

# 2024 Varsity State Invite

## Wellington HS



January 26, 2024

Dear FFL Coaches,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to provide the following information regarding the 2024 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT. The 792 students who qualify for this event will compete on SAT. MARCH 2nd & SUN. MARCH 3rd at Wellington HS in Wellington, FL. Our host, Paul Gaba, has been working hard to prepare for a memorable State Championship!

Only students who qualified through the Regional Tournament process or who earned one of the 6 auto-qual spots via FFL-sanctioned tournaments may compete at the State Championship. When the results from your region's qualifying tournament have been certified, coaches of schools with qualified students can begin editing student entries via [speechwire.com](https://speechwire.com). All results from regionals will be automatically populated from the regional tournaments. However, coaches must verify entries for accuracy.

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.  
2024 State Championship Tournament Director

#### CONTACT INFORMATION:

Questions on Competition, Rules, Judges  
Tournament Director: Carol Cecil  
[flforensicleague@gmail.com](mailto:flforensicleague@gmail.com)

G. Holmes Braddock  
3601 SW 147<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Miami, Florida 33185

Questions on Directions and Meals  
Tournament Host: Paul Gaba  
[paul.gaba@palmbeachschools.org](mailto:paul.gaba@palmbeachschools.org)  
Wellington HS  
2101 Greenview Shores Blvd  
Wellington, FL 33414

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

**\*\*\*Only Coaches Should Contact The Executive Board Members or the Host.\*\*\***

## **INFORMATION FROM FLORIDA FORENSIC LEAGUE, INC.**

### **CONFIRMATION OF ENTRY**

Regional Directors will be sending their results to the League President. We will then import the results from [www.speechwire.com](http://www.speechwire.com) for the 2024 Varsity State Championship. All regions are using SpeechWire this year to tabulate. The League President will verify entries on the website from the list of qualifiers supplied by the Regional Directors. 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:*

#### **Laptop Computers**

The use of laptop computers shall be permitted in all debate events at all FFL-sanctioned Events during the 2023-2024 season. During debate rounds, access to or 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 regarding evidence in debate events.

#### **Rules in A Nutshell – Regarding Evidence**

- Debaters are responsible for the validity of all evidence they introduce in the debate.
- Evidence must be provided orally or written and must include the 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 – the judge misapplied, misinterpreted, or ignored the rule.
- EVIDENCE CHALLENGES DO NOT GUARANTEE A DECISION REVERSAL
- If you need further clarification, please see the NSDA Evidence Rule as posted on FFL.

Extemporaneous speaking competitors will be permitted to use the internet at all FFL-sanctioned tournaments when internet access is publicly available. Publicly available is defined as Wi-Fi internet access being available to all students competing, or all competitors will have access to desktop computers with internet availability. In the event that internet access cannot be made available to all competitors, contestants shall be prohibited from the use of any electronic retrieval system (recording or information retrieval system) now known or to be invented during any round in any event at any FFL-sanctioned tournament including the Extemporaneous Speaking preparation room(s), except that electric or electronic devices that are incapable of sending or receiving information between persons may be used for the sole purpose of keeping time. The League will make accommodations for students with disabilities regarding the use of technology. Documentation of the disability must be provided ten days before the Regional Tournament and State Tournaments. The documentation must be available for review by the Executive Board.

*Policy Debate:* Prep time is 8 minutes per team. The tournament will use the 2023-2024 National Topic.

*Resolved:* The United States federal government should substantially increase fiscal redistribution in the United States by adopting a federal jobs guarantee, expanding Social Security, and/or providing a basic income.

*Lincoln Douglas:* Prep time is 4 minutes per debater. The tournament will use the NSDA March/April topic.

*Resolved:* The primary objective of the United States criminal justice system ought to be rehabilitation.

*Public Forum:* Prep time is 3 minutes per team. The tournament will use the NSDA March topic.

*Resolved:* In the United States, collegiate student-athletes should be classified as employees of their educational institution.

*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 Microsoft Word attachment to Carol Cecil ([flforensicleague@gmail.com](mailto:flforensicleague@gmail.com)). *Legislation that is not properly formatted, not submitted as a Microsoft Word attachment, or not received by the deadline will not be placed on the agenda.* Bills are due by 4 pm Friday, February 9th and legislation will be released to schools via the website on or before Wednesday, February 14th.

*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 [www.speechwire.com](http://www.speechwire.com). **Students are no longer required to use the same piece at the State Championship that they used at their Regional Qualifying Tournament. Should a student wish to change their piece, the coach must input the new information online via SpeechWire.**

## TOPIC AREAS

USX:

Round 1 US Foreign Policy

Round 2 Economics and Business

Round 3 The 2024 Election Cycle

Round 4 Legislative Affairs

Round 5 The Judicial Branch

Semis Arts, Pop Culture, and Society

Finals Social Inequalities

Semis clarification: Questions may include anything found on the pages of Entertainment Weekly, ESPN, the Arts/Culture section of the NY Times, etc...

FX:

Round 1 US Foreign Policy

Round 2 Elections 2024

Round 3 Global Institutions

Round 4 Western Hemispheric Affairs

Round 5 Eastern Hemispheric Affairs

Semis Historical Revisionism

Finals International Relations

Semis clarification: The questions will pose a What If scenario reversing a historical fact and pose a question on it. An example: Joe Biden never withdraws American troops from Afghanistan. What is the Taliban doing now to regain control of the nation?

IMP:

Round 1 Song Lyrics from the Superbowl

Round 2 Jeopardy Triple Stumpers

Round 3 Famous Floridians

Round 4 Toys and Games

Round 5 Recently in Stuff

Semis It's Memeable

Finals Quotations

Semis clarification: Prompts will be visual memes from the internet\*

### WORLD SCHOOLS DEBATE MOTIONS

WORLD SCHOOLS DEBATE - Please vote and encourage your students to vote for the World Schools Debate - Florida Topic. Coaches and students can vote as many times as they like.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FDSDFWB>

WORLD SCHOOLS DEBATE - Will have 6 preliminary rounds

Round 1 – Impromptu

Round 2 – Prepared

Round 3 – Impromptu

Round 4 – Prepared

Round 5 – Prepared

Round 6 - Impromptu

Quarters – Prepared

Semis – Impromptu

Finals – Prepared (Florida motion)

Round 2 - This House regrets the precedent set by the U.S. Supreme Court case Mahanoy Area School District v. B.L.

Round 4 - This House believes that supranational organizations have an obligation to respect the sovereign rights of its members.

Round 5 - This House believes the mandatory use of standardized test scores in the college admissions process does more harm than good.

Quarters - This House prefers that democratic governments require their citizens to vote in national elections.

### 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 14th. See the *Standing Rules* of the League for more information.

### IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Saturday, February 03:  | Timacuan, Macaw, Gulf Coast, Art Deco, Panhandle, Hurricane & Gullah Geechee Regional Tournaments   |
| Monday, February 05:    | Deadline for all Regional Directors to submit tournament results  |
| Wednesday, February 07: | Confirmation of Entry – Officers will begin checking entries  |
| Friday, February 9:     | Student Congress legislation deadline – send bills to Carol Cecil ( <a href="mailto:flforensicleague@gmail.com">flforensicleague@gmail.com</a> ) by 4pm.<br>Last day to drop without penalty beyond forfeiture of entry fees  |
| Friday, February 23:    | Last day to drop without double drop fee<br>Last day to submit TD/LD judge philosophies to SpeechWire.<br>Last day to change judge names without penalty<br>SpeechWire changes to view only – no further changes permitted by coaches. Changes must be emailed to League President Carol Cecil – <a href="mailto:flforensicleague@gmail.com">flforensicleague@gmail.com</a> |
| Wednesday, February 28: | Judge strikes will be released. Strikes must be completed on Speechwire.  |

## ENTRY FEES

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

Student Fee	= <u>\$50.00 per student</u> (includes Saturday Lunch & Sunday Lunch)  (TD/PF/Duo count as 2; WSD = # of students in group; double entries only count as 1)
Judge Meals	= are included in with the student entry fees You will only need to order extra meals for persons not listed in the judge pool
Extra Saturday Lunch	= \$10.00 per meal; <u>must</u> order for all persons not in the judge pool
Extra Sunday Lunch	= \$10.00 per meal; <u>must</u> order for all persons not in the judge pool

\*\*\*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 5pm on Friday, February 23 <sup>rd</sup>	forfeiture of entry fee
Drops 5pm Friday, Feb. 23 <sup>rd</sup> - 5pm Wednesday, Feb. 28 <sup>th</sup> :	forfeiture of entry fee + \$20.00 drop fee

*From 5pm Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> to the start of the tournament, NO CHANGES will be accepted. This window will be used for travel, e-registration, and fee re-calculation. Any changes submitted during this window will be IGNORED and must be reported via e-registration on Thursday, February 29<sup>th</sup>.*

Drops after 5pm Wednesday, February 28 <sup>th</sup> –10am Thursday, February 29 <sup>th</sup> :	forfeiture of entry fee + \$40.00 drop fee
Drops made after 10am Thursday, February 29 <sup>th</sup> :	forfeiture of entry fee + \$50.00 drop fee
Unreported drop discovered at the 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 5pm on Wednesday, February 28 <sup>th</sup>	\$10.00	hassle fee per change
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Missed judge calls:

\$25.00

per instance

*At the State Championship Tournament, judge drops at registration will incur a \$300 fine. Hidden judge drops at the State Championship Tournament will incur a \$350 fine plus the \$25 fine per round they were assigned and missed.*

### DEBATE JUDGE CHANGE FEES

In the event that a school changes or drops a judge after the strike sheet for debate has been published, the school making the change shall be required to pay a "Hired Judge" Fee of \$300.

### JUDGES

Coaches will be required to complete a judge ranking form for every judge representing their team. We already have a Google Form set up for the Speech Pool and Debate will soon follow. You may revisit the form and edit it as needed. You can currently complete up to 3 judge ratings per form,

Speech Judge Link - <https://forms.gle/gXF9iXtwtoxkfD317>

Debate Judge Link - <https://forms.gle/jtTbcMzC5eBQDS2s9>

JUDGING - Schools cannot hire out their entire judging obligation. Schools must provide qualified judges. A limited number of judges will be available for hire. The cost is \$300.

### Hire A Judge

If you would like to request to hire a judge, please complete this request - <https://forms.gle/6Bg7FRq3xzK3MyGb8>

We cannot guarantee that all hired judge requests will be fulfilled. You will be notified when we have found a hired judge and are able to fulfill your request. Requests will be processed in the order in which they are received.

Once FFL has fulfilled your request for a hired judge, your fees for that hired judge are locked.



The following judge quotas and requirements are in effect:

*Policy Debate:* 1 judge for every 2 teams or fraction thereof; Policy judges must submit a judge philosophy via SpeechWire website by Friday, February 23rd

*Lincoln Douglas Debate:* 1 judge for every 2 debaters or fraction thereof; LD judges must submit a judge philosophy via SpeechWire website by Friday, February 23rd

*Public Forum Debate:* 1 judge for every 2 teams or fraction thereof; PFD judges must submit a judge philosophy via SpeechWire website by Friday, February 23rd

*Speech/IE/Congress* 1 judge for every 5 entries or fraction thereof; A Duo team counts as 1 entry; double-entered students count as 2. **All schools are required to designate 1 judge who can judge Student Congress, even if the school has no Congress Entries.**

**ALL SCHOOLS MUST DESIGNATE 1 JUDGE THAT CAN JUDGE WORLD SCHOOLS DEBATE, EVEN IF THE SCHOOL DOES NOT QUALIFY A WORLD SCHOOLS TEAM. THE SAME APPLIES FOR STUDENT CONGRESS.**

Each school's judge quota will be determined on the [speechwire.com](http://speechwire.com) registration website. The Board of Directors asks that all coaches make themselves available to adjudicate out rounds.

**Judges are obligated for the duration of the tournament.**

### ENTOURAGE RULE

The Entourage Rule states that individuals who provide coaching or research support for participants in the Policy, PFD, LD, or Congressional Debate must fulfill certain obligations as judges. Specifically:

1. For Policy, PFD, LD: Coaches or research support individuals must be entered in the judge pool for a minimum of two rounds. They should also be available to judge elimination debates.
2. For Congressional Debate: Coaches or research support individuals must be entered as judges and be available for elimination debates.

Note - If there is a valid reason why someone requires an exception to these obligations, they should contact tournament administrators (Brian McAninch - [flforensicleaguecommunications@gmail.com](mailto:flforensicleaguecommunications@gmail.com)) before the tournament to seek approval

Consequences for violating the Entourage Rule are as follows:

1. Policy, LD, and PFD They will lose their strikes (if offered).
2. Schools with Congressional Debaters: They will be fined the fee for an uncovered judge (\$300).

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 DEBATE 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 Brian McAninch ([flforensicleaguecommunications@gmail.com](mailto:flforensicleaguecommunications@gmail.com)) before February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

### 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 <https://floridaforensicsleague.com/>. Please review this document with all participants from your school. It was updated this calendar year and can be found on the FFL Website.

### 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.

### E – REGISTRATION

This year we will be using E-Registration. The FFL Varsity State Tournament will be held on Saturday, March 2nd, and Sunday, March 3rd, with E-Registration taking place on Wednesday, February 28, 2024. All schools that will be attending the 2024 Varsity State Tournament will

receive their school codes, Wellington HS arrival information, and expedited registration procedures for Saturday morning via email on Wednesday, February 28th, 2024.

**FEE PAYMENT - FEE PAYMENT - FEE PAYMENT - FEE PAYMENT - FEE PAYMENT**

**FEES WILL BE COLLECTED IN PERSON ON SATURDAY MORNING – DO NOT MAIL FEES**

### FINAL REGISTRATION

Final registration will be held at Wellington High School on Saturday, March 2nd, 2024. We will provide further information as to time and place. Please note:

1. The purpose of this registration is to make final payment and pick-up meal tickets. It is not a place to report drops and change judge names. That information should be communicated via E-Registration. There are still penalties for drops and name changes made via E-Registration, but they are less than day of tournament changes.
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 a time to be determined will be dropped from the tournament.
4. Make all fees payable to FLORIDA FORENSIC LEAGUE.

### Tournament Hotels

FFL has secured two sets of room blocks at two different locations. Hotels are at a premium because it is polo season in Palm Beach and spring break.

#### **Holiday Inn Palm Beach-Airport Conf Ctr, an IHG Hotel**

Address: 1301 Belvedere Rd, West Palm Beach, FL 33405

Phone: (561) 659-3880

\$209/Night

RESERVATION CUTOFF DATE 2/9/24

Approximate Distance from Wellington HS (26 Minutes / 15.1 miles)

Reservation Link:

<https://www.holidayinn.com/redirect?path=rates&brandCode=HI&localeCode=en&regionCode=1&hotelCode=PBIAT&checkInDate=01&checkInMonthYear=022024&checkOutDate=03&checkOutMonthYear=022024&PMID=99801505&GPC=FFL&cn=no&viewfullsite=true>

## **Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott West Palm Beach**

Address: 2045 Vista Pkwy, West Palm Beach, FL 33411

Phone: (561) 227-3040

\$269/Night

RESERVATION CUTOFF DATE 2/9/24

Approximate Distance from Wellington HS (23 Minutes / 12.2 miles)

Reservation Link:

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1691503007619&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

### **ARRIVAL AT WELLINGTON HS**

All students, coaches, judges, etc. should enter through the traffic light entrance on Greenview Shores Blvd. Entrance to the actual school grounds will be via the main gate (north side of the main parking lot).

For buses, after turning off Greenview Shores into the campus drive, there is a gate almost immediately on the right; please use this to access the parking lot/school entrance.

STUDENTS SHOULD REPORT TO THE CAFETERIA AND JUDGES/COACHES/PARENTS SHOULD REPORT TO THE MEDIA CENTER. REGISTRATION WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE MEDIA CENTER.

### **GUEST WIFI INFORMATION**

Guest Wifi:

Name: **District wifi**

Password: **beourguest**

### **OVERVIEW OF SCHEDULE**

We will do our best to provide a schedule ahead of time, but we are not obligated to do so. An updated schedule will be posted online at [Speechwire.com](https://www.speechwire.com). Please refer there for any updates. Also, keep in mind that the schedule is subject to change. Therefore, please make sure to check online frequently and/or read e-mails.

### **TOURNAMENT MEALS**

The host school will serve LUNCH on Saturday and LUNCH on Sunday. Items will be available on Sunday, but students should bring money to purchase items a la carte. By rule, the meal fees are included in the cost of entry. Meal options can be found online at SpeechWire when the site is opened for registration.

### **Meal Info**

SATURDAY / STUDENTS - Cheese Pizza; Pepperoni Pizza; Garden Salad

SUNDAY / STUDENTS - Ham & Cheese Sub; Italian Sub; Turkey Sub; Veggie Sub

ADULTS - Buffet (both days)

There will also be a *Debater Dollar Store* in the cafeteria, where assorted snacks and beverages will be available for \$1 each. Cash sales only (Sorry - no PayPal, Zelle, CashApp, Venmo, etc.).

### **IMPORTANT ROOMS TO KNOW**

Tabulation Room - 3-102/LDLC

Judge Lounge - Lecture Hall

Extemp Prep - 1-147/1-149

World Schools Prep - Media Center