

Dear Coaches,

The time for the State Championship Tournament is approaching. With this email, I hope to give you some preliminary information.

1) Site and Date: The tournament, as we know, will take place on April 25-26 at Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY.

2) Schedule: The schedule for debate will remain essentially the same. We will be adding time to Congress. Judges should expect a meeting at 8:30 am on Saturday with rounds following immediately. Speech judges should plan on a meeting at 8:45 in the Library Theater, just as last year. We hope to end Saturday by 7:30 pm. Each speaker will speak five times. We will set those five rounds into a matrix. Once we have the numbers, we will start planning the matrix and announce it. As in previous years, all preliminary rounds will take place on Saturday and all elimination rounds on Sunday.

3) Preregistration: Registration will open soon at [www.tabroom.com](http://www.tabroom.com). All registrations are due by April 14 at 5 pm. Judge names are due by April 20 at 5 pm. When you register your students, please put down the qualifying tournaments and placements. The program requires 2 tournaments, so if the student qualified at your RQT (State elims), put that down in both slots. Each school may enter one speech and one debate entry as a wildcard. Please put the word WILDCARD into tournament names and placement. Please begin the registration process now by registering students you know will be attending. On April 14, fees are frozen, and no further additions may be made. You may drop students online until 6 pm, Friday, April 24.

4) Registration: Registration will take place on Friday night at the Activity-Athletics Center at Chaminade High School, 311 Jericho Tpke. If you prepay your tournament fees, you may register via phone or email. Otherwise, you will have to register in person. Prepayment should be made by April 23. Checks should be sent to: NYSFL PO Box 324 Mineola, NY 11501.

5) Judge Quotas: For Schools in Regions 1-4, you must provide one judge for every five (5) speakers [a duo team counts as one speaker]; one judge for every four (4) LD debaters; one judge for every four (4) PF teams; and one (1) if you have anyone in Congress. Judges may not cover more than one event area. Because schools in Regions 5-7 are travelling a long distance, these regions can combine their judge requirements. These regions must bring 1 judge for every 6 debaters, 1 judge for every 8 speakers, and 1 judge for congress to cover the region. Judges from Regions 1-4 are expected to remain for the entirety of the tournament; judges from Regions 5-7 must remain 1 round after their last contestant is eliminated. For debate, judges from Regions 5-7 are expected to remain for the first full round after their debaters are eliminated. Partial elimination rounds do not count. Judges who leave early will incur a fine of \$250. Judge quotas are assessed at the closing of registration (see below). Failure to bring the correct number of judges will incur a fine of \$200 and/or the possibility of removing the requisite number of contestants until your quota is met. A fine for a missing judge must be paid before students can compete.

6) Judge Qualifications: All judges in Speech and Debate must have judged at least 6 rounds of the event (not necessarily the level) for which they are judging. Speech judges must have judged at least 6 rounds of speech, not 6 rounds of each category. Please be sure that your judges are qualified. If we should discover that a judge is not qualified, the judge will be removed, and the team will be fined with the possibility of having the requisite number of students being removed from the tournament. The state tournament requires your best judges. The competitors deserve no less.

7) Student Congress Judges: If you have any number of contestants in Congress, you must bring a judge for Congress. Congress judges must have judged at least 3 rounds of Congress. By making a separate judge pool for Congress, we will alleviate the judge burden in speech. If your congress judge is capable and willing to serve as a parliamentarian, please let us know.

8) Congress Bills and Chambers: Bills should be submitted to me by April 14. Please submit bills to me via email ([jmcgrory@chaminade-hs.org](mailto:jmcgrory@chaminade-hs.org)). Bills should be a single page, double spaced with each line of the bill numbered. Please submit bills in PDF format. Please be sure to note the difference between a bill and a resolution. Incorrectly formatted bills will not be included in the packet. Schools may submit two (2) bills. Please designate one for prelims and the other for elims. I will publish the Chambers by April 17 after registration has closed. If anyone should drop from Congress after that, we will move students from the schools with drops to even out the chambers. This year, we will be implementing a new process. When we publish the docket and chamber assignments, we will publish a Google Doc on the NYSFL website. All congress discussion should take place on the google doc. Back channel communication is highly discouraged. This will make all discussions transparent and open to all contestants. The document will be monitored, so civil discussions are expected. Any student engaging in abusive discourse will be liable to exclusion from the tournament.

9) Debate Topics: LD: Resolved that predictive policing is unjust. PF: The April NSDA topic, which will be announced next week.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Bro. John McGrory

NYSFL State Coordinator