

# 2024 Novice State Invite

## Apopka HS

March 9, 2024

Dear FFL Coaches,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to provide the following information regarding the **2024 NOVICE STATE TOURNAMENT & MIDDLE SCHOOL STATE TOURNAMENT**, to be held on **SAT., APRIL 13th & SUN. April 14th** is on the campus of **APOPKA HS** in Apopka, Florida (Orlando Area). Our host, Cathy Brown, is carefully planning a wonderful experience for your novice and middle school students.

Please remember that the Novice State Tournament & Middle School State Tournament is only open to those member schools that actually competed with at least one student in a Regional Qualifying tournament (this does not apply to middle schools). Schools that do not meet the above requirements will be unable to register for the tournament. Registration will take place via [www.speechwire.com](http://www.speechwire.com)

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 novices and middle school students preparing for the tournament. I look forward to seeing you in April!

Yours very truly,

Carol Lynne Cecil  
President, Florida Forensic League, Inc.  
2024 Novice & Middle School 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: Cathy Brown  
[cathy.brown@ocps.net](mailto:cathy.brown@ocps.net)

Apopka HS  
555 Martin St,  
Apopka, FL 32712

**\*\*\*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.**

#### **SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY**

In order to register for this tournament, a school must:

1. Hold membership in the Florida Forensic League for the 2023-2024 school year, **AND**
2. Attend and compete at least one (1) student at the regional qualifying tournament in the region to which the school was assigned.

Any school that registers for Novice State without meeting the above requirements will be notified that its students are ineligible to compete.

#### **MIDDLE SCHOOL TOURNAMENT ELIGIBILITY**

1. Any student in grades 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> is eligible and may continue to compete in this tournament until they reach high school. Schools must be member schools, as previously mentioned.
2. If you are a middle school that did not initially join FFL, you may do so, and we will add registration fees to your tournament fees – School Registration/Membership Fees will be \$35.

Please go to the FFL website <https://floridaforensicleague.org/middle-school/> There is a file that must be downloaded, signed, and returned to Carol Cecil via Email at [flforensicleague@gmail.com](mailto:flforensicleague@gmail.com)

Any school that registers for the Middle School Tournament without meeting the above requirements will be notified that its students are ineligible to compete.

## **NOVICE ELIGIBILITY**

From the *Standing Rules* of the Florida Forensic League:

### RULE 8: ELIGIBILITY FOR NOVICE STATE COMPETITORS

## **PLEASE READ CAREFULLY – THESE REQUIREMENTS HAVE CHANGED!!!!**

In order to compete at the Novice State Tournament, students must meet **all** of the following requirements:

1. The student must not have competed at any previous Novice State Tournament.
2. This is the first year of competition as a high school student (grades 9 through 12). If the student has competed in a total of two or fewer tournaments in previous high school years, that student would/shall still be considered a Novice competitor.
3. Middle School students will no longer compete at Novice State, but we are offering a Middle School State Tournament so they can sign up for that tournament – which is running in conjunction with the 2023 Novice State Tournament.
4. Please note that a student's novice eligibility is not affected by his/her performance in the 2023 Regional Qualifying and State Championship tournaments. In theory, a novice could compete at regionals, qualify to the State Championship Tournament, win a State Championship, and still compete at Novice State!

## **EVENTS & ENTRY LIMITS**

This tournament offers competition for **NOVICE EVENTS** in the following fourteen events: TD, LD, PF, SC, ADS, DEC, DI, DUO, MX, HI, IMP, INFO, OO, POI **Due to a new rule change – an event must have 6 competitors/teams registered for the event to be considered viable. If an event drops below 6 entries - that event will not be held. The Executive Board will examine numbers for events on Wednesday, April 3, 2024. If, at that time, an event does not have at least 6 entries, then the event will be closed and not held at the 2024 Novice State Tournament/ Middle School State Tournament.** Double-entry is permitted but only under limited circumstances; see below in the section on double-entry for more information. Each member school is entitled to a maximum of six (6) entries in each event for Novices and six (6) entries in each event for Middle School. **We will be instituting a waitlist. Entries more than six (6) are not guaranteed entry.**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL EVENTS** - TD, LD, PF, SC, DEC, DI, DUO, MX, HI, IMP, INFO, OO, PROSE, POETRY

**EVENTS MAY FILL BEFORE REGISTRATION CLOSES!**

## **DOUBLE ENTRY**

Free double-entry is a membership benefit provided to all member schools. However, there is no double entry in TD, LD, PF, and Student Congress. Double entry is permitted in all other combinations of events. **For Novice State, each school is limited to a maximum of five (5) double-entered students. For Middle School State, each school is limited to a maximum of five (5) double-entered students.**

## **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.**

### 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**

In Extemporaneous Speaking, students can access information on jump drives, which will be screened by a tournament official/extemp prep room proctor. Competitors will be permitted to use the internet at all FFL Sanctioned Tournaments when internet access is publicly available. Publicly available being defined as – WiFi internet access is 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 in regard to the use of technology. Documentation of the disability must be provided ten days prior to the 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 April topic.

*Resolved:*

*Student Congress:* Each school 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 Paul Gaba ([flforensicleague.vp@gmail.com](mailto:flforensicleague.vp@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, March 22nd and legislation will be released to schools via the website on or before Wednesday, March 27th.*

*Speech Events:* Please remember that a copy of each student's script and proof of publication, when applicable, should be brought to the tournament in case of protest. You will be required to enter script titles and ISBN information on [www.speechwire.com](http://www.speechwire.com) . **For Oratorics coaches should have a copy of competing OOs with highlighted quoted words and a works cited page in MLA format.**

## **TOPIC AREAS**

Topic areas for Novice/MS States will be:

### **Mixed Extemp:**

Round 1-

Round 2-

Round 3-

Round 4-

Round 5-

Quarters-

Semis-

Finals-

### **Impromptu:**

Round 1-

Round 2-

Round 3-

Round 4-

Round 5-

Quarters-

Semis-

Finals-

## **COACH ATTENDANCE RULE**

The *Head Coach* or *Assistant Coach* of a member school (as designated by the principal on the membership authorization form) 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, April 3rd**. See the *Standing Rules* of the League for more information. Carol Cecil – flforensicleague@gmail.com

## **ENTRY PROCEDURE**

1. SpeechWire will be used to submit entries, judges, and meals for Novice/Middle School State. By rule, only the *Head Coach* or *Assistant Coach* of a member school may register for that school. Entries submitted from accounts opened or maintained by anyone other than a registered coach will be deleted.
2. Entries will be accepted on [www.speechwire.com](http://www.speechwire.com) beginning **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13<sup>th</sup>**. From March 13<sup>th</sup> until Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm, schools can add or delete contestants, judges, and meals at will. The website will automatically reconfigure fees as changes are submitted. **REMEMBER – EVENTS MAY CLOSE BEFORE REGISTRATION CLOSURES – IF EVENTS BECOME FULL WE WILL INSTITUTE A WAITLIST – ENTRIES WILL BE CLEARED ONLY IF SPACE BECOMES AVAILABLE**
3. **Entries will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. Registration may close prior to the announced deadline if high entry volume causes the host school's facility to reach capacity.**
4. **At 5:00 pm on Monday, April 8th, registration will close.**
  - No adds will be accepted after this date.
  - Meal orders will also be finalized at this time. Any school that has not ordered enough meals for all contestants will automatically have additional regular Friday dinners and additional Saturday lunches added to its order.
  - Fees will also be calculated. Drops after this date will forfeit the entry fee.
5. **From 5:00 pm on Monday, April 8th to noon on Thursday, April 11th, all contestant drops, contestant name changes, and judge changes must be emailed to Carol Cecil (flforensicleague@gmail.com) and Brian McAninch (flforensicleaguecommunications@gmail.com).** Receipt of emailed changes will be acknowledged and the SpeechWire website will be updated to reflect those changes. Coaches will be able to log in to [www.speechwire.com](http://www.speechwire.com) to view their entry and invoice, but will not be able to make changes themselves. Please note that changes made after April 11th at 5:00 pm will incur additional penalty fees beyond forfeiture of entry fees.

## **IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES**

Wed, March 13:	Entry period begins on <a href="http://www.speechwire.com">www.speechwire.com</a>
Fri, March 22 @ 4:00 pm:	Student Congress legislation deadline; submit bills to Paul Gaba ( <a href="mailto:fiforensicleague.vp@gmail.com">fiforensicleague.vp@gmail.com</a> )
Wed, April 03:	Last day to submit supervising adult letter
Monday, April 8 @ 5:00 pm:	<b>Entry period ends</b> —no adds allowed; drops forfeit entry fee <b>Last Day To Drop Without Penalty Beyond Forfeiture Of Entry Fees Before 5PM</b>
Thursday, April 11 @ 5:00 pm:	Forfeit entry fee + \$15.00 drop fee
Friday, April 12 @ Noon:	Final drop deadline— forfeit entry fee + \$30.00 drop fee

## **ENTRY FEES**

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

**Make All Fees Payable To:**

**FLORIDA FORENSIC LEAGUE**

**DO NOT MAIL FEES IN ADVANCE**

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



Student Fee = **\$50.00 per student; includes Saturday Lunch & Sunday Lunch** (TD, PF, Duo count as 2)

Judge Meals = \$10.00 per meal/day

Extra Saturday Lunch = \$10.00 per meal; must order for all persons not in the judge pool

Extra Sunday Lunch = \$10.00 per meal; must order for all persons not in the judge pool

While conducting meal audit, meals may be adjusted by tournament personnel to reflect meals for all coaches, judges, parents, and observers in attendance – even if the aforementioned parties are not listed in the judge pool.

### **PENALTY FEES**

Drops 5:00 pm Mon., April 8 to 5:00 pm Thurs., April 10: forfeit entry fee

Drops 5:00 pm Thurs., April 10 to Noon on Fri., April 11: forfeit entry fee + \$15.00 drop fee

Drop after Noon on Fri., April 11 or at registration: forfeit entry fee + \$30.00 drop fee

Unreported drop discovered at tournament: forfeit entry fee + \$50.00 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.***

Judge changes after 5:00 pm on Mon., April 17:	\$10.00 hassle fee per change
Failure to provide documentation of a student judge's 250+ NSDA points to registration:	\$10.00 hassle fee per student judge
You can email Carol Cecil <a href="mailto:flforensicleague@gmail.com">flforensicleague@gmail.com</a>	
Missed judge calls:	\$10.00 per instance in prelims \$50.00 per instance in elims
Failure to enter script information	\$10.00 per instance

## **JUDGES**

This is a tournament where **Juniors and Seniors** with a minimum of **250 NSDA points** are permitted to judge. You may provide proof of NSDA points in one of two ways: 1) Submit NSDA Points via email to Carol Cecil – [flforensicleague@gmail.com](mailto:flforensicleague@gmail.com) by Friday, April 11, 2024 2) Bring a copy of the NSDA Points to registration. Please only bring enough judges to cover your obligations.

**Sophomores** with a minimum of **250 NSDA points** are permitted to judge in the Middle School Division.

**ALSO, PLEASE DISCUSS THE IMPORTANCE OF JUDGING WITH YOUR STUDENTS! DON'T ASSUME THAT THEY KNOW EVENT RULES. ALSO, WE WILL NOT TOLERATE JUDGES (ADULTS OR STUDENTS) BEING RUDE OR DISCOURTEOUS TO STUDENT COMPETITORS. WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REMOVE JUDGES FROM THE POOL.**

The following judge quotas and requirements are in effect:

<i>Policy Debate:</i>	1 judge for every 2 teams or fraction thereof
<i>Lincoln Douglas Debate:</i>	1 judge for every 2 debaters or fraction thereof
<i>Public Forum Debate:</i>	1 judge for every 2 teams or fraction thereof

\*\*\*A Duo team counts as 1 entry; double-entered students count as 2.

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

**ALL SCHOOLS MUST DESIGNATE 1 JUDGE THAT CAN JUDGE STUDENT CONGRESS, EVEN IF THE SCHOOL DOES NOT HAVE STUDENT CONGRESS ENTRIES.**

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.

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

## **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.

## **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.

**THERE WILL BE NO E-REGISTRATION FOR NOVICE STATE SCHOOLS MUST REGISTER IN PERSON ON SATURDAY AM 4/12/24 AT APOPKA HS**

## **FINAL REGISTRATION**

1. Final registration will be held at the Apopka HS - on Saturday, April 12, 2024. Registration will **begin at 7:30 AM** and **close promptly at 8:30 AM**. Please note:
2. The purpose of this registration is to make final payment (unless fees were mailed in advance) and pick-up school codes and meal tickets. **It is not a place to report drops and change judge names.**
3. 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.
4. **Students will not be permitted to register for a school or be present in the registration area.**
5. **Schools not registered by 8:30 AM will be dropped from the tournament**
6. Make all fees payable to FLORIDA FORENSIC LEAGUE.

## **SPRING MEETING**

The FFL will return to the format of hosting a Spring Meeting in-person at the Novice/Middle School State Tournament. We will provide more information on that in the future, but we have generally had the meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day. Coaches may submit items for the Spring Meeting Agenda via Google Form - <https://forms.gle/XpwKV5MHSvsgDzd39>

## **ARRIVAL AT APOPKA HS**

More Information Will Be Forthcoming

## **OVERVIEW OF SCHEDULE**

We will publish a tentative schedule as we get closer to the event.

## **TOURNAMENT MEALS**

The host school will serve a **LUNCH ON SATURDAY** and **LUNCH ON SUNDAY**. By rule, student lunch fees are included in the cost of entry. Judge meals are \$10. **You must order extra meals for all coaches, parents, and observers who are not listed in the judge pool.** While conducting meal audit, meals may be adjusted by tournament personnel to reflect meals for all coaches, judges, parents, observers in attendance – even if the aforementioned parties are not listed in the judge pool.

### **Saturday Lunch**

TBD

### **Sunday Lunch**

TBD

## **CONCESSIONS**