Mission Statement

Tri-Valley Forensic League will encourage, support and sponsor both curricular and co-curricular oral communication which will empower students to be productive participants in American society and the global community.

To accomplish this, we adopt the following goals:

1. Every member will participate in communication activities which promote self-worth and self-esteem.

2. Every member will develop the critical and analytical thinking skills necessary for success.

3. Every member will develop the skills necessary for success in a competitive environment.

4. Every member will develop the oral communication skills necessary for effective public presentations.

5. Every member will develop the listening skills necessary for reaching informed decisions.

6. Every member will develop skills necessary for the peaceful resolution of conflict.

7. Every member will develop interpersonal skills necessary for establishing understanding among members of a diverse society.

8. Every member will develop the communication skills necessary for effective and active participation in a democratic society.

9. Every member will demonstrate ethical responsibility in the acquisition and practice of communication skills.
Proposed language for bylaw concerning behavior:

**Civility/Netiquette/Etiquette**

Background -- The underlying purpose of a forensics league, as reflected in TVFL mission statement/statement of purpose/vision, is to instruct and model the appropriate uses of language and reasoned debate, and to illustrate for the students the contrast between such constructive use of language and blind, rude, nonproductive arguments, insult and innuendo.

Thus it is paramount that our league bylaws reflect our dedication to this purpose.

To that end, we will insist that coaches model the highest standards.

DISALLOW: assault on the senses, bludgeoning, vulgar or coarse language directed at (or stated for the apparent purpose of) offending another. personal attacks, innuendos, rude behavior, obscene language outside competition, screaming, vituperative words, abusive language, mean-spirited crude language or behavior. These stand in direct opposition to the very core of any forensics league.

PROMOTE: utmost respect for the power of properly organized and presented argumentation and debate. Speech as a tool, not a weapon; beauty of persuasive speech, when well-applied; present ordered and considered thoughts to persuade; spirited intelligent argument and toleration of all viewpoints and opinions, distinguished language, acceptance of opposing viewpoints, encouragement of opposing viewpoints, the importance of personal perspective, respect for the right of others to reject your priorities in favor of their own;

Identical treatment for email and writing and oral incidents

Identical treatment for inappropriate responses to inappropriate speech (with reasonable consideration for the specific situation, incite-ful language, etc.)
Progressive Discipline Plan

Purpose. To establish rules pertaining to the conduct, performance, and responsibilities of coaches and league officials so that all personnel can conduct themselves according to certain rules of good behavior and good conduct.

The purpose of these rules is not to restrict the rights of anyone, but rather to help People work together harmoniously according to the standards we have established for efficient and courteous service to our students.

Policy. Degrees of discipline are generally progressive and are used to ensure that the coach has the opportunity to correct his or her performance and/or actions. There is no set standard of how many oral warnings must be given prior to a written warning or how many written warnings must precede suspension or termination of coaching privileges.

Factors to be considered are:

- how many different offenses are involved
- the seriousness of the offense
- the time interval and employee response to prior disciplinary action(s)
- previous work history of the employee

Exceptions. For serious offenses, such as fighting, theft, insubordination, threats of violence, the sale or possession of drugs or abuse of alcohol on school property, etc., Termination of coaching privileges may be the first and only disciplinary step taken.
Steps Of Progressive Discipline. Violation of league rules professional communication and actions will result in the following disciplinary steps.

Step 1: Verbal warning delivered by one of the members of the league executive committee.

Step 2: Written warning delivered to the coach and a copy sent to the school’s principal.

Step 3: One-month suspension from league activities and events. A written letter of apology to the parties involved and to the league will be required for coaching privileges to resume. A letter of reprimand will be sent to the principal of the coach’s school.

Step 4: One-year suspension from league activities, and all of the coaches from the league must vote to resume coaching privileges once the one-year suspension period has expired.

The league executive committee will be the final arbitrator of all suspensions and resumptions of coaching privileges. The executive committee reserves the right to take immediate action to respond to any gross misconduct by coaching personnel of the league.
**Article I: Name**

Section 1: The name of this organization shall be the Tri-Valley Forensics League (TVFL).

**Article II: Purposes**

Section 1. To foster a healthy and well-rounded curricular and extra-curricular speech program for the high schools in the San Fernando Valley, the Antelope Valley, and the Santa Clarita Valley.

Section 2. To organize, supervise and determine rules for TVFL-sponsored events and tournaments as well as for the California State Speech Tournament.

Section 3. To coordinate the activities of the member schools.

Section 4. To provide liaison with the California High School Speech Association (CHSSA) and with the National Forensics League (NFL).

Section 5. To improve the coordination of the curricular and extracurricular speech programs of the member schools.

Section 6. To provide the necessary funds for the operation of TVFL.

Section 7. No substantial part of the activities of TVFL shall consist of carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and TVFL shall not participate or intervene in any political campaign, including the publishing or distribution of statements on behalf of any candidate for public office.

Section 9. The property of this TVFL is irrevocably dedicated to Scientific and Educational purposes meeting the requirements for exemption provided by Section 214 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, and no part of the net income or assets of this organization shall ever inure to the benefit of any director, officer, or member thereof, or to the benefit of any private persons. Upon dissolution or winding up of TVFL, its assets remaining after payment or provision for payment of all debts and liabilities of TVFL shall be distributed to a non-profit fund, foundation, or association which is organized and operated exclusively for Scientific and Educational purposes and which has established a tax exempt status under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

**Article III: Membership**

Section 1. Membership shall be open to California high schools and to junior high schools that include the ninth grade upon payment of any dues established, which meet the geographical eligibility established in the by-laws of the California High School Speech Association (CHSSA), Article V, Section I, Paragraph C, Subsection 2.
Article IV: Legislative Powers

Section 1. The legislative powers of the organization shall be vested in a Tri-Valley Forensic League Council (TVFLC).

Section 2. Membership of the TVFLC shall be composed of:

A. Duly elected officers: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer;

B. The immediate past president of TVFL for a period of not more than one year;

C. No member of the TVFLC may hold more than one voting position.

Section 3. The TVFLC shall have the power to:

A. Establish a League Tournament and Event Schedule;

B. Establish procedures for qualifying to TVFL tournaments and events;

C. Establish yearly dues for all schools and entry fees for TVFL tournaments and events;

D. Determine such policies and procedures as shall be necessary to carry out the purpose of TVFL;

F. Admit new schools, hearing qualifications for membership as determined by the TVFLC;

G. Establish yearly dues for TVFL memberships.

Section 4. A quorum of the TVFLC shall consist of three-fourths of the voting membership.

Article V: Executive Powers

Section 1. The executive powers of the organization shall be vested in a President, the Vice President, the Secretary, and the Treasurer.

Section 2. The President and Vice President shall be run on a combined ticket, and will be elected from and by the membership of the TVFL. The Secretary and Treasurer will run on individual tickets and will be elected from and by the membership of the TVFL.
Section 3. In the event the elected President cannot serve the balance of their term, the President shall be succeeded by the Vice-President for the remainder of the term.

Section 4. If a vacancy in any elected office other than the office of the President occurs, the President shall appoint, from the members of the TVFL with the advice and consent of the remaining TVFLC members, an individual to serve in that office for the remainder of the term.

Section 5. The President shall have the powers to:

A. Represent TVFL in all professional relationships;

B. Preside at all meetings of TVFL and the TVFLC.

Section 6. The Vice President shall assume the president's powers when so directed by either the President or a three-fourths majority vote of the TVFLC.

Section 7. The Secretary shall maintain such records as are deemed necessary, as well as conduct correspondence as directed. The Treasurer shall receive and disburse TVFL funds as directed by the TVFLC.

Article VI: Judicial Powers

Section 1. The TVFLC shall interpret the Constitution and By-Laws in all cases brought before it for adjudication.

Section 2. Any member school may be reprimanded for violation of this Constitution and By-Laws by a majority vote of the TVFLC. A request for an investigation shall be brought before the TVFLC by any TVFL member.

A. All investigations of the committee shall follow a prescribed procedure.

1. The request must be in writing.
2. The request must be made by the coach of record of a member school.
3. The request must specify the alleged violation.
4. Reasonable notice shall be given to all member schools which may be involved. Said notice shall state the nature of the violation to be considered.
5. The committee shall meet with the member school coach of record initiating the request for investigation and any other persons involved.
6. Said meetings shall be held in private without the presence of any extraneous persons.
7. A statement of the specific allegation of violation in question shall be made before the parties concerned at that time.
8. All parties concerned shall have the right to present any evidence and arguments which may be germane to the issue in question.
9. The committee shall deliberate in private after presentation of information by both sides.
10. A vote shall be taken, recorded, and the minutes retained by the President of TVFL for one year.
11. All concerned parties shall be informed of the decision immediately.

B. By a majority vote, the committee may send an official letter of censure to the coach of a member school by informing him/her of the finding of the committee.

C. By a majority vote, the committee may, in addition, inform in writing a member school's administration of any action against or censure of that school's coach.

Section 3. Following censure, any member school may be suspended from the TVFL by a two-thirds vote of the TVFLC for a period of time to be determined by the TVFLC.

Article VII: Meetings

Section 1. The TVFLC shall meet at least once in every school semester.

Section 2. The President or a quorum of the TVFLC shall be empowered to call special meetings.

Article VIII: Amendments

Section 1. Proposed amendments to the constitution must be submitted to the President of TVFL at least 90 days prior to first consideration by the TVFLC.

Section 2. Proposed amendments to the constitution must be submitted to all member schools at least 60 days prior to first consideration by the TVFLC.

Section 3. Proposed amendments to the constitution may be ratified by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the TVFLC at a meeting subsequent to the meeting of first consideration.

Section 4. All amendments shall take effect immediately upon ratification.

Article IX: Ratification

Section 1. This Constitution and By-Laws shall be in effect beginning in the Fall of 2003 if ratified by two-thirds of the TVFL at one of its meetings at or prior to that time.