

# National Catholic Forensic League

## Grand National Lincoln-Douglas Debate Tournament

### INFORMATION SHEET

**Welcome!** The following information is provided for your reference, ***please read it carefully.***

**Resolution – Resolved: Bystanders have a moral obligation to act in the face of injustice.**

**Time Limits:** 6 minute Affirmative Constructive  
3 minute Cross-examination by negative  
7 minute Negative Constructive  
3 minute Cross-examination by affirmative  
4 minute Affirmative Rebuttal  
6 minute Negative Rebuttal  
3 minute Affirmative Rebuttal

**Preparation Time: 4 minutes** per competitor to be allocated at each student's discretion.

**Judging Information:** This is the Grand National Lincoln-Douglas Debate Tournament where all judges are expected to give their very best efforts to judging the competition fairly and providing constructive written comments for all students. We need your cooperation to stay on schedule and have a great day!!!

- Please be sure your Tabroom Account is **LINKED** in our system to ensure you receive Push Notifications of rounds and Electronic Ballots. *See Tabroom Personnel if you have questions.*
- Three Judge panels are being used in every round.
- **Do not start a round until all three judges are present.** Once all are present, start the round on your electronic ballot to notify the Tabroom that your round has started.
- **Do NOT confer** or discuss your decision with the other judges during or after the round.
- **Do NOT provide oral critiques and do NOT disclose your decisions** to other debaters, coaches, or judges at any time during the tournament.
- **You may NOT award a Low Point Win. Your Decision must match the points awarded.**
- Please determine one of the judges to keep time for the debaters throughout the round.
- **Forfeit Time is 10 minutes** after the posted starting time of the round on the pairings. If you believe a forfeit is appropriate, please send a student to the Tab Room (with the codes of all those present) for instructions. **DO NOT** award the forfeit on your own!
- **IF you are using paper ballots:**
  - When the pairings are released report to the Tab Room to pick up ballots.
  - After judging both flights you are assigned in the round, return your completed ballots quickly to the Tab Room. **We suggest you use the preparation time during the round to make comments on the ballot so that you can return them quickly.**
  - Please fill out the ballots completely. Include: Team Codes, Debater's Names, Your Judge Code, Your Signature, Room Number, Points for Each Debater, Decision, Written Comments and Reasons for Decision.

**Start Rounds Quickly:** All four students assigned to each room should report to the room immediately. The B Flight Students should wait outside the room until the A Flight has begun, then return to the student lounge and report back to the room at least ten minutes before the scheduled start of the B Flight. If an A Flight student is missing and both B Flight students are present, please start the B Flight debate and run the A Flight debate in the second flight time slot.

**Ask for Assistance:** If you have questions or believe an error has been made, please ask. We can only solve a problem if we know about it!

**Excerpts from the NCFL By-Laws:**

The resolution is a proposition of value, not policy. Debaters are to develop argumentation on the resolution in its entirety, based on the conflicting underlying principles and values to support their positions. To that end, they are not responsible for practical applications. No plan shall be offered by the affirmative.

In making the decision, the judges should ask the following questions:

- Which debater was more persuasive?
- Did the debater support his or her position appropriately, using logical argumentation throughout and evidence when necessary?
- Which debater communicated more effectively? Speed, word choice, and delivery all count.

Since this is a debate, clash is necessary. It may be direct clash or clash by opposing principles. Thus the debate does not have to match point-for-point.

Good judges make decision only on what was debated by the contestants. If the judges consider an argument to be flawed, but the opponent does not refute it, the original argument must stand. If however, there is a clash, then the judges decide which argument is more persuasive.

Judges may not discuss the progress of the debate with each other or with the debaters.

The judges should distance themselves from the content of the debate. Personal values of the judges should not influence the decisions.

**Comments on the ballots should be analytical. Sarcasm should not be used.**

**PLEASE TAKE SPECIAL NOTE** of the NCFL's Rules of Evidence, Article II, Section C, Paragraph 5, Subparagraph (e). ***"Judges are prohibited from reading evidence unless falsification is suspected and the original source in question is available in the round. The reading of complete citations is required only when requested by the opposing team."***

Any falsification must be indicated by the opposing team and the original source must be available for review. This rule will be strictly adhered to by all judges. If a judge violates this rule, he or she will be removed from the judging pool and the school the judge represents will be fined \$25.00 for each round after the judge is removed from the pool.

**THANK YOU** for your cooperation.  
With your assistance we will do our best to be on schedule.

**Remember:**

- ***No oral critiques – type or write constructive feedback on the ballot.***
- ***Do not confer.***
- ***You may NOT award a Low Point Win.***