

Constitution of the North Carolina Junior Classical League

Preamble

We, the members of the North Carolina Junior Classical League, in order to promote cooperation, establish a basis for order, increase unity, promote friendship, and encourage understanding among the members and chapters of this constitution, do hereby ordain and establish this constitution.

Article I

Name

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the North Carolina Junior Classical League.

Article II

Purpose

Section 1. The purpose of this organization shall be to promote the study and learning of classical life, history, literature and language; to impart a better understanding of the practical and cultural value of the Classics; to interest other students in the classical languages, literature, government, laws, and arts; to encourage its' members to pattern their citizenship with respect to family, school, and nation after the best examples of the classical civilizations.

Article III

Authority for and Order of Operations

Section 1. This Constitution officially deemed as the North Carolina Junior Classical League Constitution, the North Carolina Junior Classical League Bylaws, the North Carolina Junior Classical League Contest Handbook, and Robert's Rules of Order shall be the authority for operation of the North Carolina Junior Classical League.

Section 2. National Junior Classical League and American Classical League: The North Carolina Junior Classical League recognizes the authority of the National Junior Classical League and the American Classical League. The North Carolina Junior Classical League is a subdivision of the National Junior Classical League and the American Classical League, and no section of this Constitution, the North Carolina Junior Classical League Bylaws, and the North Carolina Junior Classical League Handbook shall be construed so as to conflict with the National Junior Classical League and American Classical League Constitutions, Bylaws, and Handbooks.

Section 3. The Executive Board of the North Carolina Junior Classical League: The Executive Board shall consist of the Student Officers of the North Carolina Junior Classical League, as defined in Article V, Section 1 of the North Carolina Junior Classical League Constitution, and the Adult Executive Board Members, as defined in Article VI, Section 1 of the North Carolina Junior Classical League Constitution. The Executive Board shall carry out the set guidelines for

the authority for operation of the North Carolina Junior Classical League set within Article III, Section 1 of the North Carolina Junior Classical League Constitution. The Executive Board shall hold a total of four meetings in the time between each State Convention. All members of the North Carolina Junior Classical League, as demarcated within Article IV of the North Carolina Junior Classical League, shall be allowed to attend all four Executive Board Meetings.

Section 4. Quorum During Executive Board Meetings: A quorum on the Executive Board shall be above two-thirds of the Executive Board. A quorum must be present for passing a vote on the Executive Board.

Section 5. Each Executive Board Member shall have only one vote on matters voted on by the Executive Board. In the event of a tie, the State Chair shall break the tie.

ARTICLE IV

Membership

Section 1. Membership within the North Carolina Junior Classical League inherently requires membership under the National Junior Classical League. Therefore, all members in adherence with the guidelines established in Article IV, Section 2 of the North Carolina Junior Classical League Constitution, are members of the North Carolina Chapter of the National Junior Classical League.

Section 2. A person may attain membership under (one of) the following classifications so long as the person abides by the qualifications and requirements demarcated under the classification sought.

A. Member-at-Large: Students lacking a chapter to affiliate with may attain membership by paying the North Carolina Junior Classical League and National Junior Classical membership dues by the deadlines set for the prospective payment. Students must be enrolled in or have taken a classical language or humanities course. Students must live in North Carolina. Students who may not reside in North Carolina, but are enrolled in a classics course based in North Carolina or their teacher lives in North Carolina may also be granted membership under this classification (if abiding by the aforementioned requirements as well).

B. Chapter Membership: Chapters may form under the direction and supervision of a qualified Sponsor (according to Article IV, Section 2, Paragraph C of the North Carolina Junior Classical League Constitution). A Chapter must have a minimum of five students who have paid the North Carolina Junior Classical League and National Junior Classical membership fees in accordance with the deadlines of both organizations. The students must be currently enrolled or have taken a classical humanities course. Chapters must pay annual dues by the deadline determined by the North Carolina Junior Classical League Executive Board. A Sponsor of a Chapter must be based in North Carolina, or the Chapter must be based in North Carolina. All students within a qualified chapter (as iterated above) are members of the North Carolina Junior Classical League under the affiliation of their Chapter.

C. Sponsors: Sponsors must be a member of the American Classical League. Sponsors must be accountable and responsible for their Chapters' activities, regardless of the number of participants from their Chapters. Sponsors must be of legal age.

Section 3. The North Carolina Junior Classical League may grant membership to any party outside the classifications in Article IV, Section 2 of the North Carolina Junior Classical League Constitution via the discretion of a simple majority of the North Carolina Junior Classical League Executive Board.

Article V

Student Officers of the North Carolina Junior Classical League

Section 1. Elected Student Officers Defined: The Student Officers of the North Carolina Junior Classical League shall all be members of the North Carolina Junior Classical League Executive Board. The Student Officers of the North Carolina Junior Classical League shall be the President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Parliamentarian, Communications Coordinator, Historian, Torch Editor, and Middle School Representative.

Section 2. Term of Office: The term of office for each of Student Officer positions shall be from the time they are inaugurated at State Convention to the time that the next officers are sworn in at the following State Convention.

Section 3. Nominations Procedure for North Carolina Junior Classical League Student Officers:

A. Qualifications for Running for a Student Office: Prospective Candidates running for a North Carolina Junior Classical League Student Office must **abide by the rules stated below:**

i. Be a member of the North Carolina Junior Classical League under classification as a Chapter member or a Member-at-Large.

ii. Comply with the requirements of North Carolina Junior Classical League membership set in Article IV of the North Carolina Junior Classical League Constitution.

iii. Be enrolled in a classics course or have exceeded all classical courses offered at their school during or by their prospective term of office.

iv. With the exception of Middle School Rep, be able to complete their term of office while still enrolled in High School. Candidates running for Middle School Representative must be able to complete their term of office while still enrolled in Middle School.

v. Have attended at least one State Convention, with the exception of Middle School Rep, wherein they must have attended at least one Fall Forum.

vi. May not run for a position they have held the previous year (exceptions to this rule found in Article V, Section 5 of the North Carolina Junior Classical League Constitution).

B. Filing for Office: Any eligible person, as defined in Article V, Section 3, Paragraph A of the North Carolina Junior Classical League Constitution, who wishes to run for Student Office may achieve candidacy by filing the Candidacy Forms distributed by the Parliamentarian with the sitting Parliamentarian via the method determined by the sitting Parliamentarian one month prior to State Convention. All sections of the Candidacy Forms must be filled out at the discretion of the sitting Parliamentarian and State Chair when filed with the sitting Parliamentarian in the proper timeline explained above.

C. Changing Office: Candidates may change the office for which they are running for by filing new candidacy forms for their new positions with the sitting Parliamentarian two weeks prior to the State Convention.

D. A Chapter may nominate only one candidate per State Convention.

Amendment : A Chapter may nominate up to two candidates.

Section 4. Election Procedures:

A. Elections for Student Officers of the North Carolina Junior Classical League shall be held every State Convention.

B. Parliamentarian Meeting: Every State Convention shall hold a Parliamentarian Meeting, where Candidates for North Carolina Junior Classical League Office are questioned by the Voting Delegates and Parliamentarian, the Parliamentarian collects the votes of the Voting Delegates for Candidates running for a North Carolina Junior Classical League Office, discusses North Carolina Junior Classical League Constitution and Bylaw amendments with the Voting Delegates, and collects the votes from the delegates on Constitution and Bylaw amendments.(See Article VII for further detail on the amendment process) The North Carolina Junior Classical League sitting Parliamentarian shall act as chair of the Parliamentarian Meeting.

C. Voting: Each chapter of the North Carolina Junior Classical League shall be permitted two Voting Delegates. These Voting Delegates must attend the Parliamentarian Meeting, as defined in Article V, Section 4, Paragraph B of the North Carolina Junior Classical League Constitution and Bylaws in order to have a vote. A Chapter represented by only one delegate at the Parliamentarian Meeting shall only have one vote. Voting delegates must be members of the Chapter that they are representing. Members-at-Large are allowed to represent themselves at the Parliamentarian Meeting and act as an individual Voting Delegate for themselves. Members-at-Large shall not be allowed to have other persons act as a Voting Delegate for themselves. A Chapter's Voting Delegates may split the votes between two candidates. All

Voting Delegates may abstain from voting for any office defined in Article V, Section 1. All Voting Delegates may abstain from voting on any Constitution or Bylaw amendment of the North Carolina Junior Classical League. The Voting Delegates shall vote at the Parliamentarian Meeting or submit their votes to the Parliamentarian up to an hour after the Parliamentarian Meeting has ended.

D. If more than two prospective candidates running for the same position on the North Carolina Junior Classical League Executive Board have meet the qualifications set forth in Article V, Section 3, Paragraph A, and turned in all Candidacy Forms with the Parliamentarian in the proper timeline discussed in Article V, Section 3, Paragraph B of the NCJCL Constitution. The voting procedure for the office with more than two eligible candidates shall be as follows: The Parliamentarian shall conduct a ranked-choice voting system.

Section 5. Vacancies in any Student Office of the Executive Board:

A. Vacancies During the Nomination and Election Process: A State of Emergency shall be declared by the parliamentarian in the event that fewer than two prospective Candidates meet all of the qualifications set forth in Article V, Section 3, Paragraph A of the North Carolina Junior Classical League Constitution and file Candidacy Forms according to Article V, Section 3, Paragraph B of the North Carolina Junior Classical League Constitution for one Office. A State of Emergency is declared per Office of the North Carolina Junior Classical League according to the aforementioned requirements. A State of Emergency may only exist after the filing deadline of one month before the State Convention passes.

B. State of Emergency: A state of emergency shall be declared by the Parliamentarian no later than two days after the filing deadline (one month before State Convention). When a State of Emergency is declared, the Parliamentarian shall immediately contact all of the Chapters within the North Carolina Junior Classical League. Existing Officers of the North Carolina Junior Classical League may not run for their current position for the following year. Existing Officers of the North Carolina Junior Classical League may only run if no prospective candidate has filed by the State of Emergency deadline.

Section 6. Removal from Office:

A. Grounds for Removal: NCJCL shall have the power to remove any of the student officers serving this organization for any unethical or inappropriate behavior and/or serious negligence in the discharge of the officer's duties, as deemed so **by the Executive Board**.

B. Removal Procedures: the following procedures shall be followed when the Executive Board has found grounds for removal. The removal process shall not exceed a 30-day time period, unless an extension is voted on and granted by a quorum of the Executive Board.

i. A resolution to consider the removal of a student officer may be made by any Executive Board member or by a petition bearing signatures from at least three officers and ten students from two local chapters.

ii. Once the resolution is brought into question before the Executive Board, the Executive Board shall hold a vote on the resolution considering the removal of a student officer. If the resolution passes by a simple majority, the sponsor of the student officer being considered for removal shall guarantee the student officer is allowed an adequate and complete defense to all those voting on the officer in question's removal. The student officer in question shall make the defense through any form(s) of communication. No vote shall take place until the sponsor of the student being considered for removal is satisfied that the student has completed the defense or the two-week time period for the student's defense has reached two weeks. The Executive Board may extend, but not abridge this deadline if deemed necessary.

iii. After the officer being considered for removal has completed the defense or the two week period for defense has expired, a two-thirds vote of the executive board shall remove the officer by secret ballot. No officer shall be denied the proceedings guaranteed by this process in Article V, Section 6 of the NCJCL Constitution.

Article VI

Adult Executive Board Members

Section 1. Adult Executive Board members shall be as follows: State Chair, Convention Chairs, Treasurer, Certamen Coordinator, and sponsors of the student executive board members.

Section 2. Appointment of Adult Executive Board members by position:

A. State Chair: A candidate for the State Chair position must be a current member of the American Classical League and a local chapter sponsor. There may be one State Chair or two Co-Chairs. The **State Chair** will be appointed by the NCJCL Executive Board and voted on by a simple majority of the Executive Board for a term of three years. **The State Chair** is in charge of membership and advising the NCJCL parliamentarian on the NCJCL Constitution and Bylaws. The State Chair is a voting delegate of the Executive Board. They may be re-appointed for additional terms under the same conditions as the first term. The State Chair will be confirmed by the Executive Board at **the** first Executive Board meeting after State Convention.

B. Treasurer: The Treasurer will be appointed by the NCJCL Executive Board every three years. The treasurer's appointment will be confirmed by a simple majority of the Executive Board at the first Executive Board meeting after the State Convention. The Treasurer will have a three-year term. The Treasurer will be a voting member of the Executive Board.

C. Event Coordinators: Fall Forum, Certamen, and the State Convention will each have an elected coordinator who will be a voting member of the Executive Board and who will serve for three years. State Convention may have up to three Convention Coordinators fill the position. Additional service following the three-year term may be rendered after a one-year hiatus. They are elected by the Executive Board by a simple majority of the Executive Board at the first Executive Board meeting following a State Convention every three years. Current event

coordinators should make every effort to replace themselves having their replacement shadow them **in their** third year to learn the ropes of that position.

D. Executive Board Sponsors: Local chapter sponsors, who have student officers who have been elected or appointed to the NCJCL Executive Board, may advise their students and sit on the Executive Board. Local chapter sponsors may not have voting status.

Section 3. All Adult Executive Board members may be confirmed via a quorum of the Executive Board. If more than two adults are up for the position and they are not taking on the position jointly, a ranked-choice voting system shall be used.

Section 4. Removal of Adult Executive Board Members:

A. Any grievance against a Sponsor or State/Provincial Chair of NCJCL shall be handled within our state among the teachers involved. The National JCL Committee may be notified of such actions, but will not get involved itself.

B. Any Sponsor or State/Provincial Chair may be removed from his position for any of the following reasons:

1. Serious negligence of duties as defined in the Constitution, Bylaws, Contest Handbook and/or Manual of the National JCL or NCJCL;
2. Inability to prove good standing with NCJCL, with the National JCL, or with the ACL;
3. Moral turpitude at any JCL function, including but not limited to drunkenness, providing drugs or alcohol to students or condoning consumption of same, sexual relations with a student, and misuse of JCL funds.

C. A resolution to remove a Sponsor or State Chair may be introduced on the state level by a petition bearing the signatures of at least three sponsors from North Carolina. That Sponsor or State Chair shall be guaranteed an opportunity for an adequate defense, not to exceed thirty days after the receipt of the resolution, by telephone, by mail, or in person, to all the JCL sponsors in that state. A two-thirds vote of those sponsors who have heard the defense shall be necessary for removal. Failure to present a defense will automatically result in removal. Any person thus removed may not sponsor a JCL chapter again nor serve as State/Provincial Chair again unless he can produce an argument satisfactory to the NCJCL sponsors that the previous lack of discretion is unlikely to happen again.

D. A resolution to remove a Sponsor or State/Provincial Chair may be introduced to the National Committee by any member of the National Committee or by a petition bearing the signatures of at least three sponsors from North Carolina. Removal by the National Committee will only be considered on matters involving violation of the NJCL Constitution, Bylaws, or Manual, or on matters dealing with NJCL Convention rules and policies. The National

Committee will NOT serve as a Board of Appeals if sponsors in North Carolina cannot resolve their own problems.

E. If the National Committee becomes involved, guarantees for defense and provisions for reinstatement follow procedures outlined in Article VI, Section 4 except that the members of the National Committee shall replace the North Carolina JCL sponsors in the decision-making process.

Article VII Amendments

Section 1. NCJCL governing documents under the jurisdiction of the NCJCL to amend are as follows: NCJCL Contest Handbook, NCJCL Bylaws, and NCJCL Constitution.

Section 2. Constitutional and Bylaw Amendments: Suggested amendments must be submitted in writing to the Parliamentarian and the President, postmarked two months before state convention or emailed to the Parliamentarian and the President one month before State Convention. The amendments to the NCJCL Constitution and Bylaws shall be approved by a quorum of two thirds of the Executive Board before they are presented to the Chapters. All Chapters must be made aware of the proposed changes to the Bylaws and Constitution two weeks before State Convention.

A. The delegates in attendance at the Parliamentarian Meeting shall discuss the amendments and vote on them at the end of the meeting or turn in ballots to the parliamentarian up to one hour after the meeting has concluded. Votes submitted after one hour following the Parliamentarian Meeting are invalid and shall not be counted. The amendments shall go into effect directly following State Convention.

Section 3. The Contest Handbook shall be amended and revised yearly by the State Parliamentarian with a two thirds approval of the Executive Board. All proposals are subject to this standard of a quorum of the Executive Board. Proposals shall be proposed by any member in good-standing with NCJCL and all executive board members. The Contest Handbook shall not be made so as to construe with the NCJCL Constitution or the NCJCL Bylaws.

Section 4. Bylaws may be established not contrary to any part of the NCJCL Constitution.

Section 5. This Constitution, the Contest Handbook, and the Bylaws of this Organization must be reviewed yearly in their entirety.

Article VIII Ratification

Section 1. If a new Constitution is proposed to replace this Constitution, the proposed Constitution must be approved by the same process required to approve a Constitutional

Amendment. This new Constitution, if ratified, must come into effect the following State Convention, after ratification. If the new Constitution includes changes with officer positions or membership of the executive board, the old officer positions shall stand along with the duties presented in the Bylaws of the previous year of which the officer(s) were elected. All other components of the newly ratified constitution shall stand. If duties of an officer under the new Bylaws and Constitution conflicts with the procedures set forth in the newly ratified Constitution, the newly ratified Constitution shall take precedence over the old procedures. Any question to the duties of the old officer positions under the new Constitution not enumerated within the previous lines shall be determined by a quorum of the Executive Board.