



Preseason LEAGUE HANDBOOK 2021

The mission of the National Christian Forensics and Communications Association is to promote excellence in communications through competitive opportunities where Christian students develop the skills necessary to think critically and communicate effectively in order to address life issues from a biblical worldview in a manner that glorifies God.

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WELCOME TO NCFCA



MISSION

The mission of the National Christian Forensics and Communications Association (NCFCA) is to promote excellence in communications through competitive opportunities where Christian students develop the skills necessary to think critically and communicate effectively in order to address life issues from a biblical worldview in a manner that glorifies God.

FOUNDATIONAL BELIEFS

NCFCA is a non-denominational Christian organization and our Foundational Beliefs are integral to who we are both in word and deed.

Statement of Faith

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic* and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

*universal

Position Statements

For more than two thousand years, the Christian church has held almost exclusively accepted viewpoints on the veracity and inerrancy of Scripture and on issues related to marriage and biblical sexuality. Acknowledgement of what constitutes a “Christian worldview” based on these beliefs has gone largely without dispute until the last decade. Current societal norms, both inside and outside the church, have challenged the clarity with which NCFCA once operated and required us to resolutely affirm what Scripture has to say about these two issues.

Scriptural Inerrancy

We believe that the Bible in its entirety “is breathed out by God” (2 Tim. 3:16), is inerrant in its original autographs (Prov. 30:5; 2 Pet. 1:20-21), and is “profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work” (2 Tim. 3:17).

Marriage and Gender

In order to clearly indicate our position on an extensive list of issues related to marriage and human sexuality, NCFCA’s Board of Directors has chosen to affirm the [Nashville Statement](#). This statement, based on Scripture, addresses issues including premarital, extramarital, and homosexual relationships, gender alteration or identification, as well as physical disorders related to gender.

AFFILIATION

NCFCA invites like-minded individuals, families, schools, and organizations to partner with us in achieving our mission.

Affiliation Type	Benefits	Fee
Family Affiliation	Full access to NCFCA Resource Library Debate resolution voting Discounts (HSLDA, Online classes, Test prep, Printing) Monthly newsletter	\$100/family before July 31 st \$125/family between August 1 st and September 30 th \$150/family after October 1 st
School Affiliation	Full access to NCFCA Resource Library Debate resolution voting Discounts (Online classes, Printing, Supplies) Monthly newsletter	\$225 (0-4 competitors) \$325 (5-9 competitors) \$425 (10-14 competitors) \$500 (15 or more competitors)
Coach Affiliation	Full access to NCFCA Resource Library Debate resolution voting Discounts (Online classes, Printing, Supplies) Quarterly newsletter designed for coaches	\$30/coach/season
Alumni Affiliation	Invitations to alumni-exclusive events Discounts (Online classes, Printing, Supplies) Quarterly newsletter designed for alumni	\$30/alumni/season
Supporter Affiliation	Quarterly newsletter	\$30/supporter/season

A complete list of [affiliation benefits](#) can be found on the NCFCA website.

In the unlikely event that it becomes necessary, NCFCA maintains the right to revoke an Affiliate’s good standing status. After assessing the situation, the National Adjudication Team may revoke an Affiliate’s good standing status for a specific period of time or permanently. Affiliation fees are not refunded for an Affiliate who loses good standing status.

An Affiliate who has lost good standing status may appeal its revocation by sending a written explanation of the situation and outlining the case for appeal to the Executive Director who will confer with the National Adjudication Team and other relevant members of NCFCA leadership before rendering a final decision. The NCFCA Board of Directors may choose to review any final revocation of good standing status by its own motion or by request of the Executive Director.

In the rare event that a dispute is not able to be resolved via the aforementioned process, NCFCA and all Affiliates agree that any claim or dispute arising from or related to participating in NCFCA activities shall be settled by mediation and, if necessary, legally binding arbitration in accordance with the Rules of Procedure for Christian Conciliation of the Institute for Christian Conciliation, a division of Peacemaker® Ministries. (Complete text is available at www.Peacemaker.net.) Judgment upon an arbitration decision may be entered in any court otherwise having jurisdiction. NCFCA and all Affiliates understand that these methods shall be the sole remedy for any controversy or claim arising out of this agreement and expressly waive their right to file a lawsuit in any civil court against one another for such disputes, except to enforce an arbitration decision.

COMPETITION ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility Criteria

A competitor eligible for qualifying competition must:

- Be an NCFCA Affiliate and read and abide by the NCFCA Participant Code of Conduct AND
- Be no younger than 12 years old and no older than 18 years old on September 1st of the competition season with the exception of Moot Court competitors who shall be no younger than 15 years old and no older than 18 years old on September 1st of the competitive season AND
- Not have earned a high school diploma.

Eligibility FAQs

Regarding Age Requirements	
May exceptions be made for younger students who are eager to compete?	No. Eligibility exceptions will not be made for students who are younger than 12 on September 1 st of the competition season. Students younger than this age may participate in junior-level events.
May exceptions be made for younger students who are eager to compete in Moot Court?	No. Eligibility exceptions will not be made for students who are younger than 15 on September 1 st of the competition season. Students younger than this age are encouraged to participate in any of the other currently offered NCFCA events.
May exceptions be made for students who will be older than 18 on September 1 st of the competition season?	No. Eligibility exceptions will not be made for students who are older than 18 on September 1 st of the competition season. Students older than this age may not compete in NCFCA.

Regarding Exceptions	
Are students with special needs or learning disabilities allowed to compete?	Yes. Students with special needs or learning disabilities are encouraged to compete; however, no exceptions to tournament rules may be made.
Are students with physical limitations eligible for competition?	Yes. Students with physical limitations are eligible to compete. NCFCA will make accommodations when practical, but as NCFCA does not own its tournament locations, those accommodations may vary from tournament to tournament. Requests for special arrangements that may affect competition must be made in advance by sending a detailed explanation of the situation to the Director of Forensics.

Regarding School Status	
May a middle school student participate in NCFCA competition?	Yes. NCFCA is a high school league that allows middle school student participation. Parental consideration should be given as to the social and spiritual maturity required to wrestle with high school, age-appropriate material.
May a student take classes at a local community college, participate in a dual enrollment program, or attend a school and still be eligible for NCFCA competition?	Yes. A student is eligible for NCFCA competition regardless of educational method so long as all eligibility requirements are met and tournament policies and procedures are understood and affirmed.
May a student accumulate college credit through CLEP-type tests and AP courses and still be eligible for NCFCA competition?	Yes. A student is eligible for NCFCA competition regardless of educational plan so long as all eligibility requirements are met.
May a student compete in a college forensics league and still compete in NCFCA?	No. NCFCA is a high school league, and a student who competes at the collegiate level is ineligible to compete in NCFCA tournaments.
May a student graduate from high school and remain eligible for NCFCA competition?	No. A student who has earned a high school diploma is no longer a high school student in terms of NCFCA competition and is ineligible to compete in NCFCA tournaments.

TOURNAMENTS

NCFCA offers a number of tournament opportunities for students to hone their analytical and oratorical skills both online and onsite. Dates, locations, and events offered for each tournament will be posted on the NCFCA website this fall.

Regional or District Qualifying Tournament*

A regional or district qualifying tournament is a multi-day event open to eligible competitors within their region or district, and offers six preliminary rounds of debate, three preliminary rounds of speech, and elimination rounds for both speech and debate. Students advancing to elimination rounds earn an invitation to the Regional Championship.

National Qualifying Tournament

A national qualifying tournament is a multi-day event open to eligible competitors from all regions that may include any combination of events, any of which will offer full preliminary (six debate/three speech) and elimination rounds. Students advancing to elimination rounds earn an invitation to their Regional Championship and top competitors in each event earn an invitation directly to the National Championship.

NOTE: All national qualifying tournaments for the 2021 competition season will be held online.

Regional Championship

A Regional Championship is a multi-day event open to competitors within a region who have earned an invitation through a qualifying tournament. Top competitors in each event earn an invitation to the National Championship.

National Championship

The National Championship is open to competitors who have received invitations through a national qualifying tournament, Regional Championship, or the National At-Large System.

*Regions are assigned by the geographical location of the address on your NCFCA account. Once affiliated, if you would like to reassign to a region other than the one prescribed, reassignment is available in the NCFCA Shop. Reassignment must be processed prior to December 31st, is accompanied by a \$20 surcharge, and is valid for the current competition season.

TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION



Later this fall, your NCFCA dashboard will provide a list of competitive opportunities available identified by tournament type. Detailed information and online registration for each tournament will be available by clicking on the tournament name. NCFCA's competition season runs from January to mid-June each year.

REGISTRATION FEES

Each competitor may register for any tournaments for which he is eligible. Families should review the schedule and details prior to registration and payment as fees, once paid, are non-refundable. The fee schedule below applies to both onsite and online tournaments.

Tournament Type	Student Entry Fee	Debate Event Fee	Speech Event Fee
Regional and District Qualifiers	\$15	\$35	\$13
National Qualifying Tournaments	\$15	\$40	\$15
Regional Championship	\$25	\$40	\$15
National Championship	\$25	\$50	\$20
Junior Events	\$5	n/a	\$5

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

Each competitor and at least one parent or legal guardian must be available to actively participate for the duration of each NCFCA tournament for which they are registered.

Each parent will be designated to serve as a judge or to assist in a tournament staff role. If a parent is unable to participate, he may appoint another adult as his proxy, but must ensure that the designated adult meets all criteria outlined below.

A designated adult:

- may not be a competitor.
- must be at least 21 years old or at least 19 years old if he or she is a sibling of the competitor.
- must be prepared to fully participate in the tournament by serving as a judge or in another tournament capacity throughout the event.
- must view one Judge Training each season for speech and for debate prior to judging.
- may only be responsible for students in one family regardless of the number of students in the family.
- may not be an adult who is already responsible for their own competing children.

PARTICIPANT CODE OF CONDUCT

Personal Character

Each tournament participant is expected to act in a manner that reflects biblical values and to develop personal character traits that show maturity. Further, as a community of Christians, participants should encourage and support others to live in a manner that pleases God. While the Code of Conduct speaks specifically to the behavior of competitors, all tournament attendees should seek to uphold scriptural mandates to model Christ-like behavior for our children. As a Christian organization, NCFCA takes this responsibility to heart and reserves the right to intervene when necessary to uphold this mandate.

Participants must:

- Respect the NCFCA [Foundational Beliefs](#).
- Practice courtesy and consideration in their association with competitors, parents, tournament personnel, staff, and community volunteers.
- Respect the authority of parents, coaches, NCFCA leadership, and tournament staff, treating them courteously, respectfully, and obediently as unto the Lord.
- Respect NCFCA competition as a formal event done for the glory of the Lord.
- Exercise integrity. Be truthful and honorable, never lying or stealing. Do your own work, giving credit where credit is due, and be careful never to plagiarize others' work.
- Accept personal responsibility for obeying all event rules and all applicable policies outlined in the League Handbook.

General Behavior

During an NCFCA event, participants must:

- Abstain from the use or possession of alcoholic beverages, tobacco or e-cigarettes, illegal drugs, and pornography as well as other undesirable practices that are generally recognized to be harmful to health and Christian character.
- Abstain from profanity and vulgar and abusive speech and actions (written, verbal, or electronic).
- Refrain from all public displays of affection.
- Not possess dangerous items, such as knives, guns, or lighters.
- Refrain from bullying, physically or verbally abusing, coercing, stalking, intimidating, verbally or sexually harassing, discriminating, or any other behavior that places the health and safety of oneself or others in jeopardy.
- Refrain from retrieving, saving, or displaying hate-based, offensive, or sexually explicit material via any means.
- Refrain from any form of gambling that involves the exchange of money.
- Refrain from any behavior which would violate the NCFCA [Foundational Beliefs](#).

TEAM POLICY AND LINCOLN-DOUGLAS VALUE DEBATE COMPETITION

Rules

Debate Rules can be found in the [Resource Library](#) on the NCFCA website.

Limitations

- A debater may compete in either Lincoln-Douglas Value or Team Policy during any given tournament.
- Debaters may not participate with two different partners during the same tournament in Team Policy.
- Debaters who qualify for either their Regional Championship or the National Championship in both Team Policy and Lincoln-Douglas Value Debate must choose one of these styles of debate in which to participate during that tournament.
- Team Policy debaters may compete and qualify with different partners during the competitive season but must choose only one of those qualified partners with whom to participate at the next level tournament (either the Regional Championship or the National Championship).

SPEECH COMPETITION

Rules

All General Speech Rules and Speech Event Rules can be found in the [Resource Library](#) on the NCFCA website.

Limitations

- A competitor may participate in a maximum of five speech events at any given tournament with the exception of the Regional Championship where a competitor may compete in any event for which he has qualified.
- A competitor may only register once in each event for any given tournament.
- A competitor may not participate with two different partners during the same tournament in Duo.
- A Duo Interpretation competitor may compete and qualify with different partners during the competitive season but must choose only one of those qualified partners with whom to participate at the next level tournament (either the Regional Championship or the National Championship).
- A competitor may not enter the same speech in more than one event for the same tournament; however, the speech may be entered in a different category for a different tournament. If the speech qualifies to the next level tournament (either the Regional Championship or the National Championship) in more than one category, the competitor must choose only one category in which he will perform the piece at the higher level of competition.
- During the Regional Championship or the National Championship, a competitor must perform the same piece that he performed when the invitation to compete at that tournament was awarded. In other words, it is the combination of both the piece and the person that is awarded an invitation to the higher level of competition. Minor revisions, such as changing examples, stories, or analytical rhetoric in a platform speech or revising a cutting to an interpretation, are allowed. The competitor should not go so far as to change the main points of his speech or take a cut from a different section of his literary selection as he is preparing for advanced competition with a speech that has already qualified.

Script Submission

Scripts for all platform and interpretation events must be submitted electronically prior to competition for each tournament per the Script Rules and must be followed during all competition rounds. The script must be submitted before the competitor will be allowed to compete. Script Rules will be available in the [Resource Library](#) on the NCFCA website.

MOOT COURT COMPETITION

Rules

Moot Court Rules will be available late summer 2020.

Limitations

- Competitors may not participate with two different partners during the same tournament in Moot Court.
- Moot Court competitors may compete and qualify with different partners during the competitive season but must choose only one of those qualified partners with whom to participate during the National Championship.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



How will I receive league updates and important information?

NCFCA has two primary means of sharing league updates and important information with Affiliates:

- **Email.** To help ensure delivery of email, add NCFCA.org to your approved sender list and be sure to accurately enter adult and student email addresses on your account. Check your email regularly to learn about time-sensitive deadlines. NCFCA respects your privacy and never sells Affiliate information. From time to time, we do share opportunities from our partners with Affiliates. If you do not wish to receive these third-party emails, you may choose to opt out via the button on your profile page.
- **www.NCFCA.org.** As an Affiliate, you can log in to the website. From your dashboard you can modify your profile, view and register for competitive opportunities, access resources, and purchase products in the NCFCA store.

Whom should I contact if I need assistance?

Account Information (Affiliation, Login/Emails, Benefits)	Office@NCFCA.org
Club Development/Educational Resources	AmyJoyTofte@NCFCA.org
Debate Questions or Suggestions	DebateCommittee@NCFCA.org
Executive Director	KimCromer@NCFCA.org
Moot Court Questions or Suggestions	MootCourt@NCFCA.org
Speech Questions or Suggestions	SpeechCommittee@NCFCA.org
Sponsorships	NataliaRosa@NCFCA.org
Tournament Registration	Registrar@NCFCA.org
Tournaments (National tournaments or National Championship)	ChrissySweetman@NCFCA.org
Tournaments (Regional or District Tournaments, Regional Championship)	Regional Directors: See list below.
Tournament App	TournamentApp@NCFCA.org
Website/Technology	Office@NCFCA.org

Regional Directors

Region	Director	Email
Region I Hawaii	Maile Higashi	MaileHigashi@NCFCA.org
Region II Alaska, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington	Kristine Aldrich	KristineAldrich@NCFCA.org
Region III Arizona, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming	Starr van Dalen	StarrvanDalen@NCFCA.org
Region V Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, and Nebraska	Heather Sampson	HeatherSampson@NCFCA.org
Region VI Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin	Karley Houchin	KarleyHouchin@NCFCA.org
Region VII Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee	Mead Vest	MeadVest@NCFCA.org
Region VIII Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina	Rachelle Light	RachelleLight@NCFCA.org
Region IX Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia	Brenda Bass	BrendaBass@NCFCA.org
Region X Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont	Krista Lopez	KristaLopez@NCFCA.org
Region XI Oklahoma and Texas Zip Codes: 75xxx, 76xxx, 79xxx, 88xxx	Cyndi Wilson	CyndiWilson@NCFCA.org
Region XII Texas Zip Codes: 73xxx, 759xx, 765xx, 766xx, 768xx, 769xx, 77xxx, 78xxx	Serene Schmid	SereneSchmid@NCFCA.org