

BYLAWS OF THE NORTHWEST FORENSICS CONFERENCE

(Revised September 2014)

The September 2014 produced the following changes:

- **Aspiration Passed: That the NFC president in conjunction with the tournament host appoint equity advocates to serve at each Designated tournament. The Equity advocates will be announced in the tournament invitation. Passed.**

- **Aspiration Passed:**

All tournaments aspire to follow a standardized pattern of Individual Events:
Pattern A: extemp, persuasion, ADS, Prose, POI, DI
Pattern B: Impromptu, Inform, CA, Poetry, Duo

- **Committees Formed for Equity Work in the NFC Region:**
- **Data Collection and Management**
- -- Joe Gantt, Brent Northup, Dan Schabot, Denise Vaughan
- -- Coordination/dissemination of existing data and promotion of additional research projects
-
- **Equity Officers**
- -- Liz Kinnaman
- -- Research legal implications/guidelines and make recommendations for implementation
-
- **Judge Training**
- --Malynda Bjerragaard, Beth Hughes
- --Training resources for judges (video and print) aimed at improving student-judge interactions
-
- **Statement of Ethics Revision**
- --Trond Jacobsen, Kevin Kuswa, Brent Northup, Steve Woods
- --Revision and updating of the Statement of Ethics and recommendations for revisions of the bylaws
-
- **Student Group**
- --Korry Harvey, Chris Pierini, Kristen Stevens
- --Coordination and guidance to student representatives; promotion of student participation
-
- **Tool Kit/Guidelines**
- --David Airne, Kyle Cheesewright, Korry Harvey
- --Creation of resources for various circumstances and roles (both reactionary and preventive; for students, judges, coaches, tournament directors, etc.)

I. DEFINITIONS

A. Fall Coaches' Meeting

The Northwest Forensics Conference sponsors an annual association meeting to discuss NFC issues pertaining to schedules, rules, tournaments, and similar issues as discussed in this document.

B. Northwest Forensics Conference

The NFC is the association of all Northwest colleges and universities. A school is considered a member of the conference if it lies within the Northwest region and either competes at any Northwest designated tournament or sends a representative to the fall coaches' meeting.

C. Northwest Forensics Conference Championship

The officers of the conference maintain a cumulative sweepstakes record of member school participation in NFC designated tournaments. The Northwest Forensics Conference is divided into two separate but equal "leagues" with championships awarded in both. The two leagues are the "Northwest Forensics Conference Sweepstakes League" and the "Northwest Forensics Conference Overall Sweepstakes League." (Details later in the bylaws.)

D. Northwest Region – and beyond.

The Northwest region is defined as the states of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Montana and Washington. Any college or university within these five states is considered, for purposes of this document, a Northwest institution.

Schools in neighboring states may apply for membership in the NFC. Membership will be granted at the fall meeting by majority vote, effective immediately after the vote.

E. Designated Tournament

Any Northwest school may apply to the NFC committee to host a designated tournament. Designated tournaments are selected by the executive committee. A designated tournament must abide by the requirements described in this document.

II. ORGANIZATION

A. NFC Membership

Any Northwest school competing at any designated tournament or attending the fall coaches' meeting will be considered a member of the Northwest Forensics Conference and will be eligible for awards and organizational programs.

B. Officers

The Northwest Forensics Conference will be directed by a President and a six-person steering committee. The President will serve a two-year term and steering committee members will serve one-year terms. The steering committee will consist of: one representative from policy debate; one representative from parliamentary debate; one representative for NIET/individual events; one representative from a Northwest Community College; one from the IPDA community; and one at-large representative.

The policy debate representative will be either the Northwest CEDA representative or the Northwest NDT representative, unless both decline to serve. The parliamentary debate representative will be the Northwest NPDA representative, unless he/she declines to serve. The NIET/IE representative will be the District 2 NIET chair unless he/she declines to serve or holds another NFC office.

In addition, the NFC president will appoint an Executive Secretary who shall be a non-voting member of the committee charged with the task of collecting and disseminating regional tournament results, NFC newsletter, and other tasks as deemed appropriate by the steering committee. The president will serve as NFC treasurer. The Executive Secretary shall be paid a stipend from the membership fees collected by the Conference.

C. Duties

The President will be responsible for (1) conducting the meetings for the membership or steering committee, (2) presenting regional awards at the last designated tournament, and (3) organizing and conducting the fall coaches' meeting. The steering committee and executive secretary will be responsible for (1) compiling the sweepstakes results and mailing out results of the sweepstakes competitions after each designated tournament, (2) collecting the membership fees and purchasing the sweepstakes trophies, (3) completing any other public relations activities directed by the President or steering committee, (4) make any necessary rules or procedural interpretation, (5) designate tournaments, and (6) oversee the production and dissemination of the tournament calendar and directory of member schools.

D. Elections

The president shall appoint a nominating committee each year charged with the task of nominating the next year's officers and conducting the election. Election to office requires a majority of NFC membership and, therefore, run-off elections may be needed. The first ballot should be sent to NFC membership by March 30 and the election results should be sent to the membership by May 15.

III. PHILOSOPHY AND GOALS

The Northwest Forensics Conference is designed to accomplish a number of objectives shared by the forensics programs in this region. The Northwest Forensics Conference should:

A. Seek to achieve pedagogical goals.

Many forensics educators would like to see innovations such as: more emphasis on oral critiques in debate and individual events rounds; opportunities for innovative forensics events; open seminars to discuss important issues in the activity; a broader variety of important issues in the activity; and a broader variety of judges. The Northwest Designated Tournaments are an attempt to try these as well as other ideas not currently emphasized through many existing tournaments. There are some things, however, that Northwest Designated Tournaments are **NOT** designed to do. They should:

1. **NOT** preclude the existence of other college tournaments in the Northwest.

Hosting a tournament frequently provides a chance for good public relations on campus, a chance to give students the opportunity to compete in tournaments that might otherwise be denied, as well as giving students from other universities the opportunity for a greater number of quality competitive experiences.

2. **NOT** seek to impose a uniform philosophy for all programs in the Northwest.

Not all programs have nor should have the same goals or philosophy. The Northwest benefits from the diversity of experience provided by its programs. While there are many different approaches for accomplishing the objective of education, the NFC is intended to provide a "common ground" for many of the diverse philosophies and programs in our region.

B. Enhance public and professional support for Northwest forensics programs.

Support for forensics is frequently a product of success and visibility. The Northwest Forensics Conference and Championship should provide a tangible measure of competitive success for programs. Dividing the sweepstakes awards into various categories insures that a number of schools will receive awards that could be used to justify continued and increased institutional support. At the same time, the Northwest Forensics Conference recognizes the importance of forensics educators and seeds to provide both professional support and outlets for its members.

C. Create an alternative to national competition while enhancing chances for success of students oriented toward the goal of success at the national level.

A Northwest regional championship ought to provide a realistic and meaningful goal for all forensics programs in our region. Many programs lack the financial resources or interest in attending the national championships in debate and individual events. No program has the resources necessary to send every qualified or interested student to these national tournaments. A Northwest regional championship series of tournaments would provide support for students who do not aspire to national competition by providing a realistic competitive goal. The series should also help qualify more students for “at large” berths to the American Forensics Association National Individual Events Tournament; accentuate the traditional strength of Northwest Debate teams by providing more tournament rounds that are translated into sweepstakes points; and provide competition for community college students who strive for success at either Phi Rho Pi or the Northwest Community College Championship.

D. Provide for large and diverse tournaments.

While we recognize and appreciate the intimate, friendly atmosphere of our tournaments that gives our students a chance to improve their skills absent the constraints of becoming “lost in the crowd,” we also understand the need for larger tournaments in the Northwest. Larger forensics tournaments provide for greater diversity in competition and evaluation; insure the presence of a larger number of appropriate role models for inexperienced students; and heighten the intellectual and personal challenge of competition in the tournament setting.

E. Form appropriate standing and ad hoc committees to further the goals of the NFC.

Ad Hoc committees are temporary committees which serve until the next fall meeting; Standing committees, with members appointed by the president, are ongoing committees whose charges are reviewed at each fall meeting. Standing committee members serve a term that expires at each fall meeting where and new appointments may be made, if necessary.

Current NFC committees, with chair and members as of the most recent fall coaches meeting:

~~**Ad hoc committee on Awards formed September 9, 2006.**~~

~~Awards committee will be chaired by Mack Sermon. No other current members. Report at Pacific or next fall. Investigate all types of awards including sweepstakes, all conference, divisions I, II and III, commemorative awards, novice awards, special “open division only” awards, Orv Iverson awards, the specific “hardware” of awards relative to program needs and tournament costs. The committee will initiate and direct appropriate discussions of these and other related issues at Mt. Hood 2007 fall meeting.~~

~~**Ad hoc committee on Tournament Structure, formed September 9, 2006.**~~

~~Ad hoc committee on “tournament structure” to study possible reform to tournament structure, investigating two-day versus three-day, special workshops, wellness, adding novice policy, add worlds style debate, add other debate formats. Develop topics for Friday discussion at Mt. Hood meeting in Fall 2007. Chair: Derek Buescher Members: Robert Trapp, Willamette; Paul Hood, U of Oregon; Steve Johnson, Alaska.~~

~~**Additional Charge from Sept. 8, 2007: to supervise the addition of Worlds and Novice Policy to NFC Designated tournaments beginning Fall 2008.**~~

~~**Standing committee on NFC Website/ list serve, formed September 9, 2006.**~~

~~Chair and only member: Christi Siver, University of Washington. The committee creates and maintains an NFC Web site and listserv to facilitate the sharing of useful information with forensics programs. The committee will report on the Web site at each fall meeting.~~

Standing committee on Membership and Support, formed September 9, 2006.

Chair: Jackson Miller, Linfield. Members: Steve Hunt, Shannon Valdivia, Lucas Roebuck.

The standing Membership and Support committee is charged with supporting both existing and new NFC programs and directors. The specifics include, but are not limited to, the following. The committee will develop a packet of information from which program directors may turn for information on working within their institutions to negotiate budgets, public relations, etc. The committee will maintain an active program of writing letters of programmatic and director support to chairs, deans, presidents, and boards and will avail itself to the needs of NFC members to solicit such support in times of crises and review. The committee will assist directors in developing guidelines for evaluation suitable to the particulars of their job description and institutional demands. The committee will submit an annual report, in writing, to the NFC president no later than August 20th of each year and reiterate the details of this report in written and verbal form at the annual NFC coaches meeting.

Standing committee for recruitment and outreach, formed September 9, 2006

Chair: Shannon Valdivia. Members: Kelly Brennan, Clackamas; M.L. Eden, U of W; Tabitha Miller, Albertson; Shelby Jo Long, Rocky.

Charges: to help foster two-year students to transfer to four-year schools; to support new programs; help high schools discover NFC schools and their programs, possibly using our new Web site; provide resources to high schools and high school students for investigating speech and debate in the Northwest. The committee will submit an annual report, in writing, to the NFC president no later than August 20th of each year and reiterate the details of this report in written and verbal form at the annual NFC coaches meeting.

Standing committee on awards, formed September 8, 2007

Chair: Melissa Franke; Members Steve Hunt, Lewis & Clark; Derek Buescher, UPS; Brent Northup, Carroll.

Charges: The Awards committee will distribute Sweepstakes and other special awards based on applications from NFC schools. The committee will determine deadline for applications. The bylaws defines the specific awards handled by this committee. The new sweepstakes awards system begins in Fall 2008.

IV. DESIGNATED TOURNAMENTS

A. WHICH TOURNAMENTS MAY BE DESIGNATED

Any Northwest tournament may apply to be a designated tournament by the Northwest Forensics Conference and have its sweepstakes points counted toward the regional sweepstakes provided that it follows the guidelines discussed in this document.

B. GENERAL DESIGNATION REQUIREMENTS

1. NFC SUBMISSION DEADLINE

The host must submit the application for designation to the NFC steering committee (or its designated subcommittee) no later than January 31 in the forensics year preceding the one in which that tournament will occur.

2. PROSPECTUS INFORMATION REQUIRED

The prospectus will indicate the dates and schedule of the tournament, anticipated entry fees, and proposed events, divisions, and patterns.

3. TOURNAMENT DATES

the host must set the date for fall designated tournaments so that it occurs prior to

Thanksgiving. Hosts for spring designated tournaments must set the date so that it occurs prior to the second weekend in March.

4. ***DIVERSE TAB ROOM***

The host agrees to include outside members in the tab room so that the host school may participate in the tournament and be eligible for sweepstakes recognition.

5. ***SECURING JUDGES***

The host agrees to make a reasonable effort to secure guest judges from the community to listen to rounds. These guest judges might include legal practitioners from the community. Guest judges may or may not be reimbursed and should be instructed in the contest rules. Undergraduate student judges are not preferred, but may be used at the discretion of the tournament director. The host must also provide adequate judges to cover their school's entry in addition to guest judges to operate the tournament.

6. ***TAB IS CLOSED TO STUDENTS***

The host agrees not to allow students competing for the host school to have access to tab room information, as is true for any students competing in the tournament.

7. ***SUBMISSION OF RESULTS***

The host agrees to submit tournament results on the Intercollegiate Speech Tournament Results (ISTR) form, at the conclusion of the tournament, to the NFC Executive Secretary, who will forward them to the NFC President and ISTR Editor. The NFC will not count sweepstakes points until the Executive Secretary has received these complete tournament results.

8. ***NFC FEES***

The host agrees to pay a fee of \$4.50 for each contestant entered into the tournament. The host may charge this amount besides regular tournament fees or absorb the cost through existing tournament revenues. The fees will be used to purchase suitable sweepstakes awards, pay secretarial record-keeping expenses and handle incidental organizational expenses as needed.

C. DESIGNATION DECISION

1. The decisions to designate a tournament will be made by the steering committee in accordance with this section (Section 4) of the NFC constitution.
2. Designated tournaments and their prospecti will be announced at the final NFC tournament of the prior season.
3. If four designated tournaments are held: Two designated tournaments will be held in the fall term, prior to Thanksgiving. Two designated tournaments will be held in the spring term, prior to the second weekend in March. If fewer than four are held, they will be divided as evenly as possible between semesters.
4. One tournament in the fall and one tournament in the spring will include CEDA debate in senior, junior and novice division. One additional tournament in the fall and one additional tournament in the spring will include CEDA debate in senior, junior and novice division and an additional type of debate. In selecting tournaments to be designated, preference will be given to tournaments which offer more than one form of debate.
5. One tournament in the fall and one tournament in the spring will include all AFA-NIET events. One additional tournament in the fall and one additional tournament in the spring will include the greatest number of these events in the greatest diversity of the primary genres of individual events: limited preparation, prepared, and interpretation. The steering committee may also consider experimental events in the decision to designate a tournament.
6. If fewer than the number needed applications are received, the steering committee will solicit additional applications.
7. The tournament directors will submit dates of these tournaments to the appropriate calendars (e.g. CEDA, AFA, NPDA, etc.)
8. In the event that fewer than four tournaments apply, there will be only three Designated tournaments, with awards based on the top two of three or three of four tournaments.

D. DEBATE REQUIREMENTS

New debate regulations, passed Sept. 10, 2011

The host agrees to offer each debate format in at least one of the three divisions (novice, junior, open) noting that class standing is irrelevant to divisions, that teams should enter the division of the most advanced student, and a student may be in different divisions for debate, interpretation and public speaking events.”

“A debate division may be collapsed at the discretion of the tournament director if there are six or fewer entries in NPDA, IPDA, LD, CEDA/NDT or 12 or fewer entries in BP.”

“The host agrees to allow pre-round debate instruction in all debate events except where the rules and regulations of national or international organizations prohibit such practices (as is the case with BP).”

“Hosts are not required to provide Internet access, but when it is available participants can use it during debate preparation time. Access to locally stored electronic files is also permitted during preparation time. The tournament will publicize the availability or un-availability of Internet access at the time their tournament is certified as a Designated, no later than May of the preceding academic year.”

END of new regulations

***New aspiration, that pertains to debate, passed Sept.10, 2011
Designated tournaments have, as their first obligation, to offer events valued by NFC members – and by “valued” we mean those types preferred by significant numbers of NFC students and schools.***

END of new aspiration

Designated tournaments will include, at least, CEDA-NDT debate in senior and junior division and parliamentary debate in senior, junior and novice division.

(Presidential note, September 2007: The requirement for open/junior policy has not been officially removed from the bylaws, but Designated tournaments have not been regularly offering open/junior policy recently, for numerous reasons.)

September 2007 amendments:

Designated tournaments will offer a division of British Parliamentary “World” debate with four rounds, including time for a pre-tournament judge briefing.

Designated tournaments will offer a division of Novice Policy debate with at least four rounds.

In selecting tournaments to be designated, preference will be given to tournaments which offer more than one form of debate. In selecting tournaments to be designated, preference will be given to all tournaments which offer more than one form of debate. The tournament will assure that debate adheres to the following guidelines:

1. **ROUNDS AND FORMAT**

~~The host agrees to offer six preliminary rounds using a 9-3-6 format with 10 minutes of prep time in CEDA/NDT and 7-8-8-4-5 in parli.~~

“The host agrees to offer at least 4 preliminary rounds of debate and at least 3 elimination rounds.” Passed unanimously, Sept. 10, 2011.

Formats for the various debate styles are as follows:

NPDA: 7-8-8-8-4-5

BP: 7-7-7-7-7-7-7-7

IPDA: 5-2-6-2-3-5-3

LD: 6-3-7-3-6-6-3 format with 4 minutes of prep time

CEDA/NDT: 9-3-6 format with 10 minutes of prep time

2. **DIVISIONS**

The host agrees to offer each debate format in at least one of the three divisions (novice, junior, senior) noting that class standing is irrelevant to divisions, that teams should enter the division of the most advanced student, and that student may be in different divisions for debate, interpretation and public speaking events. The NFC Aspirations on Divisions, adopted in September 2002, are included at the end of the bylaws. (added Fall 2011)

~~The host agrees to offer debate in the following divisions noting that class standing is irrelevant to divisions, that teams should enter the division of the most advanced student, and that students may be in different divisions for debate, interpretation, and public speaking events:~~

Junior Division: The NFC feels that junior division in policy debate should be reserved for students who have had a small to a significant amount of high school or college experience in policy debate. Students who have been in quarterfinal or higher five or more times in college policy debate or in Tournament of Champion policy qualifying divisions at high school tournaments should enter senior division (parliamentary debate and LD debate do not count in determining whether a student should advance to senior division of policy debate).

Senior Division: The NFC feels that students should be moved to or entered in senior division of policy debate after they have had significant success in college policy debate or Tournament of Champion policy divisions at high school tournaments especially after being in quarterfinals or higher five or more times at those tournaments.

The host agrees to offer six preliminary rounds using times of at least the following: CEDA-NDT, 8-3-5- with 8 minutes of prep. Parli: 7-8-8-8-4-5

3. **COLLAPSING DIVISIONS**

A debate division may be collapsed at the discretion of the tournament director if there are six or fewer entries in NPDA, IPDA, LD, CEDA/NDT or twelve or fewer entries in BP. If a novice division of debate is collapsed, the tournament should try to have teams in that division debate each other at the tournament.

~~A debate division may be collapsed at the discretion of the tournament manager if there are~~

~~six or fewer teams entered in the division. If a novice division of debate is collapsed, the tournament should try to have teams in that division debate each other during the tournament.~~

4. PAIRING DEBATE ROUNDS

Debate rounds should be matched on the basis of the following as much as possible:

- a. An even number of rounds should be power matched (either 2 or 4 rounds in a 6 round tournament).
- b. Side constraints should be honored such that a team will have an equal number of affirmative and negative rounds by the end of the tournament. A bye is counted as either aff. or neg.
- c. High-high or high-low matching may be used at the discretion of the tournament director but should be decided before the beginning of the tournament.
- d. Other issues, such as geographic matching are at the discretion of the tournament director.

5. ADVANCING TEAMS TO ELIMINATION ROUNDS

The tournament will advance to the following first elimination round as follows: Bi-octafinals for 59 or more teams; Octafinals for 29 or more teams; Quarterfinals for 15 or more teams; Semifinals for 9 or more teams; Finals for 5 or more teams. Debate teams will advance to elimination rounds based on the following hierarchy:

- a. Win-loss record
- b. Total speaker points dropping the highest and lowest points
- c. Total speaker points
- d. Quality of competition (win-loss record of opposing teams)

6. PAIRING ELIMINATION ROUNDS

The host agrees to the following rules for matching elimination rounds of debate

- a. Bi-Octafinals are mathematical matches totaling 33.
- b. Octafinals breaks are mathematical matches totaling 17.
- c. Quarterfinals breaks are mathematical matches totaling 9.
- d. Semifinals breaks are mathematical matches totaling 5.
- e. Brackets will be broken if a school would meet itself, with the closest nearly equal match being substituted.

7. PRE-ROUND DEBATE INSTRUCTION. The host agrees to allow pre-round debate instruction in all debate events.

8. CENTRAL DEBATE ANNOUNCEMENT. Parliamentary debate topics will be released at a central location – where competing teams can receive the topic simultaneously. Teams will have 20 minutes to prepare, including time needed to walk to the round.

E. INDIVIDUAL EVENTS REQUIREMENTS

One tournament each semester agrees to offer all American Forensic Association National Individual Events, using AFA rules.

Designated Tournaments explicitly allow the use of Internet during Extemp preparation, but the Designated Tournament is not required to guarantee Internet access on its campus. Passed, Sept. 10, 2011.

The other tournament each semester agrees to offer at least the greatest number of divisions within those events, and the greatest diversity of the primary genres of individual events: limited preparation, prepared, and interpretation. The steering committee may also consider experimental events in the decision to designate a tournament. The tournament will assure that these NIET events adhere to the following guidelines:

1. CONFLICT PATTERNS AND ROUNDS

The tournament will offer at least 2 Conflict Patterns with at least three preliminary rounds each

The host agrees to offer at least two conflict patterns with at least two preliminary rounds of individual events. Passed, Sept. 10, 2011

DIVISIONS

The new NFC Aspirations on Divisions, adopted in September 2002, is included at the end of the bylaws, with other Aspirations. The general philosophy is as follows (complete aspirations at the end of bylaws):

The Northwest Forensics Conference believes forensics competitions are one of the most educationally beneficial activities in which students can participate. As a community, we have attempted to create a competitive atmosphere that is above all, a unique and rewarding educational experience for students. We also believe that those best suited to make certain educational decisions for students are their instructors. Therefore, when establishing guidelines for coaches as they prepare to enter their students into competition, and when establishing guidelines for schools that host forensics competitions, we advocate the following, always keeping in mind that, when in conflict, decisions should be based on educational success first, and competitive success second.

1. The tournament will offer the events in at least one of the following divisions (novice, junior, open), noting that class standing is irrelevant to divisions, that duo teams should enter the division of the most advanced student, and that students may be in different divisions for debate, interpretation, and public speaking events:

2. COLLAPSING DIVISIONS – NEW BYLAW 2006

Novice and open division will be collapsed if there are fewer than 9 contestants entered in the division. Lower divisions will always be moved up.

Junior division will be collapsed if there are fewer than 12 contestants in the division.

(Clarification: If entries are 9 novice, 11 junior, 10 open – then the divisions will be collapsed to 9 novice and 21 open <because junior is below 12>; if entries are 6 novice; 10 junior; 12 open – then collapse to 16 junior; 12 open (after the novice collapse, which happens first, there are 12 or more in junior.) If entries are 9 novice; 13 junior; 7 open – collapse to 9 novice, 20 open – because open is below 9: If entries are 9 novice, 12 junior, 9 open then no division is collapsed because all have meet the minimums needed to be a stand alone division.)

A division of an individual event will be collapsed if there are fewer than nine contestants entered in the division. Lower divisions will always be moved up.

3. PAIRING INDIVIDUAL EVENTS ROUNDS

Individual Events shall be randomly paired except that students from the same school should not meet one another if possible.

4. RANKINGS FOR IE BALLOTS

Individual Events Ballots shall have rankings of 1 through 5.

5. ADVANCING TO ELIMINATION ROUNDS

In open/senior divisions of individual events, the number of students advanced to final round in each event must be greater than or equal to the number of AFA-NIET legs available in that event.

Students will advance in individual events based on the following hierarchy:

- a. Total rank in prelims. If a tie continues to exist, then:

- b.* Total rating points in prelims. If a tie continues to exist, then:
- c.* Adjusted prelim rank, dropping lowest rank. If a tie continues to exist, then:
- d.* Adjusted prelim rate, dropping lowest rating.

6. DETERMINING WINNERS OF INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

The tournament will use a clean slate approach to determine winners from finals rounds of individual events. When a tie on total ranks exists in the final round of individual events, the tie will be broken using this hierarchy:

- a. If two contestants are tied on ranks, then judges' preference will be used if there is an odd number of judges.
- b. If three or more contestants are tied on ranks or if judges' preference cannot be used to break a tie - final round ratings will be used.
- c. If still tied, use ranks from prelims
- d. If still tied, use ratings from prelims
- e. If still tied, use final round, but drop low rate and low rank, not necessarily from the same ballot.
- f. If still tied, drop low rank and rate from prelims, not necessarily from the same ballot.

F. INTENT OF THE DESIGNATED REQUIREMENTS

Nothing in the above rules should be misconstrued to take away the rights and responsibilities of the tournament host. The tournament host has the responsibility for overseeing the administration of the tournament; setting and collecting fees; and determining the makeup of the tab room. If necessary, the tournament host is allowed to change administration procedures at the tournament to insure smooth and efficient operation. The tournament host will make all decisions about tournament management, disqualification of contestants, etc., not specified above.

V. SWEEPSTAKES CALCULATION

A. SWEEPSTAKES

The Northwest Forensics Conference is divided into two separate but equal "leagues" with championships awarded in both. The two leagues are the "Northwest Forensics Conference Sweepstakes League" and the "Northwest Forensics Conference Overall Sweepstakes League." The awards are given at the conclusion of each NFC season. The awards will be presented at the final Designated tournament each year.

In the "Northwest Forensics Conference Overall Sweepstakes League", NFC "Overall" Sweepstakes Awards will be presented to the top three schools in Division I, Division II and Division III based on the total sweepstakes awards earned at all four Designated tournaments.

In the "Northwest Forensics Conference Sweepstakes League", NFC Sweepstakes Awards will be presented to the top three schools in Division I, Division II and Division III based on the highest two scores earned at the four designated tournaments. Awards in the "Sweepstakes" league will be limited to schools who do not attend four Designated tournaments, or who did attend four tournaments, but did not receive awards in the four tournament overall division.

In the event that a school is eligible for awards in both leagues, the school will receive the highest award earned—a first place award in either league will take precedence over a second or third place in the other league. In the event a school finishes with the same rank in both leagues, they will be given the overall award. The current bylaws will be used to calculate the sweepstakes awards.

All conference awards will be based on a student's top two Designated tournaments.

The total points awarded at each NFC Designated Tournament counted towards NFC sweepstakes awards shall be adjusted to 1000 points. This affects only NFC sweepstakes and does not replace or change individual tournament sweepstakes formulas.

Sweepstakes divisions will include: Division I (four year colleges attending more than eight tournaments during the preceding forensics season); Division II (four year colleges attending eight or fewer tournaments during the preceding forensics season); and Division III (Community Colleges). There will be separate but equal awards for each division.

A. SWEEPSTAKES

The above Sweepstakes procedure was last used for 2007-2008.

As of August 2008, the following Sweepstakes procedure will be enacted:

The Northwest Forensics Conference will recognize the top three schools in Division I, Division II and Division III in two championship categories: Individual Public Speaking and Oral Interpretation (Speech) Events and Debate Events.

An awards committee will award sweepstakes recognition to Gold Medal Schools, Silver Medal Schools and Bronze Medal Schools in Divisions I, II and III based on applications. Application due dates will be determined by the awards committee. The awards committee will determine the number of schools honored in each category.

The awards committee can offer other special awards, based on applications. The awards committee will determine deadlines and the application process for these awards.

The awards for Public Speaking, Oral Interpretation and Debate will be calculated by points earned at each schools best two Designated tournaments, using the NFC Sweepstakes Points Formula. The awards will be given at the conclusion of each NFC season. These Public Speaking, Oral Interpretation and Debate awards will be presented at the final NFC Designated Tournament each year.

First Place Championship Awards for Speech and Debate Events will be named for an NFC associated educator who has made significant, long-term contributions to competitive forensics in the Northwest United States. These names will be confirmed by majority vote of the conference and can be periodically reviewed.

This awards system begins with the 2008-2009 academic year.

B. INDIVIDUAL TOURNAMENT SWEEPSTAKES

An individual tournament may use any sweepstakes formula it wishes, but for purposes of NFC sweepstakes, the NFC sweepstakes formula will be used when so legislated.

C. NFC SWEEPSTAKES POINTS FORMULA

For 1999-2000 and thereafter

1st CEDA/NDT	20
2nd CEDA/NDT	16
Semi-finalist CEDA/NDT	12
Quarter finalist CEDA/NDT	10
Octa-finalist	8
1st individual events and LD	10
2nd individual events and LD	8
LD semifinalist	6
3rd individual events	6
LD quarterfinalist	4
Finalist individual events	4
1st Parliamentary	15
2nd Parliamentary	12
Semifinalist Parliamentary	9
Quarterfinalist Parliamentary	7
Octafinalist Parliamentary	6

E. ENTRY ADJUSTMENTS

Points will be calculated on this basis except that when there are fewer than 10 contestants or teams, 10% of sweepstakes points will be deducted for each contestant or team under 10.

F. PUBLICATION OF RESULTS

After each month of competition in which an NFC tournament was designated, the current sweepstakes will be published by the NFC and mailed to all member schools.

VI. AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

A. The Coaches Commemorative Award and the Orv Iverson Awards

These awards recognize the top NFC students during the NFC season.

The Coaches' Commemorative Award honors the top three students in senior/open division. Students count their best two of three (or three of four) designated tournaments, with only points earned in senior/open counting.

The Orv Iverson Award honors the top three students junior/novice division. Students count their best two of three (or three of four) designated tournaments, with only points earned in junior/novice counting.

Points are tabulated using the current NFC sweepstakes formula. All points earned by the student are counted - individual events and debate. Points are adjusted according to the number entered in an event, following the NFC sweepstakes guidelines.

B. Judge-Educator Award (first awarded in Spring 1993)

This award recognizes one or more forensics educators as for outstanding judging in a given year. Nominations are submitted in writing by Directors of Forensics on behalf of their teams prior to the last NFC tournament of the year. Recipients are selected by an awards committee named by the NFC president.

Criteria for the award include:

- (1) Commitment to judging across a variety of forensics events.
- (2) Commitment to writing constructive ballots that are educational for students and their coaches.
- (3) Ability to articulate expectations clearly for student competitors and to render decisions consistent with those expectations.
- (4) Support of diversity of points of view and of styles of learning.
- (5) Commitment to high ethical standards for forensics education and competition.
- (6) Being a good role model for student competitors.

C. All Conference Honors (adopted in September 1993)

These awards recognize approximately the top 10% of students in debate and individual events in a given year on the basis of each student's top two NFC designated tournaments. If a student is recognized in both debate and individual events, in the category where they are weaker, the next student gets moved up.

D. Dates

NFC championship awards, the Coaches Commemorative Award, and the Judge-Educator Award will be given at the last of the designated tournaments each year.

All Conference Honors will be announced by mail at the conclusion of the forensics season.

VII. BYLAW REVISION

All major changes in these Bylaws approved at the fall coaches' meeting will take effect beginning one year from the date of passage. Major changes would include but not be limited to all changes to tournament designating that would have an impact on the travel schedule of conference schools.

VIII. CODE OF ETHICS

A. Adoption

A code of Ethics (appendix A) was adopted at the August 19, 1985 meeting of the organization.

B. Function

Directors of forensics programs should provide copies of the by-laws and code of ethics to student competitors and program assistants, discuss the content with them, and strive to see that all participants abide by the provisions of those two documents.

Northwest Forensics Conference Aspirations

(passed September 9, 1995):

1. The conference aspires to use a community college coach in tab rooms at NFC tournaments.
2. The conference aspires to provide sweepstakes awards for community colleges at each NFC tournament.
3. The conference aspires to offer a generous slate of novice events at NFC tournaments.

Policy for the Ethical Use of Literature

- Contestants may not rewrite a prose, a poem, or a dramatic text so that the work differs from the original text.
- Contestants may not add or reassign scenes or lines to the performed cutting. Although an occasional line might be added, especially if a character has been deleted, this practice should be discouraged.
- Contestants may not rewrite the ending of a work.
- Contestants may not rewrite lines to change the gender or persona of a character.
- Contestants may not perform a text in a genre for which it has not been written.
- Protests should be filed according to AFA-NIET Charter Bylaws Sections X and XI.
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- **Aspirations for Public Debate**

- **(Passed at the 1998 fall coaches' meeting)**

- The coaches agreed to experiment with a new form of “public debate” and with a new form of “novice parliamentary” debate. Both forms of debate are described in detail in the appendix to the minutes of the fall coaches’ meeting. This agreement is not binding on coaches, schools or students, but represents the aspirations of the coaches for new directions in debate at Northwest Forensics Conference tournaments.

Aspiration on distribution of parliamentary debate topics:

Passed unanimously on September 8, 2001

The Northwest Forensics Conference aspires to guarantee fairness in the distribution of topics to parliamentary debate teams. The community encourages hosts of NFC tournaments to take steps to insure such fairness by:

- 1) announcing the topic at a common assembly and/or
- 2) distributing the topic in sealed envelopes not to be opened until both teams are present and/or
- 3) informing judges in writing that revealing the topics prematurely to any team is unethical

NFC hosts are encouraged to take any or all of these steps to insure fairness in the distribution of topics at tournaments.

Aspiration on Extemp preparation

Passed on September 11, 2004

The NFC aspires to encourage original work in extemporaneous speaking. The NFC encourages tournaments, when possible, to set aside a quiet preparation space for all extempers. The NFC encourages extemporaneous speakers not to consult with coaches or other contestants during the preparation of speeches.

Aspiration on announcement of “NFC rule deviations”

Passed on September 11, 2004

NFC tournaments shall aspire to follow all NFC, NPDA and NIET rules, guidelines and aspirations. If a tournament desires an exception to an NFC rule, the tournament director should consult with the NFC executive committee before enacting the change.

If changes to NFC/NIET/NPDA rules at a Designated tournament are approved by the NFC board, those changes will be announced to all entered schools before the tournament commences.

Aspiration on Divisions for NFC Tournaments

Crafted by Chris Bragg

Passed on September 7, 2002

PHILOSOPHICAL GUIDELINES

The Northwest Forensics Conference believes forensics competitions are one of the most educationally beneficial activities in which students can participate. As a community, we have attempted to create a competitive atmosphere that is above all, a unique and rewarding educational experience for students. We also believe that those best suited to make certain educational decisions for students are their instructors. Therefore, when establishing guidelines for coaches as they prepare to enter their students into competition, and when establishing guidelines for schools that host forensics competitions, we advocate the following, always keeping in mind that, when in conflict, decisions should be based on educational success first, and competitive success second.

(A note regarding evaluation of past experience: When evaluating a student’s past competitive experience, coaches may wish to consider the size of tournaments attended, the level of competition at those tournaments, the number of competitors at those tournaments, etc.)

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

The NFC believes that, whenever possible, novice, junior and senior divisions should be offered in Individual Events. Students should be evaluated and entered based on their experience in Platform Events, Draw Events and Interp Events separately. However, the guidelines that follow apply to each genre. In general, entries in duo interpretation should be made according to the division of the most experienced competitor.

NOVICE: The NFC feels that novice divisions in individual events should be reserved for students with little or no experience. This is the place for students to gain experience in college forensics and to learn what the activity is about. In general, a novice divisions competitor will be in his or her first full year in collegiate forensics, and will not have won more than three first, second or third place trophies in that genre in collegiate competition. Coaches should refrain from placing students with significant high school

experience in novice divisions.

JUNIOR: The NFC feels that junior division should be reserved for students who have a significant amount of high school experience in competitive forensics or have had significant success at the novice levels of college forensics. In general, a junior competitor will be in his or her first or second full year of collegiate forensics and will not have advanced to finals more than eight times in that genre in collegiate competition.

SENIOR: The NFC feels that students should be entered in senior divisions after they have demonstrated consistent success at the junior level. In general, a senior division competitor will be in his or her third or fourth full year of collegiate competition and/or will have demonstrated the consistent ability to be successful at the junior level. However, senior division is open to any competitor who wishes to enter it.

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE

The NFC believes that, whenever possible, novice, junior and senior divisions should be offered in parliamentary debate. In general, debate teams should be entered at the level of the most experienced competitor.

NOVICE: The NFC feels that novice divisions in parliamentary debate should be reserved for students with little or no experience. This is the place for students to gain experience in debate and to learn what the activity is about. In general, a novice division competitor will be in his or her first full year of collegiate forensics, and will not have advanced to semi-finals at more than three tournaments in collegiate competition. Coaches should refrain from placing students with significant high school experience in novice divisions.

JUNIOR: The NFC feels that junior division should be reserved for students who have a significant amount of high school experience in debate or have had significant success at the novice levels of parliamentary debate. In general, a junior competitor will be in his or her first or second full year of collegiate forensics and will not have advanced to quarterfinals more than eight times in collegiate competition.

SENIOR: The NFC feels that students should be entered in senior divisions after they have demonstrated consistent success at the junior level. In general, a senior division competitor will be in his or her third or fourth full year of collegiate competition and/or will have demonstrated the consistent ability to be successful at the junior level. However, senior division is open to any competitor who wishes to enter it.

POLICY DEBATE

Junior Division: The NFC feels that junior division in policy debate should be reserved for students who have had a small to a significant amount of high school or college experience in policy debate. Students who have been in quarterfinal or higher five or more times in college policy debate or in Tournament of Champion policy qualifying divisions at high school tournaments should enter senior division (parliamentary debate and LD debate do not count in determining whether a student should advance to senior division of policy debate).

Senior Division: The NFC feels that students should be moved to or entered in senior division of policy debate after they have had significant success

in college policy debate or Tournament of Champion policy divisions at high school tournaments especially after being in quarterfinals or higher five or more times at those tournaments.

Bylaw update by Brent Northup October 8, 2012

Aspiration, passed Sept. 10, 2011

Passed an aspiration: Designated tournaments have, as their first obligation, to offer events valued by NFC members – and by “valued” we mean those types preferred by significant numbers of NFC students and schools. Passed unanimously. (In discussion Lewis & Clark said it would strive to include IPDA in future years.)

- **Aspiration Passed September 2014:**
That the NFC president in conjunction with the tournament host appoint equity advocates to serve at each Designated tournament. The Equity advocates will be announced in the tournament invitation. Passed.
- **Aspiration Passed September 2014:**
All tournaments aspire to follow a standardized pattern of Individual

Events:

Pattern A: extemp, persuasion, ADS, Prose, POI, DI

Pattern B: Impromptu, Inform, CA, Poetry, Duo