

**PALM BEACH COUNTY MIDDLE (SCHOOL) FORENSIC LEAGUE
BYLAWS
(rev. August 2018)**

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of the organization shall be: Palm Beach County Middle School Forensic League, hereafter referred to as PBCMFL.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

It shall be the purpose of this organization to promote interest in interscholastic debate, oratory, interpretation, and public speaking by encouraging a spirit of fellowship and by conferring upon deserving candidates awards recognizing their achievements.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

A. Admissions

1. Eligibility: Any private or public middle school in either Palm Beach County or an adjacent county that does not have a league.

2. Certificates and fees: Individual student entry fees will be \$12 per tournament. This fee covers the cost of administration (tournament software and trophies) and meals. Student observer entry fee will be \$6 and cover the cost of food.

B. Exclusions

No school or individual may be excluded for reasons of race, religion, or creed. Exclusions for cause may occur in cases of specific rules violations as presented in the PBCMFL Constitution, by-laws and the event guidelines and rules.

C. Home School Students and Independent Entries

Home school students are welcome to participate in the PBCMFL. Interested students should contact their public school district for information on how to join a school forensics program. Any middle school aged student is eligible to attend any middle school tournament as an independent entry provided they register through the Joy of Tournaments Website prior to the registration deadline. These students must demonstrate an effort to create a debate club at their home school during the tournament year. (This provision regarding independent entries may change following the 2018-2019 School Year)

ARTICLE IV – LEAGUE ORGANIZATION

A. Organization/Operation

All schools, which have attained membership, their students have attained membership, and their forensic moderators shall constitute the league.

B. Function

The league will conduct about one tournament per month beginning in September and ending in April (dependent upon the number of host schools). The December PBCFL tournament shall be the only PBCFL High school tournament we are able to participate.

ARTICLE V – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A. Members

The executive committee shall be composed of the President, Vice President, Secretary, and the PBCFL Liaison of the league.

B. Election

The election of the executive committee members shall occur after the last regular-season tournament during the Spring Meeting and no later than the Fall Meeting. All member schools shall have one vote in the election.

C. Term of Office

Starting 2018-2019, The term of office for all executive committee members shall be one year, beginning and ending with the fall meeting, which shall occur no later than the first of September. Officers may run again for election.

D. Vacancies

Vacancies on the executive committee in the office of President shall be filled in the order of Vice President (administration), Secretary, and PBCFL Liaison. Vacancies in positions other than President shall be filled by election within thirty days, with each member school being eligible to cast one vote for each vacant position.

ARTICLE VI: OFFICERS

All members of the executive committee shall be responsible for the enforcement of all provisions of this constitution and all regulations enacted under their authority.

A. PRESIDENT: The president or designee shall be responsible for coach/parent judge training, general communication, recruitment, and will be the liaison between the coaches and the middle school league. The president should be present at all league tournaments.

B. VICE PRESIDENT (Administration): The VP shall act as the president in case of the temporary vacancy of that office or for the unexpired term of that of that office if it becomes vacant. The VP shall also perform such other duties as may be requested by the President included but not limited to running the tournament software.

C. SECRETARY: The secretary shall be responsible for all administrative correspondence directed and that is not covered by the president, including a written record concerning business of the executive committee. The secretary shall also take and distribute minutes of all other league meetings. The secretary shall also be responsible for compiling and distributing to all league coaches a current address/email/telephone/fax list of PBCMFL members.

D. PBCFL LIASON: The PBCFL liaison shall be responsible for representing the league at the fall and spring meetings of the PBCFL and for conducting all communication with the PBCFL.

ARTICLE VII – INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM

A. All ballots shall be prepared by the Executive Committee emailed to member schools. The vote will be cast at a coaches' meeting.

B. Each member school shall be entitled to one vote in all elections; that vote shall be cast by the head forensics moderator, or an assistant forensic moderator, or by a duly appointed proxy.

C. All ballots shall be returned to and tabulated by the secretary. Ballots may be returned by email and may either bear the signature of the person casting the ballot or the designated email address of the person casting the ballot.

ARTICLE VIII – AMENDMENTS

Amendments may be made to this constitution when supported by two members of the Executive Committee and ratified by a majority vote of member schools. Ballots cast on amendments shall be counted thirty days after submission of the amendment in the case of amendments which are proposed at any time other than the regular PBCMFL fall and spring meetings.

ARTICLE IX: FORENSICS ETHICS & CIVILITY CODE

A: Ethical Conduct. Ethical behavior is expected of members, students, coaches, judges, faculty and adults who participate in all forensic activities sponsored by the League. This includes, but is not limited to, the use of library resources and evidence, rendering judgments, and accurate recording of results.

B: Civility Code. The Executive Committee shall maintain a Civility Code. All individuals attending events sponsored or sanctioned by the League shall follow the guidelines in that document

C: Ethics Review. Allegations of behavior that is unethical or that violates the Civility Code must be submitted in writing to the President. Three members of the Executive Committee shall be appointed by the President to investigate such charges and make recommendations to the Executive Committee. In cases where the President makes or is the subject of a charge, the Vice-President shall receive the complaint, appoint the committee, and oversee the process. The recommendations of the committee shall be forwarded to the Executive Committee, which is hereby empowered to act on those recommendations at its next meeting.

STANDING RULES

RULE 1: SANCTIONED EVENTS

- A. PBCMFL tournaments will offer competition in the following PBCFL events: Lincoln Douglas Debate; Public Forum Debate; Congressional Debate; Original Oratory; Dramatic Performance; Oral Interpretation; Duo Interpretation; Oratorical Declamation.
- B. PBCMFL tournaments will offer competition in the following NSDA event: Impromptu Speaking.
- C. Additional events (such as Spontaneous Argumentation, Storytelling, World Schools, Informative, POI, Big Questions, and Extemporaneous Duo) may be offered at tournaments at the discretion of the Executive Committee and as a supplemental.
- D. The Executive Committee shall maintain updated ballots for all of the above events. Ballots for PBCFL Events are available on the PBCFL Website.
- E. The use of computers, electronic storage and retrieval devices, etc is allowed in rounds of Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Congressional Debate, and Public Forum. They are not allowed in any other event. Connectivity to any person, machine, device, or server outside the competition room or persons other than the competitors in the round is not allowed. This includes the prohibition of the use of wired or wireless local, or wide, area networks; cell phones; personal digital assistants; Palm, Treo, or Blackberry type devices; etc. The establishment of such a connection will constitute a violation of this rule. Competitors violating this rule will be disqualified from competition.
- F. The PBCMFL will make accommodations for students with disabilities in regards to the use of technology. Documentation of the disability must be provided in advance of a PBCFL tournament, and must be available for review by the Executive Board.
- G. Judges in Policy Debate, Lincoln Douglas Debate, or Public Forum Debate may use a computer to take notes/flow rounds while judging those events.

RULE 2: DOUBLE ENTRY

In general, students may not double enter unless allowed by the Executive Board for specific tournaments and events. Should double entry be allowed, advance notice will be given by the Executive Board.

RULE 3: SCHOOL-SANCTIONED ADULTS

- A. Each school attending an event sanctioned and/or sponsored by the PBCMFL must be a member of the League and the Head Coach and/or Assistant Coach must attend the event along with other students and adults.
- B. If the Head Coach or Assistant Coach is unable to attend an event sanctioned and/or sponsored by the League with their students, the Head Coach must send a letter from the principal of the school on official letterhead designating an adult to be responsible for the group. This school-sanctioned adult must be at least 21 years old and out of high school. The President must receive this letter five (5) calendar days before the start of the tournament.
- C. Independent entries must have an adult present who is there to supervise them.

D. Members who fail to submit this documentation may be excluded from competition at the discretion of the Executive Committee. Emergency circumstances may warrant an exception from this rule; the Executive Committee shall have the authority to grant exceptions.

RULE 4: JUDGING RESPONSIBILITIES

A. At PBCMFL tournaments, at least one adult from each school must be available to judge all events for the entire tournament.

B. Judges for all tournaments sanctioned by the PBCFL are required in the following ratios:

1. One (1) judge per two (2) entries or fraction thereof in Lincoln Douglas Debate.
2. One (1) judge per two (2) entries or fraction thereof in Public Forum Debate.
3. One (1) judge per five (5) entries or fraction thereof in Speech/IE events.
4. One (1) judge per ten (10) entries or fraction thereof in Congressional Debate.

C. The PBCMFL strongly encourages all coaches to train judges from their schools. The PBCMFL shall make training materials available to all members. There will be two formal PBCMFL Trainings per year in the Fall and in the Spring.

D. Judges should be instructed to provide POSITIVE and CONSTRUCTIVE feedback, as our purpose of this tournament is to encourage students to keep participating in speech and debate activities.

E. Judges may be high school juniors and seniors with at least 150 National Speech & Debate Association (NSDA) points or equivalent experience. Verification of student points must be brought to registration. These high school students will be able to earn NSDA points as well as volunteer hours for service organizations.

F. In cases where a school does not provide enough judges either through its own resources or through arrangements with other schools, the coach may be required to make student entry drops until the ratio is correct. These student and judge drops will incur the appropriate drop fees. Missed judge calls or refusal to accept a judging assignment may also result in the requisite number of competitors from that school being eliminated from the tournament.

G. No-show judge penalties are covered in Rule 6, Paragraph G.

H. Any requests by coaches to block judges from a competitor or school will not be allowed.

I. All coaches will be included in the judge pool and are expected to pick up ballots as needed.

J. The full Executive Committee shall be empowered to forbid member schools from sending judges to tournaments if the Executive Committee has ruled that said judges have demonstrated incompetent, inappropriate, or generally demonstrated malfeasant behavior in a previous league tournament.

K. Coaches should specify in the "notes" section what the preferred event areas are so that judges can be used in more than one event if needed. Preferences are not guaranteed, but every attempt will be made to match judges with events.

RULE 5: LEAGUE TOURNAMENTS

A. All league tournaments shall be hosted by member schools on dates that shall be determined at a spring or fall moderators' meeting. This meeting shall be held no later than three weeks prior to the first tournament or September 1, whichever comes first. In general, these tournaments will be held on the Wednesday prior to or following a PBCFL Tournament.

B. The secretary shall prepare and distribute a tournament calendar no later than one week prior to the first tournament.

C. No school shall host more than two tournaments during a given season. If needed, each participating member school shall host at least one tournament in each two-year period of membership.

D. A school must attend at minimum two (2) tournaments per semester to remain in good standing to be able to host a tournament.

E. The first tournament of the year will be designated as a "Practice Tournament" where all students can come to feel comfortable with each of the events offered. The first few tournaments in the fall will designate a Novice Chamber of Congress from a Varsity Chamber to help students get acclimated to the event before merging for the remainder of the schedule.

F. Host schools and moderators shall provide:

1. Adequate classroom facilities for all events offered;
2. An auditorium or other room large enough to accommodate registration, the general meeting, and the awards ceremony;
3. A results tabulation room with at least one photocopier and supplies (paper, toner, developer, computer/Internet access) adequate for tournament needs;
4. A moderator/judges' lounge
5. Refreshments for moderators, judges, and the tab room.
6. School maps.
7. An administrator and/or school police that is either present or on call.

G. The League President or an official designee shall post invitations on The Joy of Tournaments website.

Invitations should include:

1. Categories of competition to be offered and applicable restrictions.
2. Host's school and personal phone numbers, fax number, and email address.
3. Website registration procedure with a deadline of Tuesday, at 4:00 p.m. the week of the tournament for entry, numbers in each category, and Congress legislation.
4. Meal information.
5. All drops should be made on-line only without penalty on the Friday prior to the tournament or with penalty after 5:00 p.m. on Friday prior to the tournament.
6. A tournament time schedule showing at least the times for registration, the first round, and the awards ceremony.
7. Directions to the school.
8. Telephone number for the school.
9. A statement of league policy concerning membership and entry fees.

H. Failure to provide the requisite number of judges will result in students being dropped from a tournament. All drop fees will be added to the school's invoice for that particular tournament.

I. The PBCMFL does not offer judges for hire.

J. All regular season league tournaments shall offer two rounds of competition.

K. All individual events will be randomly sectioned/paired. Lincoln Douglas and Public Forum will be paired as follows: Rounds 1 will be randomly paired, Round 2 will be powered high-low in brackets based on Round 1.

L. At least three members of the Executive Committee shall be present at all league tournaments from the beginning of registration until the end of the awards ceremony. The President and the Executive Committee shall assist the tournament host with the tournament preparation.

M. During the tournament the Tab room is open only to officers and those coaches/designees assigned specific duties by the league president. Other coaches or designees shall not have access to results or ballots until after the tournament.

N. All members of the Executive Committee present at a given tournament will conduct the registration process and collection of fees.

O. In line with the policy of the PBCFL, there will be an entry cap of six (6) students per event from each school except in Congressional Debate which is limited to six (6) entries per school per chamber.

P. Members of the Executive Committee present at a given tournament shall serve as the final authority in the arbitration of any grievance/challenge involving the conduct of the tournament, the

conduct of any member moderator, the conduct of any student member, the conduct of any judge, or the alleged violation of rules and regulations pertaining to any category of competition.

Q. National Catholic Forensic League rules and regulations shall apply to competition in all categories except where superseded by these by-laws.

RULE 6: FEES

A. For regular tournaments, there is no school fee. The entry fee shall be \$12 per student. A student who is double-entered (when applicable) pays only one fee. This fee covers administrative and food costs for the tournament.

B. The entry fee for Observers shall be \$6 per student. This fee covers meal costs.

C. Any drop between Friday 5 p.m. and Tuesday 5 p.m. prior to the tournament shall result in forfeit of the registration fee.

D. Any changes made to your entry on the day of the tournament (such as drops or shifting students between events) will incur an additional \$12.00 fee.

E. All registration fees for the current tournament will be paid on the day of registration or by the registration deadline of the next tournament, which will be by Friday at 5 p.m. the week of that tournament. All drop fees for the previous tournament will be paid before the team is allowed to register for the next tournament(s). If the entry fees, drop fees and late fees are not paid, the school will not be permitted to register for future tournaments until all past owed fees are paid in full.

F. Pre-ordered meals will also be available for students, coaches, judges, parents, etc at all tournaments sanctioned by the PBCMFL. These meals are included in the student registration fee.

G. A \$25 penalty for any no-show judge that results in the reassignment of a ballot in any round will be imposed. Hidden judge drops at a PBCMFL tournament will incur a fine of \$25 plus the \$25 fine per round they were assigned and missed.

RULE 7: COACH RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Member moderators shall be responsible for the conduct of their school's judges, chaperones, and student members both in and out of competitive rounds. They shall also be responsible for:

1. The training of their judges (judge training is offered by the league at the first two tournaments of the year plus an additional training in the Spring).

2. The suitability of material to be in competition both in terms of "good taste" and also in terms of league rules and regulations.

3. The strict enforcement of and adherence to all event rules.

4. The strict enforcement of and adherence to all elements of this constitution and its by-laws.

5. Supervision of the entire team during the awards ceremony.

6. Supervision of all students until each student has left the host school premises.

7. Enforcement of all behavior and dress code guidelines as outlined by the league.

B. Each school is permitted to bring observers, who are dressed in competition attire, given name badges, and have assigned consequences if they do not follow the dress code and behavior guidelines.

C. Parents are not allowed to watch their children in rounds.

D. Each coach in attendance at PBCMFL tournament is required to actively participate by either working the tournament (tab, ballot check-in, etc.) or judging.

RULE 8: PROTECTION OF PROPERTY

A. No contestant or student observer shall enter or remain in a contest room without a judge present. The penalty for violation of this regulation shall be immediate disqualification from the tournament.

B. Vandalism of property by any person at a PBCMFL tournament shall result in immediate notification of school and/or local police authorities. The Executive Committee shall notify the principal

of the school associated with the vandal(s) in writing and insist upon appropriate remuneration. In the case of vandalism by a contestant, the additional penalty of immediate disqualification from the tournament shall also apply.

C. If vandalism of host school property occurs and no individual or school can be held culpable for the damage, all schools in attendance at the tournament shall be assessed a vandalism recovery fee equal to the total amount of damage divided by the number of schools in attendance. Nonpayment of the vandalism recovery fee shall constitute just cause for denial of membership renewal.

RULE 9: STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

A. The purpose of the PBCMFL behavior guidelines is to ensure that all students maintain a level of professionalism and decorum in accordance with forensics, league activities, and school events. Since speech and debate tournaments are school-sponsored events, all school rules and regulations apply. Any infraction of these rules will result in consequences outlined by the student handbook. Additionally, the locations of our competitions are on school campuses and, therefore, all areas and materials must be respected and maintained accordingly. The following guidelines are to be adhered to by both competitors and observers.

1. No plagiarism (as outlined in PBCMFL guidelines).
2. Students must have a copy of their piece with the ISBN information on them.
3. Cell phones, game boys, PDA's or electronic devices may not be used in any round or session.
4. No sleeping during competition.
5. Students should be on task during competition rounds and sessions (ex. using cell phone, brushing hair, playing games, etc. are not acceptable).
6. No gum, food or drinks (other than water) in competition areas.
7. Students may not leave the round/session for any reason other than an emergency (A student may not leave to socialize, make phone calls, etc.).
8. "Visiting" other rooms during competition is prohibited.
9. No unnecessary talking or socializing during competition or awards ceremony.
10. Adhere to "one clap" rule during the awards ceremony.
11. No outbursts, inappropriate or offensive comments/remarks about competition, schools, coaches or judges during the tournament at any time.
12. Students should not be at the check in table during morning registration; coaches or designated school representative only at check in.
13. Students should be picked up or leave promptly after the tournament.
14. Students must remain in one central location with coach or school designated adult when waiting to be picked up after tournament.
15. No profanity.
16. No excessive public displays of affection.
17. Students may not leave the tournament site/campus during the tournament. Each PBCMFL tournament is a closed campus. Leaving for any reason during the course of the tournament day will result in disqualification from the tournament and consequences at their respective schools. Remember that local PBCMFL tournaments are considered a school function – all school rules still apply.

B. The student agrees to adhere to the behavior guidelines of the Palm Beach County Middle School Forensic League. The student understands that if he or she is in violation of the guidelines, he or she will not be allowed to participate in competition.

RULE 10: STUDENT ATTIRE CODE

Proper attire must be worn at each tournament competition. No jeans or excessive jewelry should be worn. No Mohawks, multi-colored hair, dangling walled chains, spikes, etc. are allowed. Nothing should

detract from your speech or performance. Maintain a professional competitive image at all times. The student understands that if he/she is in violation of dress code guidelines, he/she will not be allowed to participate in competition.

A. Male attire should be as follows:

1. Collared, button down dress shirt (short sleeves or long) is to be worn.
2. Tie (with regular collared shirt).
3. Shirts must be tucked in.
4. Pants must be worn at waist level with a belt.
5. Dress slacks or khakis are acceptable.
6. Suit jacket or sport coat must be worn.
7. Dark socks are to be worn.
8. Dress shoes or loafers are acceptable.
9. No jeans.
10. No tennis shoes or flip flops.
11. No baseball caps or hats of any kind.

B. Female attire should be as follows:

1. Skirts with blouses, suits with slacks or skirts, or dresses are acceptable.
2. Shirts or blouses should not be sheer or low cut (no cleavage or bra should be visible).
3. Pants and skirts must be worn at waist.
4. Pantyhose are optional but encouraged.
5. No shirts or slacks which are too tight or too revealing.
6. No halter or spaghetti strap or strapless tops.
7. No bare-midribs.
8. No jeans.
9. No mini skirts (must be at least 2 inches above knee or longer).
10. No flip flops, tennis shoes, sandals, spiked heels, or stilettos.
11. No hats.
12. Accessories should be professional and should not distract from performance (ex. bracelets that make noise, large hoop or dangling earrings, oversize belt buckles).

RULE 11: ADDITIONAL STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

A. No student member shall use an original oration, a non-original oration, or a selection of poetry, prose, or drama during a given league season which has been used by such student in any tournament of a previous season(s).

B. No school shall substitute a non-registered competitor in the place of a registered competitor on the day of competition. This includes "event-shifting."

C. No student in a debate event shall switch sides without approval from the tab room. Violation of this bylaw shall be punishable by disqualification from the tournament and re-ranking of all affected competitors. If the problem is discovered after the results are announced the results will be recalculated.

D. No varsity member(s) may compete in a novice event. Violation of this bylaw shall be punishable by disqualification from the tournament and re-ranking of all affected competitors. If the problem is discovered after the results are announced the results will be recalculated, and any trophy or ribbon awarded to the violator must be returned to the PBCMFL for proper distribution.

E. Any student found guilty of committing global or patchwork plagiarism of their speech or presentation will be disqualified from the tournament. Plagiarism shall be defined as the taking, in part or whole, the work of someone else and using it as your own. This definition will be adhered to in all original speech and debate events including Lincoln Douglas, Public Forum, Congressional Debate, and Original Oratory. Citations and sources should always be used in any speech that is given when information is presented from another source.

F. Any student found guilty of presenting a work in interpretation (DP, OI, Duo, Declamation) that does not have an ISBN, URL, or has not been published will be disqualified from the tournament. All member students competing in memorized, non-script categories of competition shall bring to each league tournament a written copy of their presentation and shall present said copy upon demand to the Executive Committee. Failure to present said copy shall result in disqualification from the league tournament involved.

RULE 12: SPEECH EVENTS – DEFINITIONS AND RULES

All speech events (Original Oratory, Oratorical Declamation, Dramatic Performance, Duo Interpretation, and Oral Interpretation of Literature) will follow National Catholic Forensic League rules and procedures, unless otherwise approved by the league.

A. Impromptu follows NSDA Rules which specify the following:

1. The student will choose a topic from a slip which contains three selections or from face down slip of individual selections. The competitor takes no more than two minutes to prepare a speech which addresses their choice. No notes or previously arranged materials are used in the preparation; the student may use a note card or paper during the presentation. The event calls for creativity and organizational ability.

2. Speakers may read the selection aloud or incorporate it into the introduction of the speech. If given a story starter this must be incorporated into the speech at the beginning.

3. Speakers will not be invited into the room until their code is called by the judge in the order prepared by the tabulation staff. Contestants may remain in the room after they have spoken.

4. The presentation, including the preparation (2 minutes or less), should not exceed seven (7) minutes with a thirty second grace period. Time signals should be given during the speech which will respond to the speaker's choice of quote.

5. The presentation may be humorous or serious. Facts are not required nor must any evidence be substantiated in the content of the performance.

B. Speaker points for speech events will be limited to 90-100 per entry per round, unless an egregious scenario transpired. The league officers will determine this on a case-by-case basis.

RULE 13: DEBATE EVENTS – DEFINITIONS AND RULES

All debate events will follow National Catholic Forensic League rules and procedures, unless otherwise approved by the league.

A. Speaker points for debate events will be limited to 25-30 per entry per round, unless an egregious scenario transpired. The league officers will determine this on a case-by-case basis.

RULE 14: CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE – DEFINITIONS AND RULES

Congressional Debate will follow National Catholic Forensic League rules and procedures, with the following exceptions:

A. Tabling of legislation is prohibited, unless it is the legislative item being debated as the first session is coming to a conclusion. Should a chamber wish to continue debate on this item, it may table discussion to break, but must pick the item up when returning from lunch.

B. All legislative items brought up for debate must go through a minimum of one complete cycle (three speeches). The Presiding Officer has the discretion to deny the motion to call the previous question should they believe there are students who are waiting to give a speech.

C. All speeches must be a minimum of one minute in length; anything shorter receives a "zero" score.

D. Any presentations considered "joke" speeches shall receive a score of "zero" and shall result in the legislator being disqualified from the tournament.

E. Authorship/Sponsorship is the “first constructive” speech on each item of legislation. The speaker has a maximum of three minutes for the speech itself. Afterwards is a full, mandatory two-minute questioning period by fellow legislators. After the authorship speech for each item of legislation, alternating negative and affirmative speeches are given. The first negative speaker has three minutes to speak with a mandatory two-minute questioning period by fellow legislators. After that, each speaker is allowed a maximum of three minutes to speak, with a mandatory one-minute questioning period.

F. Unless otherwise noted, Congressional Debate sessions shall last 1 hour of actual debate; the clock begins once the first author/sponsor speech begins.

G. Dockets will be preset and randomized for the Novice Chambers. Varsity Chambers will have the ability to set their own dockets.

H. Varsity or otherwise trained students will be able to Preside over their chambers. Should a chamber not elect a Presiding Officer, a judge will take the place of a presiding officer. A judge will preside over all Novice Chambers.

I. Coaches will be able to register their students into specific chambers as they see fit. However, the tournament administrator may rearrange the chambers for balancing as needed.

RULE 15: AWARDS FOR STUDENTS

A. The President or designee shall make arrangements for the purchase and engraving of all league trophies and awards. Such purchase and engraving shall accommodate the following:

1. At least one trophy shall be awarded in all categories of competition at all league tournaments.

2. <6 entries = 1 trophy; 6-12 entries = 3 trophies; 12+ entries = 4 Trophies.

B. The President shall be empowered to undertake any action which does not violate the league constitution or its by-laws and which is not specifically dealt with in those documents provided such action is approved in advance by all other Executive Committee members.

RULE 16: BREAKING TIES IN DEBATE EVENTS

Cumulative ranks shall serve as the primary method of determining placement in all individual events categories in all League tournaments. In determining seeding and place (rank) in the tournament, ties may occur. They are to be broken in the following manner:

1. Win/Loss Record
2. Head-To-Head
3. Opponent’s Won/Loss
4. Speaker Points
5. Opposition Speaker Points

RULE 17: BREAKING TIES IN SPEECH EVENTS

Cumulative ranks shall serve as the primary method of determining placement in all individual events categories in all League tournaments. In determining seeding and place (rank) in the tournament, ties may occur. They are to be broken in the following manner:

1. Total Ranks (Lowest Cumulative Rank)
2. Sum of Inverted Reciprocals, with each rank converted to decimals as follows:
--1st = 1.00 --2nd = 0.50 --3rd = 0.33 --4th = 0.25
--5th = 0.20 --6th = 0.17 --7th = 0.14
3. Head-To-Head
4. Total Points

RULE 18: BREAKING TIES IN CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE

Cumulative ranks shall serve as the primary method of determining placement in all individual events categories in all League tournaments. In determining seeding and place (rank) in the tournament, ties may occur. They are to be broken in the following manner:

1. Judge Preference
2. Highest Number of First-Place Judge Ballots
3. Total Judge Ranks
4. Average Speaker Score
5. Total Speaker Points

RULE 19: DEBATE TOPIC SELECTION

The PBCFL shall use the National Speech & Debate Association topics for Lincoln Douglas Debate and Public Forum Debate. However, alternate topics may be approved in advance by the Executive Board.

RULE 20: TOURNAMENT SOFTWARE

The *Joy of Tournaments* shall be used by the PBCMFL for registration, tabulation and verification of tournament competition.

RULE 20: OTHER SCENARIOS

Any situation that not covered in the provisions of this constitution and its by-laws shall be resolved by referring to the PBCFL by-laws.

RULE 21: RULE AND BY-LAW CHANGES

All provisions of this constitution and its by-laws shall become effective immediately upon adoption unless otherwise stated.