

## Chapter A2 – Participation Requirements

This chapter addresses the requirements or standards that must be met for those participating in the CCNW program. In some areas, such as age, specific, mandatory standards are set that all participants must meet and for which there is no room for consideration or judgment provided. In other areas, such as the homeschool requirement for competitors, the intent is clearly stated, but within reasonable limits judgment is allowed to the parents to determine how this requirement is to be met.

Regardless of the particular requirement, it is the expectation of the CCNW Board that all prospective participants will endeavor to understand the intent of the requirement and seek to fulfill both the letter and spirit, rather than seeking to circumvent the intent on some questionable or technical basis. All prospective participants are encouraged to contact the CCNW Board if there is any question as to whether or not they are eligible.

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### A2.1 Requirements for Competitors

#### I. General

CCNW exists to assist Christian homeschooling families train their high school aged children to be better prepared to serve the Lord Jesus Christ in whatever area of life he may call them. The criteria set forth in this section has been established to define the criteria a prospective competitor must meet to be eligible to compete in CCNW competitive debate and speech events.

#### II. Age Requirement

CCNW competitors must have attained or will attain the age 14-years old and may not attain the age of 19-years old before January 1 of an academic year to participate in CCNW speech or debate events that academic year. This is clarified as follows:

A student who is 13-years old at the start of the academic year, but turns 14 years old before January 1 of that academic year, may compete in any CCNW competition during that academic year.

A student who is 18-years old at the start of the academic year, but turns 19 years old after January 1 of that academic year, may compete in any CCNW competition during that academic year.

A student who is 18-years old at the start of the academic year, but turns 19-years old before January 1 of that academic year is no longer eligible for CCNW competition.

### III. Homeschool Requirement

The academic program for CCNW competitors must consist of at least 51% homeschool coursework. In determining the proportion of coursework that qualifies as homeschooling the following guidance applies.

Consistent with CCNW's philosophy as a Christian endeavor, an honor system is used and the primary determination of whether the 51% homeschooled requirement is met rests with the parents of the student. However, should a challenge arise regarding a particular competitor, the final determination of homeschool status will be made by the CCNW Board.

#### Examples of Recognized Homeschool Programs

- Courses taught or supervised at home by parents.
- Distance courses completed at home with parental supervision.
- Homeschool co-op courses.

#### Examples of Non-Homeschool Courses

- Any course taken at public or private high schools.
- Any course taken at public or private community colleges, colleges or universities.

## A2.2 Requirements for Judges

### I. General

CCNW desires to train its competitors to communicate effectively to as wide a range of people as possible. Thus, individuals from all backgrounds and walks of life may serve as CCNW judges. This includes all philosophical inclinations including liberal, conservative, libertarian, as well as any political affiliation including Democrat, Republican and Independent are welcome to serve as a CCNW debate judge.

CCNW desires to have judges that view both life and the matter discussed in the debate round from a mature, adult perspective. Thus, the minimum age for judging for CCNW is 20 years old. Especially when referring prospective judges at the lower end of the allowable age range, care should be taken to ensure that the judge possesses the appropriate maturity and adult perspective.

In order to judge CCNW competitions fairly, judges must have the ability to set aside personal opinions and bias. This expectation should be clearly explained to all prospective judges, and those who express doubts or concerns should not be scheduled to judge.

### II. Age Requirement

CCNW judges must be at least 20-years old before the date of any Speech Tournament, Debate Round Robin or 2-Day Debate Tournament at which they serve as a judge.

### III. Additional Requirement for Prior CCNW Competitors

Former CCNW competitors may not serve as a judge during the school year immediately following their last year of competition. Participation in any Speech Tournament, Debate Round Robin or 2-Day Debate Tournament constitutes participation for that year and renders the individual ineligible to serve as a debate judge during the following school year.

#### IV. Required Judge Orientation Attendance

##### A. Debate Judges

Anyone scheduled to judge at any CCNW debate event must complete a CCNW judge orientation prior to being allowed to serve as a judge. This requirement shall be followed regardless of the prior knowledge and experience of the prospective judge.

At the option of the Event Director, the judge orientation may be made optional for judges who have previously attended a CCNW judge orientation.

##### B. Speech Judges

Anyone scheduled to judge at any CCNW speech event must complete a CCNW judge orientation prior to being allowed to serve as a judge. This requirement may be made optional for judges who have previously judged competitive speech events hosted by CCNW or similar competitions.

#### **A2.3 Requirements for Timers**

##### I. General

CCNW uses separate timers to keep track of speech and preparation time during debate rounds and competitive speeches rather than having the competitors keep track of time themselves. The role of the timer is extremely important. Thus, only sufficiently mature, conscientious, well-prepared individuals shall be allowed to serve as timers.

##### II. Age Requirement

Timers at CCNW events must be at least 10-years old before the date of any event at which they serve as a debate round timer.

##### III. Responsibility of the Timer's Club Leadership

It is the responsibility of the debate club to which the timer is affiliated to ensure that the timer is fully trained and prepared to fulfill their role prior to the day of the event.

Preferably, timers shall have timed at least one full round during an in-club practice session prior to timing a round in a scheduled CCNW event.

#### **A2.4 Requirements for Club Leadership**

##### I. General

This section sets forth the requirements for the leadership of CCNW clubs. The intent is to ensure that all CCNW activities, whether at the club level or league events, have a foundation designed to help ensure that Christ-like attitudes and behavior are evident, and that when failures do occur, they are handled according to Christian principles.

In the following parts provision is made for non-Christians to take part in or assist with CCNW club activities. The CCNW Board is not encouraging such. Nor does such a provision make it necessary that a club make use of this provision if requested. Any club may limit participation exclusively to Christian families if desired. Where participation by non-Christians is allowed by a club, that club must inform all potential club members that participation in the club by non-Christians is possible, even if it is not currently occurring.

Where families that do not want to participate in a club that provides opportunities for non-Christians live near such a club, they may form their own club that limits participation to Christian families. CCNW does not use or recognize any exclusive geographic areas for clubs. Clubs may form, split, reform or organize in whatever manner best serves the affected families.

## II. Head Coaches/Club Directors

### A. Statement of Faith

All CCNW Head Coaches, Club Directors, or comparable individuals regardless of official title, must agree with the CCNW Statement of Faith. There shall be no exceptions to this requirement. CCNW will not recognize clubs whose primary leadership does not agree with the CCNW Statement of Faith, and will not register competitors from such clubs for CCNW events.

### B. Christian Character

CCNW expects primary CCNW club leaders to strive to conform to Biblical Christian character and standards in all areas of their life. It is the intent of the league that the primary venue for addressing any and all issues of this type will be at the local club level among families that are involved or affected.

### C. Supportive of CCNW Program

The CCNW program has been developed with a clear vision of the nature of CCNW debate and speech and the operation of the program. It is the intent of the CCNW Board to ensure that the program stays true to its founding principles and does not change in any fundamental way over time. Those taking on key positions of club leadership are expected to be personally supportive of all of the main aspects of the CCNW program.

In addition, primary CCNW club leaders are expected to foster a supportive attitude among their students and club families. In cases where families do not believe key aspects of the CCNW debate style or program best conform to their needs or desires, CCNW club leaders will be expected to encourage such families to seek debate or speech opportunities in other programs that best fit that families' needs.

### D. Prior Knowledge of Debate or Speech Not Required

CCNW Head Coaches/Club Directors are not expected or required to have any prior knowledge of debate or speech. One of CCNW's goals is to make its program accessible to families in areas where debate has not previously been available. To accomplish this means that interested families must be able to start from nothing and use available resources to teach themselves the basics of CCNW debate or speech so they are prepared to take part in CCNW competitions where they will continue their learning.

### III. Parents of CCNW Competitors

Ideally, CCNW parents are the primary coaches and instructors for their children. Even if they do not have prior debate or speech experience, they can learn along with their student and assist them by providing ready guidance and support which the primary coach(es) are unable to provide for all club members. Even with the technicalities of debate and speech the club exists to assist the parents with this aspect of their child's education, not take the parent's place.

CCNW clubs have the option to allow families where one or both parents are not Christians. For such clubs, no more than 25% of the families may have non-Christian parents. Where allowed to participate, non-Christian parents must assure the club leadership that they will not undermine Christian training either at the club level or at CCNW events.

All parents must agree to accept and conform to the CCNW style of debate and speech and CCNW program goals and practices. Parents who find key aspects of the CCNW program not in harmony with their educational goals will be encouraged to find another program that better suits their needs.

Parents do not need to have prior experience with debate to actively assist the club leadership in whatever role the club leadership designates for parents, either individually or collectively.

### IV. Club Assistants and Advisors

The organization and operation of the local CCNW club is up to the families that work together as part of the club. As provided above, there must be a specific, responsible individual (or individuals) to be recognized by the CCNW Board as the Head Coach, Club Director or other equivalent title, so that CCNW can be sure the proper style of debate or speech is being taught, along with all other aspects of the CCNW program. The local leadership may establish any subordinate positions it determines appropriate to assisting in the operation of the club.

Club assistants and advisors must agree to accept and conform to the CCNW style of debate or speech and CCNW program goals and practices. Club assistants and advisors who are found to disagree with key aspects of the CCNW program and reflect those views in their interaction with the club, shall, after being given sufficient warning, be removed from their role as an assistant or advisor.

At the discretion of, and under the authority and supervision of, the club leadership it is permissible for non-Christians to assist in the instruction and training of the debaters. Such individuals may be useful to the club because of prior knowledge and experience with debate, or with special knowledge or expertise about the topic for the year, or other reason.

Club assistants or advisors do not need to have prior experience with debate or speech to actively assist the club leadership in whatever role the club leadership designates.