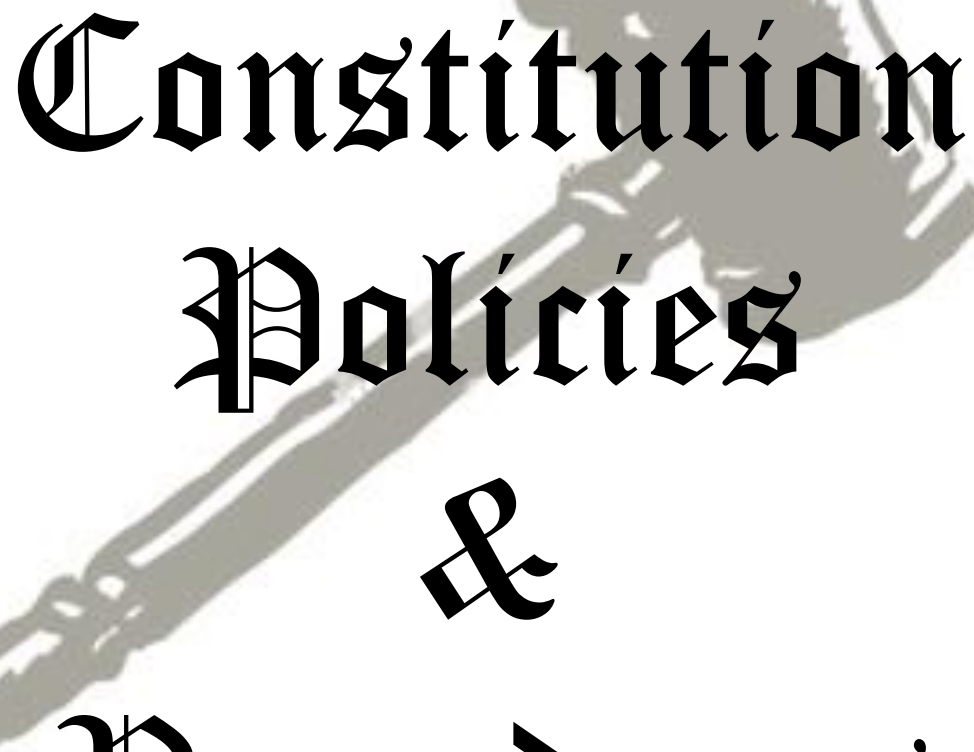


# Westbury High School Forensic Honor Society

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# Constitution Policies & Procedures



Mr. Greg Mayo  
Director

## **Preamble**

As an extension of classroom instruction, Forensic studies develop articulate citizens. Through various styles of Debate and Public Speaking, students will, and shall, develop and demonstrate respect for others, and professionalism in and outside of the classroom setting. Through team work, students shall strive for excellence while fostering academic excellence while exhibiting ethical and professional communication.

## **Mission**

The Westbury High School Forensic Honor Society shall promote and develop student's lifelong skills and values through the education and application of professional communication. As an academic organization and activity, the Westbury Forensic Honor Society embraces diversity and the vision to develop leadership in the school setting and community while empowering students to become effective communicators, critical and analytical thinkers, while utilizing and demonstrating professional ethics.

# Article -1

## ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE:

**Section - I:** The formal name of this organization shall be known as the “Westbury High School Forensic Honor Society.”

**Section - II:** The objectives of this organization shall be, but not limited to, the following:

- A. To promote professional standards and cooperation.
- B. To foster and enhance academic performance.
- C. To exhibit leadership in school and in the community.
- D. To promote and demonstrate various types of communication.

**Section - III:** The Westbury High School Forensic Honor Society shall affiliate with the following:

- A. The National Debate and Speech Association, formerly known as the National Forensic League.
- B. The Houston Urban Debate League.
- C. The University Interscholastic League, also known as UIL.
- D. The Texas Forensic Association.

# Article -2

## MEMBERSHIP:

**A. AFFILIATE MEMBER** – Any student(s) who has interest in participating in the organization. Membership in the Westbury High School Forensic Honor Society shall be categorized by the following:

**Addendum:** The words “Debate Team” or “Team” may also be referred to as “Organization.”

**Section-1:** Any student who is enrolled in the Professional Communication course will be afforded the opportunity to participate / join.

**Section-2:** Any student enrolled in the Debate course, and or Public Speaking course if offered, shall be **required** to participate as a course requirement.

**Students enrolled in the Debate course or Debate Honors will be held to a higher standard.**

**Section-3:** Any student who is not enrolled in any of the aforementioned courses, but has interest in Debate Team participation.

**Clause-1:** Student(s) shall meet any, and all, financial obligations required within the organization.

**Addendum:** No student(s) will be denied participation due to finances. But will be afforded a payment Schedule as needed, and determined, by the Debate Team Director.

**Clause-2:** Student(s) shall be **required** to attend **No Less** than four academic debate tournaments per school year; **excluding the instructional Seminars offered by the Houston Urban Debate League.**

**Clause-3:** Student(s) shall be **required** to attend **No Less** than two practices a week.

**Clause-4:** Student(s) shall earn 25 point through academic debate competition as stated within the Bi-laws of the National Speech and Debate Association.

**Clause-5:** Points may be earned through the following ways:

- 6 points for every win in Debate;
- 3 points for every loss in Debate;
- 6 points for every 1<sup>st</sup> place ranking in Public Speaking;
- 5 points for every 2<sup>nd</sup> place ranking in Public Speaking;
- 4 points for every 3<sup>rd</sup> place ranking in Public Speaking;
- 3 points for every 4<sup>th</sup> place ranking in Public Speaking;
- 2 points for every 5<sup>th</sup> place ranking in Public Speaking; and
- 1 point for every 6<sup>th</sup> place ranking in Public Speaking.

**Other competitive points will be awarded through various additional academic events including, but not limited to: Congressional Debate, Prose & Poetry Interpretation, community service speaking, and student judging.**

**Clause-6:** Student(s) shall be required to attend **No Less** than 85% of all Debate Team activities not limited to: after school practices, team meetings, and scheduled events.

**Section-4:** Student(s) **Must** maintain membership of “Good Standing.”

**Clause-1:** “Good Standing” includes the following criteria:

**Sub-Section a:** Student(s) **MUST** maintain a satisfactory grade average in all academic courses.

**Sub-Section b:** Student(s) **MUST NOT** receive a **“P”** in conduct in any class.

**Sub-Section c:** Student(s) **MUST NOT** receive **ANY** disciplinary action from any Teacher, Administrator, or Director/Coach. This includes, but not limited to: Detention, SRC, or Suspension.

**Sub-Section d:** Student(s) **Will Not** Drop or No-Show after committing / signing up for a tournament or team activity or event.

**Addendum:** Any student(s) in violation of Article-II, Section-3, Sub-Section b, the above Clause 3 shall receive an unsatisfactory test grade, as stated in the Debate course syllabus.

**After committing, if a student must drop, it shall be his / her responsibility to find a substitute.**

**Clause 2:** Members shall meet any, and all, financial obligations within the organization.

**Addendum:** Any violation of any part of Section-4, can and may result in disciplinary action by the Director / Coach. Under the discretion of the Director / Coach, the Executive Officers, (referred to as: Captains), may attend a formal meeting with the student(s) for a discussion for any violation as stated above. For any action taken, the student(s) shall receive a formal written notice to be delivered to his / her parent.

**Additional Information regarding Discipline will be discussed in ARTICLE-III.**

**B. ACTIVE MEMBER** – Any student(s) who have achieved the required 25 point requirement as stated within the Bi-laws of the National Speech and Debate Association.

**Active Members shall be categorized in two ways:**

**Section-1:**

- A. Novice** - A first year member who will compete within the Junior varsity level until:
- 1) Member earns 75 competitive points / Honor Level.
  - 2) Member is entering his / her second year of competition.
  - 3) Team - two members in a debate event place in the top 3 of any tournament.
- B. Varsity** - A second year member.

**Section-2:** Members shall meet any, and all, financial obligations required within the organization.

**Addendum:** No student(s) will be denied participation due to finances. But will be afforded a payment Schedule as needed, and determined, by the Debate Team Director.

**Clause-1:** Student(s) shall be **required** to attend **No Less** than six academic debate tournaments per school year; **excluding the instructional Seminars offered by the Houston Urban Debate League.**

**Clause-2:** Student(s) shall be **required** to attend **No Less** than two practices a week.

**Clause-3:** Students will continue to earn competitive points through the following ways:

- 6 points for every win in Debate;
- 3 points for every loss in Debate;
- 6 points for every 1<sup>st</sup> place ranking in Public Speaking;
- 5 points for every 2<sup>nd</sup> place ranking in Public Speaking;
- 4 points for every 3<sup>rd</sup> place ranking in Public Speaking;
- 3 points for every 4<sup>th</sup> place ranking in Public Speaking;
- 2 points for every 5<sup>th</sup> place ranking in Public Speaking; and
- 1 point for every 6<sup>th</sup> place ranking in Public Speaking.

**Other competitive points will be awarded through various additional academic events including, but not limited to: Congressional Debate, Prose & Poetry Interpretation, community service speaking, and student judging. Student Judging requires a 150 point level.**

**Clause-4:** Student(s) shall be required to attend **No Less** than 85% of all Debate Team activities not limited to: after school practices, team meetings, and scheduled events.

**Section-4:** Student(s) **Must** maintain membership of “Good Standing.” which includes the following criteria:

**Clause 1:** Student(s) **MUST** maintain a satisfactory grade average in all academic courses.

**Clause 2:** Student(s) **MUST NOT** receive a **“P”** in conduct in any class.

**Clause 3:** Student(s) **MUST NOT** receive **ANY** disciplinary action from any Teacher, Administrator, or Director / Coach. This includes: Detention, SRC, or Suspension.

**Clause 4:** Student(s) **Will Not** Drop or No-Show after committing / signing up for a tournament or team activity or event.

**Addendum:** Any student(s) in violation of Article-II, Section-3, Sub-Section b, the above Clause 3 shall receive an unsatisfactory test grade, as stated in the Debate course syllabus. **After committing, if a student must drop, it shall be his / her responsibility to find a substitute.**

**Clause 5:** Members must have any, and all, financial obligations met within the organization.

**Addendum:** Any violation of any part of Section-4, can and may result in disciplinary action by the Director / Coach. Under the discretion of the Director / Coach, the Executive Officers, (referred to as: Captains), may attend a formal meeting with the student(s) for a discussion for any violation as stated above. For any action taken, the student(s) shall receive a formal written notice to be delivered to his / her parent.

**Additional Information regarding Discipline will be discussed in ARTICLE-III.**

- C. **INACTIVE MEMBER** - Any student(s) who ceases to participate in the Debate Team; and will be categorized by the following:
- A. **Member Withdrawn** – 1) Any Debate Team member who fails to attend three or more tournaments or team events per semester.
- 2) Any Debate Team member who moves or transfers to another school.

**Any Member Withdrawn MUST undergo the following excluding members who no longer attend Westbury High School.**

- 1) A formal meeting with the Director / Coach including, at the discretion of the Director / Coach, the Executive Officers, (referred to as: Captains), may attend a formal meeting with the student(s) for a discussion.
- 2) A formal contract to be signed by the student and parent.
- 3) **Member Removed** – Any Debate Team member who no longer participates with team activities or competitions due to policy violation(s).

**Removal of any Team Member is at the sole discretion of the Director / Coach. A parent conference will be required.**

**D. RED SHIRT MEMBER** - Any student(s) who show interest in Debate Team participation or is scheduled in the Debate class after the second tournament shall undergo a “Try Out” and probationary period not to exceed the remainder of the academic semester.

**Addendum:** The Westbury High School Forensic Honor Society encourages every student of Westbury High School to participate.

## **Article -3**

### **DISCIPLINARY ACTION & RULES:**

**Section-1:** **WE ARE A TEAM AND WILL ACT LIKE AND AS A TEAM. EVERY MEMBER WILL TREAT EACH OTHER WITH RESPECT.**

**Section-2:** The Westbury Forensic Honor Society shall employ a Demerit System for all members for any and all infractions while maintaining membership within the organization.

**Clause-1:** The Demerit system shall serve as a deterrent for any infraction or issues regarding any member(s) within the organization.

**Clause-2:** The Demerit System shall be applied per semester.

**Clause-3:** Demerits shall be recorded and maintained by the designated Captain by the Director/Coach.

**Clause-4:** The Demerit System shall be made up of the following:

**½ - Demerit for:** Unexcused absences from **ANY** scheduled meetings and or practices.

**½ - Demerit for:** Ineligibility due to academic failure for each 3 week grading cycle; which effects team partner(s).

**1 - Demerit for:** Missing any 2 pre-scheduled tournaments or events per month.

**2 - Demerits for:** Withdrawing / Dropping from a tournament or event one week or less before the scheduled event after committing.

**2 - Demerits for:** Being excluded from a tournament due to dress code violation(s).

**3 - Demerits for:** No Show on the second, and or, day of a tournament, or event.

**3 - Demerits for:** Walking out and or No Showing for any tournament event.

**4 - Demerits for:** Any internal confrontation instigated within the organization.

**5 - Demerits for:** (a) Noncompliance of any directive given by the Director/Coach;

(b) Any nonprofessional behavior or tournament violation;

(c) Leaving the grounds while attending a tournament or event;

(d) Directives from Captain(s) will be considered by the Director/Coach for severity.

**Addendum:** 2 - Demerits will be applied **ONLY** for Seminar Workshops sponsored by HUDL.

**As all tournaments & events are pre-scheduled demerits may be withheld only under the following:**

- 1) Personal Illness with Parent note.
- 2) Family Emergency, i.e. Death, Hospitalization, Family Illness.

**\*\*Last minute conflicts are not acceptable. If this should occur, it will be the team member's responsibility to find a substitute for his/her partner(s).**

**Clause-5:** If **Any** Member of the Westbury Forensic Honor Society accumulates a total of **5 demerits**, one or more of the following shall, or may, be applied:

- 1) One tournament suspension;
- 2) Competitive Points withheld;
- 3) Points withheld from earning his/her Letter Jacket;
- 4) **If a Senior**, points withheld from earning the Forensic Honor Cord.

**Clause-6:** At the discretion of the Executive Committee, a member's Demerits may be eliminated or decreased by serving and completing what shall be deemed as "Service Hours."

**Clause-7:** If **Any infraction warrants any "More Severe" consequences, the consequences will be at the sole discretion of the Director/Coach; i.e. tournament/activity suspension not to exceed one semester.**

**Addendum:** Student(s) enrolled in any one of the offered Debate courses may have their course grade Reduction as stated in the Debate Course Syllabus.

**Addendum:** At **NO TIME** will **ANY** organization member be expelled from the Westbury Forensic Honor Society.

**Demerits are not to be misconstrued with punishment, but are meant to reinforce the commitment made by the member to the team / organization while maintaining a high level of professionalism when representing the organization and Westbury High School.**

**Clause-8:** Any infraction resulting in any consequence, i.e. tournament suspension etc, the member shall receive a formal written notice which will require a parent signature and will be returned to the Director/Coach.

**Student may also be placed on a behavioral contract agreement, if warranted.**

**Section-3:** All Westbury Forensic Honor Society members shall follow all policies stated in the **Westbury Student Code of Conduct. Only as a last resort, if warranted, will an infraction include a formal write up and Westbury High School Administration involvement.**



# Article -4

## DRESS CODE:

**Section-1:** The Westbury Forensic Honor Society is a professional competitive organization and competes in a professional competitive environment.

**Section-2:** To participate at ANY competitive tournament, student member will follow the non-negotiable dress code:

### **Clause-1: Ladies Attire:**

- A) No low cut or V-neck blouses.
- B) No thin blouses allowing for undergarments to be visible.
- C) No short skirts or dresses; knee or lower length is preferred.
- D) No thin shoulder strap or backless dresses.
- E) Conservative Jewelry, if worn.
- F) Conservative dress shoes preferred. But,
  - 1) No strange heeled shoes.
  - 2) No high heels greater than 2 inches, preferred.
  - 3) No open toe shoes, preferred.
  - 4) No tennis shoes (Accept during competitive rounds).
- G) No Jeans of any kind.
- H) No T-shirts.

### **The Ladies should look like young and professional ladies.**

### **Clause-2: Gentlemen's Attire:**

- A) No T-Shirts.
- B) No polo style shirts.
- C) No tennis shoes.
- D) No Jeans of any kind.
- E) Shirts shall be tucked in **At ALL TIMES.**

### **A suit is NOT required, but preferred. The following is acceptable:**

- A) Slacks; i.e. dress slacks, Dockers, Khaki, Navy Blue, Gray, or Black.
- B) Belt.
- C) Dress Shoes are preferred, but Loafers are acceptable.
- D) Collared dress shirt; long or short sleeve.
- E) A conservative tie.
- F) Sport coat is optional, but preferred.

**Addendum:** Students are allowed to wear their tournament attire to school if he or she wishes; or he or she may keep their clothing in the Debate room.

**Clause-3:** Student(s) who do not meet the dress code regulations and standards will:

- 1) Be given the opportunity to have the proper attire brought to the school before departure to the tournament; or to the tournament location before the first competitive round; **(OR)**

- 2) Student will not be allowed to go to the tournament. Which will result in the action(s) stated in Article-3, Clause-4.

**NOTE:** These guidelines are meant to only exhibit a professional team image which is represented by this activity.

## **Article -5**

### **MEETINGS:**

**Section-1: General Membership Meetings:** Will be held every third Tuesday after school; and on an as needed basis.

**Clause-1:** Meetings shall be conducted employing “Robert’s Rules of Order.”

**Clause-2:** Attendance shall be recorded at each meeting. Attendance will assist in determining the Member’s required 85% participation requirement.

**Clause-3:** Captain / Officer designate shall maintain attendance record.

**Clause-4:** Captain / Officer designate shall serve as recording secretary for meeting(s). Minutes of meeting(s) shall be transcribed, typed, and posted in the Debate room **No Later** than two days after the meeting.

**Clause-5:** Any organization issue requiring a vote, a quorum of the general membership must be present. Otherwise, any voting items, will be tabled until the next general meeting; at the discretion of the Director/Coach.

**Section-2: Parent Meetings:** Will be pre-scheduled for a date set by the Executive Committee not to exceed three weeks after the beginning of each semester.

**Clause-1:** Captain / Officer designate shall construct a letter / flyer to be sent home to parents inviting and encouraging parents to attend in order to receive information about the organization, and the requirements, in conjunction with the debate class.

**Clause-2:** Captain / Officer designate, with the Director / Coach shall make parent phone contact reminders of the meeting at least two days before the scheduled meeting.

**Clause-3:** The Fall Parent Meeting shall introduce and Inform parent(s) about the Organization. The Spring meeting shall update and inform parents on events and any important information.

**Clause-4:** Any and necessary papers, or documents shall be distributed.

**Clause-5:** Captain / Officer designate shall maintain attendance record.

### **EXECUTIVE / OFFICER MEETINGS:**

**Section-1:** Executive / Officer meetings will be held once a month on pre-designated days. Additional meetings may be called at the request of any Officer, or Director / Coach as needed.

**Section-2:** Meetings shall serve as planning sessions, or discussions regarding any organization events, or issues. **All Officers MUST be present.**

## **Article -6**

### **OFFICERS:**

**Section-1:** Officers of the Westbury Forensic Honor Society shall be known as **Captains**.

**Section-2:** If the student's class schedule permits, Captain(s) shall be enrolled in the Debate class.

**Section-3:** Captains will be appointed by the Director/Coach consisting of 3 with an alternate not to exceed 4.

**Section-4:** Member will have the option to accept or decline the appointment.

**Section-5:** Captains will be announced at the end of the academic year during the Forensic Banquet if applicable; otherwise, Captains will be announced during a general membership meeting.

**Section-6:** The General membership shall be notified of the new Captains for the next school year no later than two days after the appointment.

**Section-7:** If applicable, Captains shall be classified as a Senior but no lower than a Junior, for the next academic school year; and must:

- 1) Captains shall possess a minimum of 250 competitive points.
- 2) Captains shall be members of "Good Standing."

**Addendum:** If necessary, the Director/Coach with the input from the Executive Committee may opt to select another team/organization member to fill the vacancy.

## **Article -7**

### **CAPTAIN / OFFICER DUTIES:**

**Section-1:** The following duties and responsibilities shall be required of the Captains of the Westbury Forensic Honor Society in order to assist the Director/Coach.

**Section-2:** Duties will be divided equally among the Captains. Captains will take ownership and responsibility of the duties assigned.

**Section-3:** Duties are as follows:

- A. Serve as Executive Committee members.
- B. Preside over Organization/Team meetings.
- C. Maintain all organization/team members documents.
- D. Maintains Demerit record.
- E. Construct and maintain a working membership roster, phone & email list.
- F. Serve as moderator and first step for any needed conflict resolution.

- G. Maintain a materials inventory and provide Director/Coach of any needed materials for ordering.
- H. Assist Team members with tournament preparation and materials.
- I. Maintains attendance records for all organization meetings & events.
- J. Maintains team members win / loss competitive record.
- K. Maintains organization calendar.
- L. Records, types, and posts minutes from organization meetings.
- M. Develops and constructs any public relations or announcement flyers.
- N. **If applicable** – maintains organization’s web site.
- O. Maintains Extemporaneous Files. (**Whether on paper, or USB Flash Drive.**)
- P. Ensures that all team members have turned in tournament permission forms.
- Q. Ensures that all team members have all needed tournament materials.
- R. Serves as Event / Hosting Tournament or Fundraiser Director.
- S. Serves as Organization’s Banquet planner.
- T. Establishes special committees when needed.
- U. Appoints Committee Chair person from the general membership.
- V. Constructs an organization scrapbook.

**Addendum: Additional responsibilities / duties may be assigned by the Director/Coach as needed.**

## **Article -8**

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

**Section-1:** The Executive Committee also known as the “EC” will have general charge of all business and Affairs of the organization/team with the supervision of the Director/Coach.

**Section-2:** The EC will shall and may deal with the needs of the organization/team in the areas of:

- A. Tournament preparation.
- B. Novice Orientation.
- C. Public Relations.
- D. Fund Raising.
- E. Banquet preparation.
- F. Projects.
- G. Other areas as needed.

## **Article -9**

### **REMOVAL OF OFFICERS**

**Section-1:** All Officers/Captains of the Westbury High School Forensic Honor Society shall be required to adhere to all rules, and policies required of all general team/organization members.

**Section-2:** Officers/Captains who violate any of the policies set forth in this constitution will subject to the same disciplinary action(s) as warranted as stated in Article 3.

**Section-3:** In addition to the discipline specifications in Article 3, Officers/Captains may also be removed from his/her leadership position based upon the following grounds:

- 1) A total of 5 demerits incurred.
- 2) Violation of any policy as stated in the Westbury High School Student Code of Conduct.
- 3) Violation of any policy within the Westbury High School Forensic Honor Society.
- 4) Violation, disregard, or noncompliance of any directive, written or verbal, from the Director/Coach.
- 5) Failure to follow or execute assigned office duties and responsibilities.
- 6) Conduct “unbecoming.”

**Section-4:** When the removal of an Officer is warranted, the EC with the Director/Coach will conduct a “Closed Door” proceeding. The proceeding will be conducted in the following manner:

- 1) The offense/violation shall be discussed with the Officer/Captain in question present.
- 2) The Officer/Captain in question shall be allowed to engage in the discussion of the offense.
- 3) If warranted, a formal written warning will be issued to the Officer/Captain in question in the form of a written contract between the EC, Director/Coach and the Officer/Captain. The contract will serve as a state of “Probation.”

**NOTE:** If the contract between the EC, Director/Coach and the Officer/Captain in question is becomes breached, proceedings for the removal from office shall continue.

**Section-5:** Any removal of an Officer/Captain must be by an unanimous vote of the EC, with the approval of the Director/Coach.

**Section-6:** If the removal of an Officer/Captain is approved, the said Officer/Captain shall be considered a General Member of the Organization/Team without any public announcement being made thus avoiding the creating of possible embarrassment within the general membership.

**Section-7:** Any former Officer/Captain that has been removed from office will be strongly encouraged to continue active membership with the organization/team; if he/she chooses.

**Section-8:** The officer in question may also volunteer to step down from/resign his or her position in lieu of the formal proceeding meeting.

**Section-9:** If a organization/team member is removed as an Officer/Captain or resigns his/her position, the Director/Coach may appoint a replacement with the assistance of the EC, if needed.

## **Article -10**

### **CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS:**

**Section-1:** Any amendment to the Westbury High School Forensic Honor Society’s constitution may be offered during “New Business” of any General Organization/Team meeting; following Robert’s Rules of Order.

**Section-2:** Any proposed amendment to the Westbury High School Forensic Honor Society’s constitution must be submitted in writing no less than one week prior to the scheduled meeting.

**Section-3:** Proposed amendment will be submitted for the viewing by the EC, and Director/Coach.

**Section-4:** During New Business of a general meeting, the amendment may be proposed and the general will begin open discussion following Robert's Rules of Order.

**Section-5:** In order for an amendment to be discussed, a quorum of the general membership must be present.

**Section-6:** Passing of any constitution amendment will require a 2/3<sup>rd</sup>'s majority vote.

## **Article - 11**

### **DEBATE TEAM / MEMBER CONTRACT:**

**Section-1:** Every member will be required to sign a contract agreement validating they have received and read the Constitution, Policies and Guidelines governing the Westbury High School Forensic Honor Society.

**Section-2:** Every member will be required to obtain his/her parent(s) signature on the aforementioned contract agreement.

**Section-3:** The contract agreement will outline and include, but not limited to, the following:

- A) Tournament Participation.
- B) Practice Participation.
- C) Member Conduct.
- D) Dues and Financial Responsibilities.
- E) Debate course requirement(s) to coincide with Course syllabus.

**Addendum:** Parents shall receive a "Parent Packet" outlining and explaining a reduced version of The Westbury High School Forensic Honor Society Constitution.

**Section-4:** Student members **MUST** submit the signed contract before he/she will be allowed to participate in any tournament, or team event which requires travel from Westbury High School.

**Section-5:** Student members will be required to submit a parent signed permission and medical release form before he/she will be allowed to participate in any tournament, or team event which requires travel from Westbury High School.

## **Article - 12**

### **MEMBERSHIP DUES & FEES:**

**Section-1:** The Westbury High School Forensic Honor Society will require its members an annual membership fee.

**Section-2:** The annual membership fee shall total the amount of \$50.00.

**Sub-section-a:** Membership fee may be divided into equal amounts of \$25.00 per semester.

**Sub-section-b:** Student members who are unable to remit the full membership fee may set up a payment plan that is convenient until the required amount is received.

**Section-3:** The annual membership fee shall be applied to the following, but not limited to:

- A) Annual membership renewal with the National Speech and Debate Association, formerly The National Forensic League.
- B) Individual Team shirts.
- C) Debate Evidence, and publications.
- D) Any needed materials for tournament(s) and or events outside of what is supplied by Westbury High School.
- E) Supplemental funding for tournament entry fees & travel expenses when applicable.

**Section-4:** Outstanding membership fees, by any member, may result in the following:

- A) Loss of voting privilege; until at least half is remitted.
- B) Delayed N.F.L. membership.
- C) Delayed point entry for Degree level advancement.
- D) Delayed approval for Team Letter Jacket.
- E) Withheld Honor Cords for graduating Seniors.

## Article - 13

### DROP FEES:

**Section-1:** For any competitive tournament that a team member drops from after committing and or after the entry has been submitted, the team member will be required to remit a Drop Fee of **no more than \$3.00** in order to supplement the cost(s) of any materials used.

**Section-2:** For any competitive tournament outside of the Houston Urban Debate League, and UIL, the Westbury High School Forensic Society shall affiliate with the Texas Forensic Association, and The National Speech and Debate Association / N.F.L. National Qualifying District Meet. These competitive tournaments require an entry fee per student, per event. Fees will vary. **A student entrant, in the event of dropping from scheduled tournament, shall be assessed three times the amount for, and per, the event(s) entry fee. This fee is paid directly to the hosting school. For example: If a debate entry is \$15.00, and the student drops without a replacement, he/she will owe the Westbury High School Forensic Society / Tournament hosting school, 3 X's \$15.00 which equals \$45.00. AGAIN, THIS FEE IS PAID TO THE HOSTING SCHOOL.**

**Section-3:** In the event of a member owing tournament drop fees, these fees **MUST** be remitted before he/she will be allowed to compete in following tournaments.

# Article -14

## WESTBURY HIGH SCHOOL FORENSIC SOCIETY AWARDS:

### Section-1: Letter Jacket

**Clause-1:** During active membership within the Westbury High School Forensic Honor Society, a school letter jacket may be awarded.

**Clause-2:** Any member may earn a letter jacket under the following guidelines & criteria:

- A) The member must be active.
- B) The member must be in “good standing” with no violation(s) stated in Article 3.
- C) The member must earn No Less than 250 competitive N.F.L. points.

**Note:** Points may be accrued from the previous year(s) of active membership in order to reach the 250 point total.

**Note:** Any first year active member who is classified as a senior, may be awarded a letter jacket at the discretion of the Director/Coach with consideration of the required criteria.

- D) The member must have any and all organization financial obligations met.
- E) The member must have not received a letter jacket from any other extra-curricular or athletic organization on the Westbury High School campus; which is under the regulations of the University Interscholastic League, UIL.

**Note:** Any active member who has previously earned a letter jacket from any organization outside of the Westbury High School Forensic Honor Society shall be awarded the letter patch excluding the jacket.

**Clause-3:** The letter patch shall be displayed in the form of a “W” with the word Forensics or Debate inscribed. “Forensics” is preferred.

**Clause-4:** Letter Jackets shall be awarded in fall semester during the jacket company’s scheduled visit to Westbury High School. Measuring for a jacket may also take place during the spring semester.

**Note:** If the monetary funds are available, the Westbury High School Forensic Honor Society shall assume full payment responsibility of the letter jacket. Otherwise:

- 1) Member, will assume half payment; (OR)
- 2) Member will assume full payment.

**Note:** If member assumes the full payment for the letter jacket, he/she must still have the authorization of the Director/Coach before jacket measuring occurs.

**Note:** If the letter jacket payment is made by the Westbury High School Forensic Honor Society, member shall be monetarily responsible for any additional jacket modifications; including: embroidery, or patches.



## Section-2: Honor Cord



**Clause-1:** Any active member of the Westbury High School Forensic Honor Society who is Classified as a senior may be awarded a Honor Cord representing the National Speech and Debate Association, formerly known as the National Forensic League.

**Clause-2:** Honor Cords may be awarded to senior members at the annual banquet who have met the same aforementioned criteria as outlined for Letter Jackets.

**Clause-3:** Senior member(s) receiving Honor Cords are at the sole discretion of Director/Coach.

**Clause-4:** Senior members shall be responsible for 50% of the cost for the Honor Cord including any shipping charges, as the Honor Cord award is represented by 2 separate cords which are tied together. Cord one, gray in color, representing – Leadership and Service; and cord two, ruby red in color, representing - Scholastic Achievement in Communication.

## Section-3: The “Best Awards”

**Clause-1:** At the conclusion of the school year, the Westbury High School Forensic Honor Society shall display on a Progressive Plaque the name of the member who is awarded any of the following:

- 1) “Best Over All”
- 2) “ Top Point Holder”
- 3) “Best Debater”
- 4) “Best Public Speaker”
- 5) “Best Novice”

**Clause-2:** Organization/Team members selected and receiving any of the aforementioned awards shall receive a certificate of acknowledgment at the annual banquet; and shall have his/her name placed upon a plaque mentioned above that shall remain in the debate room.

## Section-4: National Forensic League Membership Certificates

**Clause-1:** N.F.L. certificate shall be presented to senior member(s) at the end of the school year during the annual banquet.

**Note:** N.F.L. certificates shall be framed and will remain in the possession of the Westbury High School Forensic Honor Society until the member(s) reaches the end of his/her senior year; or should a member transfers from Westbury High School to another school.

**Clause-2:** The National Forensic League membership certificate shall represent the member’s competitive point achievement through the display of attached “Degree Seals.”

**Clause-3:** N.F.L. Degree Seals shall be categorized as follows:

Degree	Points	Seal	Jewel
Merit	25	White	
Honor	75	Bronze	Emerald
Excellence	150	Silver	Sapphire
Distinction	250	Gold	Ruby
Special Distinction	500	Rose	2 Rubies
Superior Distinction	750	Blue	3 Rubies
Outstanding Distinction	1000	Purple	4 Rubies

**Note:** If desired, members may purchase a student N.F.L. “Key Pin” including the jewel representing his/her point level.

Student “Key Pins” are sold by the National Speech and Debate Association / the National Forensic League. Price for pins vary based upon the number of jewels.

Pins - \$11.00 / 1 Jewel add \$2.00 / 2 Jewels add \$4.00 / 3 Jewels add \$6.00 / 4 Jewels add \$8.00



## **Article -14**

### **WESTBURY HIGH SCHOOL FORENSIC HONOR SOCIETY BANQUET:**

**Section-1:** Westbury High School Forensic Honor Society Banquet shall be held in the spring semester during the late part of the month of April or within the first week, but no later than the second week of May.

**Section-2:** The location of the annual banquet shall be determined by nomination & vote of general membership.

**Section-3:** Banquet program shall include, but not be limited to:

- A) Presentation of the organization scrapbook for the year.
- B) Humorous Awards.
- C) Senior Speeches.
- D) Organization Awards
- E) Presentation of Senior Honor Cords and N.F.L. certificates.
- F) Announcement of next year’s Officers / Captains.