

Northwest Forensics Conference

Current Bylaws

Code of Ethics 2017

Code of Ethics 1985

September 20, 2020

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NFC BYLAWS

As of Sept. 12, 2020

Procedure for revising bylaws:

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.

Aspirations are included in appropriate sections of the bylaws, but aspirations do not have the legal standings of bylaws. Dictionaries say an aspiration is a "goal or objective that is strongly desired."

I. Definitions

a. Fall 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. NFC

The NFC is the association of all Northwest colleges and universities. A Northwest school residing in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington, 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. NFC championship

The officers of the conference maintain a cumulative sweepstakes record of member school participation in NFC Designated tournaments. The sweepstakes records are used to calculate year-end NFC awards. (See Section V: NFC Awards and Best Practices Handbook)

d. NFC 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. NFC Designated tournaments

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, *and all NFC member schools*, 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 the NFC President and a seven-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 three elected representatives, and four appointed representatives:

1. NFC president, elected each spring for a two-year term.
2. At-large representative, elected each spring for a one-year term
3. Community College representative elected each spring for a one-year term
4. NIET representative, appointed. The NIET District 2 chair will serve unless holding another NFC office, in which case the NFC president will appoint a person from an NIET school after consulting with NIET programs.
5. BP representative for Northwest Pacific debate, appointed.
6. Policy representative for Northwest Pacific debate, appointed.
7. NPDA representative, appointed: District NPDA representative or national NPDA officer will serve unless holding another NFC office. In that case, the NFC president will appoint a person from an NPDA school after consulting with NPDA programs.
8. IPDA representative, appointed: District IPDA representative or national IPDA officer will serve unless holding another NFC office. In that case, the NFC president will appoint a person from an IPDA school after consulting with IPDA programs.

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 President and/or the steering committee can form Ad Hoc 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.

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 May 1 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.

a. 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. NFC Designated Tournaments:

- i. **Should 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.
- ii. **Should 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 support for NW 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 seeks to provide professional support for its members.

c. Create alternative ways to compete

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 Speech 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 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. **Education first, competition second:** Philosophical Aspiration on NFC guiding philosophy: 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 must always keep in mind that, when in conflict, decisions should be based on educational success first, and competitive success second.

IV. Designated Tournaments

a. *Intent of the Designated requirements: Rights of the Tournament Host*

Nothing in the following 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 ensure smooth and efficient operation. The tournament host will make all decisions about tournament management, disqualification of contestants, etc., not specified in the bylaws.

b. *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.

c. *General Designation Requirements*

i. *NFC Submission Deadlines*

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.

ii. *Prospectus Info Required*

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

iii. *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.

iv. *Diverse tab rooms*

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.

v. *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.

vi. *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.

vii. *Submission of Results*

The host agrees to ensure that tournament results are publicly accessible on tournament tabulation software when the tournament ends so the NFC Secretary can use that data for recording results. The NFC will not count sweepstakes points until the Executive Secretary has received tournament results.

viii. *NFC fees*

The host agrees to pay a fee of \$5.00 for each NFC student 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.

d. *Designation decisions*

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 will distribute their invitation at the fall meeting.
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. In selecting tournaments to be designated, preference will be given to tournaments which offer more than one form of debate.
5. Designated tournaments will include all AFA-NST events. 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, BP, IPDA, 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 Designated tournaments. If the NFC offers four Designated tournaments, awards will still be based on performances on the best two Designated achievements.

e. Debate requirements

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:

i. Rounds and Formats

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

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

ii. Divisions

The host agrees, when entries warrant, to offer multiple divisions of debate. The NFC Aspirations on Divisions, adopted in September 2002, are included at the end of the bylaws. (added Fall 2011)

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 debate. Students who have been in quarterfinal or higher eight or more times should enter senior division.

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

iii. 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. BP may collapse when there are sufficient teams to populate both a junior and collapse division.

iv. 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.

v. ***Advancing Teams to Elimination Rounds***

The tournament should 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)

Tournaments may consider judge pool constraints and availability in creating elimination rounds.

vi. ***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.

vii. ***Pre-round debate instructions***

The host agrees to allow coaching during prep time, if allowed in that debate format.

viii. ***Central debate announcement***

Parliamentary debate topics will be released at a central location – where competing teams can receive the topic simultaneously. Debaters will have time to prepare based on the standards of their debate format, including time needed to walk to the round.

ix. ***Additional debate requirements***

Internet Access: 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.

Debate events: Designated tournaments will include the current popular forms of debate. They will include senior, junior, and novice divisions, as numbers warrant.

British Parliamentary: Designated tournaments will offer a division of British Parliamentary “World” debate with four rounds, including time for a pre-tournament judge briefing. September 2007 amendment.

f. ***Individual Events requirements***

All designated tournaments will offer all American Forensic Association National Speech Tournament Individual Events, using AFA rules.

Designated Tournaments must 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 steering committee may also consider experimental events in the decision to designate a tournament. The tournament will assure that these NST events adhere to the following guidelines:

i. Conflict Patterns and Rounds

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

Aspiration on standardized IE patterns (Sept. 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

ii. Collapsing Divisions – adopted 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.

iii. Pairing Individual Event Rounds

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

iv. Rankings for IE ballots

Individual Events Ballots shall have rankings of 1 through 5.

v. Advancing to elim 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.

vi. Determining winners of IE

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.

g. *Chris Bragg Aspiration on Divisions for NFC Tournaments*

Crafted by Chris Bragg
Passed by NFC on September 7, 2002

PHILOSOPHICAL GUIDELINES on DIVISIONS

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.)

GUIDELINES FOR DIVISIONS ON 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/OPEN: 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.

GUIDELINES FOR DIVISIONS IN 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.

GUIDELINES FOR DIVISIONS IN 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.

(IPDA AND BP WERE NOT INCLUDED IN THIS INITIAL ASPIRATION, BECAUSE THEY WERE NOT OFFERED REGULARLY IN 2002 AT NORTHWEST TOURNAMENTS)

The NFC believes these guidelines for division placement in parliamentary debate should also apply to BP, IPDA, LD and Pacific Northwest Debate.

h. Additional aspirations for Designated 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 NFC rule deviation by Designated Hosts:

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 Equity officers at Designated Tournaments

Passed Sept. 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.

Aspiration on Tab Room Composition

Passed Sept. 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.

Aspiration on Events offered at Designated Tournaments

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.

Passed unanimously.

Aspiration on
Distribution of parliamentary debate topics:

Passed 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 ensure 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.

END OF ASPIRATIONS

V. NFC Awards - principles

Awards 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, not including national tournaments.

Division III: Community Colleges.

A swing tournament weekend will count as a single tournament for division placement purposes. There will be separate but equal awards for each division.

a. Awards

- i. An awards committee will award sweepstakes recognition to Gold Medal Schools, Silver Medal Schools and Bronze Medal Schools in Divisions I, II and III. Awards will be based on each school's best two Designated tournaments, with each tournament factored to exactly 1000 points. Points will be calculated using the NFC point scale, with events with fewer than 10 entries being reduced: Eight entries would mean each winner received 80 percent of the possible points; with five entries, 50 percent, and so forth.

(See Best Practices handbook for the Best Practices Guidelines and an explanation of historically awarding Gold/Silver/Bronze recognition.)

- ii. The awards committee will determine the number of schools honored in each category, which is governed by the NFC awards principle of recognizing multiple deserving programs to provide justification for continued and increased institutional support.
- iii. The awards committee can offer other special awards, with the goal of highlighting the success of diverse programs. For example, the presidential debate awards in BP, NPDA, IPDA and Policy acknowledge debate achievements; and the presidential "Best in the Northwest" awards for interp, short prep and platform acknowledge achievement in specific types of events.
- iv. The awards recognizing top speech and debate programs will be calculated by points earned at each school's best two Designated tournaments, using the NFC Sweepstakes Points Formula. The awards will be given at the conclusion of each NFC season. NFC championship awards 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.

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 point formula*
Updated June 2020

<i>1st CEDA/NDT/Policy</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>2nd CEDA/NDT/Policy</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Semi-finalist CEDA/NDT/Policy</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Quarter-finalist CEDA/NDT/Policy</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Octa-finalist CEDA/NDT/Policy</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Double-Octs CEDA/NDT/Policy</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>1st individual events</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>2nd individual events</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>3rd individual events</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Finalist individual Events</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>1st LD/IPDA</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>2nd LD/IPDA</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>LD & IPDA semi finalist</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>LD & IPDA quarterfinalist</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>LD & IPDA octa-finalist</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>LD & IPDA double-octa-finalist</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>1st Parli</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>2nd Parli</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Semifinalist Parli</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Quarterfinalist Parli</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Octafinalist Parli</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Double-Octafinalist Parli</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>1st Pacific Northwest Debate</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>2nd PND</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Semifinalist PND</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Quarterfinalist PND</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Octafinalist PND</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Double-Octafinalist PND</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>1st Team IPDA</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>2nd Team IPDA</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Semifinalist Team IPDA</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Quarterfinalist Team IPDA</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Octafinalist Team IPDA</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Double-Octafinalist Team IPDA</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>1st BP</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>2nd BP</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Finalist BP</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Semi-Finalist BP</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Quarterfinalist BP</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Octafinalist BP</i>	<i>5</i>

d. *Entry adjustment*

Points will be calculated using the NFC Sweepstakes formula, 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. (In a 5-person event, the winner earns 5 NFC points, rather than the usual 10.)

e. *Publication of results*

After each semester 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. NFC Awards – specific honors

a. *Brent Northup Coaches’ Commemorative and Orv Iverson (mandated by bylaws)*

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

The Brent Northup Coaches’ Commemorative Award honors the top three students in senior/open division. Students count their best two of three (or two 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. (See Best Practices)

b. *Judge Educator Award (First Awarded in Spring 1993) (mandated by bylaws)*

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. *Debate Program Awards and Speech Program Awards (mandated by bylaws)*

The Northwest Forensics Conference will recognize the top three schools in Division I, Division II and Division III in two championship categories:

Speech (Speaking events: the NIET events & experimental events)

Debate (BP, IPDA, NPDA, PNW)

d. *All Conference Honors (mandated by bylaws)*

These awards recognize approximately the top 10% of students. (See Best Practices handbook)

d. *Gold-Silver-Bronze Program Awards (mandated by bylaws)* – An awards committee will award sweepstakes recognition to Gold Medal Programs, Silver Medal Programs and Bronze Medal Programs in Divisions I, II and III. (See Best Practices document for historical implementation practices in past 10 years.)

e. *Presidential Awards (since 2008-2009) ...not mandated, by permitted, by bylaws*

- i. **Presidential Debate Awards** honoring the best NFC debate programs by genre in Parli, IPDA, BP, Policy (See Best Practices Handbook for explanation of method used for awarding Presidential Debate Awards.) (This award is not mandated, but permitted.)

- ii. **Presidential Best in the Northwest Awards** recognition in platform, short prep, interpretation, and in each genre of debate. (See Best Practices handbook for explanation of the method used for awarding Best in the Northwest recognition.) (Not a mandated, but permitted.)

f. Dates

NFC championship awards 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. Equity in the Northwest Forensics Conference

Bylaw on adherence, passed at Sept. 9, 2017 NFC meeting.

Part of the bylaws, but related directly to the code of ethics

NFC Commitment to ethics and equity Addition to NFC Bylaws, Section IV Designated Tournaments, B. General designation requirements; paragraph 9:

All NFC programs should provide its students with a review of the NFC Code of Ethics and provide some Title IX training to all of their students prior to participation in forensics activities.

To be eligible to receive sweepstakes awards, the directors of programs must sign a form that attests students and educators in their program have read, understand, and will comply with the NFC Statement of Ethics, as well as participated in sexual harassment/violence awareness and prevention training utilizing their Title IX coordinator and/or other appropriate resources.

The NFC should provide a variety of educational resources, including appointment of an NFC ethics and equity educator. The ethics and equity educator will assist programs educating their students about ethics and Title IX.

Tournament directors should clearly identify and widely publicize individuals responsible for handling complaints at their tournament, and should make a variety of reporting options available.

VIII: Code of Ethics

a. Adoption

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

A revised code of ethics was adopted in 2017 (appendix B).

The code of ethics is a stand-alone document, not part of the bylaws.

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.

c. Ethical Use of Literature

Policy for the Ethical Use of Literature

(passed September 9, 1995):

- 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.

Appendix A: NFC Committees

Active NFC Committees

As of June 2019

Standing committee for recruitment and outreach to new members and programs, redefined Sept. 7, 2019

Lauran Schaefer, Whitman; Baker Weilert, Whitman;

Original Charge in 2006 (mission will be redefined and rewritten by 2019-2020 committee):
Sept. 9, 2006: 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, reestablished Sept. 7, 2019. Includes shepherding of the Megan Gaffney Award.

Chair: Brent Northup; Members Joe Gantt, Lewis & Clark; Mike Ingram; Brooke Adamson
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 define the specific awards handled by this committee. The new sweepstakes awards system begins in Fall 2008.

Standing Committee for Letters of Support, Formed sept. 7, 2013

Members: Joe Gantt, Brent Northup
Charges: Write letters for programs in need of support.

Ad Hoc Committee on Bylaw Review, Formed Sept. 8, 2018

Members: Kyle Cheesewright (chair), Jacob Witt, Jennifer Conner, Lauren Schaefer, Andy Christensen, Brent.
Charges: to review the bylaws and make recommendations to change at the next fall meeting.

Inactive NFC Committees

Standing Committee on Equity Works, Formed Sept. 7, 2013

Members: Joe Gantt, Brent Northup, Dan Schabot, Denise Vaughan

Charges: Coordination/dissemination of existing data and promotion of additional research projects.

Equity officers

Liz Kinnaman

Charges: Research legal implications/guidelines and make recommendation for implementation

Judge Training

Malynda Bjerragaard, Beth Hughes

Charges: 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

Charges: Revision and updating of the Statement of Ethics and recommendation for revisions of the bylaws

Student Group

Korry Harvey, Chris Pierini, Kristen Stevens

Charges: Coordination and guidance to student representatives; promotion of student participation

Tool Kit/Guidelines

David Airne, Kyle Cheesewright, Korry Harvey

Charges: Creation of resources for various circumstances and roles (both Reactionary and preventive; for students, judges, coaches, tournament directors, etc.)

Standing Committee for Work on Ethics Document, Formed Sept. 10, 2016

Chair: Steven Woods

Members: Kyle Cheesewright, Beth Hewes, Manda Hicks, Brent Northup

Charges: A committee was formed to continue working on the Ethics document, including assembly of a best practices tool kit, continuing work on the ethics code, continuing work on addressing equity in the region, continuing work on how to ensure trained judges at tournaments and consideration of enforcement/accountability/adherence issues connected to all such issues of ethics and equity.

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.

Committee on novice policy and worlds BP debate 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 list serve 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.