



Tarheel Forensic League

Tarheel Forensic League State Tournament Manual **January 2018**

The Tarheel Forensic League State Tournament Manual has been modified to incorporate adjustments for the 2018 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:

- **DEBATE:** Open Lincoln Douglas Debate, Junior Varsity Lincoln Douglas Debate, Open Public Forum, Junior Varsity Public Forum, Open Congressional Debate, Junior Varsity Congressional Debate
- **INDIVIDUAL EVENTS (aka SPEECH):** Dramatic Interpretation, Humorous Interpretation, Duo Interpretation, Original Oratory, Extemporaneous Speaking, Program Oral Interpretation, Impromptu Speaking, Informative Speaking and Declamation.

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 **March - April.**
- The Public Forum topic will be the NSDA topic as announced for **March.**

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 or 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.
- **JUNIOR VARSITY (JV)** is defined as being in the first or second year of ANY forensic competition event. If a student has competed in any competitive speech and debate event for more than two years, that student is ineligible to enter Junior Varsity in ANY event at the state tournament.
- **VARSITY** is open to any high school student.
- Events with neither a JV nor varsity division designated are considered “open” and anyone in grades 9-12 is eligible. There is one exception to this rule. **Declamation is open only to 9th and 10th graders, regardless of previous experience, per CFL rules.**

Students with Disabilities: *The TFL encourages students with disabilities to participate in the state tournament. The TFL will make reasonable accommodations to enable participation by students with disabilities. Factors that determine whether an accommodation is reasonable include, but are not limited to, the cost of the accommodation; whether the accommodation would disrupt the tournament schedule; and whether the accommodation would impair the competitive and educational purposes of the tournament. The coach of a student seeking an accommodation must request the accommodation from the Chair of the TFL at the time the coach registers the student for the tournament. The coach must explain and document the student's disability and must explain why the disability requires the requested accommodation.*

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 final tournament registration. 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, under the leadership of the TFL Chair, shall be responsible for the operation of the Tab Room during the State Championship Tournament. The TFL Chair, with the advisement of the 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.

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.

Judge Bond:

Each school will submit a check separate from registration fees in the amount of \$200 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 judge bond implementation.

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.
- Online drops will be accepted through 9 PM the night before 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.
- Drops made after the online deadline of 9 PM the night before the tournament must be reported in person to the tab room prior to the start of round one and are subject to an additional \$50 drop fee per entry in addition to the original fee.
- ***Unreported 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.
- All registration and drop fees must be paid prior to the start of round one. Schools with unpaid fees are subject to the forfeiture of rounds until all fees are paid or arrangements are made with the TFL Chair.

Final Registration:

There will be no formalized final registration. Teams should check their entries and fees prior to arrival via the inline registration website. Unless a team has a drop after the online drop deadline, the TFL committee will assume that its online registration and invoice is accurate. A table will be set up for payment of fees when schools arrive. **All fees must be paid prior to the start of round one.**

- Nuisance fee of \$200 will be charged for any changes other than drops at registration.
- Drops on site will be charged \$50 per drop in addition to the original registration fee.

Judges

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.

Judge Quota:

All schools are responsible for meeting judge requirements as follows:

- 1 (one) Lincoln Douglas debate judge for every 2 LD debaters *or fraction thereof*. There are no Lincoln Douglas judges for hire.
- 1 (one) Public Forum debate judge for every 2 Public Forum teams *or fraction thereof*.
- 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 lower 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 or JV division. These judges will be used in the lowest division offered. **All first year out judges shall be considered “free strikes” above and beyond a team’s strike quota for any team wishing to exercise that option. These may be struck individually or as an entire package by any team.**
- **Coaches are required to designate the experience level of each judge as part of online registration.**
- It is requested (but not required) that all judges provide a judging philosophy, preferably posted in an accessible location in advance of the tournament.

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 brief comments and 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 (No LD or Congress hires).
- 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 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 \$200 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 Congress 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 a minimum of 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 (TFL Chair), 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 JV, 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.
- **IMPARTIALITY RULE: Under no circumstances may a coach with student still in elimination rounds be involved with the assigning of judges for the event in which he/she still has students competing. Ideally, all assigning of elimination round judges should be done in the presence of the TFL Chair unless he/she also has students remaining in that event. Elimination round judges must be assigned together by at least two of the following three neutral parties: TFL Chair, TFL Tournament Manager, one committee member.**

Judge Bond:

- Each school will submit a check separate from registration fees in the amount of \$200 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 \$200 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. These strikes apply to all events, keeping in mind that the nature of Congress may require an exception if clean judges are impossible.
- 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.* Every effort will be made to offer strike sheets online.

Tab Room Policies and Procedures

Protests and Disputes (see also Section VI – 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 **on the official TFL protest form** 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. Instructions for filing protests can be found in **Section VI**.
- **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 reserves 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. **Judges in Extemporaneous Speaking and Impromptu are required to give 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.

Observers/Visitors

Observers will be allowed in all 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. Competitors who have not yet been eliminated are not allowed to observe. No audio or video recording of any round will be allowed. **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

Competition Rules

Except for any variances noted elsewhere in this manual, events at the Tarheel Forensic League State Tournament shall follow the rules listed in the *National Speech and Debate Association High School Unified Manual*.

Exceptions:

- ***Declamation*** will follow the current rules of the National Catholic Forensic League, as there is no equivalent NSDA event.
- ***Extemporaneous Speaking*** will be one mixed division. There will not be separate divisions for International and United States. Cross-examination will be used in the final round unless the tournament schedule does not permit it. Cross-ex will not be used in other rounds. All other NSDA rules will apply.
- If at any time the TFL manual and NSDA or CFL rules conflict, the rules in the TFL Manual shall prevail.

Procedural Rules

Although NSDA and NCFL contestant event rules will be followed as noted above, procedural and tabbing rules may vary for the Tarheel Forensic League State Tournament. Procedural rules for this tournament are noted in ***Section V: Operation of Events***.

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. NSDA Electronic Device rules will be followed. 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

For all events, the Tarheel Forensic League will follow and enforce the evidence policy of the National Speech and Debate Association as published in the current edition of the NSDA Unified High School Manual.

Unauthorized Aid in Extemp

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.

Interp Cuttings and Speech Scripts

- 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 **could** be disqualified. Original published sources or NSDA acceptable internet copies should also be available.
- Materials downloaded from the Internet must meet current NSDA source requirements.

V. 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).

Number of Rounds

- There shall be six preliminary rounds in the Debate events and five preliminary rounds in the Speech (IE) Events. In the event of extenuating circumstances, the TFL Executive Committee may change these numbers 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 Lincoln Douglas Debate. In the 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.
- All remaining preliminary rounds after the second 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 (TFL Chair) 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. Drop the highest and lowest speaker points (26-30 scale)
 2. Total speaker points (26-30 scale)
 3. Opponent wins
 4. Judge variance
 5. Drop the two highest and two lowest speaker points (26-30 scale)
 6. 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 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.
- **IMPARTIALITY RULE:** Under no circumstances may a coach with student still in elimination rounds be involved with the assigning of judges for the event in which he/she still has students competing. Ideally, all assigning of elimination round judges should be done in the presence of the TFL Chair unless he/she also has students remaining in that event. Elimination round judges must be assigned together by at least two of the following three neutral parties: TFL Chair, TFL Tournament Manager, one committee member.
- 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 record of less than 4-2 (or 3-2 if five prelim rounds) 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 determined by each contestant's best four preliminary rounds (if five rounds are held).** 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 bringing back the ranks of each contestant's dropped round. The second tiebreaker drops both the highest and lowest ranks of the tied competitors. The third tiebreaker will be reciprocals (decimal conversion). The fourth 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 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.
- **IMPARTIALITY RULE:** Under no circumstances may a coach with student still in elimination rounds be involved with the assigning of judges for the event in which he/she still has students competing. Ideally, all assigning of elimination round judges should be done in the presence of the TFL Chair unless he/she also has students remaining in that event. Elimination round judges must be assigned together by at least two of the following three neutral parties: TFL Chair, TFL Tournament Manager, one committee member.
- 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. Equal section weighting must take first priority when pairing sections.
- All elimination rounds, including finals, will use **rolling cumes**. Ranks from all preliminary and elimination rounds (except the dropped/worst preliminary round) carry over and are added to the ranks given by all judges in the elimination round.
- Ties in elimination rounds will first be broken by the cume of the total ranks in the given elimination round, then by judge preference in the round (if possible), then by the reciprocal value of the elimination round ranks, and finally by re-adding the dropped preliminary round to the total cume.

Pairing, Setting Up, and Tabulating Congress Sessions

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.

Cross Examination

The Tarheel Forensic League will use the *Direct Questioning* method of cross examination where presiding officers recognize questioners for a period of 30 seconds each during the allotted cross examination time. A precedence chart separate from the speech precedence chart shall be kept by the presiding officer to ensure fairness in recognizing questioners.

Presiding Officers

- There will be two presiding officers per session, each serving for half of the session's designated floor time. At the beginning of a session, the Parliamentarian shall conduct an election. The first candidate to receive a vote of 50 percent plus one shall be declared the winner and will select the half of the session in which he/she wishes to preside. A second election shall be held immediately afterwards with that winner presiding for the unclaimed half of the session. The loser of the first election should not automatically be declared the second presiding officer of the session. A second election must be held.
- No student may preside twice in preliminary sessions unless no one else in chamber is willing to do so.

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. Once set, an agenda is only amendable by unanimous consent of the chamber.
- There will be two presiding officers per session, each serving for a half 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.
- 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 JV, then in varsity only if necessary.
- **IMPARTIALITY RULE:** Under no circumstances may a coach with student still in elimination rounds be involved with the assigning of judges for the event in which he/she still has students competing. Ideally, all assigning of elimination round judges should be done in the presence of the TFL Chair unless he/she also has students remaining in that event. Elimination round judges must be assigned together by at least two of the following three neutral parties: TFL Chair, TFL Tournament Manager, one committee member.
- 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. The drawn agenda may neither be suspended or amended. 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.
- 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.

VI. Protest Procedures

- A. Schools may designate up to three adults (counting the head coach) to serve as “coaches of record” for the tournament. Only the adults named in that designation will be allowed to file protests on behalf of the school. These coaches should be designated prior to round one by notifying the TFL Vice Chair in writing. Should no coaches of record be designated, only the head coach will be allowed to file protests on behalf of the school.
- B. 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.
- C. When submitting a protest, the coach should fill out an official TFL Tournament Protest Form. This should include 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. The coach must also indicate the specific remedy that is being sought for the infraction. The form should be submitted to the TFL Vice Chairperson 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/her designee will serve in place of the Vice Chairperson for that particular protest hearing. The Vice Chairperson or his/her designee shall record the result of the decision in writing on the original protest form and personally contact the involved coach(es) with the decision immediately after a ruling has been made.
- D. 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.
- E. 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 NSDA 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.

VII. 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, teams advancing to elimination rounds will receive appropriate awards. [There will be **NO** recognition of individual “speakers” in the TFL State Tournament.]
- D. Awards will only be offered in events with at least six entries from at least two schools. No final round will be held unless six total competitors from at least two schools entered the event. Awards will be given in all events meeting this criterion. In events with fewer than 12 entries, no more than 50 percent of the field should receive awards.
- E. Purchasing Awards: The TFL Chair, with advice and consent from the TFL Executive Committee shall determine where the trophies are to be purchased and by whom.

VIII. 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 categories.

Divisions: Debate is considered to be LD, PF, Congress and Policy (if offered). All other events are considered to be in the speech division.

C. *The Randall Shaver Excellence in Forensics (demonstrated by the smallest 25 percent 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.

IX. Sweepstakes Formula

On Friday, prior to the start of the first preliminary round, the Tournament Director (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.

Divisions: Debate is considered to be LD, PF, Congress and Policy (if offered). All other events are considered to be in the Speech division.

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 (up to 4): | 5 |
| **Non-advancing octafinalists (up to 8) | 2 |
| **Non-advancing double octafinalists (up to 16) | 1 |

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

**If quarters or octas 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 octas, the “non-advancing” teams will receive only TWO points for quarters and ONE point for octas. Semis and finals points remain the same, regardless of whether the round is held.

**No team with an even or 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.

X. 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 13, 2018
REVISION**