

# OHSSL BY-LAWS

## PART 1. GENERAL REGULATIONS

### ARTICLE I - FINANCES

Section 1. The annual membership fee for all member schools is \$175 and is payable to the Executive Director postmarked on or before October 31.

Section 2. A late fee of \$10 shall be assessed if the school's registration is not posted by October 1. A late fee of \$10 shall be assessed if the school's membership dues are not postmarked by October 31. No application for membership for the OHSSL will be accepted after January 15 of the current school year. Registration and membership dues deadlines and penalty fees may be waived by petitioning the Executive Director and/or the Executive Committee

Section 3. The fees for all events and services of the League shall be determined by the Executive Committee, with the exception of the District Tournament.

Section 4. Anytime the OHSSL is charged for a returned check from a member school or coach, the school or coach will be held responsible for paying the debt and the penalty.

Section 5. Members of the Executive Committee and State Tournament Set-up Personnel will be reimbursed for legitimately incurred League expenses according to the following schedule:

- A. 30 cents per mile.
- B. For overnight meetings:
  - \$15.00 per day meal allowance.
  - Hotel accommodations as approved by the Executive Committee.
- C. Members of the Executive Committee shall not be reimbursed for expenses incurred when accompanying students.

Section 6. The Executive Director shall be reimbursed per negotiated contract.

### ARTICLE II - DISTRICT STRUCTURE AND PROCEDURES

Section 1. A district shall consist of a minimum of ten active member schools. In addition, the Executive Committee shall create and maintain districts considering overall competition and geographic consideration. The Executive Committee shall review the district structure and alignment every three years or as needed. The Chairperson of the Executive Committee shall create a committee to conduct the district review to present to the Executive Committee. Upon the approval of the Executive Committee, the implementation of any change in district structure shall take effect the year following the review.

Section 2. A District Committee shall govern each District consisting of a Chairperson and at least two Committee members. Only candidates who indicate a desire and are active coaches or forensic directors with competing entries at the District Tournament may serve. Each member shall be elected for one year. In this election, each member school of the District shall have an equal vote. In the event of geographical restructuring of districts, newly created districts for their first three years shall be governed by co-district chairpersons, one chosen by each of the respective districts prior to restructuring.

Section 3. Each District shall determine the method in which District Chairperson(s) and members are selected.

Section 4. If a District wishes the Executive Director to conduct the District election, the following procedure will be used: Only candidates who have nominated themselves on the official ballot shall be eligible for election. Each candidate must have met the requirements as stipulated in Section 2. Each member shall be elected for one year. The candidate receiving the most votes shall serve as Chairperson for the current year. The other members will serve on the Committee.

Section 5. The District Committee shall determine the date, site, and other conditions for the District Tournament(s) and shall conduct the tournament(s) according to the regulations hereinafter provided. All District Tournaments shall be completed by the second Saturday in February, unless the Executive Committee deems otherwise.

Section 6. The District Chairperson will cooperate with the Executive Committee and the Executive Director in conducting any other business of the League.

### ARTICLE III - CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL OF FORENSIC TOURNAMENTS

As stated in Article III, Section 2 of the OHSSL Constitution, this organization endorses the criteria for approval of activities expressed by the Activities Committee of the Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators and makes these adaptations to Forensic Tournaments. Such tournaments are approved for participation by the students of League member schools provided that the tournaments:

- A. Are educationally sound, worthy, and timely;
- B. Contribute directly to the educational, civic, social, and ethical development of the students involved;
- C. Present benefits not obtainable within the regular school day;
- D. Are not so lengthy as to impair the curricular achievement of the students involved;
- E. Do not require special qualifications of race, creed, or national origin;
- F. Do not exploit the individual or school for commercial purposes;
- G. Do not require intensive coaching and preparation of a few students at the

- expense of many;
- H. Do not place excessive time demands on a teacher;
- I. Do not require teachers to act as sole or final judges of their own students;
- J. Are sponsored or co-sponsored by an organization engaged in acceptable enterprises;
- K. Appear to be under good management with evidence of good planning;
- L. Are not sponsored primarily for entertainment purposes.

#### ARTICLE IV - DISTRICT AND STATE TOURNAMENTS

Section 1. The District and State Tournaments shall be conducted according to the official regulations published in the Tournament Manuals. The State Tournament shall be conducted on the weekend, which includes the first Saturday in March.

Section 2. Any violation by the District Committee and/or coaches of member schools of the official regulations published in the OHSSL Constitution shall be subject to penalty.

Section 3. The penalties for contestants in violation of the rules shall be adjudicated by the District Committee or the Executive Committee and can include disqualification from said tournament.

Section 4. The Executive Committee shall adjudicate all matters not specifically covered by the Constitution, By-Laws, or Tournament Manuals.

#### ARTICLE V - DEBATE TOPIC SELECTION

The Executive Committee at their last meeting of the year shall determine the procedure for choosing Debate topics/schedule for the local, District, and State Tournaments of the next school year.

### **PART 2. OHSSL EVENTS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### ARTICLE I - FORENSIC EVENTS

Section 1. The OHSSL conducts District and State Tournaments in the following events as regulated by the Tournament Manuals:

- A. POLICY/PUBLIC FORUM DEBATE - to train students in cross-examination debating proficiency, which includes research of the resolution, organization of materials, logical thinking and analysis, soundness of argument, use of evidence, adaptation to opponent's case, force of rebuttal, and effectiveness of delivery. Each event shall consist of teams of two (2) persons prepared to debate both sides of the resolution.

B. LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATE - To train students in "one-on-one" argumentation where the debaters attempt through effective analysis, evidence, reasoning, refutation, and delivery, to convince the judge of the acceptability of their side of a proposition of value. Resolutions of value should take forms such as moral value resolutions, political value resolutions, or artistic value resolutions. Value debating is more subjective (feelings) than policy debating which is more objective (factual).

C. EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING - To train students to speak intelligently on questions pertaining to current events, which includes research and maintenance of information files and oral presentation of that information in an organized, analytical, and fluent manner in a restricted period of time.

D. ORIGINAL ORATORY - To train students in creating, organizing, developing, and presenting original thoughts into a truthful, coherent, worthwhile speech.

E. ORAL INTERPRETATION -

1. Oratorical Interpretation - To train students not only to present the speech but also to recreate the thoughts, emotions, and effects of an original oration.

2. Dramatic, Humorous, and Duo Interpretation - To train students in the art of oral interpretation by recreating the character(s) in the selection.

F. PROSE/POETRY - To train students to interpret prose and poetry selections in such a way as to arouse intellectual and emotional responsiveness in an audience.

G. IMPROMPTU SPEAKING – To train students to organize their thoughts in a thoughtful, interesting, and logical manner, developing clear and effective speaking techniques in a limited amount of time.

Section 2. The OHSSL conducts an invitational Student Congress at the State Tournament to train students to simulate an actual Congress in which they must research, write, and present effective legislation, engage in parliamentary procedure, and exhibit intelligent delivery and argumentation.

### **PART 3. OHIO COACHES' HALL OF FAME**

The OHSSL will maintain a Coaches' Hall of Fame to honor significant contributions to the cause of forensic activity in Ohio.

#### **ARTICLE I - ELIGIBILITY**

Section 1. In order to be eligible for election to the Hall of Fame, a coach must fulfill one of the following requirements:

A. The candidate is an active coach in at least his/her seventeenth year of

coaching at the high school level.

B. The candidate is a retired coach with a minimum of seventeen years experience at the high school level.

C. If neither "A" nor "B" applies, but death or some other special circumstance has occurred, a two-year waiting period must precede election.

Section 2. In addition to the conditions established in Section 1, the candidate for election to the Hall of Fame must fulfill at least one of the following:

A. S/he must have served on either a District Committee or the Executive Committee.

B. S/he must have had at least one student in a Final round in Individual Events, or a Quarter Final round in Debate in the State Tournament in Ohio.

## ARTICLE II - ELECTION PROCEDURES

Section 1. Subject to Executive Committee approval, the Executive Committee Chairperson shall appoint a Hall of Fame Chairperson and a committee of six people comprised of Hall of Fame members and active coaches representing the six districts of the state. The Chairperson is a non-voting member of the committee.

Section 2. The nomination ballot shall be mailed in a separate September mailing each year. Nominations from all active coaches and current Hall of Fame members shall be postmarked by October 15 of each year. There is no limit to the number of nominations that one may submit. Previous candidates must be re-nominated each year.

Section 3. Each nominee will be asked to provide specific data regarding his/her nomination. This information should be provided to the Chairperson posted no later than October 31. Failure to do so will negate the nomination (see Appendix U).

Section 4. The Hall of Fame Committee shall review the nominations and summary sheets compiled by the Chairperson and determine a slate of not more than five names with qualifications and present them as nominees to be placed on the final ballot.

Section 5. The final ballot will then be prepared by the Hall of Fame Chairperson to be sent to all member schools and Hall of Fame members by November 20 of each year. Each voting representative may vote for no more than two nominees. Those Hall of Fame members who are still coaching may cast two ballots.

Section 6. All final ballots must be returned to the Hall of Fame Chairperson postmarked by December 15.

Section 7. The results of the election must be presented to the Executive Committee at its regular January meeting. Upon Executive Committee approval, the two nominees who receive the most votes will be inducted into the Hall of Fame. The Committee may also elect by a three-quarter vote any retired or deceased coach who meets the

qualification stipulations, as well as any person who deserves induction on an honorary basis.

Section 8. The Executive Director or Hall of Fame Chairperson shall officially notify the candidates or their representatives of their induction into the Hall of Fame.

#### PART 4. AMENDMENTS

These By-Laws and the Tournament Manuals may be amended for the following school year by a majority of the Executive Committee at any meeting. After September 1, amendments which are to be effective for the current year must be approved by a 2/3 vote of the Committee, and within ninety days of the event where the rule applies, changes must be unanimously accepted by members of the Committee. Amendments, in writing, may be proposed by any active coach of a League member school through the Executive Director or through an Executive Committee member.