



LEAGUE HANDBOOK

2022

Version History

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WELCOME TO NCFC

We are honored to partner with like-minded individuals, families, schools, and organizations from all over the United States in achieving our mission.

Mission Statement

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

Foundational Beliefs

NCFC 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 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.

Core Values

Godly Wisdom

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight. Proverbs 9:10

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

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. Philippians 4:8



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

Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person. Colossians 4:6

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

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. Colossians 3:23-24

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

Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another. Proverbs 27:17

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.



Standards of Conduct

Personal Character

NCFCA event participants are expected to behave and encourage others to behave in a manner that pleases God and upholds scriptural mandates to model Christ-like behavior. As a Christian organization, NCFCA takes this responsibility to heart and reserves the right to intervene if a participant's behavior clearly violates biblical principles.

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 undertaken for the glory of the Lord.
- Exercise integrity by being truthful and honorable, never lying or stealing.
- Present original work, giving credit where credit is due, and being careful never to plagiarize others' work.
- Accept personal responsibility for obeying all event rules and all applicable policies outlined in the League Handbook.

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 intellectual property 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.



Competitor Ethics Statement

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.

Competition Material Policy

Competition material in both speech and debate should conform to the NCFCA mission and uphold each competitor's witness for Christ. Great care and sensitivity should be given as sources and content for use in competition are considered and presented.

- While we live in a world that is often messy and broken, 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). This does not mean that every source or presentation needs to have an overtly Christian theme, but all dark themes must provide a redemptive element.
- Any speech or debate content which contains potentially intense or sensitive themes or examples must be preceded by this disclaimer: "This speech (or debate content) contains potentially intense or sensitive material."
- Any speech or debate content which advocates a position counter to the Foundational Beliefs of the league will not be allowed in competition.
- Vulgarity is never acceptable. Vulgarity includes explicit or implied language or gestures which are inappropriate, obscene, or profane.

Social Media Policy

We believe 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.

Individuals certainly have 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 status as an Affiliate in good standing.



Tournament Conduct

During an NCFCA event, students 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.



Affiliation

Options and Pricing

Affiliation fees are non-refundable.

Family Affiliation	\$125/family through August 31 \$150/family after September 1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Access to compete at in-person and online tournaments during the competition season.• Exclusive FREE training opportunities and resources.• Support in finding or starting a local club.• Deep discounts to office supply stores, SAT/ACT prep courses, and HSLDA membership.• Scholarship opportunities and exclusive discounts from partner universities.
School Affiliation	\$225 (1-4 competitors), \$325 (5-9 competitors), \$425 (10-14 competitors), \$525 (15 or more competitors)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Competition access for eligible registered students• Exclusive FREE training opportunities and resources.• Deep discounts to office supply stores, SAT/ACT prep courses• Marketing resources to encourage participation and training resources to prepare students for competition• Educational support designed specifically for administrators, teachers, or coaches with Live Q&A.• Scholarship opportunities and exclusive discounts from partner universities.
Coach Affiliation	\$30/coach/season
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Full access to NCFCA Resource Library• Debate resolution voting• Discounts (Online classes)• Affiliate-exclusive webinars and other resources
Alumni Affiliation	\$30/alumnus/season
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Invitations to alumni-exclusive events• Discounts (Online classes)
Supporter Affiliation	\$30/supporter/season



Good-Standing Status

We resolutely assume the best in all situations regarding our Affiliates, even when corrective action becomes necessary or when penalties must be enforced in competition. Generally, we are able to resolve rule violations and behavioral issues swiftly and graciously and move on without any impact on the good-standing status of our valued participants.

However, in the unlikely event that it becomes necessary, NCFCA maintains the right to revoke an Affiliate's good-standing status. The National Adjudication Team will determine when this action is warranted based on their assessment of any situation reported to them for review. The 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 the 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.

Region Assignment

Family and School Affiliates must be associated to a region and in some cases a district for competition. Regions and districts are geographically and automatically assigned based on the address of each affiliate account. Region reassignment is available for a \$20 surcharge through the NCFCA Shop link on the affiliate dashboard. Please contact the NCFCA office (Office@NCFCA.org) regarding any questions or difficulties. Reassignment must be processed prior to December 31, and the reassignment is valid only for the current competition season.



Affiliate Account Management

To ensure receipt of league communications, smooth registrations, and successful tournament check-in, Affiliates must take care to update and routinely verify the accuracy of all account information and individual profiles.

Affiliating for the Season

- **The primary adult** who will oversee a group or family affiliation should visit NCFCA.org and select the option to **Log In**.
 - For new Affiliates, **the primary adult** (parent or coach) should be the first to set up an account. To do this, select the option to **Create Account** and complete the required steps.
 - Returning Affiliates should see an Affiliate Now button.
- From the account dashboard, click the **Affiliate Now** box in the upper right corner of the account dashboard. The process will require new and returning affiliates to
 - verify their address(es) and then “complete” the page,
 - read and agree with the terms and conditions,
 - select “Add Affiliation to your Cart,” and
 - go the cart on the upper right side of the dashboard and complete the checkout process.

Adding and Updating Account Profiles

Every individual who will participate in a tournament must have an individual profile.

- While logged in to the NCFCA dashboard, the primary adult on the account should select **Update Profile** from the dropdown list showing their first name in the upper right corner.
 - New affiliates will need to select **Add a Profile** for each member of their group or family.
 - Returning Affiliates should use the **Select a Profile** dropdown list to check every individual in the family and verify that the information is accurate for the current season.

Email Addresses

- Every profile must have a unique, verifiable email address. The NCFCA system will send an email containing a verification link which users must respond to prior to initial use.
- To update an email address, choose the **Change Email** option from the blue menu bar under the Add/Update Profiles section.
- If an error message appears regarding an email address, please check that the email account is not already in use for a different family member. Otherwise, contact the NCFCA office at Office@NCFCA.org for help to resolve the issue.



Phone Numbers

- NCFCA tournaments rely heavily on text messaging to communicate announcements and updates to parents and judges. Therefore, we encourage adults and judges to list the most reliable cell phone number in their profile rather than a land-line number.
- Competitors may also receive text messages with tournament updates if they have a number listed in their profile; however, they are not required to have phones or list phone numbers.

Addresses

- Affiliates must update their physical addresses for accurate region assignment and for special mailings which the league may occasionally send out.
- To update an address, choose the **Address** option from the blue menu bar under the Add/Update Profiles section

Passwords

- Passwords are required for individual participants to log in to the tournament platform as needed, so affiliates should ensure that they are all up to date.
- To update a password, choose the **Change Password** option from the blue menu bar under the Add/Update Profiles section

Profile Types

- Adult (for parents, designated adults, alumni, and school representatives)
- Judge (this status is reserved for judges without competitors of their own)
- Student (used for all current and future competitors) Student profiles must include all of the following information:
 - Anticipated graduation
 - Education Model
 - Eligibility Status

Group Management

The group management option allows Affiliates to set communication preferences, designate which profiles are active, and determine which adults in the group have the ability to manage the profiles of other members.

- Active Status indicates a current league participant who wishes to receive regular communication and/or participate in tournament activities such as judging.
- Opt-out status allows participants to opt out of occasional communication from our partner organizations. Selecting opt-out will not affect regular league communication.
- Primary status indicates members have the ability to manage other member profiles.

To update profiles using group management, a primary adult on the account should select Group Management from the dropdown list showing their first name in the upper right corner of the dashboard and use the toggles to make changes.



Receiving League Communications

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

- **Email.** To help ensure delivery of email, add NCFCA.org to approved sender lists and be sure to accurately enter adult and student email addresses in account profiles. Check email regularly to learn about time-sensitive deadlines
- **Text.** To help ensure delivery of texts, please check account profiles for phone number accuracy.
- **www.NCFCA.org.** From the affiliate dashboard users can view and register for competitive opportunities, access resources, modify profiles, and purchase products in the NCFCA shop.



Competition Eligibility

Eligibility Criteria

A competitor eligible for qualifying competition during the 2022 season must meet all of the applicable criteria listed below:

- Be an NCFCA Affiliate
- Read and abide by the NCFCA Standards of Conduct
- Be no younger than 12 years old on January 1, 2022, for participation in Lincoln-Douglas Value Debate, Team Policy Debate, and speech events.
- Be no younger than 15 years old on September 1, 2021, for participation in Moot Court
- Be no older than 18 years old on September 1, 2021
- 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 January 1 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 1st 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 of the competition season?***

No. Eligibility exceptions will not be made for students who are older than 18 on September 1st of the competition season. Students older than this age may not compete in NCFCA.

Regarding Competitor Limitations

- ***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.



Tournament Opportunities

Our competition season runs from January through mid-June each year, and we offer both online and in-person competition opportunities for students to hone their analytical and oratorical skills. Dates, locations, and events offered for each tournament will be posted on the NCFCA website by late fall.

Qualifying Tournaments

Regional or District Qualifying Tournaments

Regional or district qualifying tournaments are multi-day events open to eligible competitors within the region or district and offer six preliminary rounds of Lincoln-Douglas Value and/or Team Policy debate, three preliminary rounds of speech, and elimination rounds for both speech and debate. This tournament type is primarily an in-person event but may be offered as an online option if a facility is not available or due to an unforeseen circumstance (weather, etc.). Students advancing to elimination rounds earn an invitation to the Regional Championship.

Moot Court Qualifying Tournaments

Moot Court tournaments take place exclusively online and are open to eligible competitors from all regions. Each tournament will include six rounds of preliminary competition as well as elimination rounds. Top competitors from the four qualifying tournaments earn invitations to the Moot Court National Championship.

National Qualifying Tournament

National qualifying tournaments are multi-day events open to eligible competitors from multiple specified regions. They offer six preliminary rounds of Lincoln-Douglas Value and Team Policy debate, three preliminary rounds of speech, and elimination rounds for both speech and debate. There will be online and in-person opportunities for this type of tournament. 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.

Championship Tournaments

Participation in championship tournaments is by invitation only. Competitors must qualify through one of our qualifying tournaments or through the National At-Large System.

Qualification System Overview

- Invitations to Regional Championships are awarded to any Lincoln-Douglas Value or Team Policy debate competitor or speech competitor who advances to elimination rounds or is recognized at an Awards Ceremony at a Regional or District Qualifier, or a National Qualifying Tournament.



- Invitations to the National Championship are awarded through National Qualifying Tournaments, Regional Championships, and the National At-Large System.
- Invitations to the Moot Court National Championship are awarded through the Moot Court Qualifying tournaments and the National At-Large System.
- Complete details of the Qualification System will be available in the Resource Library on the NCFCA website in the document entitled 2022 Qualification and Tabulation.

Regional Championships

Regional Championship tournaments are multi-day events open to competitors within a region who have earned an invitation through the Qualification System. Top competitors in each event earn an invitation to the National Championship. These tournaments generally take place in late April or early May.

Moot Court National Championship

The Moot Court National Championship is open to competitors who have earned an invitation through the Qualification System. The Moot Court National Championship will take place online May 24-25, 2022.

National Championship

The National Championship is open to competitors who have received invitations through the Qualification System. This year, the National Championship will be hosted at the University of Northwestern St. Paul during the week of June 12.

Non-Qualifying Competition Opportunities

Winter Warmups and Other Practice Events

The league will host at least two abbreviated pre-season, online practice opportunities for competitors and parents to use the online tournament platform and practice their speech and debate skills. Many local clubs may also host practice tournaments in preparation for the sanctioned competition season.

Junior Tournaments

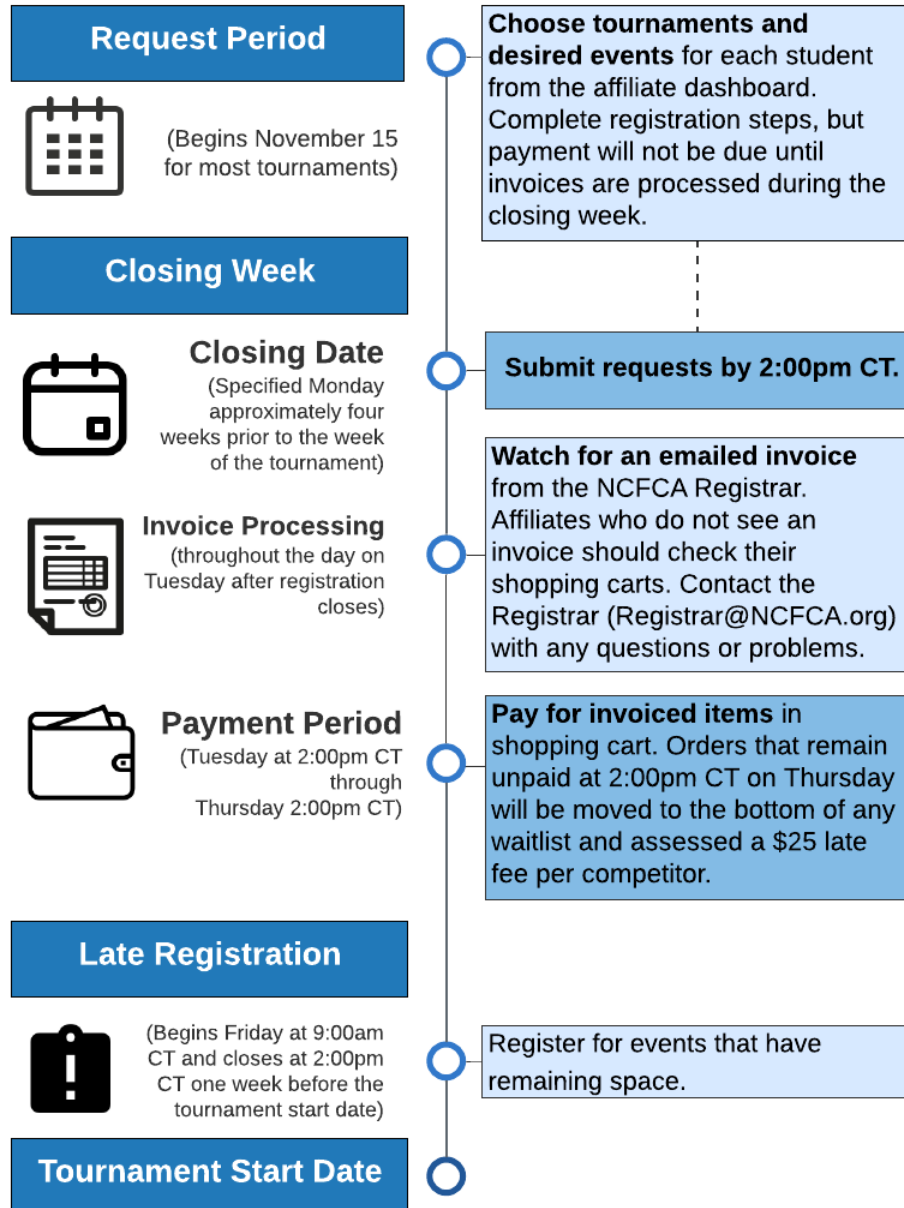
Many in-person qualifying tournaments will also host a Junior Tournament. As non-qualifying events, Junior Tournaments are less rigid in their eligibility criteria but are generally recommended for students 7-11 years old. Junior tournaments feature one or two rounds of practice-style speech competition and generally take place during the debate elimination round(s) of the associated qualifying tournament. Details for Junior Tournaments will be visible on your NCFCA dashboard.



Tournament Registration

As tournament dates and locations are finalized, Affiliates will see their specific tournament opportunities on their NCFCA dashboards. Detailed information and online registration details for each tournament will be available by clicking on the tournament name.

Registration Process





Registration Fees

Competitors may register for any tournaments for which they are eligible. Registration fees are non-refundable once paid, so affiliates should review the schedule and details for each tournament carefully before completing payment. The fee schedule below applies to both in-person and online tournaments.

Tournament Type	Student Entry Fee	Debate Event Fee	Speech Event Fee
Regional and District Qualifiers	\$15	\$35	\$15
National Qualifying Tournaments	\$15	\$40	\$20
Regional Championship	\$25	\$40	\$20
National Championship	\$25	\$50	\$25
Winter Warmup Practice Events	\$10	\$15	\$5
Junior Tournaments	\$5	n/a	\$5

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 per competitor (\$5 late fee per competitor for Junior Tournaments) and will open online at 9:00am CT on the designated Friday for events with remaining space. Late registration will remain open until 2:00pm CT one week prior to the first day of competition. During late registration, Affiliates will be able to choose 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 be posted on the tournament information page after invoices are processed, and it will include all completed (paid) orders. Any inaccuracies should be reported to the Registrar at Registrar@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. In most cases, the waitlisted students can be accommodated before the tournament begins. The student and parent will be notified directly when space becomes available, and the event has been placed in their cart. Payment for this event is due within 72 hours or the slot may be offered to the next student on the waitlist. Students who cannot be accommodated for a particular event will be given preferential registration for that event in the next tournament for which they register, 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, and registrations are not transferable between students. If a space is offered and declined, the competitor's preferred status will be forfeited.

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

Competitors 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, except Duo or any style of debate, are available for all on the tournament registration page by choosing the circle arrows. If space is 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. Exchange requests for Duo or any style of debate should be addressed to the Registrar (Registrar@NCFCA.org).

Dropping an Event

- **Until an event has been invoiced** (completing the registration process), it can be removed (without financial obligation and without affecting other events) by un-toggling it under Step 2 on the dashboard.
- **While events are in the shopping cart**, they can be deleted using the remove button before payment.
- **After registration is completed**, the events can be dropped using the trash can icons under Step 2.
- **Within 72 hours of the start of the tournament**, dropping an event causes a significant disruption to tournament planning and should be avoided if at all possible. However, it is critical that Tournament Administration be informed in advance if a student will not be competing in a registered event. Dropping an event within 72 hours of the start of the



tournament requires an emailed explanation from the parent or coach to the Tournament Director.

Refunds

Refunds for paid orders will only be issued for extenuating circumstances such as an illness or death in the family. Affiliates who believe their circumstances meet these criteria 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. The scholarship request link is available as a button at the top of the shopping cart.

- Scholarships must be requested prior to payment.
- Refunds will not be issued once an order is paid.

Tournament 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. Please pay careful attention to published deadlines as exceptions are not possible, and refunds will not be issued for paid meals.



Tournament Participation Requirements

Competitors

Competitors are expected to be available for competition during the entire duration of the tournament timeframe and must be able to participate in registered event rounds even when rounds must be delayed.

Parent or Designated Adult

Each competitor must have at least one parent or legal guardian onsite and available to actively participate for the duration of each online or in-person NCFCA tournament for which they are registered.

The parent or legal guardian will be expected to serve throughout the tournament as a judge or in a tournament staff role. If a parent or legal guardian is unable to participate, the parent or guardian may appoint another adult as a 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 the 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 the Judge Training Video once each season for both speech and 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

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

Exceptions

Students competing ONLY in a team-based event (Team Policy Debate, Moot Court, or Duo Interpretation) may have a shared designated adult. The student whose parent is not attending should request a Chaperone Exception during the registration process.

Other 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.

Devices and Browsers

Supported Devices

Supported Devices	Devices with Limited Capability (Should not be used)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Windows laptop or desktop computers Mac laptop or desktop computers Chromebooks Microsoft Surface Pros iPads (functionality may be limited) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Android phones iPhones Tablets iPods

Supported Browsers

Supported Browsers	Browsers with Limited Capacity (Should not be used)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Google Chrome (version 78 and later) for macOS, Windows, and Ubuntu LTS 16.04 and later Chromium-based Edge (version 79 and later) for Windows Mozilla Firefox (version 60 and later) for macOS and Windows Microsoft Surface Pros 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any version of Internet Explorer Any version of Safari Chrome for iOS

Device Requirements for Parents, Judges, and Staff

For both in-person and online tournaments, parent-judges must have an independent, supported device with a working camera, microphone, and speaker available throughout the entire tournament. Parents serving in tournament staff roles should consult the 2022 Tournament Staff Roles document in the Resource Library to learn about device requirements for each position.

Device Requirements for Competitors

- **At in-person tournaments**, competitors are not required to have a device of any type except for a timepiece with the capability to meet the timing requirements of their registered events.



- **For online tournaments**, competitors will need an independent, supported device with a working camera, microphone, and speaker available throughout the entire tournament. They will also need a timepiece with the capability to meet the timing requirements of their registered events.

Technology Help and Troubleshooting

Detailed information regarding how to prepare for using the NCFCA tournament platform and electronic balloting system will be available in the Resource Library in the document entitled 2022 Tournament Prep Guide.

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.

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.

Tournament Conduct

Tournament participants at must comply with our [Standards of Conduct](#).

Safety

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

Registration Requirement

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.



Identification

In-Person 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 their full name. 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.

“More than Two” Rule

In-Person 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.

Open Doors

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

Personal Responsibility

In-Person 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 posted for that event.

Adult Supervision

In-Person Tournaments: Children under 12 years old must be directly supervised by their parent, guardian, or a parent-designated adult when they are not participating in a tournament-sponsored Junior event.

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

Tournament Boundaries

In-Person Tournaments: NCFCA participants must remain in areas of the facility designated for NCFCA use.



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.

Tournament Administration

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

Background Checks and Eligible Participants

NCFCA requires background checks on all Board Members, National staff, Regional and District Directors, Regional Treasurers, Logistics Coordinators, and Judge Coordinators. NCFCA has a zero-tolerance policy for sexual abuse. Persons who have admitted to, had finding of, or been convicted of sexual abuse are not eligible for participation in any role.

Illness Policy

Attendees at in-person tournaments must

- Affirm compliance with the published Illness Policy in the 2022 League Handbook and with the specific Restrictions and Illness Policy for the individual tournament, posted under Step 7 of the tournament information and registration dashboard.
- Submit a copy of the 2022 NCFCA Release Waiver that acknowledges the risk of contracting illness at an in-person tournament and certifies compliance with our sick policy
- Be free from symptoms of illness. Any person exhibiting symptoms including but not limited to cough, fever (100.4+), chills, muscle pain, sore throat, vomiting, or diarrhea may not attend the tournament.
- Have been fever free without the aid of medication for 48 hours.
- Have documentation of a negative COVID lab test (not home test) taken within 48 hours of the start of the tournament **IF** they have had recent close contact with someone diagnosed with or exhibiting signs of COVID-19 and are asymptomatic.
- Follow current recommendations from the CDC regarding isolation and mask wearing **IF** they have recently tested positive for COVID-19 and have improving symptoms.
- Should not shake hands with judges or other participants. (Judges will be informed of the policy for this season.)
- Love their neighbors as themselves. (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. If you have any questions, please contact your Regional Director.



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.

Dress Code Policy

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

NCFCA Tournament Dress Code Standards	
Required Tournament Attire for Male Competitors	Option 1: Suit with dress shirt, tie, and dress shoes
	Option 2: Sport coat with dress shirt, tie, dress slacks, and dress shoes
Required Tournament Attire for Female Competitors	Option 1: Pant or skirt suit (hemline to middle of knee) with dress blouse (or top) and dress shoes
	Option 2: Suit-type jacket with dress pants or skirt (hemline to middle off knee), dress blouse (or top), and dress shoes
	Option 3: Dress (hemline to middle of knee). Sleeveless dresses require a suit-type jacket.
Unacceptable Attire for All Competitors	Short shorts/skirts/dresses Shirts that are low-cut, fail to cover the midriff, or have spaghetti straps Inappropriate content, see-through fabric, or tight-fitting clothing
Online Tournaments: Adaptations are acceptable for online tournaments, provided that all attire visible on camera is compliant with the standards above.	



A student who is out of dress code will not be 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.

Publication of Tournament Results

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

Adjudication during Tournaments

While we anticipate that all participants will follow the prescribed rules and policies, we also recognize that 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 after a Tournament

Appeals may be brought to NCFCA for either a suspected tabulation error or a suspected ethics issue that comes to light post-tournament. However, 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.

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 our online platform will be communicated to all registered participants as soon as possible.

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, text messages, 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 highest 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.



Tournament Authority Structure

Regional, District, and Tournament Directors

Regional, District, or Tournament Directors are responsible to ensure that each NCFCA tournament is run in accordance with NCFCA rules, guidelines, policies, procedures, and our Mission Statement. They work to resolve problems that threaten either the integrity or operation of the tournament in order to maintain a safe, educational environment for tournament participants. They operate under the guidance and oversight of the Director of Forensics.

Director of Forensics

The Director of Forensics provides background oversight and serves as a liaison to the National Adjudication Team for all NCFCA tournaments to ensure that they are run consistently throughout the league in accordance with NCFCA rules, guidelines, policies, procedures, and our Mission Statement.

Executive Director

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



Judging Philosophy and Policy

Philosophy

In order to offer competitors varied feedback and encourage them to be universal in their impact, NCFCA values a diverse judge pool. In addition to our parent judges, we actively recruit people from all walks of life who may or may not have judging experience. We intentionally extend judging invitations to judges with worldviews which are both similar to and different from those of NCFCA competitors.

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. Please direct any questions regarding a judge's eligibility based on age, graduation, or competition eligibility status to the National Judge Coordinator at NationalJudgeCoordinator@NCFCA.org.

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.

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.



Debate Competition Policy

Rules

Debate Rules are available in the Resource Library on the NCFCA website within the document entitled 2022 Debate Guide.

Limitations

- Debaters may compete in either Lincoln-Douglas Value or Team Policy during any given tournament but not both.
- Debaters may not change partners in Team Policy or Moot Court during a tournament.
- 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.
- Debaters may compete and qualify with different partners at separate tournaments during the competitive season in both Team Policy and Moot Court, but they must choose only one of their qualified partners in each event to compete with at the next level of tournament (either the Regional Championship or the National Championship).

Speech Competition Policy

Rules

Speech Rules are available in the Resource Library on the NCFCA website within the document entitled 2022 Speech Guide.

Limitations

- Competitors may participate in a maximum of five speech events at any given tournament with the exception of the Regional Championship where competitors may compete in any event for which they have qualified.
- Competitors may only register once in each event for any given tournament.
- Duo Interpretation competitors may not change partners during a tournament.
- 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).
- Competitors 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 the piece will be performed at the higher level of competition.

- During the Regional Championship or the National Championship, competitors must perform the same piece that they 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 a speech or take a cut from a different section of a literary selection while preparing for advanced competition with a speech that has already qualified.



Contact Information

For Specific Help and Questions

For help with . . .	Please contact. . .
Account Information (Affiliation, login, emails, benefits)	Office@NCFCA.org (682) 802-2727
Club Development	Office@NCFCA.org
Debate Questions or Suggestions	DebateCommittee@NCFCA.org
Educational Resources	AmyJoyTofte@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	KristineAldrich@NCFCA.org
Tournaments – Regional or District	Regional Directors: See list below.
Website/Technology	Office@NCFCA.org (682) 802-2727

Director of Forensics

In addition to contacting their Regional Director, Affiliates are welcome to contact our Director of Forensics, Kristine Aldrich, with competition related questions. She can be reached at KristineAldrich@NCFCA.org or through the NCFCA Office at (682) 802-2727.

Executive Director Contact

Affiliates are always welcome to contact our Executive Director, Kim Cromer, with questions or concerns about the league. She can be reached at KimCromer@NCFCA.org or through the NCFCA Office at (682) 802-2727.



Regional and District Directors

Region	Geographical Area	Director	Email
Region 1	Hawaii	Maile Higashi	MaileHigashi@NCFCA.org
Region 2	Western US	Kristine Aldrich	KristineAldrich@NCFCA.org
District 1	Western Washington and Alaska	Shannon Phipps	ShannonPhipps@NCFCA.org
District 2	Eastern Washington, Idaho, Oregon, California, Nevada	Jen Frater	JenFrater@NCFCA.org
District 3	Arizona, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming	Starr van Dalen	StarrvanDalen@NCFCA.org
Region 5	Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota	Heather Sampson	HeatherSampson@NCFCA.org
Region 6	Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin	Lisa Krug	LisaKrug@NCFCA.org
Region 7	Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee	Mead Vest	MeadVest@NCFCA.org
Region 8	Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina	Rachelle Light	RachelleLight@NCFCA.org
Region 9	Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia	Brenda Bass	BrendaBass@NCFCA.org
Region 10	Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont	Krista Lopez	KristaLopez@NCFCA.org
Region 11	Oklahoma and Texas Zip Codes: 75xxx, 76xxx, 79xxx, 88xxx	Cyndi Wilson	CyndiWilson@NCFCA.org
Region 12	Texas Zip Codes: 73xxx, 759xx, 765xx, 766xx, 768xx, 769xx, 77xxx, 78xxx	Debra Oliver	DebraOliver@NCFCA.org