



2021  
LEAGUE HANDBOOK

Version History for *2021 League Handbook*

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# WELCOME TO NCFCA

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## MISSION

*To challenge and equip ambassadors for Christ to communicate truth with integrity and grace*

For more than twenty years, the National Christian Forensics and Communications Association (NCFCA) has promoted 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.

# **NCFCA VALUES**

## **Godly Wisdom**

*Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.* Godly wisdom is the right use of knowledge. Once we know the Lord, wisdom requires us to obey Him and follow Him wholeheartedly. Everything we do begins with our desire to obey and glorify God. However, godly wisdom isn't just spiritual; it is practical and applies to every type of skill and area of life. For example, the same word for wisdom used in Proverbs is also used to describe the wisdom God gave to craftsmen and women (see Exodus 28:3, 31:3, 35:26). We value the right use of knowledge in every context, the use of knowledge that is most glorifying to God.

## **Redeeming Truth**

*Philippians 4:8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.* As Christian communicators, we value messages of redeeming truth. God has entrusted us with the good news that not only humanity but all of creation is being redeemed through Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17-19; Romans 8:18-23). God's redemptive work is happening throughout the world, and we have the privilege of discovering, meditating upon, and communicating whatever is true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, excellent, and praiseworthy in all areas of life.

## **Gracious Communication**

*Colossians 4:6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.* We want Christians to boldly speak truth and be prepared to give an answer in every situation. In order to know how we ought to answer each person, the Bible says that our speech must always be gracious and seasoned with salt. "Salty" speech isn't dull or flat but is flavored with a spice that captures the attention of the listener. Gracious speech comes from a heart of love and respect for both God and our fellow man. Since death and life itself are in the power of the tongue (Proverbs 18:21), we want to be faithful stewards of that power by speaking words of life and truth in a gracious, respectful, and interesting way.

## Enduring Excellence

*Colossians 3:23–24 Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.* Our commitment to excellence is based on our desire to do our best for the Lord. We value work that is done heartily and well and includes a singular focus on the Lord rather than on man. Working for the Lord rather than man means that we value a work-life balance that honors our God-given responsibilities in all areas of life. It means we value investments and activities that reap enduring rewards rather than just short-term gains. It means we value the praise and inheritance we receive from Christ more than winning a tournament and receiving the praise of man.

## Constructive Community

*Proverbs 27:17 Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.* We are committed to engaging with one another in ways that refine, encourage, support, and challenge one another to be our best. Therefore, we value a constructive community that promotes honesty, transparency, collaboration, and evaluation. Together, we make each other better.

## 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 <sup>st</sup> \$125/family between August 1 <sup>st</sup> and September 30 <sup>th</sup> \$150/family after October 1 <sup>st</sup>
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. Affiliation fees are non-refundable and non-transferable.



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.

## COMPETITION ELIGIBILITY

### Eligibility Criteria

A competitor eligible for qualifying competition must:

- Be an NCFCA Affiliate and read and abide by the Code of Conduct AND
- Be no younger than 12 years old and no older than 18 years old on September 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> of the competition season?	No. Eligibility exceptions will not be made for students who are older than 18 on September 1 <sup>st</sup> 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?	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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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 as soon as they are finalized.

### **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 and/or three preliminary rounds of speech, and full elimination rounds. 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 31<sup>st</sup>, is accompanied by a \$20 surcharge, and is valid for the current competition season.*

## TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION



As tournaments plans are finalized, 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 request registration 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

## REGISTRATION PROCESS

Registration requests for each tournament will be accepted via the tournament information page on your dashboard until the designated registration close date. Specific dates are outlined on tournament information pages.

What?	When?	How?
Request Period	Begins November 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Log in to your account.</li> <li>Choose your tournament, student, and requested event(s).</li> <li>Complete remaining registration steps</li> <li>Requests made via the registration tab do not guarantee your spot in the tournament. (See waitlist and registration preference information.)</li> </ul>
Registration Request Closing	Designated Monday at 5pm CT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registration Request closes.</li> </ul>
Invoices Emailed	Tuesday after Registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Events are filled by random electronic assignment based on available space. If demand exceeds available space, a waitlist will be created. Registration status is not transferable.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requests that have been fulfilled are moved to the registration list.</li> <li>• Invoices are emailed to registered Affiliates as registrations are processed throughout the day. If you have not received an invoice by the end of the day on Tuesday, log in to your dashboard and check your cart before contacting the registrar.</li> <li>• Questions regarding invoices should be directed to <a href="mailto:Registrar@NCFCA.org">Registrar@NCFCA.org</a>.</li> </ul>
Payment Due	Between Tuesday at 5pm CT and Thursday at 5pm CT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Log in to your account.</li> <li>• Pay for invoiced event fees.</li> <li>• Orders that remain unpaid at 5pm CT on Thursday are moved to the bottom of any waitlist and assessed a \$25 late fee/student. (\$5 late fee for Junior Events).</li> </ul>
Late Registration	Friday at 9am CT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Register for events that have remaining space.</li> </ul>

## REGISTRATION POLICIES

### Partners and Registration

For any event requiring a partner, both partners must request registration before the team is moved to the registration list. Students who have not indicated a partner or are waiting for their partner to register will remain on the waitlist until the other partner has registered.

### Late Registration

Late registration requires a \$25 late fee (\$5 late fee for Junior Events) and will open online at 9am CT on the designated Friday for events with remaining space. Late registration will remain open until 5pm CT one week prior to the first day of competition. With late registration, you will be able to choose your events and check-out all in one transaction. Payment is required for the registration to be complete and all unpaid orders will be cleared at the close of late registration.

### Confirmation List

The confirmation list for each tournament will include all completed (paid) orders. If you notice an inaccuracy, please report these to the Registrar at [Register@NCFCA.org](mailto:Register@NCFCA.org).

### Waitlists and Registration Preference

NCFCA meets its mission when students participate and will make every attempt to accommodate as many requests as possible.

Unfortunately, there are instances when demand exceeds space and a waitlist will be created. Although it may take a week or so, in most cases, the waitlisted students are able to be accommodated before the tournament begins. If a student is not able to be accommodated for a particular event, he will be given preferential registration in that event for the next tournament for which he registers,

regardless of tournament type. The registration software will automatically account for this status, so no action is required on the part of the student. Preferential registration status is not transferable.

In the unlikely event that there are too many preferred students for the available space and a student remains on a waitlist for a second tournament, he will be given a higher preference status the next time he registers for a tournament.

If a space is offered and subsequently declined by the student, his preferred status will be lost. Students placed on the waitlist due to nonpayment are not eligible for preferential status.

## **Registration Adjustments**

### **Event Exchange**

Please make every effort to request registration for the correct events. Exchanges for paid events are available on the tournament registration page by choosing the circle arrows. If space available in the newly requested event, there will be a \$20 event exchange fee associated with the transaction that must be paid before the exchange is finalized.

### **Dropping an Event**

Dropping an event has a negative impact on the tournament and should not be taken lightly.

- Prior to payment: If an Affiliate finds that he has registered for an event in error, the event line item may be removed by clicking the trash can without financial obligation and without affecting other selected events.
- After payment: In the rare instance that an Affiliate must drop an event after payment has been made, the adjustment must be made no less than 72 hours before the start of the tournament. No refunds are available for dropped events.

### **Refunds**

Refunds for paid orders will only be issued for extenuating circumstances such as an illness or death in the family. If you believe your circumstances meet these criteria, you may submit a refund request in the shopping cart within 14 days of the close of the affected event.

### **Scholarships**

A limited number of scholarships for registration fees are available by demonstrating financial need via the link in your shopping cart. Scholarships must be requested prior to payment as refunds are only issued under the extenuating circumstances detailed above and will not be considered once an order is paid.

## **Meals**

Due to the diversity of regulations across the country, decisions regarding the availability of meals for purchase through the NCFCA website will be made and published on an individual tournament basis.

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## 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.

### **Competitors**

Competitors should expect to be actively involved for the duration of the tournament, report to rounds promptly, and be willing to serve in various ways if asked. Early exit from a tournament will result in revocation of any qualification to the next level of competition and forfeiture of any at-large points gained from that tournament. Requests for exceptions to this rule must be submitted via email to the Director of Forensics within 72 hours of the conclusion of the Awards Ceremony.

### **Parents**

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.
- must be in possession of a signed medical release for each student in his care.

Any student who arrives onsite at a tournament without a parent or a designated adult who meets the criteria above will not be allowed to remain on the premises.

Exceptions to this policy will be made only under extenuating circumstances and must be approved in writing by the Director of Forensics as far ahead of the event as possible. Requests for exceptions should be submitted during the registration process.

While NCFCA is sympathetic to the routine struggles of families, it is not fair to excuse a few families from their responsibilities while expecting all other families to make the necessary arrangements to attend. As such, work/schedule conflicts, younger children, activities of other family members, financial difficulties, etc. do not meet the standard for an extenuating circumstance.

## TOURNAMENT CHECK-IN

Online check-in will take place during a specified timeframe posted on the tournament information page. Competitors who fail to check in and submit any required scripts during the designated window of time without a written exception from tournament officials will be dropped from the tournament and/or event. Refunds are not available for failure to check in or submit scripts.

## 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](#).

# TOURNAMENT POLICIES



NCFCA is committed to providing competitive opportunities in a Christ-centered environment. To aid in this effort we have developed policies meant to provide a safe environment, to assist in fostering personal integrity and responsibility, as well as to clarify league expectations for competition. We believe it is in the best interest of the entire NCFCA community to establish certain guidelines for conduct which must be maintained by all Affiliates so that we might strive together to fulfill our mission.

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. (Colossians 3:23-24)*

“...as working for the Lord” outlines the essence of NCFCA’s commitment to a calling that supersedes temporal goals. The highest levels of academic integrity and meticulous adherence to the rules indicate each competitor’s commitment to honest, fair, and trustworthy competition. Honor and respect for one another, exhibited by our words and actions, should always be elevated above a desire to win.

All competitors must ensure that any work presented in competition is either their own original work or clearly indicates the source of the information via a proper citation.

Students should ensure that they understand plagiarism and their responsibility regarding the concept of ownership. Plagiarism can be intentional or unintentional. While NCFCA regards academic integrity and infractions thereof very seriously, we assume the best of every student and do not assign intention to any infraction.

Competitors will be required to affirm the NCFCA Ethics Statement during the online check-in process for each tournament.

*As an NCFCA competitor, I am committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and ethical behavior in all areas of competitive forensics. I will comply with all tournament policies and rules whether competing in person or online. I understand that through my participation in NCFCA, I serve as a witness of Christ and will seek to reflect this in both word and deed at all times.*

## ADJUDICATION

While we anticipate that all participants will follow the prescribed rules and policies, in an environment where rules exist, protocols must be in place to address issues of noncompliance. In the case of an alleged infraction, the Compliance team for the tournament will gather and report information to the Regional Director or Tournament Director, who will determine the validity of the violation, consult with the Director of Forensics, and issue any consequences under the direction of the National Adjudication Team. NCFCA does not approach a rule infraction as an intentional action, but rather an opportunity for effective communication growth.

## APPEALS

Appeals may be brought to NCFCA for either a suspected tabulation error or a suspected ethics issue that comes to light post-tournament. Please note: Adjudication decisions rendered by the National Adjudication Team during the tournament are not eligible for appeal.

### **Filing Process**

Any appeal that meets the above criteria must be made in writing and include the complete name and contact information of the appealing party along with a brief description of the concern and any relevant documentation. This appeal must be emailed to the Director of Forensics at [DirOfForensics@NCFCA.org](mailto:DirOfForensics@NCFCA.org).

### **Time Frame**

All tabulation appeals must be filed within 72 hours of the close of the Awards Ceremony. Concerns of an ethical nature must be brought to the attention of NCFCA as soon as possible but are not subject to a time limitation.

### **Resolution**

Any properly filed appeal will be carefully considered by the Director of Forensics, the National Adjudication Team, and the Executive Director. After investigation and assessment of all available and relevant information, the NCFCA leadership will render a decision and inform the affected parties. This decision will be final, and no other consideration will be made for this issue.

## CANCELLATION POLICY

### **Endemic Illness**

NCFCA will use a variety of resources to routinely monitor the prevalence of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases in the communities planning to host our tournaments. Any decision to cancel or move a tournament to an online platform will follow our 2021 COVID-19 Protocol and be communicated to all registered participants as soon as possible. This Protocol will be published to NCFCA.org in November 2020.

### **Inclement Weather**

In the event that inclement weather is forecast prior to an NCFCA tournament, league officials will communicate to all registered Affiliates via email as early as possible. If inclement weather occurs during a tournament, league officials will communicate via email and during scheduled announcements regarding any necessary adjustments to the schedule.

### **Unforeseen Circumstances**

Upon the occurrence of any event or circumstance beyond our control, including acts of God, declared war in the United States, acts of terrorism in the city where the tournament is located, government regulations, natural disaster, or civil disorder, to the extent that such event or circumstance makes it illegal, impossible, or impracticable to hold the tournament, NCFCA will notify registered participants as soon as possible.

While it is our desire that each tournament be run as originally planned, the safety of our Affiliates will be our number one priority in any decision to cancel or reformat a tournament. Refunds due to any alteration of schedule, including cancellation of the event, will be subject to review of the financial commitments of the league and will be considered on a tournament-by-tournament basis.

## COMPETITION MATERIAL POLICY

Our mission to glorify God should guide competitors to choose material that upholds their integrity and witness for Christ.

- The source from which a competitor chooses a selection should be carefully considered. As Christian communicators, we value messages of redeeming truth. We have both the privilege and responsibility to discover, meditate upon, and communicate whatever is true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, excellent, and praiseworthy in all areas of life. (Philippians 4:8) While NCFCA does not review source material on a regular basis, we do reserve the right to disallow literature deemed to be unsuitable for use in the league.
- Speeches which advocate a position counter to the [Foundational Beliefs](#) of the league will not be allowed in competition.

## DRESS CODE POLICY

NCFCA’s dress code is intended to glorify Christ, to promote professionalism, and to maximize the focus on the development of ideas and communication skills.

	<b>Gentlemen</b>	<b>Ladies</b>
<p><b>Required for Competition*</b></p> <p><small>*Adaptations for online tournaments are acceptable provided that all attire visible to the judges is compliant.</small></p>	<p>Option 1:</p> <p>Suit <i>with</i></p> <p>Dress shirt and tie</p> <p>Dress shoes</p>	<p>Option 1:</p> <p>Pant or skirt suit (hemline to middle of knee) <i>with</i></p> <p>Dress Blouse (or top)</p> <p>Dress Shoes</p>
	<p>Option 2:</p> <p>Sport coat <i>with</i></p> <p>Dress shirt and tie</p> <p>Dress slacks</p> <p>Dress shoes</p>	<p>Option 2:</p> <p>Suit-type jacket <i>with</i></p> <p>Dress pants or skirt (hemline to middle off knee)</p> <p>Dress blouse (or top)</p> <p>Dress shoes</p>
		<p>Option 3:</p> <p>Dress (hemline to middle of knee)</p> <p>Sleeveless dresses require a suit-type jacket</p>
<p><b>Never Acceptable</b></p>	<p><b>All Competitors</b></p>	
	<p>Short shorts/skirts/dresses</p> <p>Shirts that are low-cut, fail to cover the midriff, or have spaghetti straps</p> <p>Inappropriate content, see-through fabric, or tight-fitting clothing</p>	

A student who is out of dress code is not permitted to compete. Failure to adhere to the dress code will result in a warning and requirement to change into compliant attire. No accommodations will be made if the student misses a round due to the need to change clothes. If a second violation occurs during the season, disciplinary action such as loss of round or rank will be determined by the National Adjudication Team. In the unfortunate event of a third violation within the season, the student will be disqualified from the tournament. A further violation will result in disqualification from NCFCA competition for the remainder of the season.

## **RECORDING POLICY**

NCFCA tournament competition may be recorded for personal, club, or classroom use provided that permission of all competitors involved in that round is obtained prior to the recording. The request for permission should be made prior to entering the competition room. Parents who do not wish for their student to be videotaped should instruct their student to deny any request. Persons requesting permission must respect the wishes of the competitor and refrain from coercion.

Judges may not record the round by audio, video, or any other means without written permission from the Director of Forensics.

Other than the recording of one's own child, no portion of NCFCA competition may be recorded, either by audio, video, or other means, for reproduction and distribution in any format without written permission from NCFCA at [Office@NCFCA.org](mailto:Office@NCFCA.org).

## **SAFETY POLICY**

NCFCA is committed to providing a safe environment for all students who participate online or in-person. The following protocols have been established to mitigate risk and ensure that all reasonable precautions are being taken. While NCFCA leadership and tournament staff will be present and monitoring tournament activities, safety is the responsibility of all participants. Students and parents should review and understand their responsibility both in person and online.

### **Adult Supervision**

Onsite Tournaments: When not participating in a tournament-sponsored event, children under 12 years old must be directly supervised by their parent, guardian, or a parent-designated adult.

Online Tournaments: Parents are responsible for the supervision and online safety of their children.

### **Background Checks**

NCFCA requires background checks on all paid staff and volunteer leadership.

### **Identification**

Onsite Tournaments: All attendees must wear a nametag while onsite at any league event.

Online Tournaments: All attendees must have an NCFCA account to participate in the tournament and will be identified on screen by name.

## **“More than Two” Rule**

Onsite Tournaments: NCFCA parents and chaperones should not enter a competition room where there is only one student present. In the same manner, a student should not enter a competition room where there is only one non-family adult present.

Online Tournaments: Competitors should keep microphones muted and cameras off until there are more than two attendees present in a competition room.

## **Online Safety**

*Disclaimer:* While NCFCA has built an electronic platform for competition with safety as a primary value, parents are responsible for monitoring and ensuring their student’s online safety.

### **Registration Required**

NCFCA’s tournament platform will require that all attendees have an NCFCA account and are registered for each tournament they plan to attend. Additionally, all Community Judges will be required to complete a “referred by” section during the tournament registration process.

### **In-Room Audiovisual**

All tournament rooms on the platform will have a publicly displayed list of attendees in order to provide transparency and accountability. Camera, microphone, and chat functionality are limited by role (competitor, judge, observer). While observing a competition room will be possible, observers will not have access to microphone, camera, or the chat function.

### **Tournament Administration**

Tournament administrators will have the authority to immediately remove and block any attendee for violation of NCFCA’s Code of Conduct or other behavior deemed detrimental to the tournament community as a whole.

## **Open Doors**

Onsite Tournaments: Competition room doors are to remain open unless there is a speaker speaking or there is a debate round in progress.

## **Personal Responsibility**

Onsite Tournaments: If an unsafe condition exists, immediate action should be taken to remove the student(s) from harm and to notify tournament administration by contacting the nearest Communications staff member.

Online Tournaments: If an unsafe condition exists, the participant should immediately exit the room or tournament platform and notify tournament administration by calling the Emergency Safety Contact listed for that event.

## **Tournament Boundaries**

Onsite Tournaments: NCFCA participants must remain in areas of the facility designated for NCFCA use.

## SICK POLICY

*Updated November 17, 2020*

- Attendees at onsite tournaments should be free from symptoms of illness. Any person exhibiting symptoms including but not limited to cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever (100.4+), chills, muscle pain, sore throat, vomiting, or diarrhea will be required to drop from the tournament and exit the facility.
- All attendees must have been fever free without the aid of medication for 48 hours.
- Any participant who has had recent close contact (within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes or more) with someone diagnosed with or exhibiting signs of COVID-19, influenza, or other infectious disease, or has been instructed by a health care provider to quarantine may not attend.
- *Love your neighbor as yourself. (Mark 20:31)* Beyond the specific policy and situations listed here, please be considerate and thoughtful of others when making decisions about attending an onsite tournament.

## SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

NCFCA believes all of our communication reflects who we are and what we think. Therefore, our online conduct should reflect the same standards of honesty, respect, and consideration that we use during face-to-face interaction. We encourage online conduct that honors the Lord and maintains a clear Christian witness. NCFCA students, leadership, parents, and coaches should avoid posting or sending material that is obscene, defamatory, profane, libelous, threatening, harassing, abusive, or hateful to any other person or entity. This type of communication is directly contrary to our mission.

Every individual certainly has the right to express themselves, but Christians should remember that the method and content of their expression also reflects on the body of Christ. Further, if an Affiliate's actions or statements, whether in person or otherwise, are harmful or create a threatening environment to NCFCA, our Affiliates, partners, etc., then that Affiliate is subject to disciplinary action up to and including revocation of their Affiliate in good standing status.

## AUTHORITY

### **District, Regional, and National Tournaments**

The Regional Director or Tournament Director is responsible to ensure that all NCFCA tournaments are run in accordance with NCFCA rules, guidelines, policies, procedures, and Mission Statement, under the guidance of the Director of Forensics. The Regional Director or Tournament Director shall resolve problems that threaten either the integrity or operation of the tournament in order to maintain a safe, educational environment for tournament participants.

### **Final Authority**

The NCFCA Executive Director has final authority over all NCFCA tournaments.

## JUDGING

### **Judge Philosophy**

NCFCA values a diverse judge pool which includes experienced judges (both those with NCFCA experience and those from other leagues), lay judges, affiliated judges (e.g., parents and coaches), community judges, and judges with worldviews which are both similar to and different from those of NCFCA competitors in order to offer competitors varied feedback and to encourage them to be universal in their impact.

### **Judge Eligibility**

#### **Age**

A judge must be at least 18 years old, must not be currently enrolled in high school, and must not have been eligible to compete in any NCFCA event during the current season.

#### **Relationship**

Judges must be unrelated to the competitors they are assigned to judge.

#### **Re-Judging**

A judge should not judge a specific speaker more than one time in the same prepared speech or on the same side of a debate round in any given tournament. The same judge may judge a speaker in a different event or more than one time in limited preparation speeches and/or on the opposite side of debate.

#### **Judge Decisions**

All judge decisions are final as they apply to assessment of the round; however, adjudication determinations by the National Adjudication Team supersede judge assessments. All adjudication decisions are final.



# 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.

## MOOT COURT COMPETITION

### Rules

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

### 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.

## TOURNAMENT RESULTS

- Tabulation data is confidential except for tournament results that are publicly announced.
- Tournament results announced at the tournament will be posted to the NCFCA website following the tournament.

## QUALIFICATION

NCFCA offers a unique system of qualification to Regional Championships and the National Championship.

- Invitations to Regional Championships are awarded to any debate or speech competitor who advances to elimination rounds or is recognized at an Awards Ceremony at a Regional or District Qualifier, or a National Open.
- Invitations to the National Championship are awarded through, National Opens, Regional Championships, and the National At-Large System.

The complete Qualification System can be found in the [Resource Library](#) on the NCFCA website.

## How will I receive league updates and important information?

NCFCA has several 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](http://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 Shop.

### Coming soon SMS text notifications

NCFCA may choose to use phone numbers on file to contact Affiliates for transactional purposes via text notification.

## Whom should I contact if I need assistance?

Account Information (Affiliation, Login/Emails, Benefits)	<a href="mailto:Office@NCFCA.org">Office@NCFCA.org</a>
Club Development/Educational Resources	<a href="mailto:AmyJoyTofte@NCFCA.org">AmyJoyTofte@NCFCA.org</a>
Debate Questions or Suggestions	<a href="mailto:DebateCommittee@NCFCA.org">DebateCommittee@NCFCA.org</a>
Executive Director	<a href="mailto:KimCromer@NCFCA.org">KimCromer@NCFCA.org</a>
Moot Court Questions or Suggestions	<a href="mailto:MootCourt@NCFCA.org">MootCourt@NCFCA.org</a>
Safety Concerns	<a href="mailto:Safety@NCFCA.org">Safety@NCFCA.org</a>
Speech Questions or Suggestions	<a href="mailto:SpeechCommittee@NCFCA.org">SpeechCommittee@NCFCA.org</a>
Sponsorships	<a href="mailto:NataliaRosa@NCFCA.org">NataliaRosa@NCFCA.org</a>
Tournament Registration	<a href="mailto:Registrar@NCFCA.org">Registrar@NCFCA.org</a>
Tournaments (National tournaments or National Championship)	<a href="mailto:ChrissySweetman@NCFCA.org">ChrissySweetman@NCFCA.org</a>
Tournaments (Regional or District Tournaments, Regional Championship)	Regional Directors: See list below

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