

**Proposed Changes/Discussion Items for  
2017 Spring Meeting**

# **Proxy Voting**

## **Constitution – Article III, Section 4**

Section 4. Proxy Voting at Meetings. Schools are encouraged to attend the business meetings of the GFCA, however, general Proxy voting is allowed by the following process when a member school's coaching staff cannot attend:

- a) A general proxy gives the proxy holder the right to vote as he or she sees fit on any business that may come up at a meeting. All proxy votes will be recorded and may be reviewed by the absent member, however, by designating a Proxy, the member cannot “undo” or “change” the votes put forth by that proxy.
- b) Member school head coach must notify the Director of Programs about the choice to use “general proxy voting” via email by the close of business the day before the scheduled meeting. The email must include to whom the member is giving the voting rights and the designated person must be copied on the email.
- c) On the day of the meeting, the designated person must sign in with the Director of Programs or designee and receive a proxy voting placard which will be used to signify all votes for the absent school.

# Executive Committee

## Constitution – Article IV, Section 1 & 2

### **PROPOSED:**

Section 1. Number. The leadership of the association shall consist of a Chair of the Committee, four directors and five coordinators. The primary officers shall consist of the Chair of the Committee, Director of Operations, Director of Programs, Director of Communications and Director of Finance. The secondary officers of the association shall consist of the Curriculum Coordinator, State Tournament Issues Coordinator, and Awards Coordinator. In addition, there may be such other subordinate officers, as the association may deem advisable from time to time. No multiple offices may be held simultaneously by the same person, or persons representing the same school.

Section 2. Term of Office. Each primary officer shall serve for the ensuing two years or until her/his successors shall have been elected and qualified, or until her/his death, resignation, or removal. Each secondary officer will serve one year terms.

### **OLD:**

Section 1. Number. The leadership of the association shall consist of a Chair of the Committee, four directors and five coordinators. The primary officers shall consist of the Chair of the Committee, Director of Operations, Director of Programs, Director of Communications and Director of Finance. The secondary officers of the association shall consist of the Online Presence Coordinator, Coach Development Coordinator, Curriculum Coordinator, Membership Coordinator, and Awards Coordinator, representing each area. In addition, there may be such other subordinate officers, as the association may deem advisable from time to time. No multiple offices may be held simultaneously by the same person, or persons representing the same school.

Section 2. Term of Office. Each officer shall serve for the ensuing year or until her/his successors shall have been elected and qualified, or until her/his death, resignation, or removal. All officers are limited to four consecutive terms in each office.

## **Bylaws – 5.41**

### **PROPOSED**

5.41 Elections will be held annually following the spring meeting for the association. Primary officers are elected to two-year terms. In odd calendar years, elections will be held for Director of Operations and Director of Finance. In even calendar years, elections will be held for Chair of the Committee, Director of Programs, and Director of Communications. Secondary officers shall be elected annually to a one-year term.

### **OLD**

5.41 Elections will be held on an annual basis after the annual spring meeting for the association.

## **Constitution – Article IV, Section 7(f) 1 & 2**

### **PROPOSED**

1. The Membership Coordinator shall assist the Director of Operations and Chairperson of the Committee by serving as the Ombudsperson at both State Tournaments and chair of the hardships committee before the State Tournaments.
2. The Curriculum Coordinator shall assist the Director of Programs by assisting with the development of resources. The Curriculum Coordinator shall develop an online inventory of resources for all events.
3. The Awards Coordinator shall assist the Director of Operations with the ordering of awards for all State championships. The Awards Coordinator shall oversee any voting process for any Association awards including but not limited to Coach of the Year, Hall of Fame, and Administrator of the Year.

### **OLD**

1. The Online Presence Coordinator shall assist the Director of Communications with the online image of the Association including its social media accounts, website management, and any other online material.
2. The Coach Development Coordinator shall assist the Director of Programs by assisting with the planning for the annual Fall Workshops. The Coordinator shall ensure that the content would continue to be emphasized throughout the season with potential follow up workshops at tournaments.
3. The Curriculum Coordinator shall assist the Director of Programs by assisting with the development of resources. The Curriculum Coordinator shall develop an online inventory of resources for all events.
4. The Membership Coordinator shall assist the Director of Finance and Director of Communications with the tracking of student and coach involvement in association events.
5. The Awards Coordinator shall assist the Director of Operations with the ordering of awards for all State championships. The Awards Coordinator shall oversee any voting process for any Association awards including but not limited to Coach of the Year, Hall of Fame, and Principal of the Year.

### **Constitution – Article IV, Section 7 (g) - new**

(g) The primary officers of the Association hold voting power for all Executive Committee matters. Matters that involve a primary officer's school shall lead to that officer recusing himself/herself from [discussion and?] voting on that issue. If the remaining primary officers determine the need to replace recused members with secondary officers in order to prevent tied votes, secondary officers will be granted voting power in the following order: Membership Coordinator, Curriculum Coordinator, and Awards Coordinator.

# **State Tournament Qualification**

## **Bylaws – 4.22(d)**

### **PROPOSED**

- (d) Host school entries will not count towards qualification level and/or qualification eligibility for the Varsity State Tournament.

### **OLD**

- (d) Host school entries will not count towards qualification level for the Varsity State Tournament.

# State Tournament Tabulation

## Bylaws – 4.37(b)

### PROPOSED

4.37

(b) Speech: At least twelve (12) entries require a final round (6 competitors, 1 section); 24-47 entries require a semifinal round (12 competitors, 2 sections); 48+ entries require a quarterfinal round (24 competitors, 4 sections).

(1) Advancement of teams/speakers shall be determined after preliminary rounds by the following order:

[a] Ranks, drop low

[b] Ranks, total

[c] Judge preference

[d] Points, drop low

[e] Points, total

(2) Advancement of teams/speakers in elimination rounds shall be determined in each elimination section. In elimination rounds, advancement of six entries per section is ideal. For elimination rounds, if the choice is between five and seven entries, seven shall advance. If the choice is between four or eight entries, the choice is four.

[a] In each Quarterfinal section, the top three (3) based on ranks should advance to the semifinals. In case of ties, the tiebreakers shall be in the following order:

[1] Ranks, total

[2] Judge preference

[3] Points, total

[b] In each Semifinal section, the top three (3) based on ranks should advance to the final round. In case of ties, the tiebreakers shall be in the following order:

[1] Ranks, total

[2] Judge preference

[3] Points, total

[c] In the Final round, the judge rankings will determine final placements. In case of ties, the tiebreakers shall be in the following order:

[1] Ranks, total

[2] Judge preference

[3] Points, total

### OLD

(b) Speech: At least twelve (12) entries require a final round (6 competitors, 1 section); 24-47 entries require a semifinal round (12 competitors, 2 sections); 48+ entries require a quarterfinal round (24 competitors, 4 sections).

(1) In a quarter-final round of speech, each section should have between 4-7 entries per section for a total of no more than twenty entries but not more than half of the total entries in the event. Entries advance to the semi-final round based upon the total of ALL scores (including individual judge scores), dropping the low score.



- (2) Twelve entries should ideally advance to the semi-final round. The semi-final round of speech must have at least nine (9) entries. Entries advance to the final round based upon the total of ALL scores (including individual judge scores), dropping the low score. In the event of a tie either from preliminary rounds or a quarter-final round, the tie should NOT be broken if the total number in semi-finals does not exceed fourteen (14). If not breaking from quarter-finals, and a tie resulting from preliminary rounds advances more than 14, the tie shall be broken by using, in order:
- [a] total judge scores if advancing from a quarter-final round;
  - [b] total of ALL scores from preliminary rounds;
  - [c] total number of 1's, total number of 2's, etc. until tie is broken
  - [d] if the two entries met previously, the entry that placed above the other;
  - [e] if the entries have not previously met, use reciprocal fractions;
  - [f] coin flip with coaches from concerned schools present.
- (3) At least four (4) entries must be in the final round of an Individual Event/Duo Interpretation; the goal should be six (6). Advancement of entries is determined from all previous scores, including all individual judge scores if quarter-final and/or semi-finals are held. The low-score is dropped in determining advancement to the final round. Advancement of six entries is ideal. Ties are not to be broken to advance to the final round unless the tie causes fewer than four or more than eight entries to be in the final round. For the final round, if the choice is between five and seven entries, seven shall advance. If the choice is between four or eight entries, the choice is four. In the event that a tie does not allow criteria of number of participants in the final round to be met, the following tie-break system should be used TO DETERMINE FINALISTS IN INDIVIDUAL EVENTS/DUO INTERPRETATION, continuing until the tie is broken:
- [a] add up ALL scores from all judges;
  - [b] total number of 1's, total number of 2's, etc.
  - [c] entry with higher score of previously met in competition at the State Tournament
  - [d] conversion of scores to reciprocal fractions;
  - [e] coin flip with coaches from concerned schools present.
- (4) Winners shall be determined by adding up all scores of ALL judges and dropping low score through the final round. The student with the lowest total will be named Champion; the students with the next lowest score will place 2<sup>nd</sup>, etc. Tie breaks broken by, in order,
- [a] rank in final round only; if tied, then by judge preference in the final round;
  - [b] total of ALL scores
  - [c] total number of 1's, total number of 2's, etc.
  - [d] reciprocal fractions of all scores;
  - [e] if unbreakable, then the tie shall stand and both entries will receive the placement. Placement shall remain in order; placement will not skip in order to accommodate the tie.

# **Congressional Debate**

## **Bylaws – 4.12**

### 3.12 Congressional Debate

- (a) Congressional Debate is defined as individual debate in a large group setting. Congressional debaters research and write pieces of Congressional legislation that they determine to be in the best interest of society.
- (b) Debaters will speak on the legislation while using proper and sanctioned parliamentary procedure. The State Congressional Debate will utilize parliamentary procedure as determined by the National Speech & Debate Association.
- (c) Judges score each competitor based on argumentation ability, speaking technique, knowledge of parliamentary procedure and overall participation.
- (d) The GFCA will follow all National Speech & Debate Association rules outlined in their league manual for Congressional Debate.

## **Bylaws – 4.22**

- (b) Congressional Debate Regular Season Qualifier
- (1) For a Congressional Session to be counted as a GFCFA qualifying tournament, it must meet the following regulations
    - 1) At least three (3) schools (excluding the host school) must be represented
    - 2) A session is defined as at least two hours of floor debate.
    - 3) The session should follow the rules in outlined in by law 4.45
  - (2) A bid to the Congressional State tournament awarded to students in a Congressional Session as follows:
    - (a) Sixty (60) or more entries, the top eighteen (18) competitors.
    - (b) Thirty (30) to sixty (60) entries, the top twelve (12) competitors.
    - (c) Twenty-one (21) to twenty nine (29) entries, the top six (6) competitors.
    - (d) Ten (10) to twenty (20) entries, the top three (3) competitor.
    - (e) Nine (9) or less entries will have no qualifiers.
    - (f) If an entry already has a bid to the state tournament and meets the qualifications a second time, the bid does not defer to the next entry not yet qualified.
    - (g) Competitors receiving a qualifying bid through an invitational tournament must attend two in state invitationals in Congressional Debate.
  - (2) Each member schools receive two (2) automatic entries for the Senate chamber.
    - (a) Competitors receiving a bid through this method must have attended a minimum of two (2) in state invitationals.
  - (3) For every two (2) fully qualified students to the Varsity State Championship, each member school may receive one (1) entry to the House of Representatives up to ten (10)

## **Bylaws – 4.36(c)**

Congressional Debate preliminary rounds: The Congressional Debate State Championship will be split into two divisions: House of Representatives and Senate. The Senate division should be collapsed if fewer than eight schools are represented.

- (1) Schools can enter up to twelve (12) students in the House of Representatives and Senate chambers as follows:
  - (a) Schools can choose to enter zero (0), one (1), or two (2) students to participate in the Senate.
  - (b) Schools can choose to enter up to ten (10) students in the House of Representatives.
- (2) Each qualifying school will be required to submit at least two (2) bills or resolutions no later than ten (10) days prior to the scheduled Congress.
- (3) All legislation presented shall meet required formatting criteria as set by the invitation, and must be original work of students from the submitting school.
- (4) The GFCA Executive Committee will attempt to accept at least one bill or resolution from each school submitting legislation. The GFCA Executive Committee may deny bills or resolutions from being offered from the floor at the State Tournament.
- (5) The Director of Communications will send a copy of the bills and resolutions at least one (1) week before the official Congress date. The Legislation will include no more than ten (10) bills or resolutions so that no more than two (2) bills or resolutions from any single school.
- (6) If necessary, bills or resolutions may be obtained from outside sources or written by the GFCA Executive Committee in order to fill the legislation. Authorship privilege will be waived for these bills or resolutions.
- (7) Each qualifying school will be required to bring one (1) judge per division entered.
- (8) Pairing the Congressional Debate Tournament
  - (a) There will be at least two (2) preliminary sessions and at least one (1) elimination session.
    - (1) Each chamber must have a minimum of ten (10) students to be seated and no more than thirty (30) students.
    - (2) Each session is at least two (2) hours and includes:
      - (a) Election of a presiding officer
      - (b) New seating chart (necessary accommodations for students with special needs may be made).
      - (c) Resetting of precedence
      - (d) New legislation that has not been debated in a previous session at the tournament
  - (b) Each preliminary and elimination session will have three judges
    - (1) The tab room should avoid using affiliated judges in chambers.
      - (a) If the tab room cannot avoid using affiliated judges, the affiliated judge will not score or rank their own students. Scores and ranks will be based on the average of the other scores and ranks given by the other two judges.

- (2) The tab room should avoid using judges from the same school on the same panel.
- (3) Each session can have different judges.
- (4) One judge will serve as parliamentarian and scorer.
- (c) The number of chambers for a single division should be divided as follows
  - (1) Twenty Nine (29) or fewer entries should have at least one (1) chamber.
  - (2) Thirty (30) to sixty (60) entries should have at least two (2) chambers.
  - (3) Sixty (60) to ninety (90) entries should have at least three (3) chambers.
  - (4) Ninety one (91) or more entries should have at least four (4) chambers.
- (d) Chamber assignments shall be made by the Tournament Director at registration and are final.
  - (1) When registering for the House of Representatives, schools can determine the grouping of individual students from their schools as long as the number of entries in each house is approximately equal (i.e., three houses 3-3-2 or two houses 4-3)
    - (a) Placement of a schools groups into specific chambers will be done randomly by the computer, but the tournament director may adjust placement of individual school groupings so that chambers are approximately equal in size.
  - (2) Seating charts should be created using tabulation software.
- (9) Tabulating Congressional Debate
  - (a) Each judge should assign up to eight (8) points per speech, considering answers to questions in the awarding of points.
  - (b) Presiding officers should receive not less than four (4) or more than eight (8) speaker credit points for each full hour of presiding.
  - (c) At the end of the each judge's commitment in preliminary and elimination rounds, s/he should rank his/her top eight (8) preferred legislators (which may include presiding officers).
  - (d) The most mutually preferred congresspersons will advance to elimination rounds as per By Law 4.43. Ties will be broken as follows using all three judges scores:
    - (1) Drop Low
    - (2) High/Low Total Speech Points
    - (3) Total Speech Points
    - (4) Total Number of Speeches
    - (5) Random Draw

## **Bylaws – 4.37(c)**

4.37

### **(c) Congressional Debate:**

- (1) If only one chamber is used in preliminary rounds, the top twelve (12) advance to the Final Session.
- (2) If more than one chamber is used in preliminary round, proceed as follows
  - (a) For two (2) chambers, the top eight (8) students should advance from each preliminary chamber.
  - (b) For three (3) chambers, the top six (6) students should advance from each preliminary chamber.
  - (c) For four (4) chambers, the top four (4) students should advance from each preliminary chamber.
- (3) Each event will recognize all students placing in the top six (6) in the House of Representatives and Senate, including Champions in those events.

## **Bylaws – 4.39(c)**

### PROPOSED

- (1) Speech Sweepstakes include Dramatic Interpretation, Humorous Interpretation, Extemporaneous Speaking, Program Oral Interpretation, Impromptu and Duo Interpretation; Debate Sweepstakes include all divisions in Policy Debate, Public Forum Debate, and Lincoln-Douglas Debate; Overall Sweepstakes includes all events sanctioned by the GFCFA.
- (2) Sweepstakes formula is determined as follows:
  - (a) Debate
    - (1) Policy/Public Forum/Lincoln Douglas: 25 points for Championship entry; 20 points for runner-up entry; 15 points for semi-finals (non-advancing); 10 points for quarter-finals (non-advancing); 5 points for octo-finals (non-advancing) 2 points for double octo-finals (non-advancing).
    - (3) Winner is determined by the summation of the total points, the school with the highest point named Champion, the school with the second highest points named Runner-up, etc.

### OLD

- (1) Speech Sweepstakes include Dramatic Interpretation, Humorous Interpretation, Extemporaneous Speaking, Program Oral Interpretation, Impromptu and Duo Interpretation; Debate Sweepstakes include all divisions in Policy Debate, Public Forum Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate and all Congressional Debate divisions; Overall Sweepstakes includes all events sanctioned by the GFCFA.
- (2) Sweepstakes formula is determined as follows:
  - (a) Debate
    - (1) Policy/Public Forum/Lincoln Douglas: 25 points for Championship entry; 20 points for runner-up entry; 15 points for semi-finals (non-advancing); 10 points for quarter-finals (non-advancing); 5 points for octo-finals (non-advancing) 2 points for double octo-finals (non-advancing).
    - (2) House/Senate Chambers: 10 points for Championship entry; 8 points for runner-up entry; 5 for 3<sup>rd</sup> place; 3 points for finalists; 1 point for semi-finalists (non-advancing).
    - (3) Winner is determined by the summation of the total points, the school with the highest point named Champion, the school with the second highest points named Runner-up, etc.

# **Sweepstakes**

## **Bylaws - 4.39(c)3**

### **PROPOSED**

(3) The Overall Championship is determined by adding Debate and Speech sweepstakes categories. A school must actively participate in both debate and speech with at least three entries in each area.

### **OLD**

(3) The Overall Championship is determined by adding Debate and Speech sweepstakes categories.



## **Bylaws – 4.39(c)4**

### **PROPOSED**

(4) The top five speech and top five debate entries per school will count towards its sweepstakes calculation. The top three schools in all categories will be recognized at the Awards Ceremony. Schools may only win one Sweepstakes Award per category.

### **OLD**

(4) The top three schools in all categories will be recognized at the Awards Ceremony. Schools may only win one Sweepstakes Award per category.

### **PROPOSED**

5) In the event of a tie in sweepstakes, the following serves as the tie-break formula, in order until tie is broken.

- [a] Add the 6th speech and the 6th debate entry per school.
- [b] Total 1st places in the specific category, then total of 2nd places, etc.
- [c] Add the 7th speech and the 7th debate entry per school.
- [d] Add the 8th speech and the 8th debate entry per school.

### **OLD**

(5) In the event of a tie in sweepstakes, the following serves as the tie-break formula, in order until tie is broken.

- [a] Total 1st places in the specific category, then total of 2nd places, etc.
- [b] If not determined by [a], ties in Sweepstakes ARE allowed.

# **Special Awards**

## **Bylaws – 5.53**

### **PROPOSED**

5.53 Every year, the GFCA will honor an individual with a Richard Bracknell Service Award for service to the organization and community.

### **OLD**

5.53 Every year, the GFCA will honor an individual with a Service Award for service to the organization and community.

## **Bylaws – 5.54**

### **PROPOSED**

- 5.54 Every year, the GFCA will honor a current middle school or high school administrator of a Georgia Forensic Coaches Association member school for their support of the organization and community.

### **OLD**

- 5.54 Every year, the GFCA will honor a current middle school or high school principal and/or headmaster of a Georgia Forensic Coaches Association member school for their support of the organization and community.

### **Bylaws – 5.55 - new**

5.55 Every year, the GFCA will recognize a school with the Bruce Rogers President's Cup. The President's Cup is awarded for one-year possession to the member school participating in the present tournament whose total number of rounds is highest at the conclusion of the tournament. The total number of rounds for all student entries accumulate from year to year. The winning school each year will be set back to zero and the records for other schools carried forward to the next year. A tie will be broken in favor of the school whose students were in the largest number of rounds in the present tournament.

## **Bylaws – 5.56 – new**

5.56 Every year, the GFCFA will recognize member schools for the achievements in qualifying students to the Varsity State Championships with the School of Excellence awards.

[a] Member schools will be broken into six balanced, even classifications based on school size. These classifications should be set every two years by the Executive Committee. The awards will be given to one school in each classification who earns the most qualifiers to the Varsity State Championship.

(1) The Helen McClellan School of Excellence award will be presented to the member school with fewer than 600 students enrolled.

(2) The Sandra Silvers School of Excellence award will be presented to the member school with 600 to 1,200 students enrolled.

(3) The Ted Wolf School of Excellence award will be presented to the member school with 1,201 to 1,600 students enrolled.

(4) The Philip Wertz School of Excellence award will be presented to the member school with 1,601 to 1,900 students enrolled.

(5) The Martha Dye School of Excellence award will be presented to the member school with 1,901 to 2,200 students enrolled.

(6) The Leslie Watkins School of Excellence award will be presented to the member school with more than 2,201 students enrolled.

(7) Enrollment numbers will be calculated from data received from the Georgia High School Association.

[b] The award will be presented by the Executive Committee at the GFCFA State Tournament.