

**Baltimore Catholic Forensics League**  
**Constitution**

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In August of 2008, the majority of member school voted to operate the current season under the provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws as they exist now. The document has been updated to include several provisions that were enacted since the last major revision of both documents and reflect the current manner the league is operating. Minor changes in sequence, wording, or omissions will be considered this fall. Any major revisions to either document will use the Approval and Amendment procedure outlined within.

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## ARTICLE 1. Name

- The name of this organization shall be the Baltimore Catholic Forensics League - (BCFL).
- Section A. Affiliation
  - This organization shall be comprised for the purpose of affiliation with the National Catholic Forensics League (NCFL).
  - As an affiliate of the NCFL all rules, regulations, and policies of the league must defer to those established by the National Organization
  - Any modifications to the NCFL established practices would require presentation to a general meeting with a 2/3 majority vote for implementation.
- Section B. There shall be no independent BCFL Tournaments held other than to lead to qualification of students for participation in the NCFL Grand National Tournament

## ARTICLE II. Purpose

- The purpose of the Baltimore Catholic Forensic League shall be the development of critical thinking and articulate leadership by the promotion of forensics activities in and among the students of its member schools.

## ARTICLE III. Membership

- Section A. Eligibility
  - Any existing secondary school in the Baltimore metropolitan area (Diocese) shall be eligible for membership in the BCFL. Any exceptions to this rule must be voted upon by the existing membership schools.
- Section B. Certification
  - Application for membership shall be made to the Secretary of this organization. Full rights of membership, including the right to vote at meetings, the right to participate in League competition, and the right to be enrolled as a member school of the BCFL, shall be granted only upon receipt of the full payment of dues as established by the Executive Committee.
  - For the purposes of organization, the right to vote at the fall meeting of the Executive Committee will be granted to all schools in good standing or enrolling during the previous school year.
- Section C. Fees
  - The Executive Committee shall establish annual dues and tournament fees for the member schools.
  - Individual schools shall be held accountable for payment of any penalty fees incurred as a result of that school's team/coaches decisions.

## ARTICLE IV. Officers of the League

- The Executive Board shall consist of the League officers. The officers of the League shall be a Tournament Director and a Diocesan Director, Assistant Director of Team Debate, Assistant Director of Speech, Assistant Director of

Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Assistant Director of Student Congress, Assistant Director of Public Forum Debate, the Secretary, and the Treasurer.

#### Duties of the Officers

- Tournament Director
  - The Director shall be responsible for the enforcement of all provisions of the Constitution and its By-Laws and all regulations enacted under its authority.
  - The Director shall have the authority over all tournament matters.
  - The Director shall be responsible, at his/her discretion, for the appointment of members of the Executive Committee to various duties.
  - The Director may call special meetings of the Executive Committee or other committees of the League when he/she deems it necessary.
  
- The Diocesan Director (NCFL) Representative
  - The Director of the BCFL shall serve as the representative of the Diocese to the NCFL
  - The Diocesan Director shall act as Tournament Director in his or her absence
  
- The Assistant Directors
  - There shall be the following assistant directors: Policy, Public Forum, Lincoln Douglas, Speech, Student Congress
  - They will be charged with organizing and running their event at each tournament.
  
- The Secretary
  - The Secretary shall conduct correspondence of the League.
  - The Secretary shall keep an accurate record of the proceedings of each League meeting and shall publish said minutes for distribution to the member schools.
  - The Secretary shall compile the annual Director of Member Schools and Coaches roster.
  - The Secretary shall provide the membership with copies of the Constitution and its By-Laws via the league web site.
  - The Secretary shall keep a history of the League.
  
- The Treasurer
  - The Treasurer shall receive and pay all bills charged to the League.
  - At each meeting of the Executive Committee, the Treasurer shall render an accounting of the League's expenditures and receipts to date.
  - At the end of each year, the Treasurer shall publish an itemized annual statement of receipts and expenditures.
  - The Treasurer shall arrange for the purchase of all materials required by the League.

- Officer's roles may be combined with a 2/3 vote of those member schools present at the fall meeting.
- Election of Officers
  - All officers shall be elected by a simple majority of the representatives of the member schools present.
  - Nomination and election of officers listed in Section IV.B. shall take place at the fall meeting of the appropriate school year.
- Term of Office
  - The term of office for the Tournament Director and Diocesan Director will be three years and will be eligible for reelection..
  - The term of office for the Director, the Assistant Director of Team Debate, the Assistant Director of Speech, the Assistant Director of Lincoln-Douglas Debate, the Assistant Director of Student Congress, the Secretary, and the Treasurer shall be for two years and will be eligible for reelection.
  - Assistant Directors of Speech, Congress, The Secretary, and the Treasurer shall be up for election in even numbered years.
  - The Assistant Directors of Policy, Public Forum, and Lincoln Douglas debate shall be up for election in odd numbered years.
  - The Tournament Director and Diocesan Director three year cycles begin with their election in 2008.
  - Should a resignation occur, a special election at the next regularly scheduled Executive Committee meeting shall be held to fill the vacancy.
  - In the interim, the Tournament Director of the BCFL shall appoint the official.

#### ARTICLE V. Tournament Officials

- Section A. The Assistant Directors
  - Each Assistant Director is charged with the operation of his/her respective division of all tournaments, in accordance with the rules of such tournaments as specified in the BCFL and NCFL By-Laws.
  - Each Assistant Director shall be empowered to establish and promulgate such regulations and procedures as he/she deems necessary to facilitate conformity with such rules and/or efficient conduct of his/her respective division. All such procedures will be coordinated and approved by the Tournament Director.
  - Each Assistant Director shall adjudicate all disputes that may arise and make interpretations of the rules as may be necessary concerning the conduct of his/her respective division in conjunction with the Director. Protests may only be registered by a coach or his/her properly designated assistant.
  - With the approval of the Tournament Director, each Assistant Director may delegate his/her authority to another member of the Executive Committee.

- Each Assistant Director shall require participating schools to furnish competent judges to his/her respective division and shall establish and promulgate qualifications required to judge the categories within the division.
  - Each Assistant Director shall be responsible for the preparation of instructions for judges and the distribution of those instructions at each tournament.
  - Each Assistant Director may appoint one or more assistants to facilitate, under his/her supervision, the conduct of his/her respective division.
  - The Assistant Director shall be responsible for the certification of those contestants who qualify to participate in the Qualifying Championship Tournament.
  - The Assistant Director of Speech or their designee shall be responsible for the preparation of an adequate number of topics concerning current events, which shall be, as far as possible, of equal weight and significance for use in limited prep events.
- Section B. Tournament Directors and Asst. Tournament Directors Tabulation responsibilities
    - Each Tournament Director and/or Assistant Tournament Director shall fulfill the following duties for his/her respective division.
    - He/she shall be responsible for the preparation of all schematics.
    - He/she shall be responsible for the tabulation of all results.
    - He/she shall be responsible for the compilation and publication of results for all coaches of the league to review in print as well on the league web site.
    - He/she shall be responsible for verifying the assignment of judges using appropriate Tab Room software.
    - He/she shall be empowered to establish and promulgate such regulations and procedures as are necessary or desirable for the execution of the above duties.
  - Section C. General Meeting Quorum
    - A quorum shall consist of the members present and voting at a duly announce meeting.
    - Each member school shall be granted one vote.

## ARTICLE VI. Amendments

- Section A. Amendment Proposals
  - An Amendment to this Constitution and/or its By-Laws may be proposed from any member school in writing prior to an official League meeting to be acted upon at the next meeting.
  - The Amendment proposal must be in the Tournament Director's possession at least thirty days prior to the meeting.
  - The Director must distribute copies of the proposed amendment to the member schools at least ten days prior to the meeting.

- Section B. Amendment Proposed by Committee
  - An Amendment to this Constitution and/or its By-Laws may be proposed and acted -upon at the same meeting if it results from a report of a committee established at a prior meeting and thereby placed on the agenda with due notice.
  - Voting procedures shall be those defined in Article VII of this Constitution.
  
- Section C. Amendment Ratification
  - Approval must be by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of member schools present.
  - All Constitutional and/or By-Laws Amendments adopted at the fall meeting shall take affect immediately.
  - Those Amendments adopted at the Winter or Spring meeting shall take effect the following competition year.
  - A separate motion maybe made for the Amendment to take effect immediately, with this separate motion requiring a two thirds (2/3) vote of member schools present to pass.

#### ARTICLE VII. Meetings of the League

- Section A. Official Meetings
  - There shall be two regular meetings of the Executive Committee and general membership each year. One will be held in May and one before the start of the season.
  - Any league business can be conducted at either meeting with proper prior notification. There is a 15 day requirement to post via the web page or mailing any business that is proposed.
  - An agenda of business to be conducted shall be sent to member schools prior to the meeting and posted on the league web site.
  - The Tournament Director or Diocesan may call other meetings of the Executive Committee as deemed necessary

#### ARTICLE VIII. Voting Procedures

- Section A. Voting
  - In all matters concerning the League as a whole, each school shall have one vote.
  - In special circumstances, proxy votes, via phone or email shall be allowed.
- Section B. Restrictions for voting
  - A quorum for a general meeting shall consist of the members present and voting.
- Section C. Vote by Mail or Telephone
  - The Tournament Director may call for a vote by email or telephone when he/she deems it necessary.
  - A quorum in such cases shall consist of the votes received by the deadline set by the Director.