



Tarheel Forensic League State Tournament Manual February 2015

The Tarheel Forensic League State Tournament Manual has been modified to incorporate adjustments for the 2015 State Tournament. All new changes for this year are highlighted in **YELLOW** throughout this manual.

I. Tournament Site and Date

The TFL Executive Committee shall determine the site, host school, and tournament date by January 1 of each school year.

II. Events and Eligibility

Events:

The following events shall be held at the State Championship Tournament: Open Lincoln Douglas Debate, Novice Lincoln Douglas Debate, Open Public Forum, Novice Public Forum, Open Congressional Debate, Novice Congressional Debate, **Open Policy Debate (non sweepstakes)**, Dramatic Interpretation, Humorous Interpretation, Duo Interpretation, Original Oratory, Extemporaneous Speaking, Oral Interpretation, Impromptu Speaking, **Expository Speaking (non sweepstakes)**, and **Radio Announcing (non sweepstakes)**. An event will **ONLY** be counted towards sweepstakes if **12 or more students AND 25 percent of schools participating at the state tournament enter that event.**

Double Entries:

- Contestants entered in speech events falling into the "Individual Events (IE)" category may double enter another speech event. Double entry in an IE event and a debate event is not permitted.
- Students entered in Lincoln Douglas or Public Forum may NOT double enter.
- Students entered in any division of Congressional Debate may NOT double enter.

Debate Topics:

- The Lincoln Douglas topic will be the NSDA topic as announced for January-February.
- The Public Forum topic will be the NSDA topic as announced for February.

Eligibility to Participate:

- Only students currently in grades **9-12** are eligible to compete at the TFL State Tournament.
- **No independent entries will be accepted.** All competitors must be entered by the coach of record from their school and must be accompanied at the tournament by an official school coach. In the absence of the official school coach, a letter signed by the principal of the school, the head coach, and the parent must be presented to the TFL Chair designating an adult as the official chaperone in charge. That adult must stay on campus for the entire tournament or the student may be disqualified.
- No student will be allowed to break to or participate in an elimination round Congressional Debate Super Congress at the TFL State Tournament unless he/she is present and participates in scheduled rounds or legislative sessions on **BOTH** days of the State Tournament.
- **NOVICE** is defined as being in the first year of ANY forensic competition event. If a student competed in any competitive speech and debate event last year, that student is ineligible to enter novice in ANY event at the state tournament.
- **VARSITY** is open to any high school student.
- Events with neither a novice nor varsity division designated are considered “open” and anyone in grades 9-12 is eligible.

ADULT SUPERVISION RULE

At minimum, the Head Coach of Record must be present with his or her school for the entire duration of the tournament. That coach is also required to be present for tournament registration on Friday afternoon. If anyone other than the official head coach will be supervising the team, the school must present the TFL Executive Committee a letter to that effect signed by both the head coach and school principal. If any team is found at any time without the coach of record or officially approved adult chaperone on campus during tournament hours, the entire school will be disqualified from the tournament and a letter will be written to the school principal. All teams must be supervised at all times while they are on the host campus.

III. Conducting the State Championship Tournament

Staffing

The TFL Executive Committee shall be responsible for conducting the State Championship Tournament. The TFL Chair shall serve as Tournament Director and may appoint, with the advisement of the Executive Committee, a Tournament Manager to coordinate tab room responsibilities and to assist with online registration and downloading and assigning names and codes to competitors.

The TFL Executive Committee shall be responsible for the operation of the Tab Room during the State Championship Tournament. The TFL Executive Committee shall determine any other person(s) needed to assist in the Tab Room.

Registration

Invitation and Online Registration:

Invitations shall be posted online by the TFL Chair, Tournament Registration Manager, or his/her designee approximately one month prior to the date of the State Championship Tournament.

Judge Bond:

Each school will submit a check separate from registration fees in the amount of \$100 to be held as a *JUDGE BOND*. This check will be returned to the school un-cashed at the end of the tournament if all judges from the school show up for all of their assigned rounds. See the section labeled *judge bond* later in this manual for specifics of how the judge bond will be implemented.

Late Adds, Drops and Associated Fees:

- Unlimited add and drops are allowed until 5 PM the Wednesday before the tournament. The online registration will close to adds at that time. Fees then will be LOCKED and no students may be added.
- Drops will still be accepted through 10 AM the morning of final registration. Any drops as of that time will still owe the original registration fee. However, there will be no additional drop fee except for dropped judges.
- The state committee will, however, assess a drop fee penalty each year for drops after 10 AM the morning of final registration.

- **Unreported Drops:** Although there will be no additional drop fee beyond the original entry fee for reported drops, **ANY DROP THAT IS UNREPORTED AS OF ROUND ONE WILL BE CHARGED A \$100 PENALTY.**
- **Judge Drops:** Any judge drops at any time will be charged the cost of an uncovered judge unless a replacement judge is provided. Unreported judge drops will be assessed an additional \$100 penalty over and above the uncovered judge fee. A judge who misses two or more rounds will be considered an unreported drop.

Final Registration:

All schools must register in person at the designated time on the day of the tournament by the deadline.

- Nuisance fee of \$200 will be charged for any changes other than drops at registration.
- Drops at final registration will be charged a set fee per drop as posted on the invitation.

Entry Caps:

- After the host school is selected, the TFL Executive Committee shall determine the largest number of entries that can be accommodated in Debate, Congress, and Speech Events. If the number of entries exceeds this maximum, per-school caps will be put into effect by the committee and affected schools will be asked to drop entries down to the cap to reduce tournament size.
- If drops are necessitated because of the imposition of an event cap, coaches shall be notified by e-mail as early in the week of the state tournament as possible.
- Students affected by an imposed cap will be allowed to enter other events if space is available at no additional charge to the school beyond the original fee. Students dropped by the committee as a result of an imposed cap will **NOT** be charged fees.

Judges

Judge Quota:

All schools are responsible for meeting judge requirements as follows:

- 1 (one) Lincoln Douglas debate judge for every 1- 3 LD debaters *or fraction thereof*. There are no Lincoln Douglas judges for hire.
- 1 (one) Public Forum debate judge for every 1- 3 Public Forum teams *or fraction thereof*.

- **2 (two) Policy debate judges for each policy team entered.** These judges must also be able to judge other debate events (LD, PF and Congress). **There are no policy judges for hire. A school must meet its complete quota in policy debate.**
- 1 (one) Individual Events judge for every 1- 5 entries *or fraction thereof*.
- 1 (one) Congressional Debate judge for every 10 entries *or fraction thereof*. There are no congress judges for hire. **Congress judges must also designate one other event that they are qualified and willing to judge in the judge notes section of the online registration.**

Judge Qualifications:

- All judges must be high school graduates.
- No high school students may be used as judges at the TFL State Championship Tournament – even in the novice divisions.
- **Judges who are in their first year out of high school may not judge the event in which they competed unless there is a novice division. First year out judges may be used in events in which they did not compete.**

Judge Responsibilities:

- **JUDGE CALL:** Judges are expected to pick up their ballots within five (5) minutes of being called and immediately report to their assigned rooms. Judges who fail to pick up a ballot within fifteen (15) minutes are subject to replacement with their team forfeiting its judge bond.
- **ROUND ATTENTIVENESS:** Judges are expected to give their full attention to the round they are assigned. Using cell phones, texting or participating in other distractions during the round is not permitted and is subject to disciplinary action or penalty. Cell phones may be used as timing devices, but are not allowed to be used for any other purpose once the round begins.
- **TIMING:** Judges are the official timekeepers of the round and must keep time even if teams or contestants are also keeping time.
- **BALLOT REQUIREMENTS:** In addition to rendering a decision, judges are required to make constructive comments on each ballot. Even if an oral critique is offered, judges are obligated to leave comments on the ballots for the benefit of coaches who were not present during the oral critique.
- **ORAL CRITIQUES:** Oral critiques will be allowed in the debate events only, but ballots must be turned in within five minutes of the conclusion of the round with at least a short

reason for decision clearly written on the ballot. Oral critiques may continue for longer than five minutes **as long as the ballot is already turned in**, the room is not needed, and the judge does not miss his/her next posted round. If a ballot call is missed due to an extended oral critique, the judge's school forfeits its judge bond without exception. Tab room staff will be assigned to each hall to enforce the turning in of written ballots within five minutes of the round's conclusion.

Hired Judges:

- The TFL Executive Committee shall aid a school in finding qualified judges if finding the necessary number of judges becomes impossible for a school. All requests for hired judge assistance will be assessed at the rate of \$80.00 each.
- If a school anticipates the need to hire a judge, this request must be made of the TFL Chairperson ***no later*** than two weeks before the first day of the tournament.
- **NOTE: The TFL cannot "hire" Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Policy Debate or Congress judges. Each school entering these events must supply the required number of judges based on the school entry. The penalty for not providing these judges shall be \$400 per uncovered judge or the school may drop the proportionate number of students.** TFL Executive Committee members and/or other coaches asked to assist with the TFL State Tournament are not exempt from the requirement to provide LD ***or Policy*** judges.
- If the TFL is unable to fulfill a school's request for a hired judge, the school requesting such assistance will have to "drop" entries to bring entries registered and judge obligations in line with each other if it still cannot meet judge quotas.

Assigning Judges:

- SPEECH, POLICY, LINCOLN DOUGLAS AND PUBLIC FORUM: There shall be one judge assigned to each preliminary round and three judges assigned to semi-final and final rounds. Should quarterfinal rounds take place, the number of judges used shall be at the discretion of the Tournament Director, based upon judge availability. Every effort will be made by the TFL to place three judges in quarterfinal rounds. However, three judge panels are not guaranteed until semifinals.
- CONGRESS: Preliminary sessions will have two judges and a parliamentarian. Congress finals will have four judges and a parliamentarian unless absolutely impossible to do so. If this becomes impossible, congress finals will, at minimum, have two judges and a parliamentarian that are not affiliated with any school in finals. This reduction in the judge panel must occur first in novice, then in varsity only if necessary.
- Every attempt will be made to assign elimination round judges who have not previously heard a contestant appearing in assigned elimination section/round.

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Judge Bond:

- Each school will submit a check separate from registration fees in the amount of \$100 to be held as a *JUDGE BOND*. This check will be returned to the school un-cashed at the end of the tournament if all judges from the school show up for all of their assigned rounds.
- The first time a school's judge fails to meet a judging assignment within fifteen (15) minutes of the designated time, the school he/she represents shall forfeit its judge bond. The school will then be charged \$50 each and every time any of its judges fail to meet their assignment after the first offense in which the \$100 bond is forfeited. That amount will be billed to the school if the team does not pay prior to the awards ceremony.
- Awards and other tournament materials shall be withheld for failure to pay said assessment. If the failure of a school's judge(s) to meet their assignment impairs the function to the tournament, students from that school may be removed from competition. [Should a judge hired by the TFL Executive Committee fail to meet the judging requirement, the hiring school shall not be assessed a penalty fee.]

Judge "Strikes"

- As soon as possible, or as late as the start of Final Registration, the State Tournament Registration Director shall make a list of all judges listed by schools and hired by the State Tournament.
- Schools will be allowed up to a maximum of three (3) strikes which will be honored so long as the honoring of such strikes does not cripple the ability to run the State Tournament.
- Strike sheets must be completed by the adult responsible for students attending the State Tournament (i.e. the adult completing final registration) and must be submitted prior to the end of Final Registration. *Strike sheets received after final registration but before round one will be honored ONLY at the start of Round two. No judge strikes will be accepted after the start of round one.*

PLEASE NOTE: All school judges are required to be available for the entire tournament, including all elimination rounds. When registering judges, each school should list judging preferences. Every attempt will be made to honor these requests. However, ANY judge may be asked to judge ANY event, should the need arise. Judge bond forfeiture as noted above applies to any judge who is not available for any round they are asked to judge.

Tab Room Procedures

***Protests and Disputes* (see also Section V – Protest Procedures)**

- The TFL Executive Committee shall have full authority to adjudicate disputes or interpretation of this manual, but may not change the rules of this manual during the State Championship Tournament.
- Protests during the tournament must be submitted in writing to the TFL Vice Chair by the head coach of the school filing the protest or his/her designee as noted on the school registration form. If the TFL Vice Chair is unavailable, protests should be submitted to the TFL Chair.
- **Under no circumstances will protests be accepted directly from students.**
- Written protests should make reference to the exact portion of this manual that was violated with page number noted for easy reference of the protest committee.
- The protest committee shall consist of the TFL Vice Chair and at least two other members of the TFL Executive Committee for a minimum of three adjudicators. Decisions of the protest committee may be appealed to the full committee whose decision will be final.
- The TFL Executive Committee may at its discretion assess penalties for violations of tournament rules up to and including disqualification from the tournament.
- Protest decisions of the TFL Executive Committee are final. There is no recourse to the NSDA, CFL or any other league, organization or governing body.

TFL VS. NSDA (NFL) AND/OR CFL GUIDELINES/RULES DISCLAIMER

When consulting the *TFL State Tournament Manual*, schools/coaches/contestants will see numerous references to **NSDA (formerly NFL)** and/or CFL rules/guidelines being used with regards to the operation of various TFL State Tournament events. As is true throughout the year, **NSDA/NFL** (and even CFL in some cases) provides a starting point for guidelines/rules used to govern the operation of various tournament events. Although the TFL honors and strives to abide by these rules during the operation of the TFL State Tournament, any infraction (or perception of infraction) during the TFL State Tournament is resolved solely by the interpretation/resolution reached by the TFL State Committee. **The National Speech and Debate Association (National Forensic League) and the Catholic Forensic League do NOT offer additional avenues of conflict resolution for TFL State Tournament events.** Additionally, the **NSDA** District tournament rule that no round may begin after 9 PM does NOT apply at the TFL State Tournament. There is no cap on the time that Friday night rounds can begin.

Fact Checkers

The Tarheel Forensic League Executive Committee continues to reserve the right to place “fact checkers” in preliminary and elimination rounds of ALL events and during *ANY* session of Congressional Debate during the State Tournament.

Timekeepers

- Unless the Tarheel Forensic League places designated timekeepers in the round, the judge shall be the official timekeeper of every round in both IE and Debate events. In rounds with multiple judges, one of the judges will serve as the timekeeper and that judge will be clearly announced to all competitors before the round begins.
- Judges **must** use a digital timing device and be able to show it upon request. Watches with only second hands or clocks with second hands in the room are not acceptable.
- In Congress, the elected presiding officer shall be the timekeeper, but shall be closely monitored by the adult Parliamentarian. The same digital timing device rule noted above applies to the student Presiding Officer.
- Students have the right to ask for visible and reasonable time signals from the judges and judges are expected to comply with requests for reasonable time signals.
- Although competitors in ALL events are allowed to keep their own time for their reference, the TFL Executive Committee recognizes whatever is recorded by the judge as the official time in the round. Different times recorded by anyone other than the official timekeeper (judge) will **not** constitute grounds for protest.

Cuttings

- Contestants may use different cuttings or speeches from round to round.
- Copies of all cuttings or speeches must be brought to the State Championship Tournament. If a challenge is made **and** a copy of the cutting or speech is not present at the tournament, the contestant will be disqualified.
- Materials downloaded from the Internet are not allowed for use in competition.

Visitors

All **ELIMINATION** rounds at the TFL State Tournament are open to observers. Visitors (observers) will be allowed in elimination rounds of each event until the room reaches capacity, as long as the judges and contestants have an unobstructed area reserved in which no visitor can see the ballots being written by judges.

PRELIMINARY rounds are **CLOSED** to most observers except under the following conditions:

- 1) No **competitor, coach** or **registered judge** at the tournament is allowed to observe before elimination rounds.
- 2) **Outside observers** (people who are NOT competitors, registered judges, or affiliated with any registered competitor school) will be allowed in any round if approved by the TFL Chair or Vice Chair. Schools or individuals wishing to observe rounds prior to finals shall submit a written request to the TFL Vice Chair for approval. All competitors and the judge in the preliminary rounds must agree to any approved observer in preliminary rounds.
- 3) Observers will be identified by special numbered recorded observer badges. Observers may view rounds for educational purposes only.
- 4) Approved visitors as described above are allowed in the competition room until the room reaches capacity, as long as the judges and contestants have an unobstructed area reserved in which no visitor can see the ballots being written by judges.
- 5) No recordings, notes, or other records of any round (except those taken by an actual competitor in the round) will be allowed.
- 6) Any violation of this policy by any registered competitor/judge will result in the suspension of that competitor/judge from the tournament.
- 7) The TFL Vice Chair shall be in charge of the monitoring and enforcement of the visitor policy.

Visitors (observers) must not disrupt the round. Judges, official non-judging chairs, and the TFL Executive Committee have the authority to clear the room if necessary.

Final Round Non-Judging Chairpersons

- The TFL State Tournament Director reserves the right to assign **NON-JUDGING CHAIRS** to each final round.
- Non-Judging chairs will introduce the round, ensure that all contestants and judges have seats, distribute ballots and take responsibility for asking disruptive persons to leave the room if deemed necessary. These chairs will also officially end the round and clear visitors and competitors from the room quickly after the round is over so judges may privately complete their ballots in the room.
- Judges will still return their own ballots to the ballot collection table/committee at the end of the round),
- To the extent possible, preference to the selecting of a Non-Judging Chair will be a person who is not affiliated with a contestant or team participating in the round.

IV. Event Rules (entire section is new in 2015, but not highlighted)

These event rules are adapted from NSDA and CFL rules for use at the Tarheel Forensic League State Tournament with the exception of Radio Announcing. Some of the wording contained in these descriptions come from the NSDA or CFL manuals.

Speech Events

The following events will be considered Speech events for purposes of sweepstakes points.

Original Oratory

1. **Description:** This contest comprises only memorized orations actually composed by the contestants and not used by them during a previous contest season. No visual aids are permitted.
2. **Subject:** Any appropriate subject may be used, but the orator must be truthful. Any non-factual reference, especially a personal one, must be so identified.
3. **Length:** The time limit in Original Oratory is ten minutes with a 30 second "grace period." If there are multiple judges in the round, all must agree that the student has gone beyond the grace period. Should a student go beyond the grace period, the student may not be ranked 1st. There is no other prescribed penalty for going over the grace period. The ranking is up to each individual judge's discretion. Judges are to use accurate (stopwatch function) timing devices. No minimum time is mandated.
4. **Quotation:** Not more than 150 words of the oration may be direct quotation from any other speech or writing and such quotations must be identified in a printed copy of the oration supplied prior to registration. Extensive paraphrasing from other sources is prohibited.
5. **Script:** Oratory manuscripts must be available at the state tournament in the event of a protest. However, it shall be the choice of the state committee whether or not to require these materials be submitted prior to the state contest. The orator's script must identify the quoted materials, state the number of quoted words, include a works cited page in APA or MLA format, and both the orator and the coach must attest by signature that the oration is the original work of the contestant.

Interpretation (Dramatic, Humorous, Duo, Oral)

This includes categories of individual (solo) performance of dramatic (serious) and humorous literature, as well as duo performance of either emotive appeal, with selections drawn from published, printed: novels, short stories, plays, poetry, or other printed, published works as well as limited online works provided for in the rules below.

1. **Divisions:** Contests are conducted in Dramatic, Humorous, Duo, and Oral Interpretation.
 - a. **Dramatic, Humorous and Duo Interpretation** shall be memorized by contestants.
 - b. **Oral Interpretation** shall be delivered from a notebook by contestants and shall rotate rounds of poetry and prose.
 - i. Rounds one and three will be prose rounds.
 - ii. Rounds two and four will be poetry rounds.
 - iii. In round five and all elimination rounds, students will have the choice of using their prose piece or their poetry piece.

2. **Length:** The time limit in interpretation is ten minutes with a 30 second “grace period.” If there are multiple judges in the round, all must agree that the student has gone beyond the grace period. Should a student go beyond the grace period, the student may not be ranked 1st. There is no other prescribed penalty for going over the grace period. The ranking is up to each individual judge’s discretion. Judges are to use accurate (stopwatch function) timing devices. No minimum time is mandated.
3. **Material:** Selections used in these contests must be cuttings from a single work of literature-- from one short story or one play, or one novel, or one or more poems--as described in the following subsections:
- A. **Print Publications:** includes novels, short stories, plays or poetry, published in print (see requirements pertaining to source verification below).
NOTE: In addition to print sources, certain online materials are allowed (see below). Also, if a treatment of a movie script is ordered from a company that provides printed movie scripts, keep the original treatment, receipt, and proof of mailing (envelope). Please note that text of the treatment may differ from the actual film, so students are advised against transcribing directly from the film.
 - B. **Digital (Online) Sources:** Material is only allowed from pre-approved online publishing sources listed at www.speechanddebate.org/approvedwebsites. Online material must meet the **web page standards** outlined below:
 - i. If the website offers online material in a variety of formats, **only material** that can be printed directly from the web page is allowed. Downloaded files will NOT be accepted.
 - ii. A web page is defined as a document coded with hypertext markup language (HTML), displayed in a web browser. A downloaded file is defines as a specific non-hypertext format, such as PDFs or word processing documents.
 - C. **Prohibited Material:** not published in print or allowable online material as per above, including:
 - i. Recorded material (videotape, DVDs, audio tape, CDs, MP3s, or phonograph recordings).
 - ii. Original material published in a high school publication such as a newspaper, literary magazine, or yearbook.
4. **Source Verification:** Interp source material must be available at the state contest in the event of a protest. However, it shall be the choice of the state committee whether or not to require these materials be submitted *prior* to the state contest. It is the affirmative duty of each coach and each student entered in interpretation contests to determine absolutely that the cutting being performed meets all rules for material.
- a. **Print Publications:** The original published source of any selection used must be immediately available at the tournament as well as a complete script of the cutting used. A complete script of the cutting includes:
 - i. A photocopy of every page from which any line of the cutting is taken; pages are to be in the order in which they are performed.
 - ii. All words used from the script should be highlighted (any words/lines not used should be left unmarked).

- iii. Any word changes (to eliminate profane language) and/or additions (for transition) must be indicated clearly in ink.
- b. **Digital (Online) Publications:** The material the competitor performs must currently appear on the website if questions arise in competition; additionally, a printed manuscript must be available:
 - i. Manuscript items to be printed directly from the screen:
 - 1. The first page in the website (the home page).
 - 2. All other linked pages needed to navigate to the literary text selected for competition shall be printed out and the link must be highlighted in the manuscript
 - 3. All web pages upon which the cutting appears
 - ii. Each page must have printed in the header and/or footer:
 - 1. Date the page was printed
 - 2. Web address
 - iii. Only the printed manuscript shall be considered adequate proof of authenticity. In other words, the student or coach must provide printed pages or an identical copy for examination.
 - iv. The highlighted manuscript submitted for material verification will follow the same rules designated for printed publications.
 - v. The website and online version of the digital publication need to be available for comparison if challenged. Online access is the fundamental responsibility of tournament officials and/or individual filing the protest.
NOTE: If tournament officials cannot gain online access and the above requirements have been met, the piece is considered legal for use.
- 5. **Performance:** The presentation may not use physical objects or costuming. During the presentation the contestant/team must name the author and the title from which the cutting was made. Additionally:
 - a. Adaptations to material may only be used for the purpose of transition. The gender stated by the author must be honored. However, a female contestant may play a male role, and a male contestant may play a female role.
 - b. Humorous, Dramatic, and Duo Interpretation selections must be presented from memory. Oral Interpretation selections are presented from a script in a notebook.
 - c. In Duo Interpretation each of the two performers may play one or more characters so long as performance responsibility in the cutting remains as balanced as possible.
 - d. Monologues are acceptable in Dramatic and Humorous Interpretation. If the selection is prose or poetry and contains narration, either or both of the performers may present the narration.
 - e. Videos of previous national final round performances are intended to provide educational examples for coaches and students. They are not intended to serve as a model to directly imitate or duplicate in performance. The wholesale impersonation of final round performances from nationals is strongly discouraged.

6. **Focus:** In Dramatic and Humorous Interpretation, use of focal points and/or direct contact with the audience should be determined by the requirements of the literature being interpreted. In Duo Interpretation, focus may be direct during the introduction [the performers may look at each other] but must be indirect [off-stage] during the performance itself.
7. **Re-Use:** A student may not use a cutting from a work of literature the student used in competition in any previous contest year. A student entered in two events may not use the same selection of literature in both events.

Extemporaneous Speaking

1. **Topics:** The committee will obtain a list of questions phrased for contest use and based on subjects discussed in periodicals during the current school year. The contents of the list must not be disclosed except as contestants draw questions. A new subject area will be used for each round with no duplication of questions between the rounds.
2. **Drawing:** Thirty minutes before the contest is to begin, the first speaker draws three questions, chooses one, and returns the other two. The other contestants draw in like manner, in the order of speaking, at intervals of seven minutes. The entire list of questions for that round must be used for each entry in each section. A contestant drawing a question on which he or she has spoken previously in the tournament must return it and draw again.
3. **Preparation:** As soon as a question is chosen, the contestant will prepare a speech without consultation and without references to prepared notes. Students may consult published books, magazines, newspapers and journals or articles, provided:
 - a. They are originals or copies of whole pages.
 - b. Those originals or copies are uncut.
 - c. There is no written material on that original or copy other than citation information.
 - d. Topic index without annotation may be present.

No other material will be allowed in the Extemp prep room other than the stated above. Extemp speeches, handbooks, briefs, and outlines are prohibited from the Extemp prep room.

Underlining or highlighting in Extemp will be allowed if done in only one color on each article or copy. **Please see rules concerning use of electronic retrieval devices.** Printed copies of information from online computer services may be used. Electronically retrieved evidence used in any TFL Extemp competition must conform to the citation standard of the Modern Language Association.

4. **Notes:** Contestants may make notes during the preparation time, but the use of notes, cards, briefs,, or other aids is prohibited during the speech.
5. **Time:** The time limit in Extemporaneous Speaking is seven minutes, with a 30-second “grace period.” If there are multiple judges in the round, all must agree that the student has gone beyond the grace period. Should a student go beyond the grace period, the student may not be ranked 1st. There is no other prescribed penalty for going over the grace period. The ranking is up to each individual judge’s discretion. Judges who choose to time are to use accurate (stopwatch function) timing devices. No minimum time is mandated.

6. **Recuse:** Contestants may not leave the preparation area until dismissed by the Extemp proctor. Consultation with any person other than the Extemp proctor between the time of drawing and time of speaking is prohibited.
7. **Unauthorized Aid:** Any contestant in Extemporaneous Speaking found to have received unauthorized aid will upon the first offense forfeit the particular round in which the offense occurred, receiving a rank of 9 for that round. Depending on the seriousness of the offense the student may be subject to instant disqualification from the tournament per the discretion of the tournament director and the TFL Protest Committee. (This option is most likely to be utilized in cases of students using pre prepared speeches or outlines.) Any subsequent violation after the original offense will result in automatic disqualification from the tournament. **Unauthorized aid is defined as any aid from a prohibited source which will include, but not necessarily be limited to, pre prepared speeches or outlines, sources that have been annotated in violation of TFL guidelines, discussions with others about the speech topic, discussion with students yet to draw about potential speech topics, assistance of any kind from other students at any time after the topic is drawn, and access to sources via the internet or other electronic devices that are prohibited by TFL rules.** Any student found to be using an electronic device with an active internet link, even without evidence of that link be used to access unauthorized sources, will be given a warning on the first offense; and upon the second offense will be deemed to have received unauthorized aid and will be subject to the penalties mentioned above.
8. **Cross-Examination:** In the final round, two minutes of cross-examination is included at the conclusion of each speech. The sixth speaker will cross-examine the first speaker before beginning his or her preparation time. Thereafter, each speaker will cross-examine the succeeding speaker.
9. **Observation:** Students in Extemporaneous Speaking are encouraged, but not required, to stay and watch the remaining speakers after they deliver their own speech. Students who are double entered may be able to observe as time permits.

Expository Speaking

1. **Description:** Expository speeches are the original compositions of the contestant. The Expository speech is a speech to inform, not a performance. It should describe, clarify, illustrate, or define an object, idea, concept, or process. *What Makes Expository Distinct:* Other events ask students to be persuaders, entertainers, or analysts. **Expository speaking asks students to be teachers first**, sharing interesting information in a compelling and memorable way. The judge should ask herself at the end of the speech, "What did I actually learn?"
2. **Subject:** Any appropriate subject that informs as described above may be used, but the speaker must be truthful and the thing being explained or described must be real. Fabricated topics or subjects are not permitted. Any non-factual reference, especially a personal one, must be so identified.
3. **Length:** The time limit in Expository Speaking is five minutes with a 30 second "grace period." If there are multiple judges in the round, all must agree that the student has gone beyond the grace period. Should a student go beyond the grace period, the student may not be ranked 1st. There is no other prescribed penalty for going over the grace period. The ranking is up to each individual judge's discretion. Judges are to use accurate (stopwatch function) timing devices. No minimum time is mandated.

4. **Quotation:** Not more than 150 words of the oration may be direct quotation from any other speech or writing and such quotations must be identified in a printed copy of the oration supplied prior to registration. Extensive paraphrasing from other sources is prohibited.
5. **Script:** Expository manuscripts must be available at the state tournament in the event of a protest. However, it shall be the choice of the state committee whether or not to require these materials be submitted prior to the state contest. The speaker's script must identify the quoted materials, state the number of quoted words, include a works cited page in APA or MLA format, and both the orator and the coach must attest by signature that the speech is the original work of the contestant. **Students double entered in Original Oratory may not use any portion of that speech in the Expository speech.**

Impromptu Speaking

1. **Topics:** Topics shall be drawn from a variety of topic areas, including (but not limited to) proverbs, abstract words, events, quotations, famous people, popular culture, etc.
2. **Drawing:** A judge in each section shall be provided a sealed envelope containing a uniform set of topics with a different subject area to be used each round. Once the first speaker is called, the other speakers shall leave the room and wait outside the door until they are called in order at the conclusion of each speech. Each speaker, on their turn, shall draw three topics, choose one, and return the other two.
3. **Preparation:** As soon as a topic is chosen, the contestant will prepare a speech without consultation and without references to prepared notes.
4. **Presentation:** When giving the speech, no visual aids are permitted. No note cards are allowed to be used in rounds.
5. **PrepTime:** Prep time begins the moment the three topics are drawn. Any time spent deciding which topic to choose counts as part of the contestant's prep time.
6. **Time Limits:** There is NO minimum qualifying time, but the contestant must cover the subject adequately. Maximum time for prep time plus the speech is 7 minutes with a 30 second grace period; any student exceeding the 30 second grace period cannot receive a ranking of "1" in the round. **Both prep time and speech time are considered part of the seven minutes allotted to each speaker.** There is not a certain time for prep and a certain time for the speech. Each contestant has seven minutes to use however he/she chooses.

Radio Announcing

1. **Topics:** Competitors will prepare different radio 'sessions' for each round based on the prompts established by the TFL Executive Committee. **All scripts and presentations must be the original work of the competitor and scripts may not be shared or re-used from a previous year.**
2. **Speech Description:** Students shall perform a radio session exactly as it would be heard on a real radio session based on the topic area given. **Careful attention should be given to ensuring that the presentation sounds like what one would realistically hear on the radio. Presentations that stray from the intention of the prompt or would not be realistically heard on an actual radio station shall be marked down by the judge. This includes the unrealistic portrayal of actual public figures or historical events.**
3. **Time Limit:** Since there is no grace period for a "real world" radio broadcast, a strict three minute limit will be enforced. A five second grace period is allowed, but not encouraged. Any presentation under 2:55 or over 3:05 shall be ranked last by the judge, regardless of quality.

The judge will give a 3-2-1 countdown at the beginning of the round, after which the official time begins.

4. **Contestant aids:** Competitors may use a stopwatch to keep track of their own time and they are allowed to bring in non-electric aids including but not limited to notes, articles, books, magazines and printouts.
5. **Special presentation rules:**
 - a. Since this is a LISTENING event designed to be like "real" radio, judges should be SEATED with their BACK TO THE CONTESTANT.
 - b. Like Extemp, contestants are to enter the room to present their radio sessions to the judge ONE AT A TIME. Contestants should wait outside the room until the contestants prior to them are finished.

Debate Events

The following events will be considered Debate events for purposes of sweepstakes points.

Policy Debate

1. **Resolution:** The resolution will be the current NSDA resolution.
2. **Order of Speeches:** Each debater must give one and only one constructive speech, one period of questioning, one period of answering, and one rebuttal speech, in the following order:

Affirmative Constructive	8 minutes
Negative Cross-Examination	3 minutes
Negative Constructive	8 minutes
Affirmative Cross-Examination	3 minutes
Affirmative Constructive	8 minutes
Negative Cross-Examination	3 minutes
Negative Constructive	8 minutes
Affirmative Cross-Examination	3 minutes
Negative Rebuttal	5 minutes
Affirmative Rebuttal	5 minutes
Negative Rebuttal	5 minutes
Affirmative Rebuttal	5 minutes
Prep Time	5 minutes per team
3. **Prompting Philosophy:** Oral prompting, except time signals, either by the speaker's colleague or by any other person while the debater has the floor, is discouraged though not prohibited and may be penalized by some judges. Debaters may, however, refer to their notes and may consult with their teammate while they do not have the floor.
4. **Reading case and/or plan:** A team may decide, when asked by the opponent team for a copy of their case and/or plan, whether or not to provide it; if the team refuses they will not be penalized in any way. (Making the evidence a team reads available, however, is required by the new evidence rules.)
5. **Timing:** Judges are required to keep official time. For prompting, debaters may time for their partners or the judge may call out time. However, the judge's time is the official time for the round. Prep time for each team is five minutes. Judges are to keep accurate totals of remaining prep time for each team.

Public Forum Debate

1. **Resolution:** The state committee will determine the resolution, giving consideration to the current or most recent NDSA topic. Public forum debate focuses on advocacy of a position derived from the issues presented in the resolution, not a prescribed set of burdens.
2. **Procedure and Order of Speeches:** Prior to EVERY round and in the presence of the judge(s), a coin is tossed by one team and called by the other team. The team that wins the coin flip may choose one of two options: EITHER the SIDE of the topic they wish to defend (pro or con) OR the SPEAKING POSITION they wish to have (begin the debate or end the debate). The remaining option (SIDE OR SPEAKING POSITION) is the choice of the team that loses the coin flip. Once speaking positions and sides have been determined, the debate begins (the con team may lead, depending on the coin flip results). Following the first two constructive speeches, the two debaters who have just given speeches will stand and participate in a three-minute "crossfire." In "crossfire" both debaters "hold the floor." However, the speaker who spoke first must ask the first question. After that question, either debater may question and/or answer at will. At the conclusion of the summary speeches, all four debaters will remain seated and participate in a three-minute "Grand Crossfire" in which all four debaters are allowed to cross-examine one another. The speaker who gave the first summary speech must ask the first question.

First Speaker - Team A	4 minutes
First Speaker - Team B	4 minutes
Crossfire	3 minutes
Second Speaker - Team A	4 minutes
Second Speaker - Team B	4 minutes
Crossfire	3 minutes
Summary - First Speaker - Team A	2 minutes
Summary - First Speaker - Team B	2 minutes
Grand Crossfire	3 minutes
Final Focus - Second Speaker - Team A	2 minutes
Final Focus - Second Speaker - Team B	2 minutes
Prep Time	2 minutes per team

3. **Plans/Counterplans:** In Public Forum Debate, a plan or a counterplan is defined as a formalized, comprehensive proposal for implementation. Neither the pro or con side is permitted to offer a plan or counterplan; rather, they should offer reasoning to support a position of advocacy. Debaters may offer generalized, practical solutions.
4. **Prompting Philosophy:** Oral prompting, except time signals, either by the speaker's colleague or by any other person while the debater has the floor, is discouraged (although not prohibited) and may be penalized by some judges. Debaters may, however, refer to their notes and materials and may consult with their teammate while they do not have the floor and during the Grand Crossfire.
6. **Timing:** Judges are required to keep official time. For prompting, debaters may time for their partners or the judge may call out time. However, the judge's time is the official time for the round. Prep time for each team is two minutes. Judges are to keep accurate totals of remaining prep time for each team.
7. **Reading Case:** A team may decide, when asked by the opponent team for a copy of their case, whether or not to provide it; if the team refuses they will not be penalized in any way. (Making available the evidence a team reads is required.)
8. **Judges:** The use of community judges is strongly encouraged.

Lincoln Douglas Debate

1. **Resolution:** The state committee will determine the resolution, giving consideration to the current or most recent NDSA topic. In Lincoln Douglas Debate, the resolution will be one requiring a value judgment.
2. **Order of Speeches:**

Affirmative Constructive	6 minutes
Negative Cross-Examination	3 minutes
Negative Constructive	7 minutes
Affirmative Cross-Examination	3 minutes
Affirmative Rebuttal	4 minutes
Negative Rebuttal	6 minutes
Affirmative Rebuttal	3 minutes
Prep Time	4 minutes per debater
3. **Timing:** Judges are required to keep official time. For prompting, debaters may time for their partners or the judge may call out time. However, the judge's time is the official time for the round. Prep time for each team is four minutes. Judges are to keep accurate totals of remaining prep time for each team.
4. **Reading case:** A debater may decide, when asked by the opponent for a copy of his or her case, whether or not to provide it; if he or she refuses, the debater will not be penalized in any way. (Making available the evidence a debater reads is required.)

Congressional Debate

1. A **session** is defined as including:
 - a. Minimum of three hours.
 - b. 16-20 students as the optimum number for a three-hour session; otherwise, a session should be lengthened by ten minutes per each additional student beyond 20. The committee does have the flexibility to have additional, smaller preliminary chambers before advancing students to elimination rounds.
 - c. Election of a presiding officer.
 - d. New seating chart (necessary accommodations for students with special needs may be made).
 - e. Resetting of precedence/recency.
 - f. New legislation that has not been debated in a previous session at that tournament.
2. **Recognizing Speakers**
 - a. When more than one speaker seeks the floor, the presiding officer must follow the precedence/recency method:
 - i. First recognize students who have not spoken during the session.
 - ii. Next recognize students who have spoken fewer times.
 - iii. Then recognize students who spoke earlier (least recently).
 - b. Before precedence is established, the presiding officer should recognize speakers fairly and consistently. He or she may not link recognition of speakers to previous recognition of students asking questions, moving motions, or longest standing (standing time).
 - c. During any session, precedence/recency should not reset, to ensure that all students in a chamber have an equal opportunity to speak and receive evaluation from scorers.

When a new session begins, precedence/recency will be reset along with a new seating chart, and election of a presiding officer.

- d. Before precedence is established, the presiding officer should explain his or her recognition process and it must be fair, consistent and justifiable.
- e. Scorers will include answers to questions when evaluating speeches. For the TFL State Congress, a student receives 1-6 points per speech or 3-6 points per hour of presiding.
- f. A speaker may yield time on the floor during debate (for questions or clarifications) but that speaker will remain in control of his or her three minutes (see below regarding questioning).

3. Legislation: The TFL Executive Committee will post a preliminary docket online for all schools a minimum of two weeks before the date of the State Tournament. A finals docket or topic area will be posted a minimum of one week before the tournament.

4. Setting the Agenda:

- a. Agenda setting of the preliminary docket shall be done by committee system. Each student shall be placed by the Clerk of Congress in one of four committees. Each committee (A, B, C and D) will consider an equal number of legislation pieces, ranking them in order of preference. The agenda from the docket will then be set as follows A1, B1, C1, D1, B2, C2, D2, A2, C3, D3, A3, B3. Once set, the agenda is not suspendable or amendable. No legislation may be tabled until after a minimum of two affirmative and two negative speeches. Previous question may not be called until a minimum of one affirmative and one negative speech.
- b. Agenda setting of the finals docket shall be by random draw of the TFL Executive committee. Once set, the agenda is not suspendable or amendable. No legislation may be tabled until after a minimum of two affirmative and two negative speeches. Previous question may not be called until a minimum of one affirmative and one negative speech.

5. Presiding Officers: Each three hour session will have two Presiding Officers so that POs can also have a chance to speak each session. An election will be held at the beginning of each session and the winner of the election chooses whether to preside for the first or second half of the session. A second election is immediately held and that winner will preside for the other half of the session. This process repeats at the beginning of each session. Election winners must win by a full majority of the chamber. If a majority is not achieved on the first vote, the candidate with the lowest vote total is eliminated and another vote is taken between the remaining candidates. No one may preside more than once in the preliminary sessions unless no one else in chamber is willing to preside.

6. Speeches introducing legislation are allotted up to three minutes, followed by two minutes of questioning by other delegates. Since the TFL Executive Committee chooses the legislation for the state tournament and not every school may have legislation chosen, there are no guaranteed authorship speeches. All speakers, including the first on a piece of legislation are to be recognized using the recency system of precedence. Regardless, this speech of introduction must be followed by two minutes of questions. Should no student seek recognition for the first affirmative sponsorship speech, the chamber will move to lay the legislation on the table until such time that a student is prepared to introduce it.

7. **The first negative speech** must be followed by two minutes of questions.
8. **Following the first two speeches** on legislation, the presiding officer will alternatively recognize affirmative and negative speakers who will address the chamber for up to three minutes, followed by one minute of questioning by other delegates. If no one wishes to oppose the preceding speaker, the presiding officer may recognize a speaker upholding the same side. When no one seeks the floor for debate, the presiding officer may ask the chamber if they are “ready for the question,” at which point, if there is no objection, voting may commence on the legislation itself. There is no “minimum cycle” rule; however, if debate gets “one-sided,” the chamber may decide to move the previous question.
 - a. In the event a student speaks on the wrong side called for by the presiding officer and the error is not caught, the speaker shall be scored and the speech shall count in precedence, but the speaker must be penalized at least three points for not paying close attention to the flow of debate.
 - b. In the event a student speaks on an item of legislation *not currently* being debated, said speech shall count in precedence, but zero points shall be awarded.
9. **The presiding officer fairly and equitably recognizes members to ask questions** following each speech. The TFL State Tournament will use the method known as *direct questioning* where questioners are called on to ask questions in 30 second increments during the one or two minute cross examination period. The presiding officer starts timing questioning periods when he or she has recognized the first questioner, and keeps the clock running continuously until the time has lapsed. Speakers are encouraged to ask brief questions. There is no formal “permission to preface”; however, presiding officers should discourage students from making statements as part of questioning, since that is an abusive use of the limited time available. Presiding Officers should immediately move to the next questioner without delay at the end of every 30 second increment, regardless of if a speaker is in the middle of a question or answer. A separate precedence chart is to be kept for questions by the Presiding Officer to ensure that all competitors have an equal chance to ask questions. The same precedence used to determine speakers should not be used. Questioning requires a separate precedence chart.
10. **The presiding officer will pause briefly between speeches to recognize any motions from the floor;** however, he or she should not call for motions (at the beginning of a session, the presiding officer should remind members to seek his or her attention between speeches).
11. **Amendments** must be presented to the presiding officer in writing (an official form is available on the NSDA website and may be made available at the state tournament), with specific references to lines and clauses that change. This must be done in advance of moving to amend.
 - a. The parliamentarian will recommend whether the amendment is “germane”--that is, it upholds the original intent of the legislation--otherwise, it is considered “dilatory.” The title of the legislation may be changed.
 - b. A legislator may move to amend between floor speeches. Once that motion is made, the presiding officer will read the proposed amendment aloud and call for a second by one-third of those members present, unless he or she rules it dilatory.
 - c. Should students wish to speak on the proposed amendment, the presiding officer will recognize them as per the standing precedence and recency, and the speech will be counted toward their totals, accordingly.

- d. Simply proposing an amendment does not guarantee an “author/sponsor” speech, and any speeches on amendments are followed by the normal one minute of questioning.
- e. Amendments are considered neutral and do not constitute an affirmative or negative speech on the original legislation.
- f. If there are no speakers or the previous question is moved, the chamber may vote on a proposed amendment without debating it.

12. All major voting (such as the main motion/legislation) which a Congressperson’s constituents should have a record of, shall be done with a counted vote. Secret balloting is used when voting for presiding officer.

13. Students should ask permission to leave or enter the chamber when it is in session (move a personal privilege). However, do not interrupt a speaker who is addressing the chamber.

14. Ethics and Evidence

a. Conduct

- i. A congressperson’s conduct shall be above reproach and he or she should never be guilty of intentional harassment. Impeaching and censuring other participants is not allowed.
- ii. Participation in this event demands the seriousness of purpose and maturity possessed by real world policy makers. All adult officials, including scorers, will hold each participant to this standard.
- iii. Congresspersons should have a cooperative nature and if there is a problem, then the student should take any concerns to an adult official.
- iv. Participation in the legislative debate is essential. Extended absences from the chamber during a session will affect a contestant’s overall impression and performance. The practice of “open chambers” interferes with the parliamentarian’s ability to monitor student participation.

b. Evidence and Use of Electronic Devices

- i. Visual aids are permitted in Congressional Debate, provided they do not require electronic retrieval devices in the chamber.
- ii. All evidence used is subject to verification. Honesty and integrity are of the utmost importance in legislative debate. Falsification or deliberate misuse of evidence may result in the legislator being suspended by tournament officials.
- iii. Please see guidelines for use of electronic devices under the Debate section of this manual. Cell phones, music players, and games are not to be used in the chamber during a session. Traditional timing devices are permitted.

15. Since the rules above ensure fairness for competition, they may not be suspended; the presiding officer should rule such motions *out of order* except to extend questioning and allow for open chambers provided the tournament staff permits doing so.

16. Advancing to finals: A finals chamber of no fewer than 12 and no more than 16 students as determined in advance by the TFL Executive Committee will be filled with the top ranking students from each preliminary chamber with an equal number of students advancing to finals from each chamber. There should be no unbreakable ties in determining who advances, as the preferential ranking of the Parliamentarian serves as the final tiebreaker.

- 17. Finals topics:** The TFL State Committee will determine the topics and/or scenario for finals. No student in finals will be guaranteed an authorship speech outside of precedence even if his or her piece of legislation is chosen by use by the TFL Executive Committee.

IV. Operation of Events

These procedures will only be abdicated if tournament scheduling issues makes adhering to these guidelines infeasible per the discretion of the State Tournament Director (under advice and consent of the TFL Executive Committee).

Electronic Device Policy

The Tarheel Forensic League State Tournament will allow the use of electronic devices (except cell phones) in extemp prep, debate, and congress. No internet access will be allowed. Cell Phone use will NOT be allowed except as a timing device. Students in congress and extemp may be asked to submit their phones at the beginning of each session or upon entering the prep room.

Evidence Policy

- If cited evidence is requested by an opponent or judge, a competitor must provide the original card or page of the brief, article, journal, or book along with the providing the author, title, and year of publication.
- If the evidence cannot be provided, the judge should disregard the evidence and reflect on the weight of the evidence and its impact on the reason for decision. If the evidence weighed heavily as a point of contention in the round, not providing evidence may be a reason for losing the round.
- If evidence is provided and it has been egregiously altered or fabricated, the judge (not contestants) should alert committee members in the tab room.

Number of Rounds

- There shall be **five preliminary rounds** in both the Debate and Speech Events. In the event of extenuating circumstances, the TFL Executive Committee may change this to a minimum of four or a maximum of six rounds. However, in no situation should there be fewer than four or more than six preliminary rounds. The determination to add or subtract a round must be made and explained to all competing schools prior to the start of round one.
- Prior to the start of round one, The TFL Executive Committee shall decide and announce or post the number of elimination rounds that will be held in each event.

- Congress shall have two preliminary sessions of a minimum of three hours each, followed by a sudden death finals session of at least three hours. If there are only enough entries for one preliminary chamber of Congress, then a third preliminary session will be added with rolling comes from the first two sessions to determine the state champion.

Pairing and Tabulating Debate Rounds

Preliminary Rounds

- Teams should rotate between affirmative and negative sides in the preliminary rounds of LD and Policy. In the unlikely event that a round by round rotation of sides is not possible, it still should be assured that at the end of five preliminary rounds that each team had three rounds on one side and two on the other.
- In Public Forum, a coin flip shall decide the sides in each round, per NSDA rules.
- The first two rounds of all debate events shall be randomly paired. One round for each team shall be affirmative and one round shall be negative except in Public Forum where the coin flip will determine the side.
- Rounds three through five are to be power matched high-low within brackets to the extent possible, honoring side constraints. However, a team shall not hit another team from its own school or a team it faced in an earlier preliminary round unless it is unavoidable.
- LAG POWERING: If time does not permit power matching based on the previous round, lag powering by a maximum of one round back is permitted. Once lag powering is used, the one round lag should continue to be used through the rest of the preliminary rounds. Lag powering is discouraged unless it is necessary.
- BYES: Byes will be assigned randomly during the preliminary rounds. In any power-matched rounds, the bottom ranked debater that has not previously received a *bye* shall receive a *bye* for that round. In no case shall any debater receive more than one *bye* in the tournament. The assignment of *byes* shall not be done in a manner that would force a debater to debate another debater from their own school in a prelim round, if avoidable
- EVEN BRACKETS: It shall be up to the discretion of the Tournament Director how to even brackets if an odd number of teams share a bracket. The pulling up or down of a team into a different bracket must be done in a manner such that teams from the same school, or teams that have previously met, are not paired against each other, unless this is unavoidable.

- **SPEAKER POINTS:** Speaker points will be assigned on a 26-30 scale with NO fractions allowed. Lower points are allowed only in extreme abuses by debaters.
- **TIES:** Ties for both preliminary powering and breaking into elimination rounds shall be broken in this order:
 1. Total speaker ranks (PF & Policy only)
 2. Drop the highest and lowest speaker points (26-30 scale)
 3. Total speaker points (26-30 scale)
 4. Opponent wins
 5. Judge variance
 6. Drop the two highest and two lowest speaker points (26-30 scale)
 7. Random computer assigned number
- **FOREFEIT OR NO-SHOW:** A debater or team that fails to show for a round or forfeits the round shall be given a loss and awarded zero speaker points. The round with zero points may not be dropped as part of high-low tiebreaking.
- **LOW POINT WINS AND TIES:** Low point wins and ties are not permitted at the TFL State Tournament. A team must win by a minimum of one more speaker point than the opposing team. In Policy and Public Forum debate, it is possible for a winning team to receive partner ranks of 1 and 4 or 2 and 4, but the speaker points must be issued in such a way that the winning team receives one or more total speaker points than the losing team.

Elimination Rounds

- Semifinals and finals must be adjudicated by a minimum of three judges. Every effort should be made for all elimination rounds to have three judges, but quarterfinal and octafinal rounds may have only one judge if a three judge panel is impossible.
- Elimination rounds shall be power-paired based on win-loss records, such that the top seed debates the last seed. Seeds will be maintained in a locked bracket through finals.
- Ties for seeding will be broken using the tiebreaking procedure described in the *Preliminary Rounds* section above.
- Teams with a losing record may not participate in elimination rounds, regardless of seeding. In this case, a bye will be issued to the higher seeded team.
- Elimination brackets will not be broken to keep a school from hitting itself. The coach of record from the school may choose which team advances or (time and judges permitting), the coach may choose for the teams to debate anyway. In this case, TFL will guarantee only one judge in the round and reserves the right to assign a judge from that school to adjudicate.

Pairing and Tabulating Speech Rounds

Preliminary Rounds

- Preliminary sections shall be randomly scheduled with an effort to observe school constraints as much as possible. However, absolute school constraint observance is not guaranteed.
- No more than eight (8) and no fewer than four (4) students may be in a section. The goal is six per section if possible. All sections must be equal in number of contestants or within one.
- The speaking order of contestants in individual events shall be assigned randomly with every effort made to vary the order for each individual speaker as much as possible. Judges should only allow contestants to speak out of order if directed by the Tournament Director or Tournament Manager.
- **ADVANCEMENT:** Advancement is based on total ranks through all preliminary rounds. The top 12 competitors automatically advance to semifinals. If a tie exists, TFL is prepared to advance *up to* fourteen (14) contestants to semifinals before resorting to tie-breakers. In excessively large events, the TFL may opt to break to quarterfinals. In the event of quarterfinals, no more than 24 will advance.
- **TIEBREAKERS:** Ties will be broken by dropping the highest and lowest ranks of the tied competitors. The second tiebreaker will be reciprocals (decimal conversion). The third tiebreaker will be head to head results if the competitors have been in the same section one or more times in preliminary rounds.
Tiebreaker procedures should only be used if it would otherwise cause more than 14 to break to semifinals.
- **SPEAKER POINTS:** TFL may choose to use or not use speaker points on the critique ballots. However, if speaker points are used, they shall in no way be used in the calculation of placement.
- **FOREFEIT OR NO-SHOW:** A contestant who fails to show for a round or forfeits a round shall be assigned a rank of nine (9) for the round, regardless of the size of the section. The rank of nine may not be dropped as part of high-low tiebreaking.

Elimination Rounds

- Semifinals should have two sections of six students per section, although a seventh person may be placed in each section (total break of 13 or 14) if there was a tie for the final slot coming out of the preliminary rounds. If no ties existed after the preliminary round, semifinals should be restricted to 12 competitors. **A**

semifinal round is the default and preferred break point out of preliminary rounds unless entries in an event are excessively large or small.

- Quarterfinals in excessively large events may be held if the TFL committee determines this round is warranted. The committee may choose to break 18 or 24 competitors. That decision must be made prior to the beginning of round one of the tournament. The committee may choose place 18 students in three sections of six (top four in each section go to semis) or 24 students in four sections of six (top three in each section go to semifinals). The determination of 18 or 24 must be made prior to preliminary round one.
- If an event breaks directly from preliminary rounds to finals, the top six in preliminary rounds shall advance to the final round.
- Elimination round sections should be weighted as equally as possible based on preliminary ranks with every effort made to observe school constraints to the extent possible without disturbing the equal weighting of the sections.
- All elimination rounds are *sudden death* with the top three in each section advancing to the next round. Finals are also sudden death.

Pairing and Tabulating Congress Sessions

Preliminary Sessions

- The Clerk of Congress in consultation with the TFL Chair shall determine the number of preliminary chambers needed prior to the start of the tournament. Chamber size should not exceed 20 or be less than 12. Optimal size is 16-18. If 21-23 total students are entered, an exception will be made to have a single chamber. Ten minutes per session should be added to the schedule for each student added to a chamber beyond 20. Under no circumstances should a chamber size be lower than 12 unless the event has fewer than 12 total entries.
- Chambers shall be randomly assigned with students from the same school equally divided between chambers.
- Coaches may request to keep certain members of their team together as long as the total number of team members are equally divided between the chambers. However, coaches may not request that any member of their team be placed in chamber with a member of another school's team.
- Coaches who wish to have a disproportionate number of their team members placed together must make that request to both the TFL Chair and the Clerk of Congress and give good cause for doing so. TFL cannot guarantee a disproportionate division of teammates among chambers.

- Preliminary chambers shall be adjudicated by two judges and a Parliamentarian. The Parliamentarian stays for both session. The two judges are newly assigned each session.
- Judges fill out a preferential ballot of their top eight speakers at the end of the session in which they judge. Contestants not making the top eight shall be assigned a rank of nine by the computer. The Parliamentarian will fill out a preferential ballot of ALL speakers from both sessions at the end of Session Two. This ranking shall be factored in with the judges for both session as a fifth judge. Contestants not making the top eight shall be assigned a rank of nine by the computer. However, the actual top to bottom rank of the Parliamentarian shall be saved and used as the final tiebreaker if necessary.
- Preliminary dockets shall be set using the committee system where all students are randomly assigned to a committee. Each committee ranks 3-4 pieces of legislation that will fall into a preassigned position on the agenda.
- For purposes of speech precedence, presiding officers shall be given credit for one speech. However, for NSDA speaker points, the Clerk of Congress may if he or she chooses allow scorers to award two speech scores.
- The Clerk of Congress and the TFL Chair shall determine the number of students advancing to finals per chamber prior to the beginning of the first preliminary session. All chambers will have an equal number of competitors advancing to a finals chamber of no fewer than 12 and no more than 16.
- Advancement and tiebreaking is based on the following:
 1. Total preliminary ranks of the four judges and the Parliamentarian throughout the two preliminary sessions.
 2. Judges preference between the tied competitors.
 3. Reciprocals of contestant ranks
 4. Parliamentarian preference (the absolute tiebreaker).
- Speaker points are to be awarded for each speech and for each hour of presiding for NSDA points purposes. However, speaker points shall not be used in any way to determine rank or placement.

Final Session

- Congress finals will have four judges and a parliamentarian unless absolutely impossible to do so. If this becomes impossible, congress finals will, at minimum, have two judges and a parliamentarian that are not affiliated with any school in finals. This reduction in the judge panel must occur first in novice, then in varsity only if necessary.
- The agenda shall be set from the docket by random draw of the Clerk of

Congress in the presence of at least two other TFL committee members. There is no committee system or traditional Ways and Means for finals.

- There shall be two presiding officers for finals, each serving for half of a session.
- For purposes of speech precedence, presiding officers shall be given credit for one speech. However, for NSDA speaker points, the Clerk of Congress may if he or she chooses allow scorers to award two speech scores.
- Speaker points are to be awarded for each speech and for each hour of presiding for NSDA points purposes. However, speaker points shall not be used in any way to determine rank or placement.
- Advancement and tiebreaking is based on the following:
 1. Total preliminary ranks of the four judges and the Parliamentarian in the final session.
 2. Judges preference between the tied competitors.
 3. Reciprocals of contestant ranks
 4. Parliamentarian preference (the absolute tiebreaker).

Congress finals is "sudden death." No ranks or placement from the preliminary sessions will factor into finals placement.

V. Protest Procedures

- A. Coaches believing a rules violation has occurred have a right to file a protest with the TFL Executive committee. The protest must be filed by one of the coaches of record for the school at the earliest possible point after the perceived infraction occurs. The TFL Executive Committee reserves the right to refuse to hear any protest in which an unnecessary delay has occurred before filing the protest. Absolutely no protests will be heard by students or adults who are not previously listed as a coach of record.
- B. When submitting a protest, the coach should give the exact details of the incident in question and the contestant(s)/team(s) involved (by CODE only, not by school or individual competitor name), along with a specific reference to the section of the TFL manual that addresses the concern. This must be submitted to the TFL Vice Chairperson in writing and signed by the coach of record. A protest committee consisting of the TFL Vice Chairperson and two other members of the Executive Committee whose contestants/teams are not involved in the protest shall hear the protest and deliberate on it before making a final decision. In the event that the TFL Vice Chairperson has a vested interest in the outcome of the protest, the TFL Chairperson or his designee will serve in place of the Vice Chairperson for that particular protest hearing. The Vice Chairperson or his designee shall personally contact the involved coach(es) with the decision immediately after a ruling has been made.

- C. Although it is the strong position of the TFL Executive committee that the protest committee rulings should be final, coaches wishing to appeal the protested decision may do so by finding two other members of the Executive Committee who agree that the protest warrants being heard by the full seven member Executive Committee. This method of appeal is strongly discouraged and should be used only in the most extreme circumstances.
- D. Before filing a protest, coaches should remember that for purposes of the TFL State Championship Tournament, the rules contained in this manual supersede any contradictory NFL rules or “local” tournament rules unless otherwise stated in this manual. In short, there is no recourse for appeal to the National Forensic League or Catholic Forensic League following the final decision by the TFL Executive Committee.

VI. Recognition

- A. Awards shall be given to contestants in the final rounds of all individual events.
- B. In Congressional Debate, an appropriate award will be given to the “Best Presiding Officer” in each preliminary chamber. In addition, medals will be presented to each non-placing congressperson advancing to finals and appropriate awards will be given to the top-six congresspersons at the conclusion of finals.
- C. In Debate events, Lincoln-Douglas Debaters and Public Forum Debate teams and advancing to elimination rounds will receive appropriate awards. [There will be **NO** recognition of individual “speakers” in the TFL State Tournament.]
- D. Purchasing Awards: The TFL Executive Committee, or designated representative, shall determine where the trophies are to be purchased and by whom.

VII. Sweepstakes Awards

A. *The Governor’s Cup (Overall Sweepstakes)*

Number of Awards: First through Fifth Place School Awards.

B. *Steven Davis Excellence in Debate/ Kurt Earnest Excellence in Speech*

Number of Awards: First, Second and Third place School Awards for both.

C. *The Randall Shaver Excellence in Forensics (demonstrated by the smallest one third of schools with at least five entries).*

This award has been created by the TFL Executive committee to recognize up to three schools at the State Tournament that are in the smallest 25 percent of teams in attendance based on the team's NSDA points for the year (minimum of five entries to be eligible). The awards will be based upon sweepstakes points earned by the eligible schools during student performance/participation in the State Tournament.

VIII. Sweepstakes Formula

On Friday, prior to the start of the first preliminary round, the TFL Chair, with the advisement of the Tournament Manager and the TFL Executive Committee, shall determine what level of elimination round is necessary in each event, based upon final entry numbers. This information shall be clearly posted for students and coaches prior to the start of round one.

The Speech Category and the Debate Category will be weighted equally in determining the Governor's Cup winner. In other words, 50 percent of the total number of sweepstakes points awarded will come from speech events and 50 percent will come from debate events. To calculate this, the number of "raw" debate points earned from the formula on the next page will be converted to a percentage of available sweepstakes points within that category. The same will be done for speech. So regardless of the number of "raw" points awarded within each category, Debate will ultimately have 100 total sweepstakes points and Speech will also ultimately have 100 total sweepstakes points, essentially balancing the two categories.

EVENTS EARNING SPEECH SWEEPS POINTS: All Interp, Oratory, Impromptu, Extemp

EVENTS EARNING DEBATE SWEEPS POINTS: Congress, Lincoln Douglas, Public Forum, Policy

To be eligible for sweepstakes points, an event must have 12 entries and participation from 25 percent of all schools entered in the tournament.

In 2015, Policy Debate, Radio Announcing and Expository Speaking are considered "experimental" and not eligible for sweepstakes points, regardless of entry numbers.

In the event of an unbreakable tie in any event, duplicate points shall be awarded for that place, but the number of total places shall remain the same. For example, if the unbreakable tie is for fourth place, points would be awarded for first, second, third, fourth, fourth (again), and sixth place, but no fifth. This assures that the true sixth place finisher remains in sixth place. The exception would be if the unbreakable tie was for sixth place, in which case seven total contestants would be awarded points after the sixth place points are duplicated.

The latest revision to the sweepstakes "raw points" formula appears on the next page.

TFL State Championship Sweepstakes “Raw Points” Formula
Last Revision February 2012

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS RAW POINTS

Champion: 20
Runner-up: 16
3rd Place: 12
4th Place: 8
5th Place: 6
6th Place: 4

- If semifinals are held, all non-advancing semifinalists receive two points.
- If quarterfinals are held, all non-advancing quarterfinalists receive one point.
- No semifinals or quarterfinals points awarded if the round is not held.

CONGRESS RAW POINTS:

Champion: 20
Runner-up: 16
3rd Place: 12
4th Place: 8
5th Place: 6
6th Place: 4

- All finalists not in the top six receive two points.

DEBATE (LD & PFD) RAW POINTS (only if rounds are held for each level):

Champion:	20
Runner-up:	16
Non-advancing semifinalists (2):	10
**Non-advancing quarterfinalists (4):	5
**Non-advancing octofinalists (8)	2

DEBATE (LD & PFD) RAW POINTS (If quarterfinals or octofinals are NOT held):

**If quarters or octos are not held and no award is given, there will be no sweepstakes points awarded at that level and the formula begins at the next level up.

**If the round is not held, but a trophy is still awarded for quarters or octos, the “non-advancing” teams will receive only TWO points for quarters and ONE point for octos. Semis and finals points remain the same, regardless of whether the round is held.

**No team with a losing record will advance to an elimination round or receive sweepstakes points. Rather, a BYE will be issued to the higher seed, which will automatically advance to the next elimination round.

IX. Special Awards

- A. ***Mildred Hussey Award:*** This award shall be given to an active debate and speech coach and shall constitute the "Coach of Year" award for North Carolina. The nomination / election process will be same as for the selection of TFL Committee members. In the event of a tie, a second ballot shall be taken by the membership between the tied coaches in attendance at the State Championship Tournament.
- B. ***Sam Ervin Free Speech Award:*** This award shall be given to any national or world figure or organization that has contributed to free speech. This award constitutes the recognition by the Tarheel Forensic League of North Carolina of an individual who exemplifies the essence of the right of free speech. In order for a nominee's name to appear on the ballot, at least two schools must nominate the person or organization. In the event of a tie, a second ballot shall be taken by the membership between the tied persons at the State Championship Tournament. The award shall be delivered to the winner by the TFL Chairperson. This award will not be given if there are insufficient nominees. Additionally, nominees may be removed from the ballot if the TFL Executive determines that a nominee is not appropriate for this honor.
- C. ***Virginia Sutherland Circle of Honor:*** This award may be presented to an individual or group who is recognized by the TFL Executive Committee as having contributed substantially to the long-range benefit of the TFL (see Constitution). This action must be considered at a regular scheduled meeting of the TFL Executive Committee.
- D. ***John Woollen/Tarheel Forensic League Student of the Year:***
The Tarheel Forensic League wishes to recognize the accomplishments of our student members who exemplify the National Forensic League Code of Honor, a dedication to the art of speech and debate, and a strong commitment to the values of the NFL. Each year, coaches will nominate deserving graduating seniors for the Tarheel Forensic League Student of the Year. Our hope is to annually recognize students who personify the codes of integrity, humility, respect, leadership, and service.

Each nominee must:

- Be a graduating senior from a Tarheel Forensic League member school.
- Have competed for two or more years in speech and debate
- Demonstrate good academic standing
- Exhibit team leadership
- Display a dedication to community service
- Uphold the NFL Code of Honor

The TFL Student of the Year will receive a \$200 cash award and a commemorative plaque. Each member school's coach may nominate ONE student for the award, and the TFL Executive Committee will convene during the State Tournament to review all applications and choose the recipient of the honor.

E. *The Jackie Foote Award of Excellence in Congressional Debate*

This award has been established by the Tarheel Forensic League to honor the congressional competitor who best exemplifies what Congressional Debate stands for. The winner should be a “good person speaking well.” Any senior who competes in Congressional Debate at the TFL State Championship Tournament is eligible to win, whether the person makes it to Super Congress or not. The following are the qualities that must be exhibited in the recipient:

Above all else, the winner should demonstrate the highest ideals of character. He or she should not necessarily be the most popular competitor or the most successful, but must be held in the highest esteem of his or her fellow congresspersons. The award winner should be known for honesty in speech writing, procedural fairness, and ethical behavior both in debate and in his or her daily life. This honoree should be a suitable example for all students and coaches in North Carolina as a model citizen.

Congress is unique among all the events in that competitors can actively work to help or hurt their teammates through their actions in chamber. The winner should demonstrate leadership among his or her team. This individual should understand the dynamics of in-chamber strategy and be able to effectively keep team members voting as a single unit on procedural issues to maximize their effectiveness. An ability to negotiate conflicting interests among team members or various participants in a chamber is desirable in the honoree.

The winner should demonstrate a genuine desire to teach novices and a concern for the forensics community at-large. The student who embodies the qualities honored by this award freely shares their experiences and encouragement with any fellow competitor and behaves in a manner that welcomes new teams and students to competition.

As was the award’s namesake during her career, the student honored with this award should be exceptionally devoted to Congressional Debate. That is not to say that the award winner should be the student who has attended the most tournaments during his or her career, but rather that the award winner should be an individual who has made Congress his or her primary event and who has a substantial record demonstrating all of the above qualities.

This award is not a popularity contest. The winner should be carefully evaluated by each person casting a vote for each of the qualities named above. The Award of Excellence in Congressional Debate represents TFL’s highest honor for a student legislator and only those with the utmost integrity and ethics should be considered.

Selection Process:

1. ***The Jackie Foote Award of Excellence in Congressional Debate*** shall be chosen by students who compete in the TFL Super Congress, but nominees may be any senior who was entered in the preliminary or the super session of Congress. No student who competed in the preliminary session the TFL State Championship shall be excluded from consideration. All Congressional Debate entrants at each year's tournament who are seniors are eligible for nomination even if they did not "break" to finals. However, a student may NOT nominate himself or herself.
2. At the beginning of Super Congress, the TFL Chair and/or TFL Clerk of Congress will address the chamber briefly to explain the award, the seriousness of the award and the qualifications an honoree must possess. A handout with the criteria for selection shall be given to each competitor. **It needs to be strongly emphasized that this is NOT a popularity contest.** Students should think about who they wish to nominate during the Super Session and be prepared to give a nomination speech at the end of the session.
3. At the end of the session after the judges have cleared the room, students may nominate other students by giving a three minute nomination speech explaining to the chamber why their nominee deserves the honor. The TFL Chair and/or Clerk of Congress (or designated representative of the TFL) shall preside over the nominating session. At least one other member of the TFL Executive Committee should also be present for this procedure. The Parliamentarian and scorers from the Super Session should NOT be present. Speeches must be three minutes long and of a serious nature specifically addressing the integrity and merits of the nominee. There is NO cross examination of these speeches and no scores will be awarded. These nomination speeches shall in no way count as part of the Super Congress competition.
4. Only one Super Congress contestant per school can make a nomination, although multiple people from the same school can be nominated.
5. Voting will be by secret ballot and will be conducted by the Clerk of Congress or his/her designee so that the winner stays secret. Students in Super Congress will fill out ONE preferential ballot listing ALL nominees in their preferred order. If the top choice on a person's ballot gets eliminated on the first count, the #2 vote will be counted instead in the second round of ballot counting. This shall continue down the preferential list until one nominee receives a majority of 50 percent plus one. Only one ballot is to be filled out per person. Students who do not list ALL candidates on their ballot in preferential order shall have their ballot voided. The voided ballot will not count in the final total.
6. Under no circumstances will the winner or any candidate being eliminated during the voting process be announced or disclosed until the awards ceremony. The TFL Chair and/or Clerk of Congress will guarantee the secrecy of the honor until the awards ceremony.

Manual Disclaimer:

The TFL manual may be updated by the committee up to the beginning of TFL tournament competition, but not thereafter, as long as participating coaches are notified through email, website posting or announcement at the tournament that the manual has been revised from what was originally posted. However, absolutely no changes are allowed after the first round of competition has been posted.

**THIS IS THE
FEBRUARY 1, 2015
REVISION**