

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 SUNY Oneonta.

2) Schedule: The schedule for debate will remain essentially the same. As we mentioned, we have changed the speech schedule. Speakers will compete in 4 rounds with 2 judges in each room. The four rounds will be set up in 6 different time slots. When we have the time slots set, we will publish the entire schedule. As in last year, preliminary rounds will be on Saturday; elimination rounds on Sunday.

3) Preregistration: Registration is open at [www.tabroom.com](http://www.tabroom.com). All registrations are due by April 11 at 9 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. As we mentioned in an earlier email, each school may enter one speech and one debate entry as a wildcard. Please put the word WILDCARD into tournament names and placement.

4) Registration: Registration will take place on Friday night. Details TBA. 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 20. Checks should be sent to: NYSFL PO Box 324 Mineola, NY 11501.

5) Judge Quotas: 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. Judges may not cover more than one event area. ALL JUDGES ARE OBLIGATED UNTIL THE END OF THE TOURNAMENT. 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 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 contestants in Congress, please designate one of your speech judges as your congress judge. If you do not have contestants in congress, but one of your judges would like to judge Congress, please designate them as a congress. 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 March 28. 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 14 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.

9) Debate Topics: The Regional Directors will discuss topics next week, after the NSDA PF topic for April is published. We will announce topics soon after that.

10) Statewide Offices: As of this point, I have been nominated for the job of State Coordinator and Joe Vaughn has been nominated for the job of Tournament Director. If anyone else has any nominations, please email them to me or your Regional Director.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Bro. John McGrory

NYSFL State Coordonator