

The Southern California Junior Forensics League (SCJFL) Charter & By-Laws

I. SCJFL Committee Meetings

A. The SCJFL shall have a minimum of one Coaches Committee Meeting each academic year. (typically held during the summer months). An announcement of the summer meeting should be sent through the SCJFL listserv at least thirty (30) days prior.

B. Committee members must be present for deliberations (no proxies allowed). If a voting member is unable to attend a Coaches Committee Meeting, he/she may choose to designate an alternate with full participation and voting rights upon prior notification to the SCJFL Board President. The only exception to this policy is that no single person may cast more than one vote. Each school shall have one vote per agenda item.

C. The SCJFL shall publish the minutes of the annual Coaches Committee Meeting on the official SCJFL website after they have been verified and approved by the SCJFL Board through an e-mail vote.

D. All SCJFL and affiliated committees shall audio record all meetings and publish this recording as soon as possible after the meeting so that those not in attendance may listen to the discussion.

II. Rules of Procedure

A. A simple majority vote of the voting members of the Coaches Committee Meeting shall be required for transaction of SCJFL business.

B. Provisions of this document may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting, or a simple majority vote in two consecutive years.

C. Meetings shall follow Robert's Rules of Order, except in instances that are outlined in these by-laws.

D. If a meeting becomes unruly or so large that members' voices are not being heard, the acting committee head may institute a two (2) minute limit on speaking time. In extreme cases, the committee head may limit the number of times each member can speak (e.g. each member can only speak twice).

E. Committee heads may, in extreme circumstances, postpone new agenda items in order to address existing issues in the allotted time for the meeting.

III. Eligibility

A. School eligibility: Any school, after-school program, or homeschool program shall be eligible to send participants to SCJFL tournaments, provided they adhere to the following requirements:

1. All programs must have a physical address on file with the SCJFL.
2. All programs have a liability insurance or have signed a liability waiver of that insurance with the SCJFL.
3. To gain eligibility, participating schools/programs must be in good standing with the financial requirements as established by the SCJFL Board.

B. Student eligibility:

1. Participants in SCJFL middle school tournaments must be 6-8th grade students.
2. Participants in SCJFL elementary school tournaments must be students enrolled in 5th grade or lower.
3. Participants in any SCJFL sanctioned middle school state tournaments must be 5-8th grade students.
4. In the event that a school has an odd number of debate competitors, that team may choose one of the following (the following applies only to debate and not any individual events such as Duo):
 - a. Maverick: A single student may speak in both positions for the debate.
 - b. Hybrid: Students without partners may compete with a partner from a different school from his/her own.

In either situation (Maverick or Hybrid), such teams shall not advance to elimination rounds (applicable only at SCJFL sanctioned state or championship tournaments).

IV. SCJFL Board Membership Positions

A. The SCJFL Board shall consist of the following members:

1. The President of the SCJFL Board: Orient all newcomers to the league and explain the processes, rules, and fees. Should also set agenda and run all SCJFL meetings. Should serve as ombudsperson in situations arise in a

conflict of interest with the vice president. Shall oversee elections in even-numbered years.

2. The Vice-President of the SCJFL Board: Should serve as ombudsperson for tournament disputes. Should assist the president in carrying out league and tournament duties. Shall oversee elections in odd-numbered years.

3. The Secretary of the SCJFL Board: Keep accurate minutes of SCJFL meetings.

4. The Elementary-Chair of the SCJFL Board: Coordinate elementary portion of SCJFL. Establish at least two SCJFL sanctioned tournaments per year.

5. The Treasurer of the SCJFL Board: Keep accurate logs of SCJFL money and report to the league the yearly expenses. Should also file appropriate taxes to the IRS.

6. The Community Outreach Member of the SCJFL Board: Send out announcements of upcoming tournaments, try to recruit new schools to the league, and establish recipients of any SCJFL scholarships, pending board approval.

7. Webmaster of the SCJFL Board: Maintain the league website and listserv.

B. Election Procedures

1. Each member of the board shall be elected at an annual coaches' meeting, typically held during the summer. If more than one meeting is scheduled for a particular summer, the elections should be held at the first meeting and not postponed until later, unless a unanimous vote is taken by all schools present.

2. The Tournament/Tab Director and the Tournament Host of each tournament shall be appointed by the Board.

3. The president, treasurer, and community outreach positions should be elected in odd-numbered years (2019, 2021, etc.), and vice-president, secretary, elementary-chair, and webmaster elected in even-numbered years (2018, 2020, etc.)

C. Term of Membership

1. All members shall be elected to a two-year term.

2. Terms of office shall begin immediately following the summer meeting of each year.

D. Officers

1. Other necessary officers shall be elected by and from within the membership of the voting members of the SCJFL.
2. A special election may be held to replace the board members, should they resign or be unable to fulfill duties of the office during the tenure of the office. If no election is possible because of time constraints, the remaining board members may elect a board pro tempore member until an official election can be held.

V. Duties

The following rights shall be reserved to the SCJFL Board:

- A. to review present practices and initiate, when necessary, uniform tournament procedures.
- B. to hire contractors to assist in SCJFL management. This may include, but is not limited to: accountants, secretarial work, special training, installation of equipment. to establish and administer the SCJFL Tournament procedures with respect to: number and form of rounds, events and rules for each number of elimination rounds, number of elimination rounds, or other procedures which may be necessary to the function of the SCJFL.
- C. The SCJFL Board shall be responsible for the establishment and execution of tournament and related policy with respect to: number of judges per round, qualification and selection of guest judges, payment of guest judges, social features (banquet, programs, publications, awards, etc.), eligibility of participants selection of a Tournament Director, selection of a site, selection of ballots, publicity activities, appointment of subcommittees to assist the Tournament Director in the administration of the tournaments, maintaining an up-to-date list of institutions carrying on forensic programs, and the instructional staff of those programs.

VI. Procedures Governing Income and Disbursements

- A. Subscription Fees: Each member of the SCJFL shall pay a \$200 per year fee to the league. Fees are payable on or before the first competition of the year for that team. These fees cover the costs of trophies, tabulation software, office supplies, and scholarship money.

- 1 League fee changes should be made during the annual coaches' meeting.

2 Financial hardship discounts may be made at the discretion of the SCJFL board members. Board members may ask for tax forms or any other financial verification needed to better inform their decision. Any financial discount vote shall require a two-thirds vote of the Board members.

3 Fees shall not be discounted for teams entering the SCJFL in the middle of a competition season (except in the case of financial hardship, above in section VII; A; 2).

4. Schools who sign up for a league competition but do not attend without prior notification to the Tournament Director may be subject to one or more of the following penalties:

a. Forfeit their \$200 league fees.

b. Requirement to pay double their registration fees (see VI; B below). These fees shall be split between the league and the Tournament Host.

c. Suspension of entry to further tournaments for up to one (1) year.

5. League fees may be waived for teams only attending the SCJFL sanctioned state tournament.

B. Registration Fees: Each tournament host may charge registration fees independent of the annual SCJFL fees.

C. Past-due Fees: Teams which have not paid either their league fees or any registration fees may be dropped from subsequent tournaments until such fees are paid. As a general courtesy, teams may pay their fees at their first tournament of the year.

D. Grants and Subsidies: Procedure: SCJFL Board shall be the sole agency to negotiate with sponsoring individuals, groups, organizations, or institutions. All negotiations must be conducted by or at the direction of the Board. All agreements with sponsors are to be approved by the Board.

E. Disbursement of Funds:

1. The Treasurer, President, and Vice-President shall be authorized to receive and disburse funds in the name of the SCJFL Board.

2. The Treasurer shall be authorized to make cash advances to the President of the SCJFL, the Tournament Director of any SCJFL tournament, and the Tournament Host. Any cash advances are to be covered by receipts

and any balances are to be received by the Treasurer not later than 30 days following the tournament for which the advance was made.

3. The Treasurer, President, and Vice-President are authorized to make payments on receipts of invoice for goods and services. A written report of income and disbursements shall be prepared by the Treasurer and forwarded to the members of the Board, and all subscribing schools not later than August 1.

F. The budget for the SCJFL tournaments: The budget for each SCJFL tournament is to be developed by the Tournament Director, the President of the SCJFL Board, and the Tournament Host. The SCJFL Board must be consulted when altering the standard items of the budget.

1. The standard budget includes the following:

a. The SCJFL will cover up to \$325 for trophy costs, though it is preferred to keep this to a minimum. If a tournament is hosting two competitions on the same time (e.g. a speech and debate competition on the same weekend), then this may be increased to \$650.

b. The SCJFL will cover the cost of any registration or tabulation costs.

2. Only the President of the SCJFL Board, the Tournament Director, and the Tournament Host are authorized to incur indebtedness in the name of the SCJFL. Such indebtedness must be approved by the SCJFL Board members. The Treasurer is to be notified when such approval is given.

VII. Ratification

Upon passage by a majority vote of those SCJFL members present and voting at a regular SCJFL business meeting, this charter shall be adopted.

VII. Amendments

The SCJFL charter shall be subject to amendment by submitting a printed ballot mailed to the membership of SCJFL after discussion and passage of the recommendation by those present and voting at the annual SCJFL meeting. A summary of the pro and con arguments from the discussion shall accompany the proposal. The ballots shall carry instructions that include a return deadline date no earlier than thirty days from date of mailing. Changes in the charter will be accepted if ratified by a majority vote of the members voting. Changes will be applied immediately upon passage.

VIII. Event Description and Guidelines

A. SCJFL Tournaments Shall use the following rules:

Limited Preparation Events:

Impromptu Speaking:

An impromptu speech, substantive in nature, with topic selections varied by round and by section. Topics will be derived from concrete nouns, abstract nouns, proverbs, or quotations. Speakers will have a total of 7 minutes for both preparation and speaking. Timing commences with the acceptance of the topics sheet. A single notecard may be used during the presentation. Once the first speaker is called, the other speakers shall leave the room, and wait outside the door. Each speaker will draw three topics, choose one, and return the other two to the envelope. Once a speaker has spoken, they may listen to other speakers in that round.

Extemporaneous Speaking:

Contestants will be given three topics in the general area of current events, choose one, and have 30 minutes to prepare a speech that is the original work of the competitor. Contestants may not leave the preparation area until dismissed by the Extemp proctor. Consultation with any person other than the Extemp proctor between the time of drawing and time of speaking is prohibited. Maximum time limit for the speech is 7 minutes. A single notecard may be used during the presentation. Once a speaker has spoken, they may listen to other speakers in that round.

Stanford Spar:

Debaters will be assigned to the pro or con side by the judge prior to the start of the round. Each pair will consider 3 issues/resolutions. The pro will strike one resolution and then the con will strike one of the two remaining resolutions, leaving the pair with one final resolution to debate. Both sides will have one minute to prepare their arguments before speaking must commence. The pro speaker will give a two-minute speech in favor of the resolution; immediately after that speech, the con speaker will refute the position in a two-minute constructive. Strict adherence to the exact wording of the resolution is not required, but the debaters should at least regard the topic as a common frame-of-reference. Following the opening statements, there will be a five-minute open crossfire. The pair should question each other, and should be prepared to take at least a few questions from the audience of other competitors. Only other Spar competitors listed to speak in that round are permitted to ask crossfire questions. Two rebuttal speeches of the pro and con respectively complete the round. No preparation time during the debate is allowed. Spar competitors should be judged on the basis of overall wit, persuasion and quality argument construction.

Order of Speeches:

Prep time	1 minute
Pro Constructive	2 minutes
Con Constructive	2 minutes
Crossfire	5 minutes
Pro Rebuttal	2 minutes
Con Rebuttal	2 minutes

Congress:

Speakers compete in a mock legislative assembly competition. Competitors draft bills (proposed laws) and resolutions (position statements), which they and their peers later debate and vote to pass into law and then take action on by voting for or against the legislation.

For a full breakdown of Congress conventions and examples of bills/resolutions, please refer to: <https://www.speechanddebate.org/wp-content/uploads/2017-Congressional-Debate-Guide.pdf>

Competitors should elect a presiding officer each round. The presiding officer must be elected with a majority of the vote- if one candidate does not receive a majority of votes, eliminate the candidate with the fewest votes and vote again. If candidates are tied for the fewest number of votes, vote to determine which of the tied candidates should remain in contention. Repeat this process until one candidate receives a majority.

Precedence/recency should reset each round. Debaters should address new legislation each round, unless tabled from previous preliminary rounds.

When more than one speaker seeks the floor, the presiding officer must follow the precedence/recency method:

- 1) First recognize competitors who have not spoken during the session.
- 2) Next recognize competitors who have spoken fewer times.
- 3) Then recognize competitors who spoke earlier (least recently).

Before precedence is established, the presiding officer should recognize speakers fairly and consistently. They may not link recognition of speakers to previous recognition of competitors asking questions, moving motions, or longest standing (standing time). Before precedence is established, the presiding officer should explain their recognition

process and it must be fair, consistent and justifiable.

Judges will include answers to questions when evaluating speeches.

A speaker may yield time on the floor during debate (for questions or clarifications) but that speaker will remain in control of his/her three minutes.

Speeches introducing legislation are allotted up to three minutes, followed by two minutes of questioning by other delegates. A competitor from the school who wrote the legislation gets the privilege of recognition (called authorship), regardless of precedence; otherwise the presiding officer may recognize a 'sponsor' from the chamber, provided this recognition follows the precedence guidelines above. Should no competitor seek recognition for the authorship/sponsorship, the chamber will move to lay the legislation on the table until such time that a competitor is prepared to introduce it.

The first negative speech must be followed by two minutes of questions.

Following the first two speeches on legislation, the presiding officer will alternately recognize affirmative and negative speakers, who will address the chamber for up to three minutes, followed by one minute of questioning by other delegates. If no one wishes to oppose the preceding speaker, the presiding officer may recognize a speaker upholding the same side. When no one seeks the floor for debate, the presiding officer may ask the chamber if they are "ready for the question," at which point, if there is no objection, voting may commence on the legislation itself. There is no 'minimum cycle' rule, however, if debate gets one-sided, the chamber may decide to move the previous question. In the event a competitor speaks on the wrong side called for by the presiding officer and the error is not caught, the speaker shall be scored and the speech shall count in precedence, but the speaker must be penalized at least three points for not paying close attention to the flow of debate.

In the event a competitor speaks on an item of legislation not currently being debated, said speech shall count in precedence, but zero points shall be awarded.

The presiding officer fairly and equitably recognizes members to ask questions following each speech. The presiding officer starts timing questioning periods when they have recognized the first questioner, and keeps the clock running continuously until the time has lapsed. Speakers are encouraged to ask brief questions, and may only ask one question at a time (two-part/multiple-part questions are not allowed, since they monopolize time and disallow others to ask their questions). There is no formal 'permission to preface,' however, presiding officers should discourage competitors from making statements as part of questioning, since that is an abusive use of the limited time available.

The presiding officer will pause briefly between speeches to recognize any motions from the floor; however, they should not call for motions (at the beginning of a session, the

presiding officer should remind members to seek their attention between speeches).

Amendments must be presented to the presiding officer in writing with specific references to lines and clauses that change. This must be done in advance of moving to amend. The parliamentarian will recommend whether the amendment is germane—that is, it upholds the original intent of the legislation—otherwise, it is considered dilatory. The title of the legislation may be changed.

A legislator may move to amend between floor speeches. Once that motion is made, the presiding officer will read the proposed amendment aloud and call for a second by one-third of those members present, unless he/she rules it dilatory.

Should competitors wish to speak on the proposed amendment, the presiding officer will recognize them as per the standing precedence and recency, and the speech will be counted toward their totals, accordingly.

Simply proposing an amendment does not guarantee an “author/sponsor” speech, and any speeches on amendments are followed by the normal one minute of questioning.

Amendments are considered neutral and do not constitute an affirmative or negative speech on the original legislation.

If there are no speakers or the previous question is moved, the chamber may vote on a proposed amendment without debating it.

All major voting (such as the main motion/legislation) which a Congressperson’s constituents should have a record of, shall be done with a counted vote. Secret balloting is used when voting for presiding officer.

Competitors should ask permission to leave and enter the chamber when it is in session (personal privilege). However, do not interrupt a speaker.

Visual aids are permitted in Congressional Debate. All evidence used is subject to verification. Honesty and integrity are of utmost importance in legislative debate. Falsification or deliberate misuse of evidence may result in the legislator being suspended by tournament officials.

The use of Internet and/or computers is permitted, however, the tournament shall not be held responsible for providing Internet access.

Since the rules above ensure fairness for competition, they may not be suspended; the presiding officer should rule such motions out of order; except to extend questioning and allow for open chambers provided the tournament staff permits doing so.

Policy Debate:

The resolution will be one requiring a policy judgment. Tournaments must use the current NSDA Policy topic for the year in which the competition occurs. Refer to Rostrum or www.speechanddebate.org/topics for the current topic.

Entries: An entry is comprised of two students from the same school. No substitution of competitors is permitted once the tournament has begun. A competitor debating without a partner may be permitted to compete at the discretion of the Tournament Director, however, such competitors may not be permitted to advance to elimination rounds.

Order of Speeches:

Affirmative Constructive Speech	8 minutes
Negative Cross-Examines Affirmative	3 minutes
Negative Constructive Speech	8 minutes
Affirmative Cross-Examines Negative	3 minutes
Affirmative Constructive Speech	8 minutes
Negative Cross-Examines Affirmative	3 minutes
Negative Constructive Speech	8 minutes
Affirmative Cross-Examines Negative	3 minutes
Negative Rebuttal	5 minutes
Affirmative Rebuttal	5 minutes
Negative Rebuttal	5 minutes
Affirmative Rebuttal	5 minutes
Prep time	5 minutes per team

Prompting Philosophy: Oral prompting, except time signals, either by the speaker's colleague or by any other person while the debater has the floor, is discouraged though not prohibited and may be penalized by some judges. Debaters may, however, refer to their notes and materials and may consult with their teammate while they do not have the floor.

Timing: A timekeeper is an option but isn't required. If no timekeeper is used, debaters may time themselves and their opponents. The use of Internet and/or computers is permitted, however, the tournament shall not be held responsible for providing access.

Public Forum Debate:

Public Forum Debate focuses on advocacy of a position derived from the issues presented in the resolution, not a prescribed set of burdens. Tournaments must use the current NSDA Public Forum topic for the month in which the competition occurs. If a tournament needs to use a different topic than the one outlines by NSDA, the tournament director must notify the league at least one month before the tournament. Refer to Rostrum or www.speechanddebate.org/topics for the current topic.

Entries: An entry is comprised of two students from the same school. No substitution of competitors is permitted once the tournament has begun. A competitor debating without a partner may be permitted to compete at the discretion of the Tournament Director, however, such competitors may not be permitted to advance to elimination rounds.

Procedure: Prior to EVERY round and in the presence of the judge(s), a coin is tossed by one team and called by the other team. The team that wins the flip may choose one of two options: EITHER the SIDE of the topic they wish to defend (pro or con) OR the SPEAKING POSITION they wish to have (begin the debate or end the debate). The remaining option (SIDE OR SPEAKING POSITION) is the choice of the team that loses the flip. Once speaking positions and sides has been determined, the debate begins (the con team may lead, depending on the coin flip results). Following the first two constructive speeches, the two debaters who have just given speeches will stand and participate in a three-minute "crossfire". In "crossfire" both debaters "hold the floor." However, the speaker who spoke first must ask the first question. After that question, either debater may question and/or answer at will. At the conclusion of the summary speeches, all four debaters will remain seated and participate in a three-minute Grand Crossfire in which all four debaters are allowed to cross-examine one another. The speaker who gave the first summary speech must ask the first question.

Plans/Counterplans: Neither the pro or con side is permitted to offer a plan or counterplan (formalized, comprehensive proposal for implementation); rather, they should offer reasoning to support a position of advocacy. Debaters may offer generalized, practical solutions. New arguments are not permitted after the second Crossfire speech.

Order of Speeches:

First Speaker – Team A	4 minutes
First Speaker – Team B	4 minutes
Crossfire	3 minutes
Second Speaker – Team A	4 minutes
Second Speaker – Team B	4 minutes
Crossfire	3 minutes
Summary – First Speaker – Team A	2 minutes
Summary – First Speaker – Team B	2 minutes
Grand Crossfire	3 minutes
Final Focus – Second Speaker – Team A	2 minutes
Final Focus – Second Speaker – Team B	2 minutes
Prep Time	2 minutes per team

Prompting Philosophy: Oral prompting, except time signals, either by the speaker's colleague or by any other person while the debater has the floor, is discouraged though not prohibited and may be penalized by some judges. Debaters may, however, refer to their notes and materials and may consult with their teammate while they do not have the floor and during the Grand Crossfire.

Timing: A timekeeper is an option but isn't required. If no timekeeper is used, debaters may time themselves and their opponents. The use of Internet and/or computers is permitted, however, the tournament shall not be held responsible for providing access.

Big Questions Debate:

Big Questions debating format involves opposing contestants debating a topic concerning the intersection of science, philosophy, and religion. Students can compete as individuals or as a team, this means rounds can be 1 vs. 1; 2 vs. 2; or 1 vs. 2. Topics will address deeply held beliefs that often go unexamined. Students are assigned a side of the topic before each round and present cases, engage in rebuttal and refutation, and participate in a question period. Often, average members of the public are recruited to judge and observe this event.

Order of Speeches:

Affirmative Constructive	5 minutes
Negative Constructive	5 minutes
Cross-Fire/Question Segment	3 minutes
Affirmative Rebuttal	4 minutes
Negative Rebuttal	4 minutes
Cross-Fire/Question Segment	3 minutes
Affirmative Consolidation	3 minutes
Negative Consolidation	3 minutes
Affirmative Rationale	3 minutes
Affirmative Rationale	3 minutes
Prep Time	3 minutes per side

Big Questions is designed to pit opposing worldviews against each other in an effort to lead students to explore levels of argumentation that are rarely reached in other debate formats. For that reason, the Negative is expected to present arguments that the resolution is actively false. Negative speaker(s) should view themselves as the Affirmative on the inverse resolution – exemplum gratia, the Negative on “Resolved: Socrates is a man” should view themselves as the affirmative on “Resolved: Socrates is not a man.” Any prima facie burdens on the Affirmative debater(s) apply equally to the Negative debater(s). Negatives must do more than refute the Affirmative case.

Lincoln-Douglas Debate:

Resolution: The resolution will be one requiring a value judgment. Tournaments must use the current NSDA Lincoln-Douglas topic for the month in which the competition occurs. Refer to Rostrum or www.speechanddebate.org/topics for the current topic. No substitution of competitors is permitted once the tournament has begun.

Timing: A timekeeper is an option but isn’t required. If no timekeeper is used, debaters may time themselves and their opponents. The use of Internet and/or computers is permitted, however, the tournament shall not be held responsible for providing Internet access.

Order of Speeches:

Affirmative Constructive	6 minutes
Cross-Examination	3 minutes
Negative Constructive	7 minutes
Cross-Examination	3 minutes
Affirmative Rebuttal	4 minutes
Negative Rebuttal	6 minutes
Affirmative Rebuttal	3 minutes
Prep Time	4 minutes per debater

Platform Events:

Informative Speaking:

An original, factual speech by the competitor on a realist subject to fulfill the general aim to inform the audience. Audio-visual aids may not be used. Multiple sources should be used and cited in the development of the speech. Notes are not permitted. Maximum time is 5 minutes.

Original Oratory:

An original speech by the competitor. The intent of the speech may be to persuade, inform, or entertain the audience. Audio-visual aids may not be used. Multiple sources should be used and cited in the development of the speech. Notes are not permitted. Maximum time is 10 minutes.

Interpretation & Acting Events:

Prose Interpretation:

A performance of prose material (e.g. short stories, novellas, novels, articles, essays, etc.) of literary merit, which may be drawn from more than one source. A primary focus of this event is on the development of the narrative/story. Play cuttings, speeches, and poetry are prohibited. This is not an acting event; thus, no costumes, props, lighting, etc., are to be used. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time is 7 minutes including introduction.

Poetry Interpretation:

A performance of poetry of literary merit, which may be drawn from more than one source. A primary focus of this event should be on the development of language. This is not an acting event; thus, no costumes, props, lighting, etc., are to be used. Play cuttings and prose works are prohibited. Use of manuscript is required for middle school students, however, it is prohibited in elementary competition. Maximum time limit for elementary competitions is 5 minutes including introduction. Maximum time limit for middle school competitions is 7 minutes including introduction.

Duo Interpretation:

A memorized performance from one or more texts of literary merit, humorous or serious, involving the portrayal of two or more characters presented by two individuals. The material may be drawn from any genre of literature. This is not an acting event; thus, no costumes, props, lighting, etc., are to be used. Presentation is from the manuscript and the focus should be off-stage and not to each other. Maximum time limit for elementary competitions is 5 minutes including introduction. Maximum time limit for middle school competitions is 10 minutes including introduction.

Program Oral Interpretation:

A memorized performance of a program of literature of literary merit. A 'program' must consist of thematically-linked selections of literature chosen from two or three recognized genres of competitive interpretation (prose/poetry/drama). A primary focus of this event should be on the development of the theme through the use of narrative/story, language, and/or characterization. A substantial portion of the total time must be devoted to each of the genres used in the program. The material must appear in separate pieces of literature (e.g., a poem included in a short story that appears only in that short story does not constitute a poetry genre.) This is not an acting event; thus, no costumes, props, lighting, etc., are to be used. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time limit is 10 minutes including introduction.

Humorous Interpretation:

A memorized performance of literature of literary merit, with the main intent to create humorous tone. This is not an acting event; thus, no costumes, props, lighting, etc., are to be used. Use of focal points and/or direct contact with the audience should be determined by the literature. Maximum time is 10 minutes including introduction.

Dramatic Interpretation:

A memorized performance of literature of literary merit, with the main intent to create a serious tone. This is not an acting event; thus, no costumes, props, lighting, etc., are to be used. Use of focal points and/or direct contact with the audience should be determined by the literature. Maximum time is 10 minutes including introduction.

Declamation:

A memorized performance of a speech, not written by the contestant. The speech must have been delivered in public. The speaker should present an introduction that states the title, author, and date of the speech they are reciting. This is not an acting event; thus, no costumes, props, lighting, etc., are to be used. Maximum time is 10 minutes including introduction.

Storytelling:

A memorized performance of a single published, printed story, anecdote, tale, myth, or legend. The story may be delivered standing or seated, thus one chair is permitted, however, this is not an acting event; thus, no costumes, props, lighting, etc., are to be used. Maximum time is 5 minutes including introduction.

Creative Duo:

An original memorized performance of literature involving the portrayal of two or more characters presented by two individuals. The tone may be humorous or serious. More than one written selection may be presented within the allotted time. This is not an acting event; thus, no costumes, props, lighting, etc., are to be used. Maximum time limit is 7 minutes including introduction.

Duet Acting:

A memorized performance of literature of literary merit, involving the portrayal of two or more characters presented by two individuals. The tone may be humorous or serious. More than one written selection may be presented within the allotted time. Competitors are permitted up to two chairs, but otherwise no costumes, props, lighting, etc., are to be used. Maximum time limit is 7 minutes including introduction.

Sightreading:

A performance of literature of literary merit provided by the tournament. Competitors shall be given one minute to review the literature, then create an interpretation-based performance of that literature. This is not an acting event; thus, no costumes, props, lighting, etc., are to be used. While the preparation time is limited to two minutes, the duration of the performance should be dictated by the length of the literature provided (i.e. there is no time limit to the performance, only the prep time. Tournaments should keep this in mind when selecting literature). The tournament should provide one (1) piece of literature to all competitors in the round. Once the first speaker is called, the other speakers shall leave the room, and wait outside the door. Once a speaker has spoken, they may listen to other speakers in that round.

Original Interpretation/Original Prose & Poetry:

An original memorized performance of drama, prose, or poetry. The tone may dramatic, humorous, or a combination. More than one written selection may be presented within the allotted time. This is not an acting event; thus, no costumes, props, lighting, etc., are to be used. Use of manuscript is required. Maximum time limit is 5 minutes including introduction for elementary competitions. Maximum time limit is 7 minutes including introduction for middle school competitions.

B. Special Rules:

1. No publication restrictions are set for interpretation events, however, competitors must be prepared to demonstrate that the literature being performed was not written by the competitor (except in those events requiring the competitor to do so).
2. All materials used in competition shall not have been used by the competitor in any competition prior to August 1 of the current academic year.
3. All events will be granted a 30-second 'grace period.' If there are multiple judges in the round, all must agree that the competitor has gone beyond the grace period. Should a competitor go beyond the grace period, the competitor may not be ranked 1st. There is no other prescribed penalty for going over the grace period.
4. Competitors may be entered in two Duos/Duets, however, such a situation will count as two events. Contestants may not be double-entered in Duo/Duet with the same partner (i.e. if competitor A and B are competing in Duo, competitor A would have to be partnered with competitor C for the other Duo).
5. A contestant may not use the same cutting/content or any portion of that cutting/content in more than one prepared event at any given tournament.
6. All rounds of Impromptu and Extemporaneous Speaking will be timed by the judge or the chair of the judge panel, and time signals will be given to contestants unless otherwise specifically requested.
7. In Extemporaneous Speaking the following rules shall apply:
 - a. Different topic areas will be used for each round. News stories should be selected from the six (6) weeks prior to the tournament. The topic areas available to choose from are the following: domestic

news, international news, sports news, pop culture, economy, technology, and science.

b. The use of electronic information retrieval systems during preparation time is allowed. Tournament hosts may provide Internet access to contestants but are not required to do so.

c. Attendance in the Extemporaneous Speaking Preparation Room is restricted to monitors appointed by the Tournament Director and contestants in the event.

d. Because Extemporaneous Speaking is an Individual event, contestants are expected to prepare speeches on their own without consultation with others.

8. In Impromptu Speaking the following rules shall apply:

a. Different topic areas may be used for each round. The topic areas available to choose from are the following: concrete nouns, abstract nouns, famous people, quotations, proverbs.

b. Each round should provide at least 10 topics derived the previous categories outlined above (VII; B; 8; a).

c. Competitors shall leave the room at the beginning of the round. The first speaker will be asked to stay inside, draw a topic, and perform a speech. While this speaker is performing, the other competitors shall remain outside the room. Once the first competitor has finished, the second speaker will be allowed into the room to perform, with all other competitors who haven't spoken to remain outside the room. The competitors who have already spoken should remain in the room to watch the other competitors, unless double-entered. Once the second speaker has performed, the third speaker shall be invited into the room, and so on, until all competitors have spoken. (Rationale: allowing subsequent speakers to listen to previous speakers provides an unfair advantage. For example, if the concrete noun given to the first competitor was 'fork' and the noun given to the second competitor was 'knife', it would be reasonable for other competitors to assume that the word 'spoon' might be a possible word, as well. While other speakers are performing, a competitor could be using that time to brainstorm ideas in anticipation, effectively giving them much more prep time than the speakers who have already performed)

9. Use of Evidence:

a. Evidence Defined: Debaters are responsible for the validity of all evidence they introduce in the debate. Evidence includes, but is not limited to: facts, statistics, or examples attributable to a specific, identifiable, authoritative source used to support a claim. Unattributed ideas are the opinion of the student competitor and are not evidence.

b. Oral Source Citation: In all debate events, contestants are expected to, at a minimum, orally deliver the following when introducing evidence in a debate round:

- i. Primary author(s)' last name.
- ii. Year of publication.
- iii. Any other information such as source, author's qualifications, etc., may be given, but is not required.
- iv. Should two or more quotations be used from the same source, the author and year must be given orally only for the first piece of evidence from that source. Subsequently, only the author's name is required. Oral citations do not substitute for the written source citation. The full written citation must be provided if requested by an opponent or judge.

c. Written Source Citation: To the extent provided by the original source, a written source citation must include:

- i. Full name of primary author and/or editor
- ii. Publication date
- iii. Source
- iv. Title of article
- v. Date accessed for digital evidence
- vi. Full URL, if applicable
- vii. Author qualifications

d. Paraphrasing: If paraphrasing is used in a debate, the debater will be held to the same standard of citation and accuracy as if the entire text of the evidence were read.

e. Ellipses Prohibited: In all events, the use of internal ellipsis (...) is prohibited unless it is a replication of the original document. Debaters may omit the reading of certain words; however, the text that is verbally omitted must be present in the text of what was read for opposing debaters and/or judges to examine. The portions of the evidence read including where the debater begins and ends must be clearly marked.

f. Availability of Evidence: In all events, any material (evidence, cases, written citations, etc.) that is presented during the round must be made available to the opponent and/or judge during the round if requested. When requested, the original source or copy of the relevant pages of evidence read in the round must be available to the opponent in a timely fashion during the round and/or judge at the conclusion of the round.

g. Original Sources Defined: Original source for evidence may include, but is not limited solely to, one of the following:

- i. Accessing the live or displaying a copy of a web page (teams/ individuals may access the Internet to provide this information if requested).

- ii. A copy of the page(s) the evidence is on, the page preceding, and the page following, or the actual printed (book, periodical, pamphlet, etc.) source.

- iii. Copies or electronic versions of published handbooks (i.e., Baylor Briefs; Planet Debate, etc.).

- iv. Electronic or printed versions or the webpage for a debate institute or the NDCA sponsored Open Evidence Project or similar sites.

h. Regardless of the form of material used to satisfy the original source requirement, debaters are responsible for the content and accuracy of all evidence they present and/or read.

i. Distinguishing which parts of each piece of evidence are and are not read: In all events which require written evidence, debaters must mark their evidence in two ways:

- i. Oral delivery of each piece of evidence must be identified by a clear oral pause or by saying phrases such as “quote/ unquote” or “mark the card.” The use of a phrase is definitive

and may be preferable to debaters. Clear, oral pauses are left solely to the discretion of the judge.

ii. The written text must be marked to clearly indicate the portions read in the debate. In the written text the standard practices of underlining what is read, or highlighting what is read, and/or minimizing what is unread, is definitive and may be preferable to debaters. The clarity of other means of marking evidence is left to the discretion of the judge.

j. Private communication prohibited Private, personal correspondence or communication between an author and the debater is inadmissible as evidence, however, speakers using evidence in Original Oratory or Informative may use such sources.

10. In Sightreading the following rules shall apply:

a. Different topic areas will be used for each round. The topic areas available to choose from are the following: poetry, short stories, plays, screenplays, teleplays, radioplays, or webplays.

b. Because Sightreading is an Individual event, contestants are expected to prepare speeches on their own without consultation with others.

11. Elementary students may not use a literature cutting or platform topic from a previous tournament. Rationale: students are encouraged to learn new pieces so that they can fully understand how to cut, prepare, and perform a multitude of speeches instead of focusing on a single speech over the course of the entire school year.

IX. Tournament Procedures

A. Registration:

1. All SCJFL tournaments must be listed on ForensicsTournament.net. This is vital to keep members up to date with the tournament dates and locations. While registration is allowed to occur on other sites such as Tabroom.com or SpeechWire.com, this practice is discouraged. In any event, an announcement of the tournament must be made on ForensicsTournament.net.

2. The naming of each tournament should follow a strict policy, so that league members can easily distinguish an SCJFL tournament from others listed on such registration sites. The naming structure should be as follows:

- a. The name of the league should proceed all other information pertaining to the league.
- b. The time frame of the tournament should be listed in the name, in order to distinguish from other SCJFL tournaments that might be listed.
- c. The type of tournament should be used to distinguish between the speech-only and the debate-only tournaments.
- d. Any honorary tournaments using alternate naming should be listed after the proceeding information.
- e. Example: SCJFL 1st Quarter Speech Only Tournament - The Wolpert-Gawron Invitational.

B. Tournament Fees: Fees are to be developed by the Tournament Director, the President of the SCJFL Board, and the Tournament Host. Such fees should cover any costs accrued by the Tournament Host. Typically, each competitor is charged \$10 per event entered. Judge penalty fees and waving those fees is at the discretion of the Tournament Director, the President of the SCJFL Board, and the Tournament Host.

C. Deadline: The deadline to enter shall be determined by the Tournament Director, however, deadlines shall not be greater than one (1) week before the tournament date.

D. Tournament Judge Requirements:

1. Individual Events: One (1) judge shall cover five (5) events per pattern.
2. Debate Events: One (1) judge shall cover two (2) events per pattern.

E. Protests: All protests must be submitted in writing to the tournament Ombudsman. Supporting materials must accompany the protest. Protests will not be reviewed and considered until complete documentation has been provided by the person filing the protest. After the infraction has been observed/discovered, the protest must be filed in a timely manner. Decisions of the Ombudsman are final. If a perceived violation occurs in a subsequent round, another protest may be filed. The competitor(s) may continue to compete without prejudice during the review. The school's coach in attendance will decide if the competitor(s) will be informed of the protest.

F. Appeals: The coach of the accused may appeal the decision of the Ombudsman to the Tournament Director. The Tournament Director's ruling may be appealed to a committee of present board members whose decision is final.

G. Forfeits & Disqualifications: In case of a disqualification of a contestant, all previous ranks and decisions of other contestants stand and no revision of past round ranks will take place.

1. Forfeits: A contestant who does not appear or notify the judge that he/she is double-entered shall be marked last in the round. A debate team more than 15 minutes late shall forfeit the round. The Tournament Director or Ombudsperson may waive these penalties for valid reasons.

2. Disqualifications: Rule violations are defined as actions in which a competitor has presented material that does not fit within the guidelines of the activity in which they are participating. Such violations may include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, exceeding transitional material guidelines, using non-existent evidence, and misrepresenting the content of the literature being performed. In such instances, the following consequences will result:

- a. The competitor will be immediately disqualified from the tournament. The disqualification will occur after all appeals have been exhausted and the decision that a rules violation has occurred is confirmed.

- b. If in an elimination round, any placings or points earned by that competitor will be vacated. All competitors ranked lower than the disqualified competitor will be moved up one placement in that round. If multiple violations in the same event have occurred, competitors will be advanced accordingly. If the violation occurs prior to the elimination round, all previous placings will remain the same.

3. Wrong Room/Section: If a competitor competes in the wrong section of a speech event or against the wrong opponent in a debate round—at no fault of their opponent or the tournament—that competitor/team will automatically receive last in the section in which they were assigned and zero speaker points for that round. Debaters will receive a loss for that particular round and zero speaker points. Rounds shall not be re-run in such circumstances.

4. Harassment: Harassment in any form at an SCJFL tournament is prohibited and grounds for disqualification. The definition of harassment shall be at the ombudsman and tournament director's discretion.

5. Evidence Violations:

a. 'Evidence distortion' exists when the textual evidence itself contains added and/or deleted word(s), which significantly alters the conclusion of the author (e.g., deleting 'not'; adding the word 'not'). Additionally, failure to bracket added words would be considered distortion of evidence.

b. 'Non-existent evidence' means one or more of the following:

i. The debater citing the evidence is unable to provide the original source or copy of the relevant pages when requested by their opponent, judge, or tournament official.

ii. The original source provided does not contain the evidence cited.

iii. The evidence is paraphrased but lacks an original source to verify the accuracy of the paraphrasing.

iv. The debater is in possession of the original source, but declines to provide it to their opponent upon request in a timely fashion.

c. 'Clipping' occurs when the debater claims to have read the complete text of highlighted and/or underlined evidence when, in fact, the contestant skips or omits portions of evidence.

d. 'Straw Argument' is a position or argumentative claim introduced by an author for the purpose of refuting, discrediting or characterizing it. Reliance on a straw argument occurs in a debate round when a debater asserts incorrectly that the author supports or endorses the straw argument as his or her own position. (Note: A debater who acknowledges using a "straw argument" when verbally first read in the round, would not be misrepresenting evidence. However, if the debater fails to acknowledge the use of a straw argument and their opponent questions the use of such an argument, then that debater has committed an evidence violation.)

6. Procedures for Resolving Evidence Violations:

a. Judges are responsible for resolving disputes between debaters regarding oral citations; written source citations; distinguishing between what parts of each piece of evidence are and are not read in a particular round. When the judge(s) have such a dispute in the round, they must make a written note on the ballot or inform the

tabulation committee of the dispute. They must do so particularly if it impacts the decision in the debate.

b. An appeal can only be made if the issue has been raised in the round with the exception of the issues listed in IX.G.6.c (below). Appeals may only be made if judge(s) have misapplied, misinterpreted, or ignored a rule.

c. A formal allegation of violation of the evidence rules is permitted during the round only if the debater(s) allege a violation of IX.G.5.a (distortion); IX.G.5.b (nonexistent evidence); IX.G.5.c (clipping). If a formal allegation of violation of these rules is made during a round, the following procedures must be followed:

i. The team/individual alleging a violation must make a definitive indication that they are formally alleging a violation of an evidence rule.

ii. The team/individual alleging the violation of the evidence must articulate the specific violation as defined in section(s) IX.G.5.a (distortion); IX.G.5.b (nonexistent evidence); IX.G.5.c (clipping).

iii. The judge should stop the round at that time to examine the evidence from both teams/individuals and render a decision about the credibility of the evidence. If the judge determines that the allegation is legitimate and an evidence violation has occurred, the team/individual committing the violation will be given the loss in the round. If the judge determines that the allegation is not legitimate and that there is no violation, the team/individual making the challenge will receive the loss in the round. (Note: Teams/individuals may question the credibility and/or efficacy of the evidence without a formal allegation that requires the round to end. Teams/debaters may make in-round arguments regarding the credibility of evidence without making a formal allegation or violation of these rules. Such informal arguments about the evidence will not automatically end the round, and will be treated by the judge in the same fashion as any other argument.)

d. The Ombudsman is authorized to hear:

i. Appeals, pursuant to section IX.G.6.b, claiming that a judge ignored, misinterpreted or misapplied rules other than those from which no appeal is permitted pursuant to section IX.G.6.a.

ii. Appeals from a judge's decision, pursuant to IX.G.6.c, on a formal in-round allegation of distortion or non-existent evidence (note: judge decisions regarding clipping may not be appealed)

iii. A formal allegation of distortion or non-existent evidence that is made for the first time after conclusion of the debate.

e. The procedures for making an appeal or post-round formal allegation are as follows:

i. A coach or school-affiliated adult representative from the school(s) competing in the debate or a judge for the round must notify the Ombudsman of intent to submit an appeal or formal post-round allegation within 20 minutes of the end of the round. The 20-minute time period begins once the last ballot from the round in question (if flighted, both flights) has been collected by the tournament officials.

ii. The coach must submit the post-round formal allegation to the tabulation committee within 10 minutes of the formal notification of the intent to appeal. The allegation must be in writing and articulate the specific evidence violation that is being challenged. The challenged contestant and coach shall be notified.

iii. If the Ombudsman determines that the original protest has merit, the coach will be given 20 minutes to provide evidence denying or to the contrary of the claim. If such evidence cannot be offered, the challenged competitor(s) will be given the loss in the round and may be subject to additional penalties. If the Ombudsman determines that the allegation is not legitimate and that there is no violation, the team/individual making the challenge will receive the loss in the round.

iv. The Tournament Director and/or Ombudsman have the discretion of extending the time limits for these actions if circumstances do not allow a coach to be available within the prescribed time limits.

f. The Ombudsman's decision to disqualify a student can be appealed by the coach or school-affiliated adult by using the following procedure:

i. The appeal must be submitted in writing to the Tournament Director within 10 minutes of the notification to disqualify.

- ii. The Tournament Director will contact the SCJFL Board members in attendance at the tournament once the written appeal has been received. Both sides will be able to provide written explanations and supporting evidence to defend their individual side.
 - iii. A decision will be rendered in a timely manner. The decision of the SCJFL Board shall be final and cannot be appealed.
 - iv. No more than one round may occur between the round being protested and the decision of the SCJFL Board.
 - v. If the appeal is successful and the contestant(s) may now continue in the tournament, they will be put into the appropriate round/bracket.
- g. If appeals are made in rounds in which multiple judges are being used, normal procedures should be followed to ensure each judge reaches their decision as independently as possible. Judges will be instructed not to confer or discuss the charge and/or answer to the potential violation. It will be possible for one judge to determine that an evidence violation has occurred and the other judge(s) to determine no violation has occurred. The Tournament Director will record the judge panel's decision as a normal win or loss; the outcome is thus tabulated in the same fashion as a round in which an evidence violation had not occurred. If the majority of the judge panel present finds an evidence violation did not occur, no sanction may be applied to the team/individual charged with the violation. If the majority finds a violation has occurred, the appropriate penalties will be administered.

7. Penalties for Evidence Violations

- a. If the judge determines that a competitor has violated one of the rules listed in section IX.G.6.a or VIII.B.8.j (oral citation, written citation, indication of parts of card read or not read, use of private communication), the judge may at his or her discretion disregard the evidence, diminish the credibility given to the evidence, take the violation into account (solely or partially) in deciding the winner of the debate, or take no action.
- b. If a competitor commits an evidence violation for clipping (section IX.G.5.c), the use of a straw argument (section IX.G.5.d) or the use of ellipses (section VII.B.8.e) will result in a loss for the competitor(s) committing the evidence violation. The judge should award zero (0)

speaker points (if applicable) and indicate the reason for the decision on the ballot.

c. If competitor(s) commits an evidence violation of distortion (section IX.G.5.a) or have used non-existent evidence (as defined by section IX.G.5.b) the offending competitor(s) will lose the round and be disqualified from the tournament. However, if a competitor(s) loses a round due to non-existent evidence (section IX.G.5.b) violation during an in-round formal allegation, but can produce it after the round within 20 minutes to the Ombudsman, the Ombudsman may decide not to disqualify the entry. The loss that was recorded by the judge may not be changed. If a post-round protest is levied against a debater for not providing evidence or an original source in round (non-existent evidence), and the judge confirms they in fact did not provide the evidence in a timely fashion when requested in round, the competitor(s) will lose the round and be disqualified from the tournament. However, if a competitor(s) produces the evidence within the post-round challenge period, that competitor(s) may avoid disqualification.

d. Depending on the severity, an offense may result in notification of said offense to the contestant's school administration and/or revocation of SCJFL membership.

H. Adjustments: Under no circumstance shall a tournament or part of a tournament be re-run because of a violation of rules. However, speakers may be asked to speak again in special circumstances (e.g. if a final round accidentally begins before all judges are present, a speaker may be asked to perform again in front of the judges who were not initially present).

1. Tabulation Errors: If a tab room error results in an announcement at the awards assembly of an incorrect placement in an event, no contestant's place will be lowered.

2. If the tournament makes a mistake and a contestant(s)'s placement is incorrectly announced, the higher position will be awarded the correct place and award. Ties may result.

3. When a round has been held between the round being protested and a final decision regarding the protest, the result of that round will be recorded as follows:

a. Individual Events:

i. All preliminary rankings will not be adjusted, regardless of the outcome of the protest.

ii. If the protest is upheld, and a competitor is disqualified, all elimination rounds will be adjusted accordingly.

iii. If the protest is overruled, and the protesting competitor was found to not be in violation of any rule, no revision of the result on the ballot will take place.

b. Debate Events:

i. If the protest is upheld, and a debate competitor is disqualified, the opponent of the disqualified debater will receive a forfeit win.

ii. If the protest is overruled, and the protesting competitor won the protested round, no revision of the result on the ballot will take place.

iii. If the protest is overruled, the protesting competitor lost the protested round, and had no previous losses, no revision of the result on the ballot will take place.

iv. If the protest is overruled, the protesting competitor lost the protested round, and had a previous loss, the opponent will receive a forfeit win regardless of the result on the ballot.

I. Round Design:

1. Individual Events:

a. At least two (2) entries must register for any individual event, or that event will be cancelled.

b. Preliminary Rounds (local and state/championship tournaments):

i. Each tournament shall consist of three (3) preliminary rounds with one (1) judge.

ii. Competitors should be randomly assigned to a panel, but effort should be made to ensure that a competitor is not placed in the same panel as another competitor from the same school. Panels should contain between 4-7 competitors and evenly distributed amongst all panels.

iii. Speaking order of competitors should be randomized.

iv. All competitors entered in the tournament shall be permitted to speak in these rounds, provided they are not unreasonably late or they have not been disqualified.

v. Each prelim round should consist of at least 4 competitors and no more than seven (7). Events with fewer than 4 competitors may be the exception to this rule (See section IX, J for tabulation rules).

c. Elimination Rounds for Local SCJFL Individual Events:

i. Local SCJFL tournaments events with 41 entries or less shall have a single final round with at least six (6) finalists. The Tournament Director may permit more than six finalists if there are ties. Each final round shall have three (3) judges. Tournaments should not create a final round with more than half of the total number of competitors (thus, if six (6) students enter the tournament, no more than three (3) should be advanced to the final round).

ii. Local SCJFL tournaments events with forty-two (42) entries or more shall have 'festival finals.' A festival final shall consist of two (2) panels of finalists, with no fewer than five (5) competitors in each panel. Each final round panel shall have three (3) judges. Competitors' scores will be totaled across the board (i.e. competitors from one panel will not directly compete against from the other panel, but their scores will be). Efforts should be made to separate competitors from the same school into separate panels. The festival finals panels will seed entries of approximately equivalent strength, based on preliminary rounds performance, protecting for school constraints first. If an event has more than eighty-four (84) entries, a third panel may be added. If an event has more than 126 entries, a fourth panel may be added. In all cases, each panel shall have three (3) judges and at least five (5) competitors per panel.

iii. Prelim scores will not carry over to elimination rounds except that for the purpose of scheduling the first elimination round. From that point on, scores reset after each round (the possible exception being the use of prelim scores for tie-breaking procedures outlined in sections IX; J; 1; d; v below).

iv. Unlike the preliminary rounds, elimination round rankings should not tie. If seven (7) competitors are advanced to an elimination round, then the judges should rank the competitors all the way to 7th place.

d. Elimination Rounds for Southern California Champs and any SCJFL-sanctioned State Tournament Individual Events:

- i. Southern California Champs and any SCJFL-sanctioned State Tournament events with 41 entries or less shall have a single final round with at least six (6) finalists. The Tournament Director may permit more than six finalists if there are ties. Each final round shall have three (3) judges.
- ii. Southern California Champs and any SCJFL-sanctioned State Tournament events with 42 entries or more shall have a semifinal final round. This round will consist of two (2) panels, each with at least six (6) competitors. The three (3) top-ranked competitors from each section shall advance to a final round with six (6) total competitors. Each semifinal and final round shall have three (3) judges.
- iii. Prelim scores will not carry over to elimination rounds except that for the purpose of scheduling the first elimination round. From that point on scores reset after each round (the possible exception being the use of prelim scores for tie-breaking procedures outlined in sections IX; J; 1; d; v below).
- iv. Unlike the preliminary rounds, elimination round rankings should not tie. If seven (7) competitors are advanced to an elimination round, then the judges should rank the competitors all the way to 7th place.

2. Debate Events

- a. At least three (3) entries must register for any debate event, or that event will be cancelled.
- b. Pairing Priorities: These take absolute precedence over pairing methods. Priorities are more important than side alternation.
 - i. The first priority is the drawing of byes. A bye will be tabulated as a win, and the team receiving the bye will be awarded speaker points equal to their speaker point average in the other non-elimination rounds of competition. The bye will be assigned randomly in rounds one and two. In subsequent rounds the bye will go to the lowest seeded team. In the event that the lowest seed has already received a bye the bye will advance to next lowest seed as no team will receive more than

one bye.

ii. The second priority is to avoid the pairing of teams from the same school.

iii. The third priority is to avoid the pairing of teams who have met previously in the tournament, except to avoid the pairing of teams from the same school.

iv. The fourth priority is to avoid the pairing of teams from the same state except to avoid pairing teams from the same school or teams who met earlier (waived for elimination rounds).

c. Local SCJFL Debate Tournaments

i. Each tournament shall consist of at least four (4) preliminary rounds. All competitors entered in the tournament shall be permitted to speak in these rounds, provided they are not unreasonably late or they have not been disqualified.

ii. A preset schedule for the first two (2) preliminary rounds of the tournament will be prepared by computer. The remaining preliminary rounds will be 'power-matched' (i.e. teams with a 2-0 record will be matched against another team with a 2-0 record and competitors with a 1-1 record will be matched likewise). A tournament may 'lag power-match' if needed for time, however, this is not preferred (e.g. if a Tournament Director needs to base the round 3 power-match decision off of the first round results. This is done for time so that a Tournament Director doesn't have to wait for all of the round 2 ballots to return before pairing round 3. Hence, there is a "lag" to the power-matching). If a Tournament Director needs to lag power-match, he/she should make every attempt to announce such a decision well in advance of the tournament.

iii. Each team shall uphold three affirmatives and three negatives unless that team received a bye, except Public Forum rounds that always flip to determine sides and speaking order.

iv. Each tournament shall consist of two (2) 'elimination-preliminary' rounds. These rounds advance all winning debaters (i.e. all 4-0 teams and all 3-1 teams advance to round 5; all 5-0 teams and 4-1 teams shall advance to round 6). It should be noted that some 2-2 teams may advance to round 4 and some 3-2 teams may advance to round 6. This should only be done to allow for enough debates so that a school will not

have to debate itself, however, the Tournament Director should not advance more than half of the event's entries.

d. Elimination Rounds for Southern California Champs and any SCJFL-sanctioned state tournaments:

i. Each tournament shall consist of at least five (5) preliminary rounds. All competitors entered in the tournament shall be permitted to speak in these rounds, provided they are not unreasonably late or they have not been disqualified.

ii. In the first elimination round the highest seed will debate the lowest seed, the second seed will debate the second lowest seed, so on. For example in octafinals the 1st seed would debate the 16th seed, the 2nd seed would debate the 15th seed, the 3rd seed would debate the 14th seed, the 4th seed would debate the 13th seed, and so on ending with the 8th seed debating the 9th seed.

iii. Elimination round brackets are not reseeded following each round. This means if the 16th seed defeats the 1st seed in octafinals then they assume the 1st seed.

iv. For Policy, Big Questions, and Lincoln-Douglas: If the entries paired to debate in out rounds met in prelims then they will debate on opposite sides in the elimination round. If the two entries have not met previously at the tournament then they will flip a coin for sides. Sides and speaker order in Public Forum will always be determined by coin toss. Spar sides will be determined by the judge.

v. Once elimination rounds begin, all scores reset (0-0), and the rest of the tournament will run with immediate elimination for any teams that lose the judges' decision.

vi. Once elimination rounds begin, school constraints no longer apply. An entry may be paired to debate another entry from the same school. In such situations the coach of record for entries involved may opt to advance either entry without holding the actual debate, or the coach may decide to require the debaters to debate, in which case the tournament will provide necessary judges for the round to take place.

vii. Tournament Directors of Southern California Champs and any SCJFL-sanctioned State Tournament Debate Events may add additional elimination rounds (Octafinals, Double-octafinals,

etc.) if time permits. Partial elimination rounds may also be constructed in order to clear enough teams with winning records to fit the bracket.

viii. Judges should disclose their decisions in all elimination and partial-elimination rounds.

3. Congress

a. There must be at least five (5) entries registered, or Congressional Debate will be cancelled.

b. Prelim Rounds:

i. Each tournament shall consist of three (3) preliminary rounds with one (1) judge.

ii. Preliminary Round Sectioning: Competitors will ideally be assigned to panel/chamber of 18-24 competitors a piece. Each panel/chamber shall not exceed 30 competitors.

iii. Competitors from the same school will be separated, except to allow for an affiliated judge to score in a panel/chamber without competitors from her/his school.

iv. Prelim rankings should stop at 8th place (i.e. only competitors ranked 1st - 8th place will be awarded points).

c. Elimination Rounds:

i. If fewer than twenty (20) competitors enter Congress and the tournament has not divided them into multiple panels for the prelim rounds, no final round will be held. If more than one panel has been created, even if fewer than twenty (20) competitors enter, then a final round is required. If a final round is necessary, three (3) judges are required.

ii. If 20-40 competitors are entered, the top 10-14 will advance straight to finals.

iii. If 41 or more competitors are entered, at least 24 will advance to a semifinal round. The semifinal will consist of two panels/chambers and will seed entries of approximately equivalent strength, based on preliminary rounds performance, protecting for school constraints first.

e. Parliamentarian: A parliamentarian will be assigned to each chamber (or one of the judges will be designated as “parliamentarian”). They will supervise each chamber: to call roll and ensure competitors are in assigned seats, to intervene in case a chamber becomes too deeply involved in parliamentary rules, and correct gross errors in procedure. They should remain in the background, but step forward firmly when her/his presence is required. The purpose of the Congress is to debate legislation, and it is the parliamentarian’s duty to see that this is done.

f. Presiding Officer: Interested competitors may run for election as presiding officer. If no competitors step forward, the parliamentarian assigned to the chamber shall preside. The presiding officer shall call contestants to speak, serve as timekeeper, and ensure that tournament rules and parliamentary procedure are adhered to. The parliamentarian will assist the presiding officer as necessary.

J. Tabulation:

1. All Individual Events & Spar:

Each ballot is to be recorded. If ballots are submitted with incomplete information, every attempt should be made to get information in order to complete ballot tabulations. Averages will be used if ballots remain incomplete. No speaker points shall be recorded for individual events.

a. Prelim ballots should not have a rank that exceeds 5th place. Thus, each ballot would result in a tie after 5th place.

b. Elimination rounds shall rank all competitors in the round. Thus, if a tournament were to break seven (7) students into a final round, that round will be ranked to the 7th place.

c. Advancement into an elimination rounds shall be based on the following priorities:

i. Lowest cumulative ranks (ranks).

ii. Reciprocal fractions (decimal).

iii. Number of firsts in event (firsts).

iv. If a tie is unbreakable by this formula, all tied contestants shall advance.

d. When a quarterfinal or semifinal round is held, the top 3 participants from each section will advance. All advancement (including festival finals) into finals and awards will be determined by the priority below.

- i. Lowest final round rank total (Rank in Elim).
- ii. Judge preference of ranks in final round (Judge Pref in Elim).
- iii. Reciprocal fractions of final round ranks (Decimal in Elim).
- iv. Majority of first place ranks in event (Number of Firsts in Event).
- v. All rounds cumulative rank total (Total Rank in Event).
- vi. If a tie is unbreakable by this formula, all tied contestants shall advance.

2. Debate (Policy, Public Forum, Big Questions, and Lincoln-Douglas): Each ballot is to be recorded. If ballots are submitted with incomplete information, every attempt should be made to get information in order to complete ballot tabulations. Averages will be used if ballots remain incomplete.

a. Elimination Seeding: Elimination rounds at all SCJFL-sanctioned tournaments will be seeded and paired, based on the following priority:

- i. Total number of wins (Wins).
- ii. Single adjusted speaker points with highest and lowest single-ballot points dropped (High Low Points).
- iii. Opposition win-loss record (Opp Wins).
- iv. Unadjusted speaker points (Total Points).
- v. Double adjusted speaker points with first and second highest and lowest single- ballot points dropped (Two High Low Points).
- vi. Judge variance (Z Score).
- vii. In the event of an unbreakable tie, the seeding of the teams in questions will be determined by a coin toss (Random).

b. Top Speaker Placement (Policy & Public Forum Debate only):
Each ballot is to be recorded. If ballots are submitted with incomplete information, every attempt should be made to get information in order to complete ballot tabulations. Averages will be used if ballots remain incomplete. Each debate ballot shall have a speaker points value from 70-100. Fractions of points are not permitted. (Rationale: The use of fractions unfairly advantages students who debate in front of a judge who uses them. Meanwhile, this effectively disadvantages students who debate in front of judges who either don't know about fractions, refuse to use them, or believe they are only permitted to use half points [.5]. Thus, the easiest way to level all scoring biases is to eliminate the fraction from speaker points, entirely)
Determination of the top speakers shall proceed as follows:

- i. Drop high and low speaker point values from all preliminary rounds (High Low Points).
- ii. Add up total speaker points from the remaining ballots of the from preliminary rounds.

c. Tie-breaking procedures:

- i. Use total speaker points from preliminary rounds (Total Points).
- ii. Drop a second set of high-low ballots from preliminary rounds (Two High Low Points).
- iii. The debater on the team advancing the furthest in the tournament.

d. Award placement will be based on winning record of elimination bracket.

3. Congress:

Each ballot is to be recorded. If ballots are submitted with incomplete information, every attempt should be made to get information in order to complete ballot tabulations. Averages will be used if ballots remain incomplete. The following priorities determine advancement to elimination rounds and placing of awards:

- a. Low cumulative rank total.
- b. Judge Preference.

- c. Sum of Reciprocal Fractions.
- d. Low adjusted rank total, after high and low ranks are dropped.
- e. Judge preference of adjusted ranks.
- f. Reciprocal Fractions of adjusted ranks.
- g. Parliamentarian's ballot.

4. All tabulation shall be done through the use of EverythingTab, which is available online at EverythingTab.com. This is done so that there might be a familiarity with the program by all those working in the tab room. Any fees associated with the cost of using this software shall be incurred by the SCJFL. Tournament Directors who wish to use a different tabulation software may request a waiver through the SCJFL Board.

5. As much as possible, Tournament Directors shall practice an open-door policy with coaches/team representatives. Such practices include revealing the scores of competitors and producing ballots. Tournament Directors should take care that such practices do not slow the speed of the tournament. Parents and students are not allowed into the tab room.

K. Judges:

1. Judge Placement: One (1) computer-assigned judge will be used in all preliminary rounds. In a final round, any odd number of three (3) or more judges will be assigned by the Tournament Director in consultation with the Tournament Host and SCJFL Board. When possible a judge will not be scheduled to judge an entry more than once.

2. Disqualifications: Under no circumstances should a judge disqualify a competitor. If a rule violation is believed to have occurred, the Tournament Director and/or the Ombudsman shall determine the outcome. Judges should evaluate the round as if there were no rules violations, and inform tournament officials of any rule violations.

3. Oral Critiques: No debate ballot may be returned without a written reason for decision. Oral commentary is not considered a substitute for the written ballot. Judges should not disclose their decisions in the preliminary rounds of competition. However, they should disclose in elimination rounds after checking that each judge has finished his/her decision. Comments made by a judge (orally or written) should be constructive and professional.

4. Judge Conflicts: Contestants in any event who are about to be judged by someone who has taught them at any time must report that fact immediately to the ombudsperson. Failure to comply may result in disqualification. A judge must recuse himself or herself from judging a competitor under the following conditions:

a. The judge and the competitor may be perceived to have a competitive, personal, social, or financial agreement that may bias the judge's impartial evaluation of the round.

b. The judge does not believe they are able to fairly and impartially adjudicate a competition involving a particular competitor for whatever reason.

c. Judges may choose to recuse themselves from adjudicating a competitor under the following conditions. (If these conditions exist, it is the affirmative duty of the judge to make such information publicly available prior to the round beginning.)

i. The judge shares transportation and/or lodging with the competitor's team on a regular basis.

ii. The judge has a personal, financial, or familial relationship with the competitor's coach or member of the competitor's family.

iii. The judge is an administrator of, currently employed by, or anticipates employment from a forensic-related enterprise with whom a financial or advisory relationship exists or is sought with the competitor. NOTE: While these guidelines do not prohibit lab leaders/institute staff from judging their lab competitors. However, if those lab leaders maintain consistent contact with those competitors and/or engage in personal relationships with them, they should recuse themselves from judging those specific individuals.

d. The expectation of competitors, judges, and coaches is to engage in the highest levels of professionalism and integrity. While the responsibility is on judges to aide transparency, the responsibility exists for coaches and competitor competitors as well. It is the affirmative duty of all coaches and competitors to assist efforts in transparency. No decisions will be modified as a result of disclosed information.

5. Judges are not to confer with one another until after they have rendered a decision and turned in their ballots.

6. Judge Procurement: The host school for the tournament is expected to assemble a group of hired judges from the local area.

7. Each tournament shall offer four (4) \$25 Amazon gift cards given out for ballots that stand out as being good (e.g. thorough and constructive). The selection process will be decided by the Tournament Director with the help of the Ballot Table Official.

L. Awards:

1. Individual Events & Debate Awards:

a. Each contestant advancing to an elimination round shall be awarded for doing so.

b. An award for the top 10 speakers in Policy, and Public Forum Debate shall be given if the tournament has more than 20 entries per event.

c. Since local SCJFL debate tournaments do not have any true elimination rounds per se, the tournament should awards at least the top six (6) teams in each event.

2. Congress Awards: The top placing six competitors will be recognized; remaining competitors will be designated as finalists. The final session presiding officer(s) also will be recognized.

3. Top School Award (Sweepstakes): The top 3-5 schools may be recognized by the tournament at the discretion of the Tournament Director and Tournament Host. The following formula shall be used to calculate any such award:

a. Individual Events (including Spar and Congress):

For every 1st place = 10 points

For every 2nd place = 8 points

For every 3rd place = 6 points

For every 4th place = 4 points

For every 5th place = 2 points

For every 6th place or 7th place = 1 point

No additional points are awarded for 8th place or higher.

b. Debate Events (LD, Policy, Public Forum, Big Questions):

For every 1st place = 15 points

For every 2nd place = 10 points

For every semifinalist = 7 points

For every quarterfinalist = 5 points
For every octafinalist = 2 points
No additional points are awarded for double-octafinalist or higher.

4. In any event, if the tournament does not have a trophy or award on hand because of unexpected ties, then the Tournament Host shall see that all competitors are shipped one promptly after the tournament.

5. A team and/or individual sweepstakes award may be presented by the league to the competitor or team who accumulates the most points throughout the tournament season. The following formula shall be used to calculate any such award:

a. Individual Events (including Spar and Congress):

For every 1st place = 10 points
For every 2nd place = 8 points
For every 3rd place = 6 points
For every 4th place = 4 points
For every 5th place = 2 points
For every 6th place or 7th place = 1 point
No additional points are awarded for 8th place or higher.

b. Debate Events (LD, Policy, Public Forum, Big Questions):

For every 1st place = 15 points
For every 2nd place = 10 points
For every semifinalist = 7 points
For every quarterfinalist = 5 points
For every octafinalist = 2 points
No additional points are awarded for double-octafinalist or higher.

M. Double-entry: Competitors may not enter more than two events for any given pattern at any SCJFL tournament. Competitors may not double-enter in a pattern if they are also entered in any of the following events in the same pattern: Policy, Lincoln-Douglas, Public Forum, Big Questions, Congress, and Extemp.

N. At least one SCJFL Board member must be present at each tournament.

O. Hosting an SCJFL Tournament Requirements:

1. Documents:

- a. A letter of invitation from the principal officer of the institution;
- b. A statement of any goals and/or services to be provided by the institution;

c. A statement of any charges to be made for use and care of any facilities.

2. Supplies:

- a. Rapid photocopy machine
- b. 1 Mac-compatible high speed printer
- c. 7 reams of paper (for schedules/results, etc.)
- d. Office supplies: pens, pencils, legal pads, markers, tape, scissors, paper clips

3. Facilities:

- a. 1 Lecture Auditorium (seats between 100-300)
- b. 25-100 classrooms (Sat/Sun)
- c. Appropriate rooms for tabulation
- d. All costs for campus custodial/security/room rental are to be borne by Host School

4. Personnel:

- a. 15 judges
- b. 5 student helpers for the entire tournament

5. Invitation:

- a. Provide information regarding location (address, parking, etc.) and food amenities (on-campus or location of nearby options).
- b. Lodging: Please provide a list of area motels within reasonably close distance to campus (include current rates for Singles/Quads and any additional services provided by the motel).
- c. Amenities: Fringe benefits: Specify any add-on advantages which might be forthcoming should your school be selected as Host.

6. Judge Training: Provide judges' training and print league's judge handouts for the events offered at the tournament. Tournaments may

bypass the training session if they provide handouts to participating schools 72 hours before the tournament.

P. The SCJFL may sponsor a state tournament each year. This state tournament should occur on the third weekend in May. The state tournament should abide by the rules and regulations outlined in these by-laws, however, they may create a three-person committee that would govern changes in the state tournament. The rules and by-laws in this document specific to the state tournament may be altered by a state committee. Each year, the state tournament should hold an election of a new member to be elected for a three-year term (thus, committee members may be elected to a shorter term for the initial formation). If a state-committee member cannot or will not fulfill his/her duties, an emergency election can be conducted via the state tournament listserv. If no one is able or willing to run, a member of the SCJFL board may be drafted to serve the rest of the term.

Q. Entry Limits: If a tournament host must restrict the number of entries in a tournament, the following procedure must be used (this measure should be used only as a fail-safe; the SCJFL should always attempt to include as many students as possible)

1. Each school shall rank their entire team in terms of preference.
2. The Tournament Director shall take the first competitor from each school's list, beginning with the first school to enter a finalized list of competitors to the tournament (i.e. late adds, drops, or changes will move a school to the back of the line). Each school enters their top rated competitor.
3. Once each school has entered their first choice for competitors, the Tournament Director then admits each school's second choice, and so on until all rooms in the tournament are filled.

R. Tournament Mistakes: Sometimes a tournament might make a mistake in the way it runs an event (e.g. the tournament assigns sides for Public Forum instead of having the students flip for sides; Impromptu topics are not distributed correctly; etc.). In such circumstances, the tournament should correct the mistake as quickly as possible. This may result in slight inconsistencies. For example, if a tournament assigns sides for Public Forum in the first round and then the tabulation staff is notified of the violation with SCJFL policy, the tournament must change the event to adhere to these rules. The result would be that a tournament might accidentally assign sides for the first round, but the subsequent rounds would be corrected to flip for sides. Mistakes happen, but the tournament should make efforts to adhere to the rules designed in these by-laws. If a tournament director refuses to adhere to these rules, the league may do any of the following:

1. Penalize the host school by suspending their league membership.

2. Disallow the tournament host from hosting future competitions.
3. Refuse financial support for trophies or other costs that the league would normally reimburse.
4. Refuse to allow the results of the tournament to count toward season sweepstake points (either individual and/or team points).
5. Create an ad hoc committee of present SCJFL board members to investigate and recommend actions to the SCJFL board.

X. Scholarships:

The SCJFL may offer scholarships to students. The selection process and amount given are dependent upon a specialized SCJFL Scholarship Sub-Committee.

XI. Recordings and Research:

All recordings and research administered at and SCJFL event must be coordinated with the SCJFL President. Unsanctioned research or recordings at any SCJFL event is not permitted. Violators may be disqualified or asked to leave the tournament. Repeated offenses by teams may lead to the revocation of league membership. It is the responsibility of teams to inform parents and spectators that the SCJFL has a strict policy against recording speeches.

XII. Sanctions:

Should a contestant and/or school deliberately misrepresent or deliberately violate the ethics implicit in the SCJFL, such contestant and/or school may be denied participation in the league for one to three years. A decision to impose sanctions on a contestant and/or school shall be based on a decision by the SCJFL Board. The Board shall allow the offending school to either speak in-person during a Board meeting or to write a brief summary of defense prior to their decision. The SCJFL Board shall notify a school in writing of the decision and no further appeal is permitted.

XII. Honors:

From time to time, the SCJFL may choose to honor current or past members by naming tournaments after them. In so doing, a majority of board members must vote for such an honor, however, a board member may be excluded (though not required) for this vote if he/she is the person being honored, thus keeping the honor a surprise.

The first Individual Event tournament of the SCJFL season will be named after Heather Wolpert-Gawron . The full name of the tournament shall be: SCJFL 1st Quarter Speech Only Tournament - The Wolpert-Gawron Invitational (see section IX; A; 2; e for full tournament naming procedures).