

Dear Coaches and League Representatives,

The National Catholic Forensic League is pleased to invite middle school programs to participate in the **Online NCFL Middle School National Tournament**, to be held **Friday and Saturday, March 27–28, 2026**.

This new national event will offer both live and asynchronous competition and is designed to provide a supportive, well-run championship experience for middle school students from across the country.

Events Offered

Live (Synchronous) Events:

- Public Forum Debate
- Lincoln–Douglas Debate
- Student Congress - Notes allowed
- Extemporaneous Speaking - Notecard use allowed, but not required

Asynchronous Speech Events: Quarters/Semis/and Finals will be judged Live

- Declamation - Manuscript use allowed, but not required
- Dramatic Performance - Manuscript use allowed, but not required
- Original Oratory - Manuscript use allowed, but not required
- Duo Interpretation - Manuscript use allowed, but not required (if students advance to elimination rounds, they are encouraged, but not required to appear on the same camera)
- Prose - Manuscript Required
- Poetry - Manuscript Required

Schedule Overview

Live competition rounds will begin Friday afternoon (expected to be 5:00 PM EDT) and conclude Saturday evening. There will be a brief online award ceremony (around 9:00 PM EDT) to announce the finalists and winners.

Asynchronous speech submissions will be judged prior to live elimination rounds, with qualifying students advancing to live rounds as applicable.

Awards

We will provide certificates for download to all advancing students. There will be no physical awards distributed.

Time Zone

All times listed for the tournament will be **Eastern Daylight Time (EDT)**.

Judging Requirements

Schools must provide all required judges for their entries. Asynchronous speech events may be judged by qualified high school judges (either High School Seniors or attendees of NCFL Nationals). No hired judging will be provided.

Judge Ratios:

PF & LD Debate:	1 for 2
Speech:	1 for 4 (Student Judging Allowed)
Extemp:	1 for 4
Congress:	3 or fewer entries - one Congress Judge More than 3 entries - one Congress Judge and one Qualified Parli

Registration & Fees

- Participation
 - Middle Schools MUST be registered through their local NCFL league, and have paid the School Membership Fee of \$60 (exceptions must be sent to operations@ncfl.org).
 - The student MUST be registered through their school and must currently be enrolled in 5th through 8th grade.
- \$25 per student entry (\$40 for DUO and PF Teams)
- Entry limits apply by event (may be reviewed and updated)
 - Speech (DP/Duo/Dec/OO/Pr/Po):
 - 70 per event
 - Team Limit - 4 entries per event per school, Double-entry allowed
 - Extemporaneous Speaking
 - 70 per event
 - Team Limit - 4 entries per event per school, NO Double-entry allowed
 - Public Forum & L-D:
 - 70 Teams Max
 - 4 Per Event
 - Congress:
 - 90 per event
 - Team Limit - 4 entries per school

- Checks Payable

Please do NOT attempt to pay this invoice through tabroom!

The finances for this tournament are being handled by the

NEW YORK CATHOLIC FORENSIC LEAGUE,

on behalf of the National Catholic Forensic League.

Schools will receive an invoice directly from NYCFL, and may pay by credit card through an online link, by bank transfer that way, or may send a physical check to this address:

New York Catholic Forensic League
c/o Christopher Franz
614 Bard Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10310

Our W-9: [NYCFL W-9](#)

Important Deadlines

- Congress bills due: **March 1, 2026 to OPERATIONS@NCFL.org**
- Registration deadline (Students & Judges): **March 13, 2026**
- Asynchronous speech submissions due: **Monday, March 23, 2026**

The tournament will be hosted on Tabroom and will open for registration by the middle of February. Additional information, including detailed schedules and technology check procedures, will be shared as the event approaches.

For questions or assistance, email operations@NCFL.org.

We look forward to welcoming middle school competitors to this exciting new NCFL national event.

Sincerely,
NCFL Tournament Administration