, from \$50 to \$65
    - Discussion was held on the motion
    - Upon a motion duly made and seconded the motion to call the previous question passes
    - Upon a motion duly made and seconded a roll call vote was held and the motion passed 95 to 58

### **Tournament Reports**

- Milwaukee (2019)
  - Host thank you
  - Part of the money Milwaukee raised was used to create a fund to help their local CFL students attend the national tournament in Steve Sexton's Memory
- Chicago (2020)
  - Elyssa's Mission, focused on suicide prevention, is the organization we will raise funds for as part of our give-back mission

### **Recess**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the meeting was recessed until 9:00 a.m. Saturday, September 28, 2017

**Saturday, September 28, 2017**

**Meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m.**

### **Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee Report**

- Objective is to review policies and practices to ensure attendees are not harassed, suffer no discrimination, have access to safe and quiet spaces, have food security, feminine hygiene products, and access to other items or resources they need, and feel included in every aspect of the league
- Committee is comprised of league and non-league members, as well as some board members
- Directors and Coaches are encouraged to send comments, suggestions, questions, and ideas to the committee

### **Tournament Reports Continued**

- Minneapolis (2021): on track for 2021
- Washington, DC (2022): on track for 2022
- Louisville (2023): on track for 2023
- Washington, DC (2026): on track for 2026
- Call for hosts for 2024 and 2025

### **Amendments to the Bylaws and Constitution**

A. Constitution, Article III, Section B, 8.

AMEND: Membership forms and annual dues should be postmarked no later than December 4~~0~~ **20** of each academic year. The NCFL Annual School Membership Dues shall be \$50 (fifty dollars) per school. A ten percent (10%) penalty on dues will be levied against schools and Leagues which submit same after December 4~~0~~ **20 but before January 15. A *twenty percent (20%) penalty on dues will be levied against schools and Leagues which submit same after January 15.*** Failure of a League to submit forms and dues postmarked by January 4~~0~~ **31** will result in the League's not being permitted to enter the Grand National Tournament for that academic year. Contestant quotas for the Tournament will be based upon forms and dues received by January 4~~0~~ **31**.

- Discussion on the amendment was held to explain the change
- Upon a motion duly made and seconded the amendment passed by voice vote

B. Constitution, Article III, Section B, 3.

AMEND: An individual school within a diocese where the diocese does not have an established Diocesan League, and which can not join a neighboring Diocesan League may make application directly to the LEAGUE for Independent School membership. ***The deadlines for Independent School membership forms and fees shall be the same as for all member schools, with none admitted after January 31.***

- Discussion regarding the reason for this proposed amendment was held
- Upon a motion duly made and seconded the amendment passes by voice vote

A. By-Laws, Article II, Section C, 4, g:

***When possible*** debate teams will be coded using: school name and student last name initials (PF and Policy) and school name and student initials (LD).

Rationale: 1. Decrease potential confusion amongst students 2. Schedules are easier to read/similar to other debate tournaments across the country 3. By Friday evening, codes for all competitors across all events are posted to Tabroom so anonymity no longer occurs. 4. Reduce printing costs of both competitor and judge cards with ability to post on Tabroom and NCFL app. A con to the proposal: There could theoretically be a time when there's two schools from two different parts of the country with the same name AND students with the same initials. The odds of that happening are pretty slim (this past year, there were 2 pairs of schools with the same name from different states out of like 540 schools.) to make an award in any given year." -- Submitted by the Gaudette Service Award Committee

- Discussion regarding the reasons for this proposed amendment was held and continued discussion on the merits of the amendment was held
- Friendly amendment accepted as revised above to include the words "When possible"
- Member moved the previous question, which was duly seconded
- Upon a motion duly made and seconded the motion to call the previous question passes
- Upon a motion duly made and seconded the amendment passes

B. By-Laws Article II, Section C, 3, a. Team Debate:

Delete: 2). Debaters may use visual aids if they contribute to the presentation.

Insert: 4. Debate Procedures. Visual and audio-visual aids are not permitted.

- Discussion regarding the reasoning for the proposed amendment was held and discussion continued on the merits of the amendment
- Concerns were raised about excluding performance debaters and creating barriers to entry for certain groups of debaters
- Member moved the previous question, which was duly seconded
- Upon a motion duly made and seconded the motion to call the previous question passes
- Upon a motion duly made and seconded the amendment fails

C. Nationals. By-Laws Article II, Section C, 3, Speech Event Procedures, c. AND Article II, Section C, 4, Debate Procedures, e.

Insert: "... less than nine (9) months will be allowed to judge preliminary rounds, or..." The sentence would read: No judges who have been out of high school less than nine (9) months will be allowed to judge preliminary rounds, or less than 18 months will be allowed to judge elimination rounds.

- Discussion regarding the reasoning for the proposed amendment was held
- Member moved the previous question, which was duly seconded
- Upon a motion duly made and seconded the motion to call the previous question passes
- Upon a motion duly made and seconded the amendment passes

D. By-Laws Article II, Section B, 1, c. 2

Delete: No hired judges will be made available for the Tournament except in case of emergency.

Insert: Hired judges may be provided by the Host League at their discretion and in coordination with the Grand Tournament Director. ~~When hired judges are offered, if a school is required to provide more than one judge in an event that~~ school may ~~not~~ hire from the host league all of its judges for an event. ***Requests for waivers may be made to the National Tournament Director.***

- Discussion regarding the reasoning for the proposed amendment was held and discussion continued on the merits of the amendment
- A friendly amendment was accepted as reflected above in bold and italics
- A motion to amend was made and duly seconded to remove the language that is crossed out as reflected above.
- Discussion regarding the amendment from the floor was held
- Member moved the previous question on the amendment from the floor, which was duly seconded

- Upon a motion duly made and seconded the motion to call the previous question passes
- Upon a motion duly made and seconded the amendment from the floor passes
- Member moved the previous question, which was duly seconded
- Upon a motion duly made and seconded the motion to call the previous question passes
- Upon a motion duly made and seconded the amendment, as amended from the floor, passes

E. By-Laws Article II, Section C, 1, a, 1: Declamation:

Change verb in “The speaker **should** have an introduction which is at most one minute and names the work, author, and describes the circumstances under which the speech was originally presented”

to “The speaker **must...**”

- Request to separate out the proposed amendment was granted
- Discussion regarding the reasoning for this first half of the amendment was held
- Member moved the previous question, which was duly seconded
- Upon a motion duly made and seconded the motion to call the previous question passes
- Upon a motion duly made and seconded the amendment passes

Also, add after “Selections may include professional speeches, public orations, eulogies, and sermons.” **“Stand-up comedy routines are prohibited ~~whether performed in real life or on video.~~”**

- Discussion regarding the second half of the proposed amendment was held and continued discussion on the merits of the amendment was held.
- A friendly amendment was made and accepted removing the wording that is crossed out above.
- A friendly amendment was proposed and accepted to change “Standup” to “Stand-up.”
- Member moved the previous question on the amendment, which was duly seconded
- Upon a motion duly made and seconded the motion to call the previous question passes
- Upon a motion duly made and seconded the amendment passes

F. By-Laws Article II, Section C, 1, f, 1: Duo Interp:

Replace "Lines which are attributed to one character in the published material must not be attributed to another character in the performance. The author's words as published in the literature must not be altered for the presentation with the exception that cutting is permitted."

With: Performing the author's exact words from the published original work is a core value of

interpretation in NCFL. Cutting, the removal and rearrangement of the author's words to shape a 10-minute performance, is permitted.

- Discussion regarding the reasons for the proposed amendment was held and continued discussion on the merits of the amendment was held.
- Member moved the previous question, which was duly seconded
- Upon a motion duly made and seconded the motion to call the previous question passes
- Upon a motion duly made and seconded the amendment passes

*Break was called at 11:00 am*

*Meeting Reconvened at 11:14 am*

#### G. By-Laws Article II, Section C - Events: Definitions and Procedures

Section C.3.c.2.g First Pro Summary

**Current:** 2 minutes

**Proposed:** 3 minutes Section C.3.c.2.h First

Con Summary

**Current:** 2 minutes

**Proposed:** 3 minutes Section

C.3.c.2.I Prep Time

**Current:** 2 minutes/team

**Proposed:** 3 minutes/team

- Discussion regarding the reasons for the proposed amendment was held and continued discussion on the merits was held.
- Member moved the previous question, which was duly seconded
- Upon a motion duly made and seconded the motion to call the previous question passes
- Upon a motion duly made and seconded the amendment passes

#### H. By-Laws Article II, Section 5. Judging Procedures

Section C.5.e

**Current:** Judges are prohibited from reading any materials presented in any speech unless falsification is suggested by the opponent and the original source in question is available in the round. The reading of complete citations is required only when requested by the opponent.

**Proposed:** Judges may read any materials presented in any speech, including reading

while the debate is in progress. All decisions must be submitted within 55 minutes of the start time of LD/PFD rounds **flight** and one hour, fifty minutes of the start time of CX rounds. The reading of complete citations is required only when requested by the opponent.

- Discussion regarding the reasons for the proposed amendment and continued discussion on the merits of the amendment was held.
- A friendly amended was offered and accepted to change the word "round" to "flight"
- Discussion continued on the amendment
- Member moved the previous question, which was duly seconded
- Upon a motion duly made and seconded the motion to call the previous question passes
- Upon a motion duly made and seconded the amendment passes on a weighted vote 125 to 30

#### I. Part 1: Amend By-Laws

Article II, Section C. 6, a:

Congress will consist of chambers as described in the NCFL Student Congress Manual. Six members will advance from each Chamber to the Semi-Finals. Selection ~~and voting~~ will be as defined in the NCFL Student Congress Manual.

Article II, Section C, 6, b:

The qualifiers for Semi-Finals will be distributed into three chambers. ***There will be four scorers and a parliamentarian for each Semi-Final chamber. Eight members will advance from each Semi-Final Chamber to the Grand Final Session.*** ~~The four scorers and parliamentarian in each Semi-Final Chamber will rank the top eight speakers, all others will receive a rank of 9. The ranks will be totaled and the lowest 5 will advance to the Grand Final. The other three to advance from each Semi-Final Chamber will be voted on by the Chamber, selecting from the other competitors not already selected for Finals by ranks, by preferential balloting. Voting~~ ***Selection*** will be as defined in the NCFL Student Congress Manual.

Article II, Section C, 6, 3:

The 8 students from each Semi-Final chamber will compete in a Grand Final Session of 24 students. There will be four scorers and a parliamentarian for the Grand Final Session. Selection ~~and voting~~ to determine the National Champion will be as defined in the NCFL Student Congress Manual.

Part 2: Amend NCFL Student Congress Manual as follows:

Amend Section IV. 7. ~~Nominations for a~~ **Advancement** shall occur as outlined in Section V. Final selection of the rank order of the winners (the top eight in the Grand Final Session) will be done by rank order ~~preferential ballot~~.

Amend Section V. 7. ~~Nomination~~ **Selection** of Outstanding Members:

Preliminary Sessions: at the end of each session, each Scorer will rank the top 6 8 persons who, in the Scorer's opinion, did a truly outstanding job during the session. The Parliamentarian or a member of the Tab Staff will collect the ~~nomination~~ **ranking** forms. All ranks for each student from a Chamber will be added; each student not ranked will receive a "7" 9 from that Scorer. At the conclusion of the third session, the ~~eight~~ **five** students in each Chamber with the lowest ranks ~~will comprise a nomination ballot presented to the students; the three students with the lowest ranks will be Semifinalists. Students will then place the names on this ballot in the order that they prefer the nominees. The top two vote-getters of the preferential election who have not advanced on the basis of total ranks shall also be Semifinalists.~~ The Parliamentarian will also separately rank the students in the chamber; his/her top-ranked student who has not advanced by either total judge ranks or preferential voting shall also be a Semifinalist. See Section VII for voting procedures.

Semi-Final Sessions: the four Scorers and the Parliamentarian in each Chamber will each rank the top eight members of the Chamber; each student unranked by an official will receive a rank of 9. The ranks will be totaled and the students with the lowest 5 7 totals will advance to the Grand Final Session. ~~Two (2) members to advance are voted on by the Chamber by preferential balloting, selecting from those students not already advancing from Semi-Finals who have either given a speech or served as Presiding Officer during the semi-final session. Finally, †~~ The top-ranked student on the Parliamentarian's rank form who has not advanced by either total judge ranks or preferential voting shall also be a Finalist.

Grand Final Sessions: ~~each Scorer~~ **the four Scorers and the Parliamentarian** will rank the top 8 persons at the end of the Grand Final Session; **each student unranked by an official will receive a rank of 9. The ranks will be totaled to determine final placement.** ~~the Parliamentarian will also rank the top 8 persons. This procedure will mirror that of the end of Preliminary Sessions, with the 8 students with the lowest ranks comprising a nomination ballot. Preferential balloting will be done by the rank ordering of the 8 nominees; each Scorer and the Parliamentarian will also complete a preferential ballot, each of which shall be worth 4 student ballots.~~

- Discussion regarding the reasons for the amendment was held and continued discussion on the merits of the amendment was held.
- Member moved the previous question, which was duly seconded
- Upon a motion duly made and seconded the motion to call the previous question passes
- Upon a motion duly made and seconded the amendment passes on a weighted vote 102 to 41

## **Discussion Items**

- The Protest Committee would like the body's thoughts and input on the following issues:
  - The interp events bylaws say that the coach must bring an original script. We want to make it clear that cutting scripts like 4N6 Fanatic are not original scripts. Is the term

"cutting script" state of the art? If we prohibit "cutting script" will coaches know what we mean? Is there any better language to use here?

- Discussion was held and input was provided by the body. The Protest Committee will evaluate the input and work on a proposal to address this issue.

### **New Business**

- Chicago would like to place a bid for 2025; this will help with concessions for the 2020 tournament, specifically on wi-fi costs at the tournament sites, and hotel room rates are offered for only \$10 more than the 2020 tournament
  - A motion was made and duly seconded to host the 2025 Grand National Tournament in 2025
  - Upon a motion duly made and seconded, Chicago will host the Grand National Tournament in 2025
- Elections to the Board will be held in May 2020; nominations are due January 1, 2020 and forms are located on the NCFL website
- Those interested in serving on the Nominations Committee should see Barbara Fontenot.
- Richard Gaudette Service Award selection committee requests nominations for awards by January 10, 2020
- A motion was made and duly seconded to amend the NCFL registration fees from \$65 per entry to \$60 per entry
  - Member moved the previous question, which was duly seconded
  - Upon a motion duly made and seconded the motion to call the previous question passes
  - Upon a motion duly made and seconded the amendment passes on a weighted vote 116 to 33
- A request was made for the Board to make a comprehensive presentation and plan on registration fee increases at the Fall Meeting
- A request was made for the Board to explore hiring a grants writer
- A motion was made and duly seconded to suspend the requirement in Section D. 4 of the Constitution that the Diocesan League hosting that year's Grand National Tournament (Chicago) hold the Executive Council Winter Meeting, as the Fall Executive Meetings was not held by the host Diocesan League
  - Upon a motion duly made and seconded the motion passed

- Reminder that membership fees are due December 20, 2019; penalties accrue after deadline

### **Other Items**

**Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 12:47 p.m.**