

# Brooklyn-Queens Catholic Forensic League

## **Constitution**

### **Article I. Name**

The name of this organization shall be the Brooklyn-Queens Catholic Forensic League, hereafter referred to as the "League" or "BQCFL".

### **Article II. Mission Statement**

It shall be the purpose of this League, as a member of the National Catholic Forensic League, through participation in interscholastic tournaments in debate and public speaking, in the various forms of discussion and community service, and in the dramatic arts, to prepare high school students to become articulate Americans.

### **Article III. Membership**

#### **A. School**

1. Eligibility: Any private, public, parochial or religious high school in the Diocese of Brooklyn, which includes Kings and Queens counties, shall be eligible for membership in the BQCFL.
2. Certification: Application for membership shall be made to the president of the League. Membership shall become effective upon approval of the application and payment of membership fee to the treasurer of the League. This fee shall be renewed annually.
3. Active Membership: To maintain active membership in the League, a school must participate in at least two League tournaments annually. A school failing to comply with this requirement shall be ineligible to compete in the Grand Tournament that year.

#### **B. Individual**

Eligibility: Students of member schools who, in the opinion of their moderators, are qualified, shall be entitled to membership.

### **Article IV. League Organization**

A. Executive Council: The officers of the League shall be a president, vice president for speech, vice president for Lincoln-Douglas debate, vice president for student congress, vice president for policy debate, secretary/publicity director, assistant vice president for Lincoln-Douglas debate, assistant vice president for policy debate, and treasurer. These shall comprise the Executive Council. The Executive Council shall have authority to make decisions on all matters that are not restricted to the moderators.

B. Elections: The officers shall be chosen by majority vote of the active member schools - each school having one vote - at the last general meeting of the school year, or, if vacancies occur during the school year, at special elections. The president shall be chosen every third year. The other officers are elected annually. Moderators representing a majority of the active League membership present at the meeting shall constitute a quorum.

C. Nominations: Before the last general meeting of the school year, the president shall send to each member school a blank nominating ballot containing places for two names for each office. These ballots shall be collected at the last meeting and used as the slate for the elections. New nominations can be made on the day of the elections.

#### **D. Duties of Officers**

1. President: The president shall be responsible for the enforcement of all provisions of this constitution and all regulations enacted under its authority. He shall preside at all League meetings. He shall ensure the accuracy of all results at League tournaments. He shall be the designated League representative to the National Catholic Forensic League. He shall carry out whatever duties are placed upon him by the National Catholic Forensic League.
2. Vice President for Speech: She shall act as president in case of the temporary vacancy of that office. She shall be

- responsible for the purchase of all awards.
3. Vice President for Lincoln-Douglas Debate: He shall, in consultation with the president, choose the Lincoln-Douglas Debate topic for each tournament and make sure that all member schools have it one month in advance of the tournament. He shall be responsible for L-D schematics, pairings and tabulation at each League tournament.
  4. Vice President for Student Congress: She shall receive all bills/resolutions to be placed on each Congress agenda, and she shall mail at least one week prior to each Congress a copy of the agenda and proposed bills/resolutions prepared by each competing school. She shall be responsible for the administration and tabulation of Congress at each League tournament.
  5. Vice President for Policy Debate: He shall be responsible for policy debate schematics, pairings and tabulations at each League tournament.
  6. Treasurer: The treasurer shall have charge of the finances of the League. She shall receive the annual membership dues of each school and tournament entry fees. She shall receive and charge all bills paid to the League. At the last meeting of each school year, she shall render an exact accounting of the League's receipts and expenses for that school year. She shall send the annual dues to the National Office.
  7. Secretary/Publicity Director: The secretary shall have charge of the necessary correspondence between the Executive Council and the member schools. He shall keep accurate minutes of the proceedings of each League meeting. He shall be responsible for compiling a new League roster each fall, containing the names, addresses and phone numbers of each member school and moderator of the League. He shall also have charge of all publicity for the League. He shall send promptly to the local diocesan and secular press a report of the League's activities.
  8. Assistant Vice President for Lincoln-Douglas Debate: She shall assist the Vice President for Lincoln-Douglas Debate and shall assume his duties and responsibilities in his absence.
  9. Assistant Vice President for Policy Debate: He shall assist the Vice President for Policy Debate and shall assume his duties and responsibilities in his absence.

#### **Article V. Meetings**

- A. Twice a year, once at the start and once at the conclusion of the forensic year, there shall be a general meeting of all moderators.
- B. Additional moderators' meetings may be convened at the discretion of the president.
- C. The Executive Council shall meet at the discretion of the president.

#### **Article VI. Amendments**

An amendment to this constitution may be proposed at a League meeting by the moderator (or his authorized representative) of any active member school. It shall be ratified by a two-thirds majority of the active member schools, each school having one vote.

#### D. Other Qualifying Tournaments

1. In Lincoln-Douglas debate, if the BQCFL is permitted to qualify either 1 or 2 debaters for the NCFL Grand National Tournament, these students will qualify by their first and second place finish at the Grand Tournament.
2. If a third debater is permitted to qualify, this student will qualify by placing first at the BQCFL tournament designated as the "Second National Qualifying Tournament" (usually scheduled in February).
3. If a fourth debater is permitted to qualify, this student will qualify by placing first at the BQCFL tournament designated as the "First National Qualifying Tournament" (usually scheduled in December).
4. If a fifth debater is permitted to qualify, this student will qualify by placing third at the Grand Tournament, and if a sixth debater is permitted to qualify, this student will do so by placing fourth at the Grand Tournament.

*(Effective October 2001, this supersedes all previous BQCFL By-Laws)*