



CATHOLIC FORENSIC LEAGUE OF SCRANTON

c/o Greg Titman
733 Ironmen Lane
Danville, PA 17821



MEMORANDUM

TO: Coaches of CFLS
FROM: Greg Titman & Craig Specht, League Directors
SUBJECT: National Qualifier Tournament – February 29, 2020
DATE: February 8, 2020

Our NATIONAL QUALIFIER TOURNAMENT will be held at Shikellamy High School in Sunbury, PA on Saturday, February 29th.

The top three entries in each event will advance to the NCFL Grand National Tournament in Chicago, IL over Memorial Day weekend. **If your students know now that they cannot attend Nationals to represent the league, please DO NOT register them for the Qualifier.** There will be no NOVICE division at this tournament. Please check our constitution and bylaws for participation requirements for all schools regarding attendance at previous tournaments in order to compete at our Qualifier.

REGISTRATION PROCEDURE: We are using electronic registration, balloting, and tabulation for this tournament. Your competitors and judges must be registered at www.tabroom.com. **We will also be using Tabroom for electronic balloting at this tournament, so all registered judges must have a Tabroom account linked to your team and bring a device with WIFI connectivity (preferably a laptop) to the tournament.** Registration is now open and will close at **9:00 pm on Tuesday, February 25, 2020.**

EVENTS: The following events will be offered:

- Declamation
- Lincoln Douglas Debate
- Public Forum Debate
- Dramatic Performance
- Oral Interpretation
- Student Congress
- Duo Interpretation
- Original Oratory
- Extemporaneous Speaking
- Policy Debate

CONGRESS: Schools may submit legislation for the tournament up until **Monday, February 17, 2020** by emailing them to Greg Titman (gtitman@danville.k12.pa.us). All bills, resolutions, and amendments for the National Qualifier Tournament must be new pieces of legislation that have not been debated at previous CFLS league tournaments this season (ADFL-CFLS Kickoff Classic, Langan Invitational, and January Practice Tournament). Each school should submit **one piece of legislation per entry** in Student Congress to ensure there is enough legislation for debate. Legislation must adhere to the formatting required by the National Catholic Forensics League to be considered (use the templates provided on the [NCFL website](#)). On **Tuesday, February 18, 2020,** I will email the bills, resolutions, and amendments submitted to all of the coaches. Each school will then have the opportunity to rank, in order, the ten bills that they would like to see debated at the National Qualifier Tournament. Coaches will have until **Friday, February 21, 2020** to submit their school's vote. I will email all of the coaches the bills selected and the order by **Monday, February 24, 2020.**

ENTRIES: Each school may enter **up to four entries** in each event. Please note that Duo Interp, Public Forum and Policy Debate are two-person events -- so you may enter four duos or teams. Also note that if you register entries in Oral Interpretation, the students must each prepare a prose and a poetry selection to be read in alternate rounds.

REGISTRATION OF LITERATURE: For the National Qualifier Tournament all literature used in Oral Interp, Dramatic Performance, Duo Interp, and Declamation must be registered. No student may use material he or she used in a previous National Qualifier. The league has had to disqualify students in past years for violation of this rule. It is a good idea to bring the original or the best copies of the original (including publication information) to the tournament in case of protest or questions.

Register the pieces of literature when you register online on Tabroom. It will have a place for all interpretation pieces to be registered.

JUDGES: As usual, the National Qualifier requires one more judge than you have been used to bringing for other league tournaments – for example, you are required to provide 2 judges for the first five entries in speech. Even though you are registering judges in specific areas, they may be asked to judge in other events. **Please do not send judges who have never judged before.** This has been a problem at past Qualifiers. It is your responsibility to provide qualified judges and to train them in the latest rules and procedures of the League. **There are NO hired judges at this tournament.** If you are having trouble meeting your quota, check with other coaches in the league who may be able to help you meet your quota. Unaffiliated (neutral) judges, especially from larger teams, are greatly appreciated by the tabroom staff to facilitate in generating schematics. “Unaffiliated” is defined as a person who has not coached your students, does not work in your school, and who would be able to judge your students without any bias or prejudice. Relatives are considered affiliated.

***Again, as a reminder, we will be using electronic ballots at this tournament, so all registered judges must have a Tabroom account linked to your team and bring a device with WIFI connectivity (preferably a laptop) to the tournament.**

COACHES MEETING: We will have a brief coaches meeting prior to the announcement of national qualifiers to provide you with details on NCFL Nationals, to establish the dues for next year, and to vote on our League Director for the next two years. Craig and I are not available to serve as directors moving forward, so please consider whether you are interested in serving in this capacity for the next two years.

LUNCH: Students can purchase lunch tickets at Shikellamy High School during registration.

COST: Plan A - no charge. Plans B & C - \$2.00 per entry.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: **All changes to your registration must be made by Wednesday, February 26, 2020 at 9:00 p.m.** We will be working out the schematics the following day, so please make all changes prior to this deadline. Changes made after **Wednesday, February 26, 2020 at 9:00 p.m.** will be assessed a \$5.00 nuisance fee per change.

LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATE TOPIC: Resolved: Predictive policing is unjust.

PUBLIC FORUM DEBATE TOPIC: Resolved: The United States should increase its use of nuclear energy for commercial energy production.

***NOTE:** **Despite the tournament date falling in February (due to the Leap Year), we will be using the MARCH/APRIL Lincoln-Douglas Debate Topic and the MARCH Public Forum Debate Topic! Teams that do not come prepared to debate the correct resolution will forfeit the round.**

POLICY DEBATE TOPIC: Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially reduce Direct Commercial Sales and/or Foreign Military Sales of arms from the United States.

TIME SCHEDULE: Please note that times are approximate. We will do our best to keep things moving along.

Registration 8:00 - 8:30
Round 1 (Speech) 9:00 - 10:15
Session 1 (Congress) 9:00 - 11:30
Round 1 (Debate) 9:00 - 9:45
Round 2 (Debate) 9:45 - 10:30
Round 2 (Speech) 10:15 - 11:30
Round 3 (Debate) 11:00 - 11:45
Round 3 (Speech) 11:30 - 12:45
Lunch (Congress) 11:30 - 12:30
Round 4 (Debate) 12:15 - 1:00
Session 2 (Congress) 12:30 - 3:00
Lunch (S & D) 1:00 - 1:45
Finals 2:00 - 3:15
Awards 4:00

TOURNAMENT MORNING REGISTRATION: In order to improve the efficiency of the registration process at the tournament site, please call or text Craig Specht on the way to the tournament to let us know the status of your team's registration for the tournament. At that point, let us know of any student or judge drops. If you call and Craig does not answer his phone, please leave a message on his voicemail. Call even if you do not have any changes! Texting works best.

CONTACTS:

Gregory Titman

Email: gtitman@danville.k12.pa.us

School: (570) 271-3268, opt. 5

Cell: (570) 975-7176

Craig Specht

Email: spechtc@shikbraves.org

School: (570) 473-3547

Cell: (570) 850-5208