

## **Bylaws for the Connecticut Middle School Debate League**

**Approved May 25, 2016**

### **ARTICLE I — Name and Organization**

- a) The league shall be called the Connecticut Middle School Debate League.
- b) Hereafter the Connecticut Middle School Debate League will be referred to as the CTMSDL.
- c) The CTMSDL shall operate as an activity of the Connecticut Student Activities Conference (CSAC) of the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS).

### **ARTICLE II — Mission**

- a) The purpose of the CTMSDL is to enrich the education of Connecticut's Middle School-aged students by providing opportunities for them to engage in informed debate competition.

### **ARTICLE III — Membership**

- a) Eligibility
  - i) Membership in the CTMSDL shall be open to all public, private, parochial, and Independent Middle Schools in Connecticut. Teams based outside of schools should affiliate with schools to join the CTMSDL.
- b) Member representatives — Member schools may choose one or more persons to represent them at CTMSDL meetings.
- c) How to become a member
  - i) Membership shall be initiated and maintained by payment of annual dues.
  - ii) The CTMSDL's fiscal year shall begin on July 1 of each calendar year.
  - iii) Annual dues shall be set at the Spring general meeting payable at the beginning of the fiscal year.
  - iv) Dues shall not be pro-rated.
  - v) Dues shall not be refunded.
- d) Privileges of membership
  - i) Members shall be invited to register and participate in all CTMSDL scrimmages and tournaments.
  - ii) Members shall be invited to participate in all CTMSDL general meetings.

### **ARTICLE IV — Board of Directors**

- a) The business of the CTMSDL shall be managed by a Board of Directors consisting of the President, Vice-President and no fewer than three at-large members.
- b) Staffing the Board of Directors
  - i) Board members shall serve one year, renewable terms.
  - ii) Elections to the Board shall be by vote of the members present at the Spring membership meeting.
    - (1) Five members shall be present before a vote on Board positions is called for.
    - (2) Nominations for Board membership shall be from the floor.
  - iii) The Board shall be empowered to fill vacancies in Board membership, by appointment, with the exception of the President.

- (1) In the event that the President's position is open, the Vice President shall become the President. The Vice President's position will then be filled at the next CTMSDL member meeting.
  - (2) The Board shall notify CTMSDL members in a timely manner if there is a change in the composition of the Board.
- c) Operation of the Board of Directors
- i) The President shall call for Board discussions and decisions, as needed, giving Board members reasonable notice before a discussion or decision is required.
  - ii) Three members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.
  - iii) Each Director shall have one vote.
    - (1) Voting may be done by proxy.
    - (2) Voting may be done in-person or by email, phone or text.
    - (3) A majority vote shall determine the issue being voted upon.
  - iv) The membership may vote to pay the President a stipend.

#### ARTICLE V — Officers

- a) The officers of the CTMSDL shall be: President, Vice President, and the members of the Board of Directors.
- b) The responsibilities of the President include:
  - i) Plan and preside at all meetings.
  - ii) Call for additional meetings as necessary.
  - iii) Present an annual report at the Spring membership meeting.
  - iv) Coordinate and monitor the activities of any committees.
  - v) Maintain CTMSDL records and files.
  - vi) Keep CTMSDL members informed.
  - vii) Maintain the CTMSDL website.
  - viii) Liaise with affiliates and sponsors of the CTMSDL.
  - ix) Approve of all CTMSDL purchases and use of CTMSDL funds.
- c) Responsibilities of the Vice President include:
  - i) Preside at meetings in the absence of the President.
  - ii) Assume the President's duties when the President is absent or incapacitated.
- d) Responsibilities that shall be assumed by any of the five or more Board Members, as approved by the President.
  - i) Serve as chairs of any committees.
  - ii) Act as secretary at CTMSDL meetings (take notes, and write and distribute minutes).
  - iii) Act as treasurer for the CTMSDL (track payment of dues, make purchases, make financial reports to members at meetings).
  - iv) Recruit new members.
  - v) Publicize CTMSDL activities.

#### ARTICLE VI — Meetings of members

- a) The President shall organize a Spring members meeting every year, giving members at least two weeks notice.
- b) Additional meetings shall be held as needed, giving members at least two weeks notice.

- c) Each team may send any number of representatives to membership meetings.
- d) Voting at member meetings
  - i) Representatives from at least five members shall be present before a vote on any issue is called for.
  - ii) Each member present at a CTMSDL meeting shall be eligible to cast one vote. For clarity, for the purposes of voting, a member is a member school, regardless of how many representatives from that school may be at the meeting.
  - iii) A majority vote shall determine the issue being voted upon.
  - iv) Members may vote at a meeting to have some issues decided by polling all of the member schools, not just those present at the meeting. In this case, voting shall be conducted by email, supervised by a Board member selected by the meeting, and require an affirmative vote by a majority of the membership to pass.

#### ARTICLE VII — Affiliations

- a) CTMSDL may choose to affiliate with organizations to promote CTMSDL’s mission, so long as such affiliation does not violate these bylaws, or to terminate such affiliations.

#### ARTICLE VIII — Sponsorship

- a) CTMSDL may choose to accept the sponsorship of organizations to promote CTMSDL’s mission, so long as such sponsorship does not violate these bylaws, or to terminate such sponsorships.

#### ARTICLE IX— Changes to the Bylaws

- a) Members shall be notified of proposed changes to the bylaws in a timely manner.
- b) These bylaws may be amended or repealed by an affirmative vote of 2/3 of the member teams present at a meeting.

#### ARTICLE X — Ratification

- a) These bylaws shall go into effect upon an affirmative vote of 2/3 of the members present at a meeting.