

BY-LAWS OF THE LINCOLN-DOUGLAS EDUCATION PROJECT

(Ratified June 8, 2005, Amended January 29, 2007)

Article I - Name

The name of this organization shall be the Lincoln-Douglas Education Project, hereinafter referred to as LDEP.

Article II – Vision Statement

The members of LDEP believe that Lincoln-Douglas debate is primarily an educational activity to prepare students for academic and personal success in their future lives. Therefore, the competitive incentives of LD should reward students who:

- research thoroughly and ethically
- reason logically
- write and speak clearly and eloquently
- develop direct resolitional analysis
- explain arguments thoroughly rather than superficially
- conduct themselves professionally, courteously, and respectfully.

We recognize that students participate in debate from a legitimate variety of motives, including the joy of spirited competition. As teachers, it is our responsibility to ensure that successful debate is educationally constructive debate. LDEP works with coaches, judges, tournament directors, and other members of the debate community to pursue this goal through organizational and educational initiatives.

Article III – Membership Qualifications

A. LDEP offers two types of membership:

1. Professional Membership is open to persons who:

- (a) affirm the LDEP vision statement in Article II above and pledge to promote educationally constructive debate; and
- (b) either (i) are employed full-time by a school or (ii) subject to Executive Board approval, have a standing institutionally recognized coaching or teaching relationship with a school.

Professional Members will normally be professional debate coaches. Professional Members are entitled to vote on proposals referred by the Board and in elections.

2. Affiliate Membership is open to persons who:

- (a) affirm the LDEP vision statement in Article II above and pledge to promote educationally constructive debate; and
- (b) are high school graduates but do not qualify for Professional Membership.

Assistant coaches, hired judges, and parents will normally qualify for Affiliate Membership. Affiliate Members may participate in organization deliberations but do not vote.

B. Membership for any person not on the Executive Board may be terminated by a 2/3rds vote of the executive board.

Article IV – Organization, Officers and Committees

- A. The Executive Board – The Executive Board consists of 15 seats, at least 9 of which must be filled, and it serves as the primary agenda setting and policy formulating body of the organization. With advice from Members, the Executive Board generates all policy items. The policy items may include, but are not limited to, guidance documents, By-law amendments, and official statements.
1. Initial Composition – The initial members of the Executive Board are all those founding members who vote in the ratification of the by-laws. Founding members are: Tim Averill, Jason Baldwin, Eric Barnes, Michelle Coody, Kaki Griffin, Kate Hamm, Kandi King, Lisa Miller, Dean Rhoads, Fred Robertson, Scott Robinson, Aaron Timmons, Cyndy Woodhouse and Pam Wycoff.
 2. Resignation and Removal – Executive Board members can resign at any time and retain their Professional Membership in the LDEP. A member of the Executive Board can be removed by obtaining both a 2/3^{rds} vote of the Executive Board and then a 2/3^{rds} vote of the Professional Members. Board membership is automatically terminated for any member who fails to vote, in person, by proxy, or otherwise, on the motions generated at three consecutive called meetings.
 3. Elections – The Executive Board can, at its discretion, call for elections to fill any number n of the vacant seats on the Board. A majority vote is required to call for elections. However, the board must call for elections when fewer than 9 seats are occupied. Any Professional Member can nominate any other Professional Member as a candidate. The sitting Facilitator will call for nominations and administer the voting by preferential ballot of all seconded nominees. All Professional Members are eligible to vote. The n open seats will go to the top n vote-getters.
- B. Officers – There are two officers in the organization. Each is elected annually by a majority vote of the Executive Board in June. Only members of the Executive Board are eligible to serve as officers.
1. The Facilitator will preside at all meetings of the organization and Executive Board, will establish an agenda for all meetings, will administer all elections and policy votes, and will represent the group.
 2. The Secretary will keep all records of official business including meeting notes, membership rolls, official documents and statements, and correspondence.
- C. Committees – The Executive Board may establish advisory committees consisting of any combination of Professional Members and Affiliate Members.

Article V - Decision Making Process

Any member of the LDEP can present a proposal to the Executive Board. The Board will act on all and only items proposed or endorsed by at least one Board member. After due deliberation, the Executive Board can either vote directly on a proposal or vote to refer the proposal to the Professional Members. A quorum of 2/3^{rds} of the Executive Board is necessary for any official Board vote. Normally the Board will hold three meetings per year called by the Facilitator in consultation with other Board members. Except in extraordinary circumstances, the Board will vote only on items discussed at these called meetings. After each called meeting, the Secretary or his or her designee will distribute minutes to the entire Board, and the Facilitator will arrange for a brief comment and voting period on motions presented at the meeting for Board members who did not vote at the meeting.

- A. Executive Board Approval – A 2/3^{rds} vote of the Board constitutes adoption of a proposal by the LDEP via direct Executive Board Approval.
- B. Professional Member Approval – The Executive Board can, by simple majority vote, refer a proposal to the Professional Members for a vote. A majority vote of the Professional Members constitutes adoption of a proposal by the LDEP via Professional Member Approval, except where a higher threshold applies as described in other sections of these By-laws or as explicitly stipulated by the Executive Board in its referral of the item to the whole organization for a vote.

Any Board member may demand a vote to refer a proposal to the Professional Members before the Board directly votes on that proposal. A proposal that fails to win Executive Board Approval may still be submitted for Professional Member Approval, but this requires a distinct majority vote by the Board.

Article VI – Ratification and Amendment Process

- A. A 2/3^{rds} vote of the founding members, with quorum of 2/3^{rds}, will constitute ratification of these by-laws.
- B. These by-laws may be amended by a 2/3^{rds} vote of the Professional Membership who cast votes. Proposed amendments can be referred to the Professional Membership only by a 2/3^{rds} vote of the Executive Board.