



# NCFL Diocesan League Directors Fall Meeting 2021 September 25 Virtual OnLine, Not in DC

Agenda

By-Laws Proposals For Discussion



# Reports of the Officers

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- President – Susan Peebles
- 1<sup>st</sup> VP – Ann Marie Duffy
- 2<sup>nd</sup> VP – Tom Beck
- Publicity Dir – Katy Cecil



# Tournament Director Report

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- 2021 Wrap-Up – OnLine & Virtual ... Everywhere & Anywhere
- We'll try to push the topics out a little earlier in the Spring



# Executive Council Emergency Powers

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Continued from 2020 – 2021. As we continue to work through what is needed to respond to the pandemic.

1. “Freezing” quotas again at the level they were for NCFL 2020. Leagues can increase their quotas by providing the requisite school memberships, but leagues cannot have their quotas reduced if they don’t get the requisite number of schools. This recognizes the continued difficulty that some schools have providing signed membership forms, and that some leagues may not have as many teams as they usually do.
2. “Waiving” the requirement that the NCFL Executive Council hold a meeting in the Host City.
3. Allow our NCFL Executive Committee (Diocesan League Directors) and Board Meetings to be held virtually.
4. Take whatever steps are necessary to hold an NCFL 2022 Tournament, either fully in-person, or hybrid or online if in-person is not possible.



# Changes Made We'd Like To Keep

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1. An Informational Diocesan Directors meeting may be held virtually on the Saturday before NCFL 2022, May 21.
2. OnLine Judge Training and a Ballot Test may be held during the week preceding NCFL 2022.
3. Equity & Bias Training for Judges may be made available during the week preceding NCFL 2022.
4. A Two-Tiered OnLine "Start of Tournament" Registration approach, first for Leagues and then for Schools, may be held on Thursday and Friday of NCFL 2022, May 26-27.
5. An OnLine Help Desk may be maintained for NCFL 2022, similar to what was used for NCFL 2021.
6. Use of FlipGrid to allow students to record their names to help with pronunciation during Awards



# We ARE Planning for In-Person NCFL 2022

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## May 28 – 29, 2022

- Washington, DC Convention Center
  - Marriott Marquis, Marriott/Westin Renaissance, Grand Hyatt
1. Tournament Entry and Judge Quotas would return to those specified in the ByLaws.
  2. LD & PF would be double-flighted, with a Play-In Round as specified in the ByLaws.
  3. We will be subject to any Health & Safety Mandates of Washington DC, the DC Convention Center, and our Host Hotels. These may include the requirements for vaccination and/or testing, and that all attendees wear masks at all times when indoors (not in individual hotel sleeping rooms). We will keep you posted as we get closer and know what mandates will apply



# NCFL 2022 DC Information

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**May 28 – 29, 2022**

## **Sites**

Policy, LD, PF, DEC, OO, EXT on the floor of Convention Center

OI, DP, DUO in hard rooms at Convention Center, Marquis, and Renaissance

Congress in hard rooms at the Renaissance and Hyatt

Registration, Postings Party, and Awards at the Marquis

Mass Site TBD

## **Hotels**

Marriott Marquis @ \$230/night

Marriott/Westin Renaissance @ \$219/night

Grand Hyatt @ \$218/night

Embassy Suites @ \$238 (Double) & \$258 (Quad) /night

Cambria Suites @ \$258/night

We will get other nearby overflow hotels as needed



# Future Tournaments

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- 2022 -- Washington, DC
- 2023 – Louisville, KY
- 2024 – Chicago, IL (rescheduled from 2020)
- 2025 – Chicago, IL
- 2026 – Washington, DC
- 2027 – Minneapolis, MN (rescheduled from 2021)





# Secretary / Treasurer Report

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- NFHS Policy Debate 2022– 2023 Topic Selection



# Financial Statement, 2020 - 2021

<b>Balance 9/1/2020</b>	59940.79	<b>Expenses</b>		<b>2021 Tournament Expenses</b>	
Receipts	204705.76	Postage/Shipping	350.00	Insurance	0.00
Total	264646.55	Technology/Web	149.91	NASSP fee	185.00
Expenses	-92616.18	Fall Meeting	0.00	Site Charges - NSDA	10250.00
Expenses paid forward	-31586.30	Winter Meeting	0.00	Site Charges - Zoom	814.65
<b>Balance 8/31/2021</b>	140444.07	Nat'l Site Visits	0.00	Site Charges - DC/Philly	4679.17
		Event Planner	5000.00	GuideBook app	5525.00
<b>Net Gain</b>	80503.28	NCFL Tournament	83771.87	Awards	48986.70
		Misc Charges	570.41	Awards - Shipping	13331.35
<b>Receipts</b>		Executive Council	2118.46	Ballots/Critiques/Cards	0.00
Membership Dues	43800.00	Bank Service Fees	235.00	Supplies	0.00
Membership Penalties	1905.76	NFHS Debate Topic Mtg	420.53	Mass	0.00
Tourney Registration	155050.00			Busses	0.00
Block Surcharge	0.00	<b>Total Expenses</b>	92616.18	Medical Personnel	0.00
Judge Fines	3950.00			Security	0.00
Pins	0.00	<b>Paid forward for 2020-21</b>		Misc Charges	0.00
Misc	0.00	Awards 2022+	31086.30		
		Sites 2022+	500.00		
<b>Total Receipts</b>	204705.76	<b>Total paid forward</b>	31586.30	<b>Total Tourney Expenses</b>	83771.87



# V.B. Finance Committee Report

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Committee chartered at the Fall Meeting 2020

Recommendations are:

1. No increase in Membership Dues or Fees at this time
2. Establish a Standing Finance Committee
3. Make recommendations about Dues & Fees every two years, must be approved at the Annual Fall Diocesan League Directors Meeting to take effect
4. Pursue Appropriate Sponsorships and Grants
5. Establish savings and reserves targets
6. Identify and work with a CPA to monitor



# Item V.B.1, Constitution

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## ***NCFL Constitution, Article V, Section D. 1***

**PASSED !!**

Fall Executive Committee Meeting. There shall be a meeting of the Executive Committee of the LEAGUE on the last Friday and Saturday of September each year. This shall be considered the NCFL Annual Business Meeting of the LEAGUE. The agenda for this meeting will comprise topics submitted by the members of the Executive Committee. Topics must be submitted to the Executive Secretary not later than September 1<sup>st</sup> before each meetings. Amendments to the ByLaws and/or Constitution can only be made at this meeting if they have been published by the Executive Secretary prior to this meeting. The agenda may also include the selection of a site for the next Fall Executive Committee Meeting. **At this meeting in odd-numbered years, the Executive shall review the biennial operational, tournament, and cost-of-living changes for the purpose of making adjustments in membership dues and/or tournament registration fees.**



# Item V.B.2, By-Laws

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## ***NCFL By-Laws, Article I, Insert new 2.***

**PASSED !!**

1. The annual membership dues payable to the Secretary/Treasurer of the LEAGUE shall be determined at the Fall Meeting of the Executive Committee and announced in the Fall Newsletter.
2. The Executive Council shall create a permanent Standing Committee of Finance to work in conjunction with the Secretary/Treasurer to evaluate ongoing operational and tournament expenses, and annual cost-of-living changes to make recommendations to the Executive Committee regarding Membership Dues.



# Item V.B.3, By-Laws

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## ***NCFL By-Laws, Article II, Section B, 2, Fees.***

**PASSED !!**

2. Fees. A registration fee will be levied for each student entered in competition at the Tournament. **The permanent Standing Committee of Finance will work in conjunction with the Secretary/Treasurer to evaluate ongoing operational and tournament expenses and annual cost-of-living changes to make recommendations to the Executive Committee regarding tournament registration fees.** The fee will be determined by the Executive Committee at the Fall Meeting and will be payable to the LEAGUE at the time of registration.



# By-Laws Amendments

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# Item A, By-Laws – Judge Quota Lock Date

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

**PASSED !!**

... No Diocesan League will be permitted to drop registered judges without substitution later than ~~2~~ **1** weeks prior to the tournament. ...





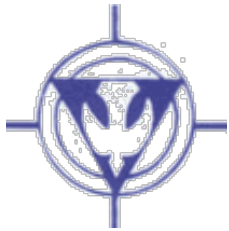
# Item B, By-Laws – Policy Prep Time

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*NCFL By-Laws, Article II, Section C, 3, a.*

**PASSED !!**

3) Preparation Time: ~~5~~ 8 minutes per team.



# Item C, By-Laws – Extemp Prep

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*NCFL By-Laws, Article II, Section C, 1, c.*

8) Extemp: ... ~~Broadband or internet connectivity, and~~ Prepared speeches are not allowed.

**PASSED !!**

*NCFL By-Laws, Article II, Section D, 9.*

The use of computers, electronic storage and retrieval devices, etc is allowed in rounds of Policy Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Public Forum Debate, and Student Congress, and in the Extemporaneous Speaking Preparation Room. They are not allowed in any other event. ~~In the Extemporaneous Speaking Preparation Room, connectivity is not allowed. This includes the prohibition of the use of wired or wireless local, or wide, area networks; cell phones; etc. The establishment of such a connection will constitute a violation of this rule.~~ In Policy Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Public Forum Debate, **Extemporaneous Speaking Preparation or Competition**, and Student Congress, connectivity to any persons other than the competitors or judges in the round is not allowed. Competitors violating this rule will be disqualified from competition. No guarantee of power or of internet connectivity should be presumed. Students wishing to use digital devices must be responsible for providing these resources and for having an alternative plan if the digital devices fail.



# Item D, By-Laws – Congress Chambers

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*NCFL By-Laws, Article II, Section C, 6. (1 of 3)*

**PASSED !!**

a. ~~Congress will consist of chambers as described in the NCFL Student Congress Manual.~~ The goal for size of preliminary chambers will be ~~22~~ **18** members. If there are ~~220~~ **216** entries or less, as of ~~2~~ **1** weeks prior to the Grand National Tournament, there will be ~~10~~ **12** preliminary chambers. If there are more than ~~220~~ **216** entries prior to the Grand National Tournament, then there will be an additional chamber added for every ~~22~~ **18** entries above ~~220~~ **216**, or fraction thereof. ~~Six~~ **Five** members will advance from each Chamber to the Semi-Finals. Selection will be as defined in the NCFL Student Congress Manual.



# Item D, By-Laws – Congress Chambers

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## ***NCFL By-Laws, Article II, Section C, 6. (2 of 3)***

**PASSED !!**

b. The qualifiers for Semi-Finals will be distributed into three ***approximately equal*** chambers ***of 16 to 20 students***. There will be four Scorers and a Parliamentarian for each Semi-Final Chamber. ***Six to*** Eight members will advance from each Semi-Final Chamber to the Grand Final Session ***of 24 students***. Selection will be as defined in the NCFL Student Congress Manual.

c. ~~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 to determine the National Champion will be as defined in the NCFL Student Congress Manual.



# Item D, By-Laws – Congress Chambers

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***NCFL By-Laws, Article II, Section C, 6. (3 of 3)***

**PASSED !!**

d. The Chambers will hold three preliminary sessions, meeting for a total of ~~9.5~~ **7.5** hours, preceded by a 30 minute caucus and committee session to set the Preliminary Agenda. Semi-Finals ~~will consist of one 3.5 hour session.~~ and Grand Finals will consist of two two-hour sessions, with two Presiding Officers elected for each. ~~Finals will consist of two two hour sessions.~~



# Item E, By-Laws – Congress Judges

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***NCFL By-Laws, Article II, Section B, 1, b.***

**PASSED !!**

A League must identify one judge with Student Congress judging experience if entering Congress contestants. A league entering ~~more than~~ **3 or 4** contestants in student congress competition must provide a congress judge experienced as a parliamentarian and identify that person as such in their registration, ***a league entering 5 or 6 contestants must provide two such qualified parliamentarians.***



# Item F, By-Laws – Congress Legislation

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***NCFL By-Laws, Article II, Section C. 6. new para e.***

**PASSED !!**

e. The bills and resolutions that will be debated by the chambers are placed in a packet by the NCFL Clerk of Congress. The Clerk of Congress attempts to select legislation that encourages educational debate on a wide range of subjects. Each diocese entering students is encouraged to submit legislation, and may submit up to two items. Submission of legislation for the tournament must be done using the templates found on the NCFL website; legislation that does not utilize the templates will not be accepted. **A**

***committee established by the NCFL National Tournament Director and the Clerk of the Congress shall select four pieces of submitted legislation for each of the Preliminary sessions, and five pieces of legislation for each of the Elimination sessions. Submitting legislation, and its selection by the committee, does not confer authorship, sponsorship, or other special rights on any student representing the diocese during competition.***



# Item G, By-Laws – Policy Statement

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## ***NCFL By-Laws, Article II, Section H.***

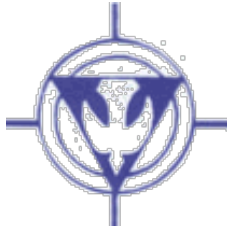
**PASSED !!  
As Amended**

### ***NCFL Harassment & Discrimination Policy:***

The National Catholic Forensic League (NCFL) is committed to providing participants, judges, coaches, and volunteers the opportunity to pursue excellence in their endeavors. This opportunity can exist only when each member of our community is assured an atmosphere of mutual respect. The NCFL prohibits all forms of harassment and discrimination. Accordingly, all forms of harassment and discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, citizenship, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected by any applicable federal, state, or local law are prohibited, whether committed by participants, judges, coaches, volunteers, ~~and/or~~ observers, **and/or anyone associated or affiliated with the tournament**. The NCFL reserves all rights to subject violators to the full range of sanctions, up to and including removal from the tournament premises and referral to appropriate authorities. Any individual or group of individuals who believes they have been a victim of harassment and/or discrimination should report it to an Equity Advocate or appropriate authority immediately.

Any tournament participant, including students, coaches, judges, ~~and~~ observers, **and/or anyone associated or affiliated with the tournament** who believe they have been the subject of harassment and/or discrimination in violation of the NCFL Harassment and Discrimination policy are encouraged to contact an equity advocate and report the alleged violation.





# Item H, By-Laws – Equity Committee

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## ***NCFL By-Laws, Article II, Section D. 8. Disqualification***

**PASSED !!**

- c. This disqualification shall be decided by the Executive Council and Tournament Director, in consultation with a Protest ***or Equity Committee*** upon notice properly given to it on the official challenge form.
- Insert new e, renumber remaining paragraphs. ***Members of the Equity Committee will be assigned by the Executive Council and Tournament Director prior to the beginning of the Grand National Tournament and shall consist of past NCFL Presidents and/or other coaches or directors from NCFL Member Schools or associated organizations or experts as the Executive Council and Tournament Director deem appropriate. The Equity Committee is empowered to investigate and adjudicate all equity, diversity, or inclusiveness challenges at the Grand National Tournament. Such challenges may be brought by any participating student, coach, or judge.***
- g (new h). The challenge form must be filed, or the Protest ***or Equity*** Committee must be notified ...
- i (new j). ... the Protest ***or Equity*** Committee shall review ... and/or sending Protest ***or Equity*** Committee members ...
- l (new m). ... The appeal shall be heard by ... and by the Protest ***or Equity*** Committee. ...



# Item H, By-Laws – Equity Committee

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## ***NCFL By-Laws, Article II, Section D. 5. g. Judge Disqualification***

**PASSED !!**

Judges will be disqualified from judging at the Grand National Tournament if 1) the selected Tournament Chair of the Event (Team Debate, L-D Debate, Public Forum Debate, Speech, Student Congress) ***or the Tournament Chair of the Equity Committee***, submits, in writing, the reason for disqualification; ... The judge in question and the selected Tournament Chair of the Event ***or Equity Committee*** have the right to appear before the Executive Subcommittee and the full Executive Committee.



# Discussion Items

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- Adding INFO Speaking as an additional event
  - NOT in 2022, just looking for input
- Holding 2 Rounds of Debate OnLine BEFORE the weekend
  - NOT in 2022, just looking for input



# New Business

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- NCFL Officer Elections Nominating Committee
- Richard Gaudette Service Award Selection Committee



# Closing Items

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- School Membership Forms and \$50 Fees due to Mike by 12/20/2021
  - With 10% penalty, \$55 total, by 1/15/2022
  - With 20% penalty, \$60 total, by 1/31/2022
- Tournament Entry Fees are \$60 per person per entry, due by 4/15/2022
- Extemp Topic Areas to Tom by 1/10/2022
- LD & PF Debate Topic Areas to Ann Marie by 1/10/2022
- Nominations for Officer Positions due to Susan by 1/03/2022
- Richard Gaudette Award
  - Nominations to Susan & Catherine by 1/10/2022
- Next Fall Meeting:
  - Louisville, KY, September 23 - 24, 2022