



Catholic Forensic League of Erie

Local Affiliate of the National Catholic Forensic League

January 13, 2025

Dear Colleague:

The end of the regular season is quickly approaching, and we are a little over a month away from the CFL of Erie National Qualifying tournament, scheduled for Saturday, March 1. This year, we return to Gannon University's Palumbo Center on the southwest corner of Peach and 8th Streets in downtown Erie.

ELIGIBILITY:

- **Each** student registered for the qualifying tournament **must** have competed in at least **two** tournaments in any event throughout the current school year.
- **Each** member school **must** have participated in at least **two** regular season tournaments during the current school year.

SCHOLARSHIPS/AWARDS:

- The top **THREE** finishers in each category will qualify to represent the Erie Diocese at the Grand National Tournament to be held in Chicago, IL over Memorial Day weekend. Fourth place finishers are recognized as our alternate should one be unable to attend.
- The top four finishers 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.
- Season Champions will also be recognized with a plaque at the awards ceremony.

JUDGING GUIDELINES:

- Schools **MUST** meet judge quotas. If unable, they can only bring the number of students who can be covered by the number of judges they have.
- **An *a.m.* only judge must have a *p.m.* only judge to count as one judge towards the quota.**
- It is vitally important for the integrity of the tournament that only judges who have been **trained** in and judged CFL rules be utilized. **Former competitors can be used as judges, but they must be trained in all Speech events or their perspective debate events.**
- With that in mind, we will not accept any judge who has not had CFL of Erie training and judged in at least one of our regular season tournaments. Select your judges carefully.
- Make sure all judges are aware of the rule changes from the last few years. The binder in OI can be used as a prop. Singing, kneeling, laying down, sitting, etc. are all permitted.
- Please make sure your judges have either a laptop, tablet, or phone and are established as a judge on Tabroom.com with an account linked to your team for online balloting.
- The newest ballots can be found on <http://ncfl.org/NCFLnew/pages/ncfl-events.html>.
- **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.**

DEADLINES:

- Registration is due by **4 p.m. on TUESDAY, February 25th**. All fees freeze at that time. Competitor and judge entries need to be finalized on Tabroom.com. League director must receive the payments for registration and lunches.
- Student Congress Bills and Resolutions should be submitted to Ryan Maloney via email by **Thursday, February 20 at 4 p.m.** to give students ample time to prepare. Please make sure the legislation is in the proper format. Congress templates can be found [here](#). All schools competing in Congress must submit legislation, preferably two pieces per school so we can fill the day. Any legislation leftover from regular season tournaments will be debated first, unless withdrawn by author.
- If a student drops after the deadline, coaches can **replace** the student by Thursday, February 27 at 8 a.m. After that, no changes in student registration are permitted except for drops.
- If a judge drops after the registration deadline, coaches **MUST** find a replacement judge or drop students to meet the quota.
- Extra judges above the quota are always welcome, especially for smaller schools to help keep rounds neutral.

TOURNAMENT FACILITATION:

- The Tab Room will be closed, staffed by the Diocesan Director, current Board Members, and/or anyone else specifically asked by the Director.
- The categories of competition include Policy Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Public Forum Debate, Extemporaneous, Original Oratory, Oral Interpretation, Dramatic Performance, Duo Interpretation, Oratorical Declamation, and Student Congress.
- Three judges will be used in every room in each round.
- Oral Interpretation will have four rounds to enable students to compete twice with each piece. A coin toss will occur Saturday morning at the opening assembly to determine Prose or Poetry first and then it will alternate from there.
- As with previous years, coaches may submit questions for possible use in Extemporaneous. All questions should reach me **by 4 p.m. on Thursday, February 20**. Please send them by e-mail as a Word or PDF document attachment to Susan.Peebles@NCFL.org.

GENERAL TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE:

- Starting the day:
 - Check-in Registration 7:45 a.m. - 8:15 a.m
 - Opening Assembly 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
 - Judge Meeting 8:45 a.m.
- Round 1 for all events will begin at 9 a.m.
- Run-offs (if necessary) 2:00
- Awards Assembly 3:30 (or earlier if able)

REGISTRATION NUMBERS AND FEES:

- Each school may register **up to five** contestants in each category for a total of no more than **28 total school entries**.
- **JUDGE QUOTAS:**
 - 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)
 - Debate: 1 judge for every entry. After four entries in one debate event, the quota becomes 1 judge for every entry plus 1.
- The entry fee is **\$6/per student or \$30.00** (whichever is greater). **In addition**, there is a **school entry fee of \$20.00**. If you register three students, your registration is \$50 (\$30 minimum registration + \$20 school entry). If you register 10 students, your registration is \$80 (\$60 for students + \$20 school entry).
- Please make registration checks payable to **CFL of Erie**. Fees must be paid **on the registration deadline 4 p.m. on TUESDAY, February 25th**.
- Lunch will be catered by Serafin's Food Market again. Options are Chef Salad (meat, cheese, vegetables), Garden Salad (vegetables), Turkey/Provolone Sub (turkey, cheese, lettuce, tomato), and Combo Sub (salami, ham, cheese, lettuce, tomato). The final cost is still being negotiated but will be on Tabroom shortly.

DUE DATES:

- No changes will be accepted after the registration deadline, unless it is to change a name to replace a student (by 8 a.m. on Thursday, February 27) or to replace a dropped judge. **All judge quotas and registration fees are frozen at the close of registration on Tuesday, February 25 at 4:00 p.m. If you have student drops after the deadline, neither your judge quota nor your registration costs change.**
- All registration materials, **INCLUDING CHECKS**, must be **received** by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 25.

****Registration will not be reopened on Tabroom after this deadline so please plan ahead.****

The CFL of Erie Coaches usually stock the judges' lounge with drinks and light snacks. Please decide on what your team would like to supply for our judges throughout the day. I will provide the coffee and donuts in the morning 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,

Susan C. Peebles
CFL of Erie Director

NATIONAL QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT

REFERENCE SHEET

(Print and post for your quick reference)

Location: Palumbo Center
Gannon University

DUE DATES LISTED IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

- Wednesday, February 19
 - Last regular season tournament at Meadville
 - Last opportunity for any student to earn eligibility by competing in at least two tournaments and schools to participate in at least two.
- Thursday, February 20
 - Deadline for Congress legislation submission. Email to Ryan Maloney at maloney.ryanj@gmail.com in the proper format
 - Deadline for Extemporaneous questions due to Susan.Peebles@NCFL.org.
- Tuesday, February 25
 - Registration deadline. All students and judges listed on Tabroom.com. Registration and lunch payments due.
 - Deadline for submitting Extemp topics due to Susan.Peebles@NCFL.org
 - Checks for all registration costs, including lunches, are due by 4 p.m.
 - Hand deliver or mail payments to:
CFL of Erie; c/o Susan Peebles, Director; 3626 Hazel Street; Erie, PA 16508
- Thursday, February 27
 - Last day to replace a dropped student (name change)

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