

# FIFA

Florida Intercollegiate  
Forensics Association

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**CONSTITUTION**

**OF THE**

**FLORIDA INTERCOLLEGIATE FORENSICS ASSOCIATION**

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(As accepted on 2-73 and revised in 2-75, 2-82, 2-87, 1-91, 1-95, 2-07, 2-09, 2-11, 2-12, 2-13, & 1-16)

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**ARTICLE I. NAME AND PURPOSE**

- Section A.** This organization shall be known as the Florida Intercollegiate Forensics Association (FIFA).
- Section B.** The purpose of this association shall to be to promote and supervise forensics activities within the State of Florida.

**ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP**

- Section A.**
1. The association shall consist of those junior colleges, colleges, and universities in the state of Florida that meet the financial obligations related to FIFA membership. Members will abide by this constitution. All members of FIFA are strongly encouraged to attend the state championship tournament.
  2. Each member school may cast one vote per question call at the annual meeting.
  3. For the business of FIFA, a competitive forensics season runs from September to June 1.

**ARTICLE III. FEES AND ASSESSMENTS**

- Section A.** All member institutions shall pay an annual membership fee of seventy-five (75) dollars, payable by the annual state championship tournament or directly to the FIFA Vice President.
- Section B.** Tournament entry fees are due to the Vice President or, in the absence of the Vice President, another member of the Executive Committee preceding the first round of competition in which the school is registered to compete. If a team does not pay their registration fees by this time, they must pay their registration fees in full (plus a penalty equal to 50% of their total fees) by the next FIFA championship or be ineligible for competition at the following championship.

**Section C.** Additional assessments may be made by vote of the Association.

**Section D.**

1. Entries in Individual Events, excluding Persuasion, will be charged at \$8 (eight) per slot.
2. Group Interpretation will be charged at \$25 (twenty-five) per slot.
3. Entries in Parliamentary And Lincoln-Douglas Debate will be charged at \$25 (twenty-five) per slot/team.
4. Uncovered slots in Individual Events, including Persuasion, will be charged at \$10 (ten) per slot.
5. Uncovered entries in Parliamentary or Lincoln-Douglas debate will be charged at \$25 (twenty-five) per slot/team.
6. Entries in Persuasion will be charged at \$20 (twenty) per slot.
7. Entries in Pentathlon will be charged at \$5 (five) per slot.

**Section E.**

1. A judge covers 6 (six) IE slots OR 4 (four) IE slots and 1 (one) LD slot.
2. If Parliamentary Debate is run separately from IE and LD, uncovered slot fees for Parliamentary Debate will be figured separately from IE and LD when calculating fees. Therefore, a judge may cover 2 (two) Parliamentary teams in addition to 6 (six) IE slots OR 4 (four) slots and 1 (one) LD slot, as listed above.

#### **ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS**

**Section A.** The officers of this Association shall be a **President**, who shall be elected in the odd-numbered years for a term of two years, a **Vice President** who will serve the same term and shall be elected in even-numbered years, a Tournament Host, who shall be the Director of Forensics at the institution hosting the annual tournament, and a **Recording Secretary** who shall be elected in even-numbered years. These officers shall comprise the Executive Committee.

**Section B.** It shall be the duty of the President to:

1. Preside over all meetings of the association and call all meetings.
2. Notify members of the association with the Interstate Oratory Association.
3. Act as correspondent for FIFA with the Interstate Oratory Association.
4. Coordinate the state championship tournament (and all other FIFA sanctioned tournaments) in concert with the tournament host.
5. Initiate and administer electronic voting procedures (i.e. email).
6. Carry out the provisions of the constitution and by-laws and perform any other duties enumerated herein.

**Section C.** It shall be the duty of the Vice-President to:

1. In the absence of the President, assume the duties of that office.

2. In the case that the President vacates his/her office, assume the Presidency until the next scheduled meeting.
3. Collect all fees and assessments, and pay all bills.
4. Attend to the purchase and presentation of all the awards.
5. Retain, protect and manage FIFA records and archives.
6. Make financial records available to the membership through an oral and written financial report presented at the FIFA business meetings.

**Section D.** It shall be the duty of the Tournament Host to:

1. Host the annual tournament
2. Organize each of the events according to the rules of the constitution.
3. Appoint coaches to head all events.
4. Secure judges for all events.
5. Publicize the tournament at the institutional, local and regional levels.
6. Submit to member schools contest registration materials.
7. Supply members with judges' remarks for all contests

**Section E.** It shall be the duty of the Recording Secretary to:

1. Keep a record of the proceedings of FIFA.
2. Supply all members of the association with the minutes of all meetings and copies of the constitution and by-laws.

**Section F.** It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to make procedural decisions that may be deemed necessary to facilitate FIFA tournaments and make recommendations to the Association concerning improvements to tournament procedures, regulations & functionality.

## **ARTICLE V. MEETINGS**

**Section A.** There shall be one official state championship tournament each year. A business meeting for member schools/individuals shall be held during the tournament.

**Section B.** Any member institution may volunteer as host for the state championship tournament. The host school for the following year will be determined by a majority vote at the annual business meeting. Specific criteria should be followed:

1. No profit shall be made from the annual tournament by the host school.
2. The host school must show evidence that adequate facilities and staff are available to properly facilitate the tournament.
3. Reimbursement of the host's expenses related to tournament administration shall be determined by 1) the recommendation of the Executive Committee based of the financial circumstances of the organization subsequent the collection of entry fees and 2) the majority vote by the FIFA membership.

**Section C.** Special meetings shall be called upon at the request of the President. These special meetings shall be held at a time and place convenient for the majority of member institutions.

**Section D.** A quorum for the transaction of business shall be constituted by a majority of the membership. Membership is determined by payment of membership dues for the season in which the meeting transpires.

## **ARTICLE VI. PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE**

**Section A.** Robert's Rule of Order shall be the authority of this Association's parliamentary procedure.

## **ARTICLE VII. AMENDMENTS**

**Section A.** This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the member institutions present at a FIFA business meeting or within an electronic voting structure.

**Section B.** Electronic Voting

1. The President shall prescribe electronic votes. It is the duty of the President to ensure that every effort was made to contact all member schools (via email, phone or fax) concerning the electronic voting proceedings.
2. All records of electronic voting must be printed by the President and submitted to the Vice President to be placed in the FIFA permanent records.

## **BY-LAWS**

### **ARTICLE I. GENERAL BY-LAWS**

**Section A.** The association shall conduct the following events. All events are limited to a maximum of 5 entries per school except Group Interpretation (one (1) entry maximum) and Pentathlon (ten (10) student maximum). 3 schools must enter an event for it to count toward the Team and Pentathlon sweepstakes awards.

1. Parliamentary Debate
2. Lincoln-Douglas Debate
3. Extemporaneous Speaking
4. Impromptu Speaking
5. Informative Speaking
6. Persuasive Speaking
7. Communication Analysis
8. After Dinner Speaking

9. Prose Interpretation
10. Poetry Interpretation
11. Dramatic Interpretation
12. Program Oral Interpretation
13. Duo Interpretation
14. Pentathlon
15. Group Interpretation
16. CEDA (FIFA will produce a concurrent CEDA State Championship, or hold said debate championship on an alternate weekend. CEDA will NOT be included in the annual comprehensive FIFA State Championship)

**Section B.** All contestants shall be students at the school that they are representing. Students who possess an undergraduate degree are precluded from competition. A student shall have eight (8) semesters of eligibility and shall compete at no more than four (4) FIFA state championships. Students who possess a baccalaureate degree will be precluded from competition.

**Section C.** The Tournament Host, in cooperation with the President, shall make arrangements for the annual FIFA state championship.

**Section D.** All entries shall be communicated to the Tournament Host ten (10) days before the annual tournament. This rule shall be imposed at the discretion of the Tournament Host and President.

**Section E.** Ballots used in all events shall be standardized and approved by the Executive Committee.

**Section F.** A sweepstakes trophy shall be awarded to the school that accumulates the greatest number of tournament points. Sweepstakes points shall be awarded as follows:

1. CEDA Debate

Preliminary : Non-Advancing Competitors in Octa and Quarter Finals

One (1) sweepstakes point for a ballot

Debate Team

First Place	Twelve (12) sweepstakes points
Second Place	Ten (10) sweepstakes points
Third Place	Eight (8) sweepstakes points
Fourth Place	Seven (7) sweepstakes points
Fifth Place	Five (5) sweepstakes points
Sixth Place	Three (3) sweepstakes points

2. Parliamentary Debate

Preliminary : Non-Advancing Competitors in Octa and Quarter Finals  
One (1) sweepstakes point for a ballot

Debate Team

First Place	Twelve (12) sweepstakes points
Second Place	Ten (10) sweepstakes points
Third Place	Eight (8) sweepstakes points
Fourth Place	Seven (7) sweepstakes points
Fifth Place	Five (5) sweepstakes points
Sixth Place	Three (3) sweepstakes points

3. Lincoln-Douglas Debate

Preliminary : Non-Advancing Competitors in Octa and Quarter Finals  
One (1) sweepstakes point for a ballot

Debate Team

First Place	Twelve (12) sweepstakes points
Second Place	Ten (10) sweepstakes points
Third Place	Eight (8) sweepstakes points
Fourth Place	Seven (7) sweepstakes points
Fifth Place	Five (5) sweepstakes points
Sixth Place	Three (3) sweepstakes points

4. Individual Events

Final Rounds

First Place	Twelve (12) points
Second Place	Ten (10) points
Third Place	Eight (8) points
Fourth Place	Seven (7) points
Fifth Place	Five (5) points
Sixth Place	Three (3) points

5. Group Interpretation

First Place	Twelve (12) points
Second Place	Ten (10) points
Third Place	Eight (8) points
Fourth Place	Seven (7) points
Fifth Place	Five (5) points
Sixth Place	Three (3) points

**Section G.** Tournament Host shall abide by the following judging standards:

1. Option 1: Judges in all FIFA forensics events shall be educators and/or have previous judging experience, and/or have experience as a competitor in the event(s) they judge.
2. Option 2: Judges in all FIFA forensics events shall possess a BA or BS degree or shall possess an AA degree and have been out of forensics competition for a minimum of one (1) year.
3. Judges who do not meet the criteria outlined in the previous two points may be deemed competent by the Tournament Host and FIFA President.
4. Coaches shall be responsible for acquiring judges for their schools in a tournament. Coaches shall be responsible for assessing the qualifications of their judges for the Tournament Host and President.  
Coaches shall be responsible for assessing the qualifications of their judges for the Tournament Host and FIFA President.
5. All preliminary rounds in any FIFA forensics event shall have one qualified judge. Three qualified judges shall be assigned to each of the elimination rounds for debate and individual events.
6. If a school hires a judge that is deemed unqualified by the Tournament Host and FIFA President subsequent the entry deadline for a FIFA tournament, that school is responsible for paying any fees related to the change in entry.
7. Once an individual judges a FIFA tournament-or any other collegiate forensics competition (save novice nationals in which seniors are allowed to judge) they forever forfeit eligibility for FIFA competition.
8. The Tournament Host and President may override the requirements outlines in Section G if there is consensus from the Executive Committee on the alterations.

**Section G.** These by-laws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Association by two-thirds majority of the member institutions present or by 2/3 electronic vote.

**Section H.** Novice classifications in Individual Events are not allowed at the FIFA tournament.

## **ARTICLE II. BY-LAWS GOVERNING DEBATE**

**Section A.** The proposition for CEDA shall be the CEDA Spring debate topic. The resolution for Lincoln Douglas debate shall adhere to the designation of the National Forensic Association (NFA) for that competitive year. NFA-LD rules will govern the event.

**Section B.** An official champion shall be declared annually in both CEDA Debate and Lincoln-Douglas Debate.

**Section C.** CEDA Debate teams shall be composed of two (2) members each. Speaking times for CEDA Debate shall be in line with national tournaments.

**Section D.** Lincoln-Douglas Debate teams shall be composed of one (1) contestant each. Speaking times for Lincoln-Douglas Debates shall be in line with the NFA regulations.

**Section E.** Regulations for debate contestants:

1. Debate shall consist of 4-6 rounds. Elimination rounds shall be conducted if justified by the number of entries. Brackets shall be broken in elimination rounds. Quarter Finals shall be held if sixteen (16) or more teams are entered in the contest.
2. If an odd number of teams participate, all teams shall draw for "byes." No team shall receive more than one "bye." When a "bye" is given, quality points and speaker points shall be determined by averaging those assigned in all other rounds.
3. All teams shall debate both sides of the question an equal number of times in preliminaries. During elimination rounds, there shall occur a flip for sides if the teams have not met, but the teams shall switch sides if they have met previously. There shall be power matching for the fourth, fifth, and sixth rounds.
4. No coaching or collaboration is allowed during preparation time of parliamentary debate.
5. A three-resolution strike system will be used in parliamentary debate. The debaters in each round will be presented with three resolutions. Opposition will strike one resolution, Government will strike one of the remaining two, and the final resolution will be debated in the round.
6. The Tournament Host and President, if deemed necessary (e.g. – small judging pool, time constraints), may alter these guidelines to ensure the successful administration of the tournament.

**Section F.** Parliamentary Debate will follow current National Parliamentary Debate (NPDA) guidelines.

**Section G.** Novice classifications for debate are not allowed in the FIFA tournament.

### **ARTICLE III. BY-LAWS GOVERNING INDIVIDUAL EVENTS**

**Section A.** All individual events will be governed by **AFA-NFA (National Forensic Association)** rules. **AFA-NFA** rules are consulted only after a review of the FIFA Constitution and By-Laws.

### **ARTICLE IV. BY-LAWS GOVERNING GROUP INTERPRETATION**

**Section A.** Group interpretation shall be understood as a broad, inclusive team intended to suggest a continuum consisting of Choral Speaking, Group Reading (conventional scripts, stand, stool, minimum movement). One style or any combination of three (3) styles may be used. The method of presentation shall be determined by the nature of the content of the literature being interpreted.

**Section B.** Group interpretation may employ all types of literature, including prose, poetry, and drama. Material shall be of literary quality, original or published.

**Section C.** Each Group Interpretation team shall consist of a minimum of three (3) competitors. There shall be no limit to the maximum number of competitors on a Group Interpretation team. Each school shall be limited to one Group Interpretation entry.

**Section D.** Mechanics of presentation:

1. Manuscripts shall be optional.
2. Each team shall choose its own method of introduction. Introductions may be delivered extemporaneously by one or more competitors, or may be incorporated within the context of the program. In either event, the introduction time shall be included in each team's total time, which is not to exceed twenty (20) minutes.
3. Movement may or may not be used, depending on the demands of the literature and the directional concept. While off-stage focus should be primary, on-stage focus may be used. The aim shall be to retain the "theatre" in Group Interpretation, to seek a balance and a harmony in the visual and vocal aspects involved in interpretation.
4. Costuming in the complete theatrical sense shall be prohibited. However, suggestion in contemporary dress or formal attire may be used when suitable.
5. A Group Interpretation production shall be dependent on props, sound effects, and/or lighting effects, but such items as ladders, saw horses, bells, etc., shall be appropriate. A performing group shall furnish its own equipment.

**Section E.** Three (3) qualified critic-judges to evaluate the Group Interpretation performance. Only one round of Group interpretation will be offered at the state championship.

## **ARTICLE V. BY-LAWS GOVERNING AWARDS**

**Section A.** Awards will be given at the completion of the tournament.

1. One (1) Award each for Individual Events, Debate Events (placement & speaker) in 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> place.
2. One (1) Award each for Group Interpretation in 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> place.
3. One (1) Award each for Pentathlon Competitor in 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> place.
4. One (1) Award for each Debate Sweepstakes in 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> place.
5. One (1) Award for each Individual Events Sweepstakes in 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> place.
6. One (1) Award for Division I Sweepstakes in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place.
7. One (1) Award for each Joy McClintock Overall Sweepstakes in 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> place.

**Section B.** Regulation of Awards

1. Non-Advancing Top Novice is defined as the top undergraduate forensics competitor in their first year of college forensics competition that does not advance into the final round. This award will not generate sweepstakes points-and does not require a trophy. A certificate may be distributed for this set of awards.
2. A Division I school is defined as a team with less than the average of the sum of the number of Debate, Individual Events and Group Interpretation entries. Schools that

qualify for Division I status will also be entered in the Joy McClintock Overall sweepstakes competition.

3. Pentathlon Competitors must be entered in at least 5 individual events. Points will be awarded to Pentathlon competitors per Article 1, Section F of this Constitution/By- Laws. This award will not generate sweepstakes points.