

April 10, 2025
Monticello
Norfolk, VA
Time: 8:00 Eastern Time
Phi Rho Pi General Business Meeting

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. OFFICER'S REPORTS

A. Recording Secretary – John Nash

B. President – Wade Hescht

C. Vice President of Association – Francesca Bishop

D. Vice President of Tournament – Rolland Petrello

E. Treasurer – Nathan Carter

F. Comptroller – –

G. Roberts Rules of Order:

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Nominations – Robert Hawkins

B. Inter-organization – Francesca Bishop

C. Site Selection – Francesca Bishop

1. Denton TX bid – Recommended
2. Other bids – Not Recommended
3. Hyatt Regency O'Hare Airport – Recommended
4. Marriott Naperville – Not Recommended

D. Awards – Dewi Hokett –

1. Increase number of student awards - Recommended

E. Diversity, Inclusion, Equity and Ethics – Nathan Carter

1. Restricting use of Generative AI - Recommended

F. Tournament Evaluation – Bob Becker

G. Constitution & By-Laws – Danny Cantrell

1. Virtual Tournament – Not Recommended
2. New Secretary Treasurer duties – Recommended
3. Updating Language - Recommended

H. Interpretation – Bonnie Gabel –

1. Recording IT – Recommended
2. No Touching in Duo – Recommended

3. Duo off stage focus – Recommended
4. Use of binder - Recommended

I. Public Speaking – Ethen Fife –

1. Not requiring memorized delivery – Recommended
2. Size of note cards - Recommended

J. Publications – Dug Hall –

K. Rules – Dug Hall –

1. Commenting on Appearance – Recommended
2. Saturday Night Celebration – Recommended
3. Allowing 5 events – Recommended
4. Removing curfew – Recommended
5. Supplemental Event - Recommended

L. Debate – Brittany Hubble

1. Restricting Generative AI – Recommended
2. Regional Judge restriction in IPDA – Recommended
3. Releasing names of NFA-LD students – Recommended
4. Disclosure - Recommended

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Tournament Director – Rolland Petrello

B. Tournament Hosts – Dana Trunnel & Bill Lucio

C. Regional Governors – Francesca Bishop

D. 2026 Tournament Host

Submitted Information:

Select the Committee

Site Selection

Submitted by: Name

Francesca Bishop

School Affiliation

El Camino College

Email Address

francescabishop2485@gmail.com

Cell Phone (optional)

310 621 7792

I am...

...a committee chair submitting a proposal coming out of committee

Proposal--Include the correct wording of the proposed resolution

The committee tied on two Dallas-area hotels for the 2028 tournament and desires that the body make the final decision.

The hotels are as follows:

Embassy Suites and Convention Center
Denton, TX

Marriott Quorum Galleria
Addison, TX

Provide rationale FOR the resolution

Please see the chart with the pros and cons of each hotel.

Provide rationale AGAINST the resolution

Please see the chart with the pros and cons of each hotel.

Check box below (to be checked by the committee chair).The Committee recommends the proposal

1

Electronic Signature.Submitted by the Committee Chair

1

Site Proposal 1a

	Embassy Suites Denton, TX (Dallas area)	Marriott Quorum Galleria Addison, TX (Dallas area)
Cost per night, inc. tax	\$204	\$200
Location	34 miles N of DFW 46 miles NE of Dallas Love Field	18 miles E of DFW 17 miles N of Dallas Love Field
Room amenities and inclusions	2 room suites w pull-out couch Fridges and microwaves. Free breakfast and evening reception.	Fridges
Parking charge	Free	\$7/night
Food options nearby	Chick-fil-A; In-n-Out; Portillos, IHOP all walking distance. Free hotel shuttle to downtown Denton, 4 miles away.	Hotel is next to a large mall with a food court plus sit-down restaurants.
Transportation options	Shuttle from DFW for 4, round trip is \$75; into Dallas it's \$100. DFW Bus 2x/day \$9-12	Shuttle from DFW for 4, round trip is \$75; into Dallas it's \$70.

Site Proposal 2

Submitted Information:

Select the Committee
Site Selection

Submitted by: Name
Francesca Bishop

School Affiliation
El Camino College

Email Address
francescabishop@cox.net

Cell Phone (optional)
310 621 7792

I am...
...a committee chair submitting a proposal coming out of committee

Proposal--Include the correct wording of the proposed resolution
Bids to host the 2028 tournament:

Doubletree by Hilton at Entrance to Universal Orlando, FL
Renaissance Downtown Columbus, OH
Hyatt Regency Downtown Tulsa, OK
Marriott Westchase Houston, TX
Amway grand plaza Hilton Grand Rapids, MI

Provide rationale FOR the resolution
See grid for pros and cons

Provide rationale AGAINST the resolution
See grid for pros and cons

Check box below (to be checked by the committee chair).The Committee does not recommend the proposal

Electronic Signature.Submitted by the Committee Chair

	<i>Doubletree by Hilton at Entrance to Universal Orlando, FL</i>	<i>Renaissance Downtown Columbus, OH</i>	<i>Hyatt Regency Downtown Tulsa, OK</i>	<i>Marriott Westchase Houston, TX</i>	<i>Amway Grand Plaza Hilton Grand Rapids, MI</i>
Cost per night, inc. tax	\$201	\$171	\$185	\$197	\$217
F&B min	\$40k	\$50k	\$30k	\$35k	\$25k
Room amenities	Fridges	Fridges	Fridges	Fridges	Fridges
Parking charge	\$20/day	\$33/day. No Vans.	Free	Free	\$15/day
Food options nearby	None	Many	Many	Several	Many

Submitted Information:

Select the Committee

Constitution and By-laws

Submitted by: Name

Francesca Bishop

School Affiliation

El Camino College

Email Address

francescabishop@cox.net

Cell Phone (optional)

310 621 7792

I am...

...a committee chair submitting a proposal coming out of committee

Proposal--Include the correct wording of the proposed resolution

To accept the bid by the Hyatt Regency O'Hare airport for PRP 2028

Provide rationale FOR the resolution

\$204 including tax

Right at the airport

5 min walk to train into city (\$7, 40 mins)

10 min walk to an upscale outlet mall with multiple food outlets.

Many nicer restaurants in the area.

Fridges in rooms.

Provide rationale AGAINST the resolution

No included breakfast or microwaves in rooms (though one is in the mini mart)

Check box below (to be checked by the committee chair).The Committee recommends the proposal

Electronic Signature.Submitted by the Committee Chair

1

Select the Committee

Site Selection

Submitted by: Name

Francesca Bishop

School Affiliation

El Camino College

Email Address

francescabishop@cox.net

Cell Phone (optional)

310 621 7792

I am...

...a coach submitting a proposal for discussion in committee

Proposal--Include the correct wording of the proposed resolution

Marriott Naperville Chicago for 2028

Provide rationale FOR the resolution

\$200/night

Train to Chicago nearby

Many estaurants in the area.

Free parking

Fridges in room

Provide rationale AGAINST the resolution

30 miles from the airport.

Much slower train into the city than the O'Hare option.

No breakfast or microwaves.

Check box below (to be checked by the committee chair).The Committee does not recommend the proposal

1

Electronic Signature.Submitted by the Committee Chair

1

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION PROPOSAL FORM

NAME OF COMMITTEE: Awards_____ **DATE SUBMITTED: 4.8.25**_____

COMMITTEE CHAIR'S SIGNATURE:

Phi Rho Pi coaches and students who wish to propose rule changes, new rules, constitutional changes or additions, etc. **MUST COMPLETE THIS FORM** and present it at the appropriate committee meeting.

All proposals presented at the General Business Meeting must come out of committees. Each proposal presented will be designated as either recommended or not recommended by the committee.

Additional Committee Resolution Proposal Forms may be acquired from the Recording Secretary or the Committee Chair.

Completed Committee Resolution Proposal Forms must also include:

1. The correct wording of the proposed resolution
2. Rationale **FOR** the resolution
3. Rationale **AGAINST** the resolution

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PROPOSAL: Change number of students recipients for the Warren-Dahlin Fellowship Award: By-Laws, Article IV Awards, D. Fellowship Award, 1.

Each year at the National Convention/Tournament, the CollieTaylor Fellowship Award shall be presented to one forensic coach from each region, and the Warren-Dahlin Fellowship Award shall be presented to ~~one student participant~~ **two student participants** from each region. Process and criteria for awarding both awards shall be determined by each region. Each region shall furnish the nominee to the Tournament Director prior to the commencement of semi-final rounds of competition.

THE COMMITTEE X____**RECOMMENDS** **THE COMMITTEE** _____**DOES NOT RECOMMEND**

PROPOSAL RATIONALE FOR THE RESOLUTION

- More students are acknowledged for their contributions.
- Helps ensure representation across regions separated by large distances/large regions
- Eases the difficulty regions face when multiple students are equally deserving in a given year

PROPOSAL RATIONALE AGAINST THE RESOLUTION

- Some may perceive the award as less prestigious if more students receive it annually.
- More nominations and review processes for each region could require additional effort from regional leadership.
- Increase in cost for trophies.

Include additional rationale on the back

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION PROPOSAL FORM

NAME OF COMMITTEE: Diversity, Ethics, Inclusion and Equity Standing Committee

DATE SUBMITTED: 4/8/25

COMMITTEE CHAIR'S SIGNATURE:

Phi Rho Pi coaches and students who wish to propose rule changes, new rules, constitutional changes or additions, etc. **MUST COMPLETE THIS FORM** and present it at the appropriate committee meeting.

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3. Rationale **AGAINST** the resolution

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PROPOSAL:

The Diversity, Inclusion, Ethics, and Equity Standing Committee calls upon the Phi Rho Pi President to prudently create a task force charged with developing clear policies and guidelines concerning the proper use (if any) and also the clear restriction of generative artificial intelligence (AI) usage at the Phi Rho Pi National Tournament. We believe the unrestricted use of generative AI poses a serious ethical risk to the integrity of forensic competition. Many sections in the Phi Rho Pi Tournament Brochure or event rules emphasize the importance of protecting the authenticity of students' work. Allowing AI-generated material without a framework undermines this principle and erodes trust in the educational and competitive value of forensics. Furthermore, the use of generative AI can perpetuate cultural inequities. AI systems are primarily trained on data rooted in Western, often patriarchal, worldviews. As a result, the content they generate can marginalize voices from historically underrepresented communities, directly contradicting Phi Rho Pi's stated commitments to diversity, equity, and inclusion and resulting in diverse members of our community being excluded. Generative AI also presents a significant challenge to fairness. Students from institutions with limited access to AI tools—due to budget, policy, or infrastructure—may be placed at a disadvantage at the tournament, creating an uneven unethical competitive playing field. To address these concerns, we urge the Phi Rho Pi leadership to form a task force or assign this work to an existing committee. This group should deliver clear guidelines to the Phi Rho Pi National Executive Board by November 15, 2025, so that any recommendations may be considered for inclusion in the 2026 National Tournament Brochure (Bethesda, Maryland) by the Vice President of Tournament. This recommendation is further supported by current communication scholarship. For instance, Pollino, Powell, and McCormick (2025) acknowledge that while generative AI may be (in some contexts) pedagogically transformative, it simultaneously introduces substantial risk for misuse and ethical compromise in student assignments if not guided carefully. They caution that AI has been criticized for how it might lead to academic dishonesty” (Pollino et al., 2025, *Communication Teacher*, 39(1), 71–77.

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS

PROPOSAL RATIONALE AGAINST THE RESOLUTION : 1. There may be significant logistical and philosophical challenges in enforcing any AI-related policy at Phi Rho Pi.

Constitution Proposal 1

Phi Rho Pi National Tournament and Convention

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION PROPOSAL FORM

NAME OF COMMITTEE: Constitution and By-Laws

DATE SUBMITTED: 4/7/25

COMMITTEE CHAIR'S SIGNATURE:

Phi Rho Pi coaches and students who wish to propose rule changes, new rules, constitutional changes or additions, etc. **MUST COMPLETE THIS FORM** and present it at the appropriate committee meeting.

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Completed Committee Resolution Proposal Forms must also include:

1. The correct wording of the proposed resolution
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3. Rationale **AGAINST** the resolution

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PROPOSAL: Amend the Phi Rho Pi By-Laws, Article V – Events, to include a new section: Section B: Virtual Tournament Participation and Hosting Requirements

1. Each Phi Rho Pi region shall host at least one virtual (online) forensic tournament between the first weekend of September and the third weekend of March of each academic year.
2. Each active Phi Rho Pi chapter shall be required to participate in at least one virtual tournament hosted by a region other than their own during the same academic year.
3. Exceptions may be granted due to extraordinary circumstances by the Executive Board through a formal appeal process.

THE COMMITTEE _____ RECOMMENDS THE COMMITTEE ___X___ DOES NOT RECOMMEND

PROPOSAL RATIONALE FOR THE RESOLUTION

This proposal enhances access, equity, and educational opportunity within Phi Rho Pi. Requiring regional and cross-regional virtual tournament participation ensures that all programs—including those from underfunded, rural, or travel-restricted schools—can access a more diverse range of competitors, judges, and perspectives. Virtual formats reduce financial barriers, promote interregional collaboration, and prepare students with skills relevant to digital communication in academic and professional spaces. This rule supports Phi Rho Pi's purpose to foster nationwide appreciation and engagement with the forensic arts.

PROPOSAL RATIONALE AGAINST THE RESOLUTION

Some regions or programs may face logistical challenges in organizing virtual tournaments or may lack the digital infrastructure or staff resources. Mandating virtual participation could pose difficulties for schools with strict institutional policies or limited team capacity. Concerns may also be raised about standardizing quality and judging consistency across virtual formats.

Include additional rationale on the back

Constitution Proposal 2

Select the Committee
Constitution and By-laws

Submitted by: Name
Nathan Carter

School Affiliation
Northern Virginia Community College

Email Address
nacarter@nvcc.edu

Cell Phone (optional) |

am...

...a coach submitting a proposal for discussion in committee

Proposal--Include the correct wording of the proposed resolution

Current	Proposed
<p>ARTICLE 1 . . . THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD</p> <p>B The duties of the officers shall be:</p> <p>4. Secretary Treasurer</p> <p>a. Shall act as an Executive Officer of Phi Rho Pi</p> <p>b. Shall perform such duties as assigned by the President and the membership.</p>	<p>ARTICLE 1 . . . THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD</p> <p>B The duties of the officers shall be:</p> <p>4. Secretary Treasurer</p> <p>a. The Secretary-Treasurer shall act as an Executive Officer of Phi Rho Pi.</p> <p>b. The Secretary-Treasurer shall perform such duties as assigned by the President and the membership.</p> <p>c. The Secretary-Treasurer serves as the Chief Financial Officer of Phi Rho Pi and shall be responsible for the fiscal management, accounting, financial reporting, and budget oversight of the organization.</p> <p>d. The Secretary-Treasurer shall have full access to all financial accounts of Phi Rho Pi</p>

c. Shall be responsible for collecting all chapter fees and membership dues.

1) Chapter and membership applications shall be sent to all current members as well as prospective Junior and Community Colleges.

2) All chapter and membership records will be kept current.

3) Chapter and membership certificates will be delivered upon payment of fees and dues.

d. Shall collect all fees for the National Convention/Tournament.

e. Shall purchase needed supplies and materials for the proper functioning of the association and shall keep complete records and receipts of all transactions.

f. Shall pay all authorized charges and bills of the association and shall keep complete records and receipts of all transactions.

g. Shall deposit Phi Rho Pi funds in an interest-bearing checking account, with access by the Secretary-Treasurer and at least one other Executive officer.

h. Shall make the following financial reports:

1) Shall present the financial records to the Comptroller at least once a year for audit.

and is responsible for the day-to-day fiscal transactions of the organization, including deposits, disbursements, and reconciliation.

e. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be responsible for collecting all chapter fees and membership dues:

Chapter and membership applications shall be sent to all current members as well as prospective junior and community colleges.

All chapter and membership records shall be kept current.

Chapter and membership certificates shall be delivered upon payment of fees and dues.

f. The Secretary-Treasurer shall collect all fees for the National Convention/Tournament.

g. The Secretary-Treasurer shall purchase needed supplies and materials for the proper functioning of the association and shall maintain complete records and receipts of all transactions.

h. The Secretary-Treasurer shall pay all authorized charges and bills of the association and shall maintain complete records and receipts of all disbursements.

i. The Secretary-Treasurer shall deposit Phi Rho Pi funds in an interest-bearing checking account or equivalent account, with access shared with at least one other Executive Officer.

j. The Secretary-Treasurer shall make the following financial reports:

Shall present the financial records to the Comptroller for review and collaboration in

<p>2) Shall present a financial report to the membership at the National Convention/Tournament and to the Executive Board upon request.</p> <p>3) Shall supply the Comptroller with an annual fiscal report of receipts and expenditures as of June 30th, within two months of that date, for the IRS report.</p> <p>i. Shall retain all current official records of the organization, shall transfer all records either to the Comptroller or the newly-elected Comptroller</p>	<p>the preparation of the annual fiscal report and audit.</p> <p>Shall present a financial report to the membership at the National Convention/Tournament and to the Executive Board upon request.</p> <p>Shall work in partnership with the Comptroller to prepare and present a joint fiscal report and audit to the National Executive Board no later than June 30th of each year.</p> <p>k. The Secretary-Treasurer shall retain all current official financial records of the organization and, upon the end of their term, shall transfer all records to the incoming Secretary-Treasurer or the Comptroller.</p>
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Current	Proposed
<p>ARTICLE 1 . . . THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD</p> <p>B. The duties of the officers shall be:</p> <p>6. Comptroller</p> <p>a. Shall act as an Executive Officer of Phi Rho Pi.</p> <p>b. Shall perform such duties as assigned by the President and the membership.</p> <p>c. Shall act as the financial officer of the association.</p> <p>d. Shall audit all financial records.</p> <p>e. Shall deposit and invest available Phi Rho Pi monies in interest-bearing accounts, and shall</p>	<p>ARTICLE 1 . . . THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD</p> <p>B The duties of the officers shall be:</p> <p>6. Comptroller</p> <p>a. The Comptroller shall act as an Executive Officer of Phi Rho Pi.</p> <p>b. The Comptroller serves as the officer responsible for leading fundraising and advancement initiatives on behalf of Phi Rho Pi.</p> <p>c. This officer shall identify, cultivate, and steward relationships with prospective donors, sponsors, alumni, and philanthropic partners to secure external funding and support aligned with the mission of the</p>

<p>supervise them with access by the Comptroller and at least one other Executive Officer.</p> <p>f. Shall collect all financial records of the association for the fiscal year July 1 to June 30 and complete and submit the annual IRS report for Tax Exempt Organizations. (Form 990 and appropriate schedules).</p> <p>g. Shall present a financial statement to the membership at the National Convention/Tournament, and to the Executive Board upon request.</p> <p>h. Shall keep all records in a permanent form and, at the end of the period as Comptroller, give the records to the new Comptroller or the Archivist.</p>	<p>organization.</p> <p>d. The Comptroller shall serve as the liaison to the financial institution(s) or investment firms that manage Phi Rho Pi's long-term reserves, investment, and brokerage accounts.</p> <p>e. The Comptroller shall provide regular reports to the membership and the National Executive Board on the performance and status of these investment accounts, including portfolio allocations, gains or losses, and emerging financial trends.</p> <p>f. The Comptroller may offer recommendations to the membership and Executive Board regarding the long-term financial sustainability of the organization and the strategic use of invested assets.</p> <p>g. The Comptroller shall collaborate closely with the Secretary-Treasurer, who maintains responsibility for all operational and accounting functions of the organization, including access to all financial accounts.</p> <p>h. The Comptroller shall work in partnership with the Secretary-Treasurer to prepare and present an annual fiscal report and audit to the National Executive Board no later than June 30th of each year.</p>
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Provide rationale FOR the resolution

For many years the Secretary Treasurer has functioned in this capacity as defined, and it is important to ensure the constitution reflects the role of the Treasurer.

As reported in previous business meetings by the Treasurer and President, the fiscal health of the organization requires a new focus on advancement, philanthropy, and investment guidance through the bank that manages the organization's investments. This proposal aligns the position of Comptroller with the needs of the organization.

This needs to be voted on before the position of Comptroller is up for election in 2026. This model is also best practice for nonprofit fiscal governance.

Provide rationale AGAINST the resolution

If the people elected in these positions do not work well together there could be a blurring of duties or a possibly a duplication of efforts.

Check box below (to be checked by the committee chair). This is a proposal being submitted TO the committee for discussion

The Proposal was recommended by the Committee.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION PROPOSAL FORM

NAME OF COMMITTEE: Constitution & Bylaws **DATE SUBMITTED:** 4/8/25

COMMITTEE CHAIR'S SIGNATURE:

Phi Rho Pi coaches and students who wish to propose rule changes, new rules, constitutional changes or additions, etc. **MUST COMPLETE THIS FORM** and present it at the appropriate committee meeting.

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1. The correct wording of the proposed resolution
2. Rationale **FOR** the resolution
3. Rationale **AGAINST** the resolution

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PROPOSAL:

Form a committee to review the constitution, bylaws, and tournament invitation to remove gendered/binary language (such as he/her).

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THE COMMITTEE DOES NOT RECOMMEND

PROPOSAL RATIONALE FOR THE RESOLUTION

To promote inclusivity and reflect Phi Rho Pi's commitment to diversity, it is important that our governing documents use language that is respectful and welcoming to all individuals. Removing gendered or binary terms (such as he/she) and replacing them with gender-neutral alternatives ensures our constitution, bylaws, and tournament invitation align with current best practices. A dedicated committee can ensure this process is thoughtful, consistent, and comprehensive.

PROPOSAL RATIONALE AGAINST THE RESOLUTION

Work could be done without the need for a committee.

Include additional rationale on the back

Interpretation Proposal 1

Submitted Information:

Select the Committee
Interpretation

Submitted by: Name
Bonnie Gabel

School Affiliation
McHenry County College

Email Address
bgabel@mchenry.edu

Cell Phone (optional)
8478772784

I am...
...a committee chair is submitting a proposal for discussion in committee

Proposal--Include the correct wording of the proposed resolution
When all the following logistics are in place, semi-finals and/or finals of IT will be videotaped: expected timeline is within 3 years

Provide rationale FOR the resolution
Last year's business meeting discussion had questions on the legal issues. Since then we have obtained legal research outlining the arguments on copyright concerns for our organization. The strongest argument falls under educational fair use, specifically when the use is for non-profit educational purposes that offer a transformative use, meaning that the recordings are used for analysis or commentary. Therefore, we propose the following:

-preface each IT recording w/the IT director's analytical commentary on performance choices

- Student with a school email address can submit questions that will be forwarded to the chair of the interpretation committee
Videotaping by a volunteer coach, student, or interpretation committee member

- Interpretation committee will curate videos posted on website, giving preference to those with limited or no use of dramatic material and examples will be refreshed so that no IT recording is posted for more than three years

- Arranging recordings will be the responsibility of the interpretation committee and will be done by a volunteer judge, students, or interpretation committee member

- As a means of identification, recordings will reflect the titles of each IT

- When entering names of IT performers, the coach will indicate which students have given permission to be recorded

- The timeline is 2028 or as soon as the following logistics are in place: a website tab for links to videos, "contact us" email for student inquiries to be forwarded to the chair of the interpretation committee, and the director's commentary is present, furthering the transformative, fair use of material.

Provide rationale AGAINST the resolution

There could still be legal challenges.

There could be additional costs involved in meeting the logistics outlined in the timeline

Check box below (to be checked by the committee chair). The Committee recommends the proposal

1

Electronic Signature. Submitted by the Committee Chair

1

Submitted Information:

Select the Committee

Interpretation

Submitted by: Name

Bonnie Gabel

School Affiliation

McHenry County College

Email Address

bgabel@mchenry.edu

Cell Phone (optional)

8478772784

I am...

...a committee chair submitting a proposal coming out of committee

Proposal--Include the correct wording of the proposed resolution

In Duo Interpretation, suggestive physical interaction should mainly be representative, with limited or no use of physical touch

Provide rationale FOR the resolution

There has been a "creep" in the use of touch in duo; this provides coaches and students with clarity that it is to be minimal, if at all

Judicious use of physical contact can heighten key moments of a script

Without limitations, students uncomfortable with physical touch could be discouraged from increased demands to engage physically.

Provide rationale AGAINST the resolution

There is no need for a rule, we can stick with norms

Check box below (to be checked by the committee chair). The Committee recommends the proposal

1

Electronic Signature.Submitted by the Committee Chair

1

Submitted Information:

Select the Committee

Interpretation

Submitted by: Name

Bonnie Gabel

School Affiliation

McHenry County College

Email Address

bgabel@mchenry.edu

Cell Phone (optional)

8478772784

I am...

...a committee chair submitting a proposal coming out of committee

Proposal--Include the correct wording of the proposed resolution

In Duo Interpretation, off-stage focus should be primary, with limited or no use of on-stage focus

Provide rationale FOR the resolution

There has been a "creep" in the inclusion of on-stage focus in duo and its primary role as an interpretative event should be maintained

A limited use rule allows for select moments of on-stage focus that can serve a script by heightening key moments of interaction, while still maintaining primary use of off-stage focus

Provide rationale AGAINST the resolution

Duo Interpretation is not acting, off-stage focus provides the distinction.

Check box below (to be checked by the committee chair).The Committee recommends the proposal

Electronic Signature.Submitted by the Committee Chair

Submitted Information:

Select the Committee

Interpretation

Submitted by: Name

Bonnie Gabel

School Affiliation

McHenry County College

Email Address

bgabel@mchenry.edu

Cell Phone (optional)

8478772784

I am...

...a committee chair submitting a proposal coming out of committee

Proposal--Include the correct wording of the proposed resolution

Interpretation events with two performers or less should be performed with a binder that represents and contains the presence of the literature

Provide rationale FOR the resolution

While this has been a norm, it's time to solidify the practice as a rule.

Specifying "binder" without a color preference allows students to make choices that cannot be penalized

Provide rationale AGAINST the resolution

Binders are not needed and they limit a performer's choices in creating the experience of the literature

Check box below (to be checked by the committee chair).The Committee recommends the proposal

1

Electronic Signature.Submitted by the Committee Chair

1

Public Speaking Proposal 1

Submitted Information:

Select the Committee

Public Speaking

Submitted by: Name

Ethan Fife

School Affiliation

Casper College

Email Address

ethan.fife@caspercollege.edu

Cell Phone (optional)

I am...

...a committee chair submitting a proposal coming out of committee

Proposal--Include the correct wording of the proposed resolution

Amend Section 4 General Rules for Individual Events to allow the use of memory aids in individual events.

Current Wording:

With the exception of Program Oral Interpretation, Interpretation of Prose, Interpretation of Poetry, Duo Interpretation and Dramatic Interpretation which require an introduction and the interpretation of selections from manuscript(s), the speaker must use, as means of presentation, memorized delivery, without notes.

Proposed Wording: N/A (delete the sentence entirely).

Provide rationale FOR the resolution

The inclusion of this sentence in the rulebook codifies discrimination against people with cognitive and memory-related disabilities. Furthermore, there is a punitive aspect to requiring memorization for public speaking events only. While this rule doesn't do anything to change or police judging philosophies or paradigms, it gives competitors the option of bringing a speech that may require memory aids, but they still feel is worthy of bringing to competition. This is a rule that exists on the books, but is rarely enforced. Removing the language simply takes the option of event disqualification off the table. It still allows judges to rank the round based on whatever criteria they feel is appropriate.

Provide rationale AGAINST the resolution

This is the national tournament. It is the pinnacle of the season, representing up to an entire academic year's worth of work and effort. We should hold competitors to a higher standard of accomplishment and polish here than we do at lower-stakes tournaments that take place earlier in the season.

Excessive reliance on notes can also distract the audience from the performance being presented and make other performance choices less effective.

Check box below (to be checked by the committee chair).The Committee recommends the proposal

Public Address Proposal 2

Select the Committee

Public Speaking

Submitted by: Name

Ethan Fife

School Affiliation

Casper College

Email Address

ethan.fife@caspercollege.edu

Cell Phone (optional)

I am...

...a committee chair submitting a proposal coming out of committee

Proposal--Include the correct wording of the proposed resolution

Amend Section 2 Limited Preparation Events b. Impromptu Speaking to allow note cards up to 5in x 8in, the size currently allowed in Extemporaneous Speaking.

Current Wording: One note card, not to exceed 3in x 5in, may be used by each speaker for reference.

Proposed Wording: One note card, not to exceed 5in x 8in, may be used by each speaker for reference.

Provide rationale FOR the resolution

Some people simply have larger handwriting than others, and others may have injuries or chronic conditions that affect their ability to write by hand. The extra space provided by a 5in x 8in note card

would allow these competitors to participate more fully in the activity. Additionally, many competitors enter both Impromptu and Extemporaneous Speaking. Extemporaneous Speaking already allows for note cards that are 5in x 8in. Changing the allowed size of note cards for Impromptu to 5in x 8in means that competitors can use one uniform set of note cards for both events, instead of having to spend extra money on two separate kinds of cards for limited preparation events.

Provide rationale AGAINST the resolution

Impromptu Speaking is a different event than Extemporaneous Speaking. Extemporaneous Speaking requires more preparation and sources, so it requires more writing space. Impromptu Speaking relies on use of knowledge already held in the brain, so competitors should be relying on the note card as minimally as possible.

Check box below (to be checked by the committee chair). The Committee recommends the proposal

1

Electronic Signature. Submitted by the Committee Chair

Rules Committee Docket

2025

Claremont - 8:15 PM

1. Proposal: Judge Comments on Appearance

Status: Recommended

Submitted by: Nathan Lawless Steele

School: City College of San Francisco

Email: nsteele@ccsf.edu

Proposed Resolution:

Judges should refrain from superficial comments about the clothes, hair, makeup, or physical appearances of competitors, focusing feedback on content and other dimensions of nonverbal communication.

Rationale FOR:

Feedback on physical appearances can reinforce norms that disadvantage students from different social and cultural backgrounds. Such comments may make students feel judged on aspects outside their control, undermining their sense of belonging and signaling that appearance outweighs content.

Rationale AGAINST:

Some argue forensics should teach students professional presentation, including appearance. Others believe restricting judge feedback limits open communication, including positive comments on appearance.

2. Proposal: Saturday Night Celebration

Status: Recommended

Submitted by: Shauhin Davari

School: Orange Coast College

Email: sdavari@occ.cccd.edu

Proposed Resolution:

Establish a Saturday Night Celebration following the award ceremony as a third space for students to gather, connect, and celebrate their achievements.

- Event Time: 7:00 PM – 11:30 PM
- Activities: Photo booth, friendship bracelet station, cartoon projections, music, games, a guestbook-style item
- Committee: A designated group will organize the event with a proposed budget of up to \$2,500 (pending Executive Committee approval and reimbursement process)

Rationale FOR:

- 40% of students leave without medals—this gives them a moment of community value
- Offers a safer alternative to unsupervised spaces (bars, rooms)
- Builds inter-team friendships
- Supports wellness and social interaction in a public, accountable space
- Encourages student retention and inclusivity through fun

Rationale AGAINST:

- Title IX concerns: Where people gather, misconduct risks increase. However, a public space is safer than private ones.
- Expense: May strain the budget, though even a low-cost version (conference room hangout) would be meaningful.

3. Proposal: Students to Compete in 5 Events

Status: Recommended

Submitted by: Sean Connor

School: Orange Coast College

Email: seanpconnor13@gmail.com

Proposed Resolution:

Amend rule III.C.1 to read:

"Individuals may enter no more than five (5) events. Each student is allowed double entry in one pattern (B, C, or D). One event will be declared a 'non-sweepstakes' event before the tournament. Only the four best results count toward individual sweepstakes."

Rationale FOR:

- Encourages advanced students to challenge themselves
- Adds minimal tournament burden (10–12 entries)
- Non-sweeps event limits team points impact
- Promotes broader skill development across event types

Rationale AGAINST:

- Some students may feel pressured or overworked
 - Original change from 5 to 4 events was based on student feedback
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4. Proposal: Bye, Bye Curfew!

Status: Recommended

Submitted by: Charles Garcia-Spiegel

School: City College of San Francisco

Email: cspiegel@mail.ccsf.edu

Proposed Resolution:

Abolish the 11:00 PM curfew.

Rationale FOR:

- Respects adult autonomy and diversity in age and experience
- Aligns with the "dignity of risk" principle
- Acknowledges real-life needs (e.g., late-night pharmacy runs, insomnia)
- Current rule isn't clearly communicated in any official documentation
- Respectful behavior can be encouraged without enforcing curfew

Rationale AGAINST:

- Ensures rest, reduces liability, and maintains quiet hours
- Simplifies coach responsibilities and hotel oversight
- Helps maintain tournament structure and student safety

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5. Proposal: Supplemental Event

Status: Recommended **Submitted**

by: Shauhin Davari **School:** Orange

Coast College **Email:**

sdavari@occ.cccd.edu

Proposed Resolution:

Create a Thursday night Supplemental Event for students who do not advance in the main competition.

- Purpose: Provide continued engagement and community for students who do not break.
- Options:
 - SPAR (Spontaneous Argumentation)
 - Impromptu Duo
 - Format: Randomly paired students receive 3 short scripts 30 minutes before the round
 - Rounds: 2 preliminary rounds + 1 final
 - Structure: 8 duos per round, 22-minute rounds total, 16 students per round

Rationale FOR:

- Around 40% of students do not advance—this gives them something valuable to participate in
- Offers a low-pressure, community-centered opportunity
- Encourages bonding and participation beyond competition results

Rationale AGAINST:

- Requires additional judges and room assignments
- May not draw audiences for semifinal or final rounds

Additional Notes:

The Tournament Director will determine an appropriate time slot for the events

Debate Proposal 1

RECOMMENDED

Submitted by:

Will Yates

School Affiliation

City College of San Francisco

Proposal:

❖ **The current constitution says:**

- *During the debate, debaters may take notes on an electronic device. In NFA-LD debaters may use the internet to access information during the round, however they are not permitted to communicate with another person.*

❖ **It should be changed to say:**

- *During the debate, debaters may take notes on an electronic device. In NFA-LD debaters may use the internet to access information during the round, however they are not permitted to communicate with another person **or Generative AI model.***

❖ **Rationale FOR the resolution:**

- There is a unique situation in NFA-LD, where because the arguments are written down electronically, they can be copy and pasted into a generative AI model during the round due to allowing internet access.
- This is a problem is bad whether the AI outputs are bad or good

■ **ChatGPT can generate fake sources**

- Rozear, Hannah, and Sarah Park. "ChatGPT and Fake Citations." Duke University Libraries Blogs, 9 Mar. 2023, blogs.library.duke.edu/blog/2023/03/09/chatgpt-and-fake-citations/.

- What you may *not* know about **ChatGPT** is that it has significant limitations as a reliable research assistant. One such limitation is that it **has been known to fabricate or "hallucinate"** (in machine learning terms) **citations.** **These citations** may **sound legitimate and scholarly, but**

they are not real. It is important to note that AI can confidently generate responses without backing data much like a person under the influence of hallucinations can speak confidently without proper reasoning. **If you try to find these sources through Google or the library—you will turn up NOTHING.**

- If the AI outputs are “good”
 - **Fairness:** This is really unfair. Students who prep for the topic the whole year may lose to someone who just learned what it was last week
 - **Education:** It incentivizes students not to do research because they can get good arguments without it. With LD, the top teams do more research than they cite in rounds. Reading good cards in round is not the same amount of education
 - If the outputs are bad
 - **Fairness:** This is just bad for fairness, because it skews time towards the side using Generative AI. Even bad arguments need to be refuted
 - **Education:** One of the main forms of education in LD is students analyzing academic literature and warrants. Bad outputs destroy topic specific education and the learning of general skills with regards to academic research.
 - This exact situation happened to me in a round and the tournament director agreed with me that it was wrong but that there is nothing in the rules disallowing this practice.
 - It is not incumbent on students to adjudicate these issues in round, and even if it is, having this policy in the rules makes it much easier to do so.
- **Provide rationale AGAINST the resolution:**
- We need a more comprehensive conversation about Generative AI before making any decisions.
 - Adding this as a rule could give students the idea to use Generative AI in rounds because they’ll now realize this is a possible tool they could use even if it is banned.

Debate Proposal 2

RECOMMENDED

Submitted by:

Darren Elliott And Ryan Guy

School Affiliation

KCKCC and MJC

Proposal

Currently our tab software / staff can't accommodate pairing IPDA with regional constraints engaged. As a result, regional constraints are not in effect for IPDA. We are still able to uphold constraints in judging or NFA-LD, and NPDA. Note: Regional Judging Constraints are a tournament practice, but are not currently a requirement under our bylaws.

Thus we propose the tournament director should remove regional judging constraints from all debate events.

Provide rationale FOR the resolution

- Makes it the same for all debate events.
- Makes it easier to pair rounds
Makes it easier to balance judge load across debate events.
- Provides consistency across all debate events

Provide rationale AGAINST the resolution

- Judges from one region would potentially judge a round with one student from their region.
- Regional judging constraints would still exist in IEs and IT

Debate Proposal 3

RECOMMENDED

Submitted by: Name

Francesca Bishop

School Affiliation

El Camino

Proposal--Include the correct wording of the proposed resolution

Tournament Rules and Regulations:

Section 3: Event Rules

II. Event Rules

A. Debate

2. NFA LD Debate

new g.

Within 48 hours of the entry deadline, the tournament director will release the names of the individual NFA-LD competitors, together with the schools they represent.

Provide rationale FOR the resolution

- When different debaters at a given school each read different affirmatives it allows more for accurate preparation, increasing clash and education.
- Knowing names would allow competitors to determine if specific debaters are, or are not, attending PRP.
- Because some schools bring 6 LDers and some bring 1, knowing the names allows debaters and coaches to allocate appropriate time to researching answers to the schools' aff case(s).
- Without the debaters' names, it is impossible to find out (by asking former opponents) what they read if they do not disclose on the wiki.
- For all of the above, competitors in the regions of the schools for whom there are no names given have a much better chance of finding out the information thus creating an advantage for them and decreasing fairness.
- Disclosure of a student's school affiliation is already the status quo for LD because the names of schools are listed on ballots and postings for LD.

Provide rationale AGAINST the resolution

- Participants in other events could feel that LD is getting preferential treatment to deviate from the norm in the status quo to not disclose school affiliations for individual students.

Debate Proposal 4

RECOMMENDED

Submitted by: Name

Darren Elliott

School Affiliation

KCKCC

Proposal--Include the correct wording of the proposed resolution

Tournament Rules and Regulations:

Section 3: Event Rules

II. Event Rules

A. Debate

2. NFALD Debate

new h.

Students competing in NFA-LD, as a community norm, will be expected to disclose previously read arguments in NFA LD. Disclosure should be publicly viewable online on the NFA LD wiki within two hours of the end of competition each day. Affirmative case disclosure should consist of taglines, citations, plan texts and/or advocacies, and first/last three words of evidence. Negative disclosure should consist of arguments read, taglines, citations, counterplan texts, criticism alternatives, advocacies, procedural outlines and interpretations, and first/three last words of evidence. This section may be enforced by judges in round based on arguments made within the debate.

current g. (NOTE: For rules other than those listed above, the NFA constitution, bylaws, and guidelines, as of December 1 of the year prior to the tournament are followed at the Phi Rho Pi National Tournament.) becomes new i.

Provide rationale FOR the resolution

- Disclosure is a standard community norm now.
- Prepared debaters make for better debates.
- Benefits smaller programs with less teams and coaches who are not able to cover as many teams as larger coaching staffs when it comes to scouting.
- LD is an evidence based research activity and disclosure helps aid in the research process.

Provide rationale AGAINST the resolution

- Some schools do not want to disclose.
- Small schools may feel it actually harms their ability to be successful.
- It is hard to enforce and judges may not want to have to vote on disclosure.
- Schools that compete at NFA may be at a disadvantage after PRP because NFA