

**FLORIDA FORENSIC LEAGUE, INC.**  
**STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT**

**March 5<sup>th</sup> – March 6<sup>th</sup> 2010**

February 12, 2010

Dear FFL Coaches,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to provide the following information regarding the **2010 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT**. The 540 students who qualify for this event will compete on **FRI. March 5<sup>th</sup> & SAT. MARCH 6<sup>th</sup>** at **UNIVERSITY SCHOOL** in Ft. Lauderdale, which is located near the beautiful sunny beaches on Florida's East Coast. Our host, Mr. Steve Schappaugh, has been working hard to prepare for a memorable State Championship!

Only students who have qualified through the Regional Tournament process may compete at the State Championship. When the results from your region's qualifying tournament have been certified, coaches of schools that qualified students to the tournament will be able to begin registering students via [tabroom.com](http://tabroom.com). The registration process will be very similar to the 2009 State Championship.

Please read the information in this invitation carefully. You must adhere to **ALL** deadlines—failure to do so will result in the penalties listed. We are committed to running an efficient and on-time event, but we will only be successful if all member schools follow the published requirements.

Good luck to your qualifiers on their preparations for the tournament. I look forward to seeing you in March!

Yours very truly,

Carol Lynne Cecil  
President, Florida Forensic League, Inc.  
2010 State Championship Tournament Director

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

*Questions on Competition, Rules, Judges*

Tournament Director: Carol Cecil  
[ccecil@dadeschools.net](mailto:ccecil@dadeschools.net)  
G. Holmes Braddock  
3601 SW 147<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Miami, Florida 33185  
305-225-9729 (School)  
305-342-9485 (Cell)

*Questions on Hotel, Directions, Meals*

Tournament Host: Steve Schappaugh  
[schappau@nova.edu](mailto:schappau@nova.edu)  
University School  
3301 College Avenue  
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33314  
(954) 262-4400 (school)  
(561) 843-9502 (cell)

**\*\*\*Email is the preferred method of contact for all questions and concerns.\*\*\***

# INFORMATION FROM FLORIDA FORENSIC LEAGUE, INC.

## CONFIRMATION OF ENTRY

Regional Directors will be sending their results to the League President. Schools will be required to enter their competitors using tabroom.com for the 2010 Varsity State Championship. The League President will verify entries on tabroom.com from the list of qualifiers supplied by the Regional Directors. **DO NOT WAIT FOR AN EMAIL CONFIRMATION TO ENTER YOUR STUDENTS.** If there is a problem with your entry, you will be contacted by the League President.

## EVENT REMINDERS

The *By Laws* and *Standing Rules* of Florida Forensic League, Inc. shall govern the operation of this event. All coaches and students are responsible for reviewing the rules in the *Governing Documents*. Questions about rules should be addressed to the President, who serves as the Tournament Director for the State Championship.

*All Events:* The use of electronic devices (except timers that are incapable of storing, retrieving, sending, or receiving other types of information) by contestants in any round of competition in any event is absolutely prohibited. This includes PFD and LD – **laptop use is permitted in Policy Debate**, all speech/interpretation events, Student Congress, and the Extemporaneous Speaking preparation room. The penalty for violation may include disqualification. Judges of debate events may elect to flow their rounds on a laptop computer, but they do not have the discretion to waive the rules governing the contestants.

*Policy Debate:* Prep time is 8 minutes per team. The tournament will use the 2009-2010 national topic— **PLEASE READ THE “ARRIVAL AT UNIVERSITY SCHOOL” SECTION FOR INFORMATION ON THE TUB DROP OFF AREA AND AN EXPEDITED FIRST ROUND SCHEDULE.**

Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase social services for persons living in poverty in the United States.

*Lincoln Douglas:* **Prep time is 4 minutes per debater.** The tournament will use the NFL March/April topic, which will be available from NFL on February 1.

Resolved: In the United States, the principle of jury nullification is a just check on government.

*Public Forum:* Prep time is 2 minutes per team. **The Final Focus will be 2 minutes in length per team.** The tournament will use the NFL March topic, which will be available from NFL on February 1.

Resolved: Affirmative action to promote equal opportunity in the United States is justified.

*Student Congress:* Each qualifier to the State Championship may submit one (1) piece of legislation for the agenda. Legislation must follow FFL format (see *FFL Congress Manual*, Appendix B for details) and emailed **as a Word attachment** to Luis Dulzaides ([ldulzaides@belenjesuit.org](mailto:ldulzaides@belenjesuit.org)). Legislation that is not properly formatted or not submitted as a Word attachment will not be placed on the agenda. Bills are due by Friday, February 19th (Please note this date falls immediately after the HARVARD TOURNAMENT), and legislation will be released to schools via the website on Wednesday, February 24th.

*Speech Events:* Please remember that a copy of each student’s script/oration, and proof of publication when applicable, should be brought to the tournament in case of protest. Script information must be available on tabroom.com. If information was entered correctly prior to your Regional Tournament then it will not need to be entered a second time. However, if script information was not entered correctly or was emailed to the Regional Director, than it must be entered on tabroom.com for the State Tournament. **Students must use the same piece at the State Championship that they used at their Regional Qualifying Tournament. Students who change pieces will be disqualified.**

**COACH ATTENDANCE RULE**

The *Head Coach* or *Assistant Coach* of a member school (as designated by the principal on the membership authorization form) qualified for the State Championship must attend with his/her students. If neither designated individual can attend the tournament, then a letter from the principal (signed and printed on school stationery) must designate the adult in charge and be submitted to the Tournament Director no later than **Wednesday, February 17th**. See the *Standing Rules* of the League for more information.

**IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES**

Saturday, January 23:	Macaw Regional Tournament
Saturday, February 06:	Timacuan, Gulf Coast, Art Deco, Panhandle, & Hurricane Regional Tournaments
Wednesday, February 10:	Deadline for all Regional Directors to submit tournament results
Thursday, February 18:	<b>Last day for schools to reserve hotel rooms</b> Deadline for all Regional Directors to submit tournament results
Wednesday, February 10:	<b>Confirmation of Entry</b> – League President Will Begin Checking Entries
Friday, February 19:	<b>Student Congress legislation deadline</b> —send bills to Luis Dulzaides ( <a href="mailto:ldulzaides@belenjesuit.org">ldulzaides@belenjesuit.org</a> )
Friday, February 19:	<b>Last Day For Competitor Entries</b> – Schools that have not entered students by this date will forfeit entries and alternates will be notified. Last day to <b>drop without penalty beyond forfeiture of entry fees</b>
Friday, February 26:	Last day to <b>drop without double drop fee</b> Last day to submit <b>TD/LD judge philosophies</b> to website Last day to <b>change judge names without penalty</b> <b>Tabroom.com</b> Changes to view only – no further changes permitted by coaches. Changes must be emailed to League President, Carol Cecil – <a href="mailto:ccecil@dadeschools.net">ccecil@dadeschools.net</a>

**ENTRY FEES**

**Make All Fees Payable To: FLORIDA FORENSIC LEAGUE**

Student Fee	=	\$25.00 <b>per student; includes Friday dinner &amp; Saturday lunch</b> (TD, PF, Duo count as 2; Group = same as # of students in group; double entries count as 1 only)
Policy Judge Fee	=	\$20.00 per team qualified; to be used to hire additional judges
Extra Fri. Dinner	=	\$ 8.00 per meal; must order for all coaches/judges/parents/student observers
Extra Sat. Lunch	=	\$ 7.00 per meal; must order for all coaches/judges/parents/student observers

**\*\*\*All fees will be calculated at the time of announcement of qualifiers in each region. Therefore, all drops—regardless of when reported—must pay the entry fee.\*\*\***

### **PENALTY FEES**

Drops until 5:00 pm on Fri., February 26th:	forfeiture of entry fee
Drops 5:00 pm Fri., Feb. 26 <sup>th</sup> -5:00 pm Tues., Mar. 2:	forfeiture of entry fee + \$20.00 drop fee

*From 5:00 pm Wed., Mar 3rd to the start of registration, NO CHANGES will be accepted. This window will be used for travel, registration sheet printing and fee re-calculation. Any changes submitted during this window will be IGNORED and must be reported at registration.*

Drop at Registration:	forfeiture of entry fee + \$40.00 drop fee
Unreported drop discovered at tournament:	forfeiture of entry fee + \$75.00 drop fee

*Yes, these drop fees are punitive. Drops, especially those just before the tournament, interfere with our ability to run an on-time event. It is also unfair to the alternates when drops occur too late for them to participate.*

Judge changes after 5:00 pm on Wed., Feb. 28:	\$10.00 hassle fee per change
Missed judge calls:	\$10.00 per instance

*At the State Championship Tournament judge drops at registration will incur a fine of \$200. Hidden judge drops at the State Championship Tournament will incur a fine of \$250 plus the \$10 fine per round they were assigned and missed.*

## **JUDGES**

The following judge quotas and requirements are in effect:

<i>Policy Debate:</i>	1 judge for every 2 teams or fraction thereof ***Note: By rule, all Policy judges must have heard a minimum of twelve rounds on this year's topic. Policy judges must submit a judge philosophy on the website by Fri., 2/26.
<i>Lincoln Douglas Debate:</i>	1 judge for every 2 debaters or fraction thereof ***LD judges must submit a judge philosophy on the website by Fri., 2/26
<i>Public Forum Debate:</i>	1 judge for every 2 teams or fraction thereof ***Plan to meet this requirement with parents and others who have limited debate/theory experience.
<i>Speech/IE</i>	1 judge for every 5 entries or fraction thereof ***A Duo team counts as 1 entry; double-entered students count as 2.
<i>Congress</i>	1 judge for every 5 entries or fraction thereof

Each school's judge quota will be determined on the [tabroom.com](http://tabroom.com) registration website. Coaches will complete a *Judge Profile Card* for each judge so that the tabulation staff can make appropriate decisions about judge use in elimination rounds. **The Board of Directors asks that all coaches make themselves available to adjudicate the Final Rounds.**

**Judges are obligated for one full round past the last round in which contestants from their school are still competing. Judges will be required to check out with the ballot table if they have completed their obligation and would like to be excused.**

**NOTE:** As a result of the 2006 voting, the governing documents now contain this under **Rule 4 (Judging Responsibilities) – Letter L: Any coach in or out of the judge pool that refuses or fails to pick up an elimination round ballot, his/her school shall be fined \$50.00 and the school of the person who judges the round shall be credited \$25.00.**

## **LEAGUE SEEKS POLICY JUDGES FOR HIRE**

FFL uses additional fees charged to Policy Debate teams for the purpose of hiring experienced judges who will enrich the quality of the TD judge pool. Interested parties should contact FFL Vice President Steve Schappau ([schappau@nova.edu](mailto:schappau@nova.edu)) before February 24th, 2010.

## **CONDUCT OF PARTICIPANTS**

Coaches, judges, other observing adults, contestants, and student observers shall comply with the rules set forth in the *FFL Civility Code*, which is available for download at [www.floridaforensics.org](http://www.floridaforensics.org) Please review this document with all participants from your school.

## **FFL PROPERTY PROTECTION POLICIES**

In the fall of 2005, FFL member schools voted to establish anti-vandalism measures. All coaches should read Standing Rule 19 and share its contents with their students, which include:

1. No contestant or student observer shall enter or remain in a contest room without a judge present. The penalty for violation of this regulation shall be immediate disqualification.
2. Vandalism of property by any person at an FFL tournament shall result in immediate notification of school and/or local police authorities. The Board of Directors shall notify the principal of the school associated with the vandal(s) in writing and insist upon appropriate remuneration. In the case of vandalism by a contestant, the additional penalty of immediate disqualification from the tournament shall also apply.

## **FINAL REGISTRATION**

Final registration will be held at the tournament hotel (**Renaissance Hotel**) on Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup> 2010. Registration will **begin at 9:00 am** and **close promptly at 10:30 am**. Please note:

1. The purpose of this registration is to pick up codes, get meal tickets from the host, and submit fees. **It is not a place to report drops and change judge names. That information should be communicated before 5:00 pm on Friday, February 26th. There are significant penalties for changes at registration.**
2. Registration should be conducted by the *Head Coach* or *Assistant Coach* for the member school. If those individuals are not available, an adult proxy may complete registration. However, that person must be able to answer all questions about a school's entry. **Students will not be permitted to register for a school or be present in the registration area.**
3. **Schools not registered by 10:30 am will be dropped from the tournament.** If a travel emergency prevents your school from getting to registration, you must call Carol Cecil (305-342-9485) by 10:15 am to prevent your school from being dropped. **Schools will not be allowed to register by phone**
4. Fees should be brought to registration; **do not mail fees in advance!**
5. Make all fees payable to FLORIDA FORENSIC LEAGUE

## **ARRIVAL AT UNIVERSITY SCHOOL**

### **Parking Information Will Be Provided At A Later Date**

All coaches/judges/students should plan to arrive on the campus of University School **no earlier than 12:45 pm and no later than 1:15 pm**. Students should report to the **SILVERMAN AUDITORIUM** for the **Opening Assembly**, which will begin at 1:30. Coaches and Judges should report to Upper School's **Dining Commons - their judges' lounge** – this is where instructions and judge call will take place for the remainder of the tournament.

**Policy Debaters and Policy Debate Judges should report to the Sonken Building.** Policy Debate Schools Teams and their tubs will go straight into the Policy Debate hallway inside Sonken, where Rounds 1 & 2 postings will be distributed at ASAP. Ballots for Policy Debate judges will also be distributed there at **THAT TIME**.

Opening meetings for judges and contestants of all events other *than Policy Debate* will begin at 1:30 pm and finish by 1:45 pm.

**After the Opening Assembly all students should go to the OUTSIDE LOBBY OF EPSTEIN CENTER – THIS IS WHERE POSTING WILL BE FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TOURNAMENT.**

## **OVERVIEW OF SCHEDULE**

1. The first 4 rounds of debate events will be held on Friday – speech will hold 3 events on Friday. Dinner will be served from 5:30 – 7:30 in the Epstein Center For Arts
2. **Debate will eat during off flight of round 3 dinner in the Epstein Center For Arts .**
3. Round and 5 for Debate will be on Saturday morning; Round 4 for Speech will be on Saturday morning - **lunch will be served between 11:00 – 12:30 pm Epstein Center For Arts .**
4. The number of contestants advancing to elimination rounds in each event will be announced at the Opening Assembly.
5. Awards will be held after the completion of final rounds in all events **except** Policy Debate, which will run on its own schedule and hold separate awards ceremonies as necessary.

**\*\*\*PLEASE SEE THE FFL MANUAL FOR INFORMATION ON HOW ROUNDS ARE PAIRED/POWERED/SECTIONED. THE TOURNAMENT WILL FOLLOW THE RULES IN THE MANUAL.**

\*\*\*There will be no published “round-by-round” schedule. Contestants and judges are expected to remain in their respective waiting areas between rounds.

\*\*\*Schools leaving the tournament prior to awards on Saturday must make arrangements for another school to pick up their ballots. Ballots will not be released prior to awards, nor will they mailed.

# INFORMATION FROM UNIVERSITY SCHOOL

## LODGING INFORMATION

It is imperative that all schools determine their lodging needs immediately after the regional tournaments and make reservations no later than **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18.**

### Official Tournament Hotel (site of registration):

We are excited to have teamed up with the Renaissance Plantation Hotel. We have set up a block of rooms for you and the rate is only \$105/night! This rate is amazing given that the hotel is a four star property and that the tournament takes place during its high season. Please plan to stay at the hotel - this is where registration takes place as well as the seminars. Information about the hotel, including how to contact them, can be found below through the provided link.

Renaissance Fort Lauderdale-Plantation Hotel  
1230 South Pine Island Rd.,  
Plantation, Florida 33324 USA  
Phone: 1-954-472-2252 Fax: 1-954-472-2295

[Tournament Hotel Reservations: Renaissance Ft. Lauderdale - Plantation](#)

## TOURNAMENT MEALS

The host school will serve a **DINNER ON FRIDAY** and **LUNCH ON SATURDAY**. By rule, the dinner and lunch fees are included in the cost of entry. **You must order extra meals for all coaches, judges, parents, observers, etc.** Information about ordering additional meals will be available when confirmations are sent.

### Friday Dinner Choices:

Moe's Southwester Burritos  
Choose Between:  
Chicken & Bean  
Beef & Bean  
Veggie  
Chicken & Beef W/out beans

All burritos will be served with a soda, chips & salsa

### Saturday Lunch Choices:

2 slices of pizza, salad, chips, cookie, and soda



## **DIRECTIONS**

### **From the North or South:**

1. I-95 or Florida Turnpike to I-595 West
2. Exit at University Drive
3. Left at traffic light and travel South on University Drive
4. Turn left on SW 36th Street. Make a left on the side road that is adjacent to the canal (directly before the parking lot) and park in the parking lot ahead.

### **From the West:**

1. I-595 East
2. Exit at University Drive
3. Right at traffic light and travel South on University Drive
4. Turn left on SW 36th Street. Make a left on the side road that is adjacent to the canal (directly before the parking lot) and park in the parking lot ahead.