

## Article IX: 5 Main Conference

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We believe officers of this club should live in holy fear of James 3:1 which says, “Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.” If we are going to release young people into the service of our Lord, it is imperative that we prepare them appropriately for such a calling. Each officer chosen to serve their campus as a 5 Main MUST commit to attending the annual 5 Main Conference, taking place during August of each year. This is a REQUIRED conference for all student leadership. Students that are unable to attend this conference, in its entirety, should NOT apply to serve as a 5 Main. No exceptions to this rule will be made. DOLLS Headquarters feels strongly about the purposes of this conference and are not willing to negotiate our officer’s mandatory attendance at this conference for the following reasons:

### **Protection**

As rule for doing business, DOLLS Headquarters has adopted Ephesians 4:27 as our motto, which says, “Do not give the devil a foothold.” We would be foolish not to recognize that when we release our officers to do ministry on their campuses, the enemy **will** have it out for them. It is of utmost importance that we *prepare the troops for battle*. The primary purpose of Conference is to equip our officers with the knowledge and skills to effectively lead their chapters. Through the training received during this conference, officer teams will leave a fully educated team of leaders, unshakable by the thwarting efforts of our enemy, prepared for any attack. On the contrary, we believe that if we **did not** require the entire team to be in attendance, we will have effectively provided the enemy with an opportune foothold for which to bring down that team’s ministry.

### **Credibility**

5 Main Conference is essential for our officers because attending provides them with the level of credibility they will need in order to win the trust of their members. This is especially true in the case of our chapters that have been in existence previously. There is often a hesitation within the membership to rally behind the new leadership put in place. This occurs for various reasons, including the membership’s deep commitment to a previous 5 Main team or sometimes a lack of confidence in a less experienced team. Having the ability to start the school year with the qualification of 5 Main Conference behind them gives our officers the credibility they need to take on their leadership positions and earn the trust of their membership.

### **Relationship Building**

In order to be effective in ministry as a team, it is vital that the officers have an opportunity to begin functioning as a cohesive unit. Five Main Conference offers a chance for teams to come together for the first time to discover how they will function as a team, under the professional mentorship and guidance of D.O.L.L.S. Headquarters staff. Teams will learn basic leadership skills and conflict management techniques to prepare them for the task of working on a team.

### **Consistency**

D.O.L.L.S. Headquarters has established many standards and protocols that it considers part of what makes this ministry uniquely “DOLLS.” Likewise, D.O.L.L.S. Headquarters takes great pride in protecting the name and integrity of this organization. For both of these reasons, it is of the essence that all officers associated with this organization have exposure to these standards, expectations, and protocols so that a positive reputation of D.O.L.L.S. is maintained on each campus. When our officers receive an understanding of what is expected of them and they are introduced to girls from other campuses and D.O.L.L.S. Headquarters leadership who can help keep them accountable to these standards, the character of the ministry is protected.

### **Liability**

One of the advantages of being a recognized Chartered chapter of D.O.L.L.S. is the protection its chapters are offered through the organization’s liability insurance. Many school districts have strict rules regarding outside organizations existing as school-recognized clubs. One of these rules often includes the requirement that the organization has its own liability insurance policy. These policies protect the districts, the sponsors, and the students in the event that an unforeseen accident should occur during a D.O.L.L.S. sponsored event.

D.O.L.L.S. Headquarters views it as an absolute imperative that we are able to extend this level of protection to our chapters. 5 Main Conference serves as a bargaining tool used to promote a favorable relationship with insurance agencies, and establishes that we have made great efforts to educate our chapters to the standards and protocols of this organization, in the event that a legal claim is made against the organization. This, in effect, places D.O.L.L.S. in a position that agencies feel comfortable insuring our ministry, guaranteeing that such protections are available for our chapters.

### **Administrative Confidence**

Religious organizations on public school campuses walk a fine line and, in this day and age, religious-freedom cases flood the courts. While the students have every right to assemble as a group on school property, many school administrators, teachers, and community members are not aware of these rights and are often quick to make a claim against a school that permits such religious expression. The fear of this causes many principals to feel reticent to allow such clubs to form. DOLLS takes great strides to train our officers, and as a result, school administrators testify to viewing our organization more favorably than many other similar clubs. Principals are confident that our students are trained to operate a truly “student-led and student-initiated” organization as the law demands, thus relieving them of fears that the club’s officers and sponsors may unknowingly cross the legal boundaries set forth by the Establishment Clause.