

**Pennsylvania High School**

**Speech League**



# **CONSTITUTION**

**Revised: September, 2014**

## Contents

Article C1 - Name .....	3
Article C2 - Purposes .....	3
Article C3 - Material .....	4
Article C4 - Membership .....	4
Article C5 - Officers .....	5
Article C6 - Meetings.....	6
Article C7 - Contests.....	7
Article C8 - Judging.....	8
Article C9 – Protests and Appeals .....	8

## **Article C1 – Name**

This organization shall be known as the Pennsylvania High School Speech League.

## **Article C2 – Purposes**

The Pennsylvania High School Speech League shall operate with the following purposes:

1. To promote various kinds of speech activities in the high schools of Pennsylvania.
2. To stimulate, through educational competition, an understanding and appreciation of all areas of speech.
3. To encourage the participation of many students instead of a few.
4. To assist the high schools of Pennsylvania in curricular and extra-curricular speech programs.
5. To maintain a high quality of speech achievement.
6. To promote the highest standards in accurate and ethical communication.

### **Section C2.7**

The Corporation is organized exclusively for educational purposes as such purposes are defined by 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code (or the corresponding section of any future Internal Revenue Law of the United States). No part of the net earnings of the Corporation shall inure to the benefit of any individual and no member, director, officer or employee of the Corporation shall receive any pecuniary benefits of any kind except reasonable compensation for services in effecting the corporate purposes. No substantial part of the activities of the Corporation shall consist of carrying the propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation; nor shall the Corporation participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distributing of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

### **Section C2.8**

Upon the dissolution of the Corporation, the Executive Board shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the Corporation, dispose of all of the assets of the Corporation exclusively for the purposes of the Corporation in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Executive Board shall determine. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the Corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

## **Article C3 – Material**

Because of the educational nature of the Pennsylvania High School Speech League, the material and its presentation used in competition at district and state tournaments should be suitable for audiences of a high school. Judges ought to take this into consideration when deciding a round.

## **Article C4 – Membership**

### **Section C4.1**

Any public, private, parochial, charter or cyber high school of Pennsylvania may become a member of the Pennsylvania High School Speech League upon written application to the Executive Director and the payment of the annual membership dues, as herein provided. The term "high school" shall apply to grades 9, 10, 11, 12.

### **Section C4.2**

Every student participating in the activities sponsored by this League shall be a bona fide, undergraduate student of a member Pennsylvania school which the student attends, and maintaining a passing grade in all subjects. A homeschooled student(s) may participate in accordance with the policies of the school district in which he or she resides. Participation is based on the school from which the student's diploma is issued. Cyber school students must enter competition where the school's main office is physically located.

### **Section C4.3**

Member high schools may participate in any or all of the different activities. The annual membership fee shall be set by the Executive Board at the summer meeting. In addition, a \$25.00 late fee shall be charged after December 1. All fees must be paid prior to participation in any League activity. A current list of District Schools will be mailed during the first week of February to District chairs. Only paid member schools will be eligible to participate in District and State events. If dues and fees are not paid by February 1, those schools will not be allowed to participate in PHSSL District and/or State events for the year.

## Article C5 – Officers

### Section C5.1

The officers of the Pennsylvania High School Speech League shall be an Executive Director and 14 Executive Board members. One shall be a college or university representative, one shall be an administrator of a school of the Commonwealth, and the other 12 executive members will be elected by the member schools.

### Section C5.2

The Executive Director shall be appointed by the Executive Board. The Executive Director will preside at all meetings of the Executive Board, and will administer the affairs of the League.

### Section C5.3

The members of the Executive Board shall serve for three years and may be re-elected. One-third of the Executive Board will be up for election each year.

### Section C5.4

The Executive Director shall conduct an election for expired terms on the Executive Board. Those members of the Executive Board not running for re-election shall serve as the nominating committee and seek nominations from the general membership. At least twice as many nominations shall be made as positions to be filled. The election will be conducted as a separate mailing. A short biography of each nominee will be included. Each school's name must appear on the front of the returned ballot. Each member school shall be given one ballot to cast for the members of the Executive Board. Each ballot must have four votes to be counted. The four nominees receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected by the Executive Director.

### Section C5.5

The representatives of the college and the school administrators shall be appointed by the Executive Director.

### Section C5.6

Unexpired terms on the Executive Board shall be filled by appointment by the Executive Director and the Executive Board. When such vacancies occur, the person who received the next highest vote total in the most recent election shall be offered the position.

### Section C5.7

All matters of League policy shall be determined by the Executive Board and implemented by the Executive Director.

## **Article C6 – Meetings**

### **Section C6.1**

Two regular meetings of the Executive Board shall be held annually. One shall be in the Summer and the other in the Spring at the Pennsylvania High School Speech League State Finals.

### **Section C6.2**

Special meetings may be called by the Executive Director or by a majority of the Executive Board.

### **Section C6.3**

The fiscal year for the League shall be from July 1 to June 30. A financial audit shall be made at the close of each fiscal year.

### **Section C6.4**

Legitimate expenses of the League shall include expenses of awards, stationery, postage, telephone, printing, photocopying, educational materials, secretarial services, and any other expenses of the Executive Board and/or the Executive Director which are necessary for League purposes as described in Article C2.

### **Section C6.5**

The Executive Director may utilize communication technology to conduct urgent business of the League between meetings. Discussion of items will be conducted through electronic channels. Each Board member shall submit a vote on each motion to the Executive Director. Digital motions and the results electronic votes will be recorded in the minutes of the next regular meeting of the Executive Board and all member schools will be notified via email in a timely manner.

## **Article C7 – Contests**

### **Section C7.1**

Early in the school year each member school shall be assigned to a District to be determined by the Executive Director. At this time the dates for the District and State contests shall be announced.

### **Section C7.2**

Annually each district shall elect a District Chairperson who shall manage the District contests. These Chairpersons will appoint a committee to assist in the management of the tournament. The District Chairperson shall assess each participating school fees to cover necessary tournament expenses.

### **Section C7.3**

Upon completion of the District tournaments, the District Chairperson shall submit a report to the Executive Director, listing participants, winners and state qualifiers. The report shall be signed by the District Chairperson.

### **Section C7.4**

No student will qualify for the State Tournament unless that student has participated in the District Tournament (except Radio Announcing, Student Congress: House, and Impromptu Speaking). No refund of fees shall be made upon failure to appear at the tournament.

### **Section C7.5**

No student shall be permitted to participate in more than one event at the District Tournament or the State Tournament. (See Standing Rules for exceptions).

### **Section C7.6**

The State Tournament shall be conducted by the Executive Director and the Executive Board members.

### **Section C7.7**

Fees for participation in the State Tournament shall be set by the Executive Board.

### **Section C7.8**

At no time will videotaping of an event be permitted. No live media photographs will be permitted during an event. Any photographs needed to be taken can be “staged” after the event.

## **Article C8 – Judging**

### **Section C8.1**

The judges are to be approved by the District Committee prior to that District's Tournament and by the Executive Board prior to the State Tournament. The final round of each event at the State Tournament shall be judged by a panel of five judges.

### **Section C8.2**

An affiliated individual should never be permitted to judge a student or students from his/her own school. State Tournament students cannot be judged by a judge from their own PHSSL district. Coaches and judges who have worked with students from other schools have an ethical responsibility to notify the Tournament Committee in advance of the tournament.

## **Article C9 - Protests and Appeals**

### **Section C9.1**

All disputes relating to the interpretation of the Constitution, Bylaws, and the Standing Rules shall be submitted to the Executive Director. The Executive Director will present all such disputes to the Executive Board for final resolution at the next scheduled meeting of the Board. For disputes arising from tournament procedures see District and/or State procedures.