

## NFA Code of Ethics (Revised 1991)

*Please note: The [constitution](#) and the [bylaws](#) can be found separately on the website.*

### 1. Repetition of Materials (In Prepared & Interpretive Events)

Basic Rule: It is unethical for students to reuse materials from year to year.

### 2. Literary Definitions for Interpretive Events

Basic Rule: Contestants must use literary selections in the appropriate event category and must perform those selections in English

### 3. Authorship of Materials Used in Competition

Basic Rule: Students should author their own materials in non-interpretative events and should cite sources for any materials they employ which are not original.

### 4. Time Limits

Basic Rule: The judge(s) in each round must assure accurate timing of all performances and provision of accurate time signals in limited preparation events.

### 5. Student Affiliation with an Institution

Basic Rule: Students who attend more than one college may only represent one College at nationals. Students may compete at nationals only in those events they qualified while representing the school they compete for at nationals. Students who officially transfer from one institution to another may compete in any events for which they have qualified.

### 6. Student Status

Basic Rule: Students who compete at nationals must be making progress toward an initial undergraduate degree.

### 7. Evidence in Debate

Basic Rule: Students should only use evidence that is accurate and thoroughly referenced

### 8. Non-published Evidence in All Events

Basic Rule: Students may use evidence from non-written sources as long as the veracity of the evidence may be verified.

### 9. Ethical Judging Behavior

Basic Rule: Judges should act professionally, with a respect for academic freedom, when engaged in the practice of critiquing and rating students.

## **Violation of the Code of Ethics:**

1. Challenges or disputes arising from the provisions of the Code of Ethics must be submitted in writing to a member of the National Tournament Committee (the President of the association, the Tournament Director or the Vice President for Administration). The written challenge must include the violation, a statement of the nature of the violation, the name of the alleged offender, the school they represent and, if possible, any evidence in support of the allegation of violation. The National Tournament Committee as will make a preliminary review of the written challenge soon as practical and within 24 hours if the allegation occurs during the National Tournament. The Tournament Committee will utilize any and all means at its disposal to determine the validity of the allegations and the circumstances of the situation surrounding them, including video and audio tapes, student manuscripts, ballots, judges' comments, etc. Any person in attendance at the tournament may file a challenge for violation of the Code of Ethics.
2. After the preliminary review of the National Tournament Committee of a written challenge, the Committee will report its findings to the Executive Council. The Executive Council will either dismiss the allegation, defer action until further evidence can be made available or schedule a formal hearing to investigate the allegation. All parties involved in the allegation will be given notice of the Executive Council's actions involving the allegation. Public notice of the council will be given to all member institutions.
3. Executive Council may request written statement, oral testimony or interrogatories from those involved in the allegations. Failure to cooperate in the Council's investigation will be considered a violation of the Code of Ethics and subject to the penalties noted elsewhere. The council will employ any and all means at its disposal to determine the validity of the allegations and the circumstances of the situation surrounding them, including audio and video tapes, student manuscripts, ballots, judges' comments, etc.
4. The Executive Council will keep accurate records of its proceedings and any testimony received in connection with an allegation of violation of the Code of Ethics. These records will be confidential, subject to disclosure only to the person or persons alleged to be in violation of the Code. Individuals may petition the Council in writing to have their testimony exempted from confidentiality provisions.
5. The findings of the Executive Council in an allegation of violation of the Code of Ethics are subject to appeal to the National Assembly.

## **Sanctions for Violations:**

1. The Executive Council after its deliberations and a determination by 2/3 vote of the members present and voting, may impose penalties for violation of provisions of the Code of Ethics. The imposition of penalties will be made public, as will the votes of the individual Council members to impose penalties. Student representatives of the Executive Council will not take part in the investigation of violations of the Code of Ethics nor will they be permitted to vote in such matters if the challenge is presented during the National Tournament.
2. For violations involving a specific event, the penalties will be selected from the following:
  - A. Disqualification from the event in question,
  - B. Disqualification from the event in question and issuance of letters of censure to the individual(s) and/or institution(s) the offender represents,
  - C. Issuance of a letter of reprimand to the individual and/or the institution in violation of the Code,
  - D. Disallowance of sweepstakes points or honors achieved in the event in question.
3. For violations involving eligibility, the penalties will be selected from the following:
  - A. Disqualification from the National Tournament,
  - B. Disqualification and issuance of a letter of censure to the individual and/or the institution the offender represents,
  - C. Issuance of a letter of reprimand to the individual and/or the institution the offender represents,
  - D. Disallowance of sweepstakes points or honors achieved at the National Tournament,
  - E. Prohibition from attendance at future national competitions.
4. For violations involving conduct of a coach or a judge, the penalties will be selected from the following:
  - A. Issuance of a letter of reprimand to the individual and/or the institution they represent,
  - B. Disallowance of sweepstakes points for the institution the individual represents
  - C. Prohibition from attendance at future national competitions.