



Catholic Forensic League of Erie

Local Affiliate of the National Catholic Forensic League

January 30, 2020

Dear Colleague:

The season went by quickly, and it's hard to believe the Catholic Forensic League of Erie's Diocesan Qualifying tournament is a month away, scheduled for Saturday, February 29 at the Gannon University Palumbo Center. Registration will occur through Tabroom.com.

Since our membership reached 14 schools, the top **THREE** finishers in each category of competition will qualify to represent the Erie Diocese at the Grand National Tournament to be held in Chicago, Illinois over Memorial Day weekend. In addition, each of the top four winners in every category will be eligible for scholarships from Gannon. The university awards \$2,000 for first place, \$1,500 for second place, \$1,000 for third place, and \$750 for fourth place. (Please make sure you students' information is on file with Bob Hall from Fairview or the scholarship cannot be recorded.) Season Champions will also be recognized at the awards ceremony. Please keep in mind that **each** student registered **must** have competed in at least **one** tournament in **any** event throughout the current school year in order to be eligible for this competition.

As you complete the registration materials, make sure you also review the information regarding the Diocesan Tournament in the CFL of Erie Constitution. Please pay particular attention to the judging guidelines. You **MUST** meet judge quotas. If you cannot, you can only bring the number of students who can be covered by the number of judges you have. **An a.m. only judge must have a p.m. only judge to count as one judge towards your quota.** It is vitally important for the integrity of the tournament that only judges who have been trained in and have judged CFL rules be utilized. **Make sure all judges are aware of the rule changes from the last few years.** Our students deserve the best we can offer since they are giving us the best they can offer. With that in mind, we will not accept any judge who has not had CFL of Erie training and judged at one of our regular season tournaments. Also, please make sure your judges have either a laptop or tablet and are established as a judge on Tabroom.com with an account that is linked to your team as we will be using online balloting. We do not want judges using their cell phones, so please discuss this with them in advance.

Registration fees freeze at the end of registration on Tuesday, February 25. If a student drops after the deadline, you can replace the student by Thursday, February 27 at 8 a.m. No category switching will be permitted. After that, no changes in registration are permitted except for drops only. If a judge drops after the registration deadline, you **MUST** have a replacement regardless of whether your quota decreases.

CFL of Erie
3626 Hazel Street
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Mrs. Susan Peebles, Director
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To facilitate the tournament process, please note the following:

1. The Tab Room will be closed, staffed by the Diocesan Director, current Board Members, and/or anyone else specifically asked by the Director.
2. The categories of competition will include: Team Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Public Forum Debate, Extemporaneous, Original Oratory, Oral Interpretation, Dramatic Performance, Duo Interpretation, Oratorical Declamation, and Student Congress.
3. Because of the importance of this tournament for the students, please select your judges carefully AND review rules with them. The newest ballots can be found on <http://ncfl.org/NCFLnew/pages/ncfl-events.html>. Only ones who have been trained and who have judged using NCFL rules will be accepted. Remind your judges of the commitment they are making when they agree to help as judge drops and changes create rescheduling delays the morning of the tournament.
4. Student Congress Bills and Resolutions should be submitted to me via email by **Wednesday, February 12 at 3 p.m.** to give students time to prepare. Please make sure the legislation is in the proper format. All schools competing in Congress **must** submit legislation, preferably two pieces so we can fill the day.
5. Each school may register **up to five** contestants in each category for a total of no more than **28 total school entries**.
6. There are three judges in each round so judging quotas are as follows and must be filled or students **must** be dropped. Note, extra judges, especially ones from small schools, are **always** welcome:

Speech:	1 judge for every 2 entries, or fraction thereof
Student Congress:	1 judge for every 4 entries (may be pulled to judge other events if needed)
All Debate:	1 judge for every entry. After four entries in one debate event, it's 1 judge for every entry plus 1.
7. An entry fee of **\$25.00 or \$5.00 per student** (whichever is greater) will be charged to cover trophy costs. **In addition**, there is a **school entry fee charge of \$20.00** for the facilities rental. Please make registration checks payable to **CFL of Erie**. Fees must be paid **with registration**.
8. An all-you-can-eat lunch will be served in the Gannon cafeteria. All contestants, judges and coaches **must** stay on campus to eat lunch. Lunch is **\$10.20/person** and the check needs to be made out to **CFL of Erie**. **Please submit your lunch numbers by Tuesday, February 25 as I need to give Gannon a minimum lunch count on that day AND PREPAY.** Because of this, your counts for lunch need to be completely accurate. Extra tickets can be purchased on Saturday but no refunds can be given.

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9. Please remember that Oral Interpretation will have only three rounds. A coin toss will occur Saturday morning at the opening assembly to determine Prose or Poetry first and then it will alternate.

Tournament Schedule:

Registration will be from 7:45 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. in the lobby of the Palumbo Building
The Opening Assembly will begin PROMPTLY at 8:30 a.m. All Speech judges will attend a meeting at the same time as the Opening Assembly for the students. Policy Debate and Extemp draw to be held as soon as possible thereafter in order to stay on schedule.

Approximate time schedule:

Policy	LD/PE	Speech	Congress
Rd 1 8:35	Rd 1 9:00	Rd 1 9:00	Session 1 9:00 – 11:30
Rd 2 10:45	Rd 2 10:30	Rd 2 10:30	LUNCH
LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	Session 2 12:15 –2:45
Rd 3 If needed	Rd 3 12:45	Rd 3 12:45	

Run-offs (if necessary) 2:00

Awards Assembly 3:30 (or earlier if able)

No changes will be accepted after the registration deadline, unless it is to do a name change to replace a student before 8 a.m. on Thursday, February 27 or to replace a judge that has dropped. All registration fees will be calculated based on the number of contestants registered at the February 25th deadline.

*****All registration materials INCLUDING CHECKS must be received by 3:00 p.m. on Tues, February 25, 2020.*** *** This includes your number of lunches ordered. ***
Registration will not be reopened on Tabroom after this deadline so please plan ahead.**

All judge quotas and school registration fees will be computed from your school at the close of registration on Tuesday, February 25 at 3:00 p.m. If you have student drops after the deadline, neither your judge quota nor your registration costs change. Additionally, I need to provide Gannon with the exact lunch number on Tuesday and pre-pay for them before the actual event, so you MUST include your lunch numbers for students, coaches, and judges lunches with registration.

As with previous years, coaches may submit questions for possible use in Extemporaneous. All questions should reach me **by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, February 26**. Please send them by e-mail as a Word or PDF document attachment.

The CFL of Erie Coaches will supply drinks and light snacks for the judges' lounge. Please decide on what your team would like to supply for our judges throughout the day. I will supply the coffee and donuts as well as plates, napkins, utensils, and cups.

If there are any questions, please contact me. On the morning of the tournament, I can be reached on my cell phone at 814-602-7417.

Sincerely,

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