

**Florida Forensic League**  
**Virtual - Regional Qualifier For Varsity State**  
**Saturday, February 04, 2023**

Dear Coach,

Happy New Year!

As you return to school from a (hopefully) restful holiday break, it's time to plan your entry for the 2023 Florida Forensic League Regional Qualifying Tournament! This event will be held **Virtually via SpeechWire and NSDA Campus** on Saturday, February 04, 2023.

This tournament is the gateway into participation in FFL activities for the remainder of the year. Please look at the table for your Region and The Number Of Qualifiers Per Event. The top entries in each event will qualify to compete at the State Championship tournament, which will be held on March 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> at the Pine View School in Osprey, FL. Whether or not your students qualify to the State Championship, participation at the Regional Tournament will allow your school to enter the Novice State & Middle School State Tournament in April – scheduled for April 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. To clarify a middle school does not need to be present at Regional Quals. They are permitted to attend Middle School State as long as they are members of FFL.

Region 3 - Gulf Coast **QUALIFIES - 2 THIS YEAR**

Here are the 4 most important things you need to know when planning your entry:

1. If your school fails to enter the Regional Tournament, it forfeits the opportunity to attend Novice State and participate in Coach of the Year voting.
  2. The number of qualifiers in each event is based on the number of schools that participate in the previous year's Regional Tournament. Thus, **it is imperative that every member high school in the region send at least one student to compete at the qualifying tournament.** If only a few schools in a region fail to participate, it could translate to losing qualifying spots in 2023!
  3. **Every student you enter into the Regional Qualifying Tournament must be available to compete at the State Championship Tournament if they qualify. There are substantial financial penalties for dropping from the State Tournament. Thus, you should make sure that every student from your school who wants to enter this tournament is available to compete on March 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>**
  4. First-year students are welcome to attend the Regional Tournament and are eligible to qualify for the State Championship. They **WILL NOT** lose their eligibility to compete at Novice State. In theory, a novice could win the State Championship and still compete at Novice State the following month!
- If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact your Regional Director.

## **QUESTIONS**

--Entries, Fees, Drops, Rules: Tournament Director – Jym Froelich - [james.froelich@sarasotacountysschools.net](mailto:james.froelich@sarasotacountysschools.net)  
--**Day of Tournament Emergencies:** Jym Froelich's Cell - (941) 786-5000

## ENTRY PROCESS

Entry will take place on [www.speechwire.com](http://www.speechwire.com) You must have a SpeechWire account to register for any of the FFL Tournaments.

**\*\*\*FFL Will Provide Legislation For The Tournament\*\*\***

## VIRTUAL TOURNAMNET REQUIREMENTS

SpeechWire student accounts are required for participation at the Regional Qualifiers and all State Tournaments. Here are some helpful videos for addressing this task.

### **Creating student accounts:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dcGivaEKSuk>

Judges will have to complete ballots online.

### **Completing electronic ballots:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YJXxeVS-KgM>

### **Preview & Test NSDA Campus here:**

<https://campus.speechanddebate.org>

## MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENT & SCHOOL-SANCTIONED ADULT

Only schools that are members of the league for 2022-2023 may participate at this tournament. Also, please remember that a school-approved adult must accompany students to the tournament (**yes even a virtual tournament**) and remain “on site” for the entire competition. If the school-approved adult is **NOT** the *Head Coach* or *Assistant Coach* on record with the league, then a letter signed by the school principal and printed on school stationery **MUST** be submitted with the school’s entry. The letter needs to specifically name the adult in charge. This person has to be able to make decisions for the team without saying that they need to call the coach. The penalty for failing to submit this document is disqualification of all contestants from the school involved.

## EVENTS OFFERED

Policy Debate	U.S. Extemp	Dramatic Interp.	Impromptu
Lincoln Douglas Debate	International Extemp	Humorous Interp.	After Dinner Speaking
Public Forum Debate	Original Oratory	Duo Interp.	Student Congress
World Schools	Informational	Program Oral Interp.	

**ALL COMPETITIVE SPEECH EVENTS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING AND IMPROMPTU WILL BE ASYNCHRONOUS**

**VIDEOS WILL NEED TO BE UPLOADED BY TUESDAY 1/31/23**

## ENTRY LIMITS

Each member school may submit up to four (4) entries per event, except in World Schools Debate. (1 entry per school).

Schools that purchased a membership supplement may enter up to four (4) additional entries per event, except in World Schools. **All entries on the supplement must be students in grade 9 (for ninth grade supplement).** Entering students in grades 10-12 on the supplemental form will result in automatic disqualification of those students. Enter mixed teams/units (eg: a 9<sup>th</sup> grader and 11<sup>th</sup> grader on a Policy Debate team) on the high school form (meaning they cannot be counted towards 9<sup>th</sup> grade supplement). 9<sup>th</sup> grade Supplements are for 9<sup>th</sup> grade students only or teams of 9<sup>th</sup> grade students.

## DOUBLE ENTRY

Double entry and double qualification is permitted, except in Policy Debate, Lincoln Douglas Debate, Public Forum Debate, World Schools, and Student Congress. Also, cross-entry between U.S. Extemp and International Extemp is prohibited.

## 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.

--*Policy Debate* will use the 2022-2023 topic - **Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase its security cooperation with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in one or more of the following areas: artificial intelligence, biotechnology, cybersecurity.**

--*Lincoln-Douglas Debate* will use the January/February topic - **Resolved: Justice requires open borders for human migration.**

--*Public Forum Debate* will use the February topic **Resolved: In the United States, right-to-work laws do more harm than good.**

--*Student Congress* will follow the FFL Congress Manual. Entries will determine the number of chambers; if there are two or more chambers, there will be a Super Congress. All schools must submit legislation (see **ENTRY PROCESS** above). Legislation will be available on the SpeechWire.com Regional website.

--*Extemporaneous Speaking Events* -

USX:

Education and Health Care

The Biden Administration

U.S. Foreign Policy

Education and Business

Military and Defense

Judicial Concerns

FX:

Asia and the Middle East

The Americas

U.S. Foreign Policy

Europe

Africa

Global Institutions

*--All Speech/Interpretation Events:*

1. There is a 30-second grace period in these events. A contestant who goes beyond the grace period may not be ranked first in that round.
2. All contestants must have a copy of their piece/oration available for review by tournament officials. Failure to present a copy of the applicable document and evidence of publication will result in disqualification.
3. **FFL has enacted changes during the Fall Vote. The membership needs to be aware of all of rule changes. These rule changes are listed on the FFL Home Page under "Results". FFL is actively working to update the Governing Documents, however coaches should review/familiarize themselves with these changes.**
4. The name of each contestant's piece/oration must be recorded on SpeechWire.com. A student may change their piece between Regional Quals and Varsity State.

### Use Of Laptop Computers & Other Technology

The use of laptop computers shall be permitted in all debate events at all FFL sanctioned Events during the 2022-2023 season as well as during all virtual speech events. During debate rounds access, use of e-mail, instant messaging, or other means of receiving information from sources inside or outside the "competition room" are prohibited. (This does not prohibit non-electronic communication between debate partners during prep time). Contestants found to have violated the provisions above may face the following actions: forfeit the round of competition and receive zero points or disqualification from the tournament and forfeiture of all rounds.

Availability of Evidence: The FFL will be following the NSDA Rules in regards to evidence in debate events.

### Rules in A Nutshell – Regarding Evidence

- Debaters are responsible for the validity of all evidence that they introduce in the debate.
- Evidence must be provided orally or written and must include primary author(s) and year of publication. Any other information such as qualifications etc... may be given, but not required.
- Judges are responsible for resolving disputes between debaters – both oral and written sources.
- Judge decisions may not be appealed unless – judge misapplied, misinterpreted, or ignored the rule.
- EVIDENCE CHALLENGES DO NOT GUARANTEE A DECISION REVERSAL

### Extemporaneous Speaking – Virtual Prep Room

In Extemporaneous Speaking, students will be permitted to use WiFi. In this instance students will join a virtual prep room. They must report on time to the virtual Extemp Prep Room and follow all instructions given to them by the Extemp Prep Room personnel.

## **RULES COMPLIANCE**

Reviewing the following documents in advance of the tournament will help to ensure that your students comply with all FFL rules and regulations. Questions regarding these rules should be addressed to the Tournament Director.

All of the following documents are available online at <https://floridaforensicsleague.com/>

### *1. FFL Governing Documents*

You should review the general tournament rules with your students.

### *2. FFL Civility Code*

This document prescribes rules of behavior that are generally observed by all contestants and adults at forensic contests. If you have inexperienced contestants and/or judges, you should give them a copy of this document.

### *3. Student Congress Manual*

You should make available a copy of this document to each of your contestants in Student Congress.

### *4. Judging*

Share this link with your judges – they can obtain online judge training - <http://www.manateedistrict.org/>

## **JUDGES & REQUIREMENTS**

**\*\* For This Tournament – FFL will be hiring judges for both the live and asynchronous events. Participating schools will no be required to provide judges.**

1. All judges should be properly trained using the statewide judging manual. Please make sure that each of your judges has their own copy; the tournament will not provide them.

2. All judges should bring and use a reliable digital timer.

3. The following judge requirements are in place for this tournament:

- Policy Debate: One judge for every two teams or fraction thereof
- Lincoln Douglas Debate: One judge for every two debaters or fraction thereof
- Public Forum Debate: One judge for every two teams or fraction thereof
- World Schools Debate: One judge for every two teams or fraction thereof
- Speech/IE, Including Congress: One judge for every five entries or fraction thereof. Each Duo team counts as one entry only.

**The Tournament Director reserves the right to disqualify students from any school that is unable to meet its judging quota.**

## ENTRY FEES

Each Contestant: \$15.00 This is a “per student” entry fee; thus events with 2 people per entry pay 2 fees; World Schools pays as many entry fees as there are students in the group; THERE IS NO ADDITIONAL FEE FOR DOUBLE ENTRY

## DROP FEES

Drops Fees are \$10 per instance in addition to the forfeiture of entry fees.

## TOURNAMENT FORMAT & SCHEDULE

*Entries Due By:* Schools must have all competitors entered via SpeechWire no later than Monday, January 16, 2023 at 5 PM.

*Final Registration:* You will receive a link to our virtual tournament Zoom – Judge Lounge / Tabroom – Registration will take place at 8:00 AM. Round One will begin at approximately 8:30 AM

The format for each event will depend on the number of entries received. The Tournament Director will publish the number of preliminary and elimination rounds (if any) along with any power-matching schemes at final registration.

## NEW FEE PROCEDURE FOR VIRTUAL TOURNAMENT

Fees are to be mailed to the FFL Treasurer – We Will Also Accept Venmo – Email Carol Cecil – [fforensicleage@gmail.com](mailto:fforensicleage@gmail.com) if you plan to pay via Venmo and she will send you the link. Mailing Address For FFL Treasurer. Fees are due no later than **FRIDAY – FEBRUARY 10, 2023**

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**Dr. Phillips HS  
ATTN – Grant Chmielewski  
6500 Turkey Lake Rd  
Orlando, FL 32819**

**Checks Should be made payable to: Florida Forensic League**