**NEW ORLEANS CATHOLIC FORENSIC LEAGUE**

**2020 DIOCESAN CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**NATIONAL QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT FOR THE GRAND NATIONALS**

February 10, 2020

Dear Coaches,

***Please read the entire invitation very carefully. Although many parts of the tournament will be run like our regular season tournaments throughout the year, there are enough differences to warrant paying careful attention.***

The New Orleans Catholic Forensic league will hold its Diocesan Championship and National Qualifier on March 4 or 5 (Congress) and March 6 and 7, 2020 (all other events). Congress competition is now scheduled to be held at Isidore Newman School, 1903 Jefferson Avenue, New Orleans, 70115 with all other speech and debate competition being held at Christ Episcopal School, 80 Christwood Blvd**.,** Covington, LA 70433 (Please note that CES is across the lake and you may want to stay overnight on Friday rather than drive both days).

Only events that will take place at the National Tournament will be offered and we will be following the national rules. The events being offered are: Declamation (9th & 10th graders only), Extemporaneous Speaking, Original Oratory, Oral Interpretation, Dramatic Performance (*HI and DI are combined into a single event*), Duo Interpretation (*no binders*), Congress, Lincoln Douglas Debate, Public Forum Debate, and Policy Debate. No novice or junior divisions will be held in any event. Coaches are to submit original copies (books, scripts, oratories) at registration of material being performed and/or presented**.**

## Member schools can enter six (6) contestants in Congress and as many competitors as they wish in speech and other debate events. We are using the online registration site, Tabroom.com, for registration. Most local tournaments now use Tabroom.com for their tournaments, so you should already have a Tabroom.com account. If you do not have a Tabroom.com account, you will need to set up an account to register. Please contact Alma Nicholson if you need assistance. Please pay attention to the competition schedule as it varies from regular season tournaments. Please see the fee structure following the invitation. The fees are also noted on Tabroom.com.

## Congress competition details have now been finalized – congress will take place on ***Thursday***, **March 5**, 2020. At this point, we will use the February 2019 LHSSL docket, so the docket will not be posted to Tabroom. If the docket is updated at a reasonable point between now and the tournament, we may consider using that docket. To access February legislation, go to the LHSSL site and click on download link. You will see a box that is labeled “Congress.” Click on the box, then click on “legislation,” and scroll down to the February 2019 docket. No copies of the legislation will be available at the Congress tournament. Please ensure that your students have their own copy of the legislation.

## Duo and Debate preliminary rounds will take place on ***Friday***, **March 6**, 2020. All IE rounds and the debate and duo final elimination round (if it needs to move) will take place on ***Saturday***, **March 7**, 2020. If possible, we will expedite the competition schedule. Please do not leave campus during the tournament. If we speed up the schedule and competitors are not present due to leaving campus, there is a strong possibility that forfeitures will be enforced.

**Judging Notes (Important):**

***We cannot run an efficient and fair tournament without the necessary judges*.**  All too often we have not been able to run events because of judging conflicts created when member schools provide too many school/team conflicted judges. Therefore, schools *that are required to bring at least 4 judges in debate, duo, or speech* **must provide** **community judges** to fulfill at least half of their commitment. Our definition of a community judge is one who is not affiliated with any school in the tournament. Thus, he/she will be able to judge any competitor.

If a school is required to provide some community judges and is unable to do so, the team coach may choose to “hire” a judge from the NOCFL for a fee of $75 per judge. If your school needs to “hire” a judge from the NOCFL, you will need to email **Alma Nicholson** by Friday, February 27 (preferable) or by Monday March 2 (at the latest). You *will not* be able to “hire” judges through the (Tabroom.com registration program.

Schools who owe fewer than four judges may bring community judges or school-conflicted judges to fulfill this obligation, but the expectations in their knowledge of rules and tournaments procedure remain the same. *Schools owing fewer than four judges in an area* ***cannot*** *hire judges through the tournament.*

It is also our expectation that you ensure that all of your judges (even those from the community) have **relevant** experiences that qualify them as a judge. For example, lawyers may make for strong debate or public speaking judges. Actors may make for strong interp judges. Others who have judged frequently or who were former competitors may make for strong judges as well. We further expect that you spend time training your judges on how to fill out a ballot correctly and on what the rules for the various events are.

Regardless of whether you are using school judges or community volunteers, we need the names of your judges in advance. This means you should plan to **enter judge names by Wednesday, March 4 at 3:00 p.m**. Please provide us with the years of experience for the judge or other qualifications. We will re-verify your judges’ names and experience at tournament registration. If you have judge changes at that time, we will also need those names and experience.

**Please note:** Not providing enough judges as required may result in Team Event and IE forfeits. Judge no-shows during the tournament may result in judge fines. Please plan now to ensure that your school meets the tournament judging obligations. **A *coaches’ meeting*** will be held on ***Saturday*, *prior to Awards***, to determine who will represent the New Orleans Catholic Forensic League at the Grand Nationals over Memorial Day weekend in Sacramento. The Awards Assembly will recognize the finalists in all events and announce those who will represent us at Nationals. **At the time I am processing this document, we have enough schools that have both completed the membership forms and paid their membership dues to definitely send 4 competitors in each event** to Nationals.

## Regardless of the number of events students enter, contestants may compete in only one category at Nationals. Therefore, you should meet with your team members in advance of the competition to find out 1) if they wish to compete at Nationals (i.e., seniors often have conflicts with graduation) and 2) which category they would prefer to go in if qualifying in more than oneevent.*There is a special form at the end of this invitation that you may find helpful as you prepare for the coaches’ meeting*. This form is for your own use; you do not need to turn it in to us. **Please note** that once qualifying positions are forfeited by the end of the meeting, they cannot be reclaimed. Further, once the Moderator has submitted our entry to NCFL, a penalty fee will be issued for students dropping out. Please plan carefully, so that when you accept a competition slot, you are reasonably sure that your competitor will be able to attend the tournament. A reminder about choosing events will be sent out closer to the tournament date.

## **Please enter your Congress contestants by 3:00 p.m. on *Friday, February 28, 2020*.** This deadline is necessary in order to plan for food. No Congress entries will be accepted after Monday, March 02. **Please complete your entries for all other events by 3:00 p.m. on *Monday, March 02*, 2019.** You may submit **drops and name changes for Speech and Debate events through 3:00 p.m. on *Tuesday, March 03*, 2020**. After that time you will need to call or email Alma Nicholson with any drops or name changes.

## We look forward to this championship tournament and learning who will represent New Orleans at the National tournament. Please do not hesitate to contact Alma Nicholson if you have questions regarding the Diocesan Tournament.

## Sincerely,

## Alma Nicholson, Isidore Newman School

## NOCFL Tournament Director

Cell: 312-498-5073

Email: almanicholson@newmanschool.org

Barbara Fontenot, retired

NOCFL Moderator

Tournament Host

Kristi Jacobs-Stanley, Mount Carmel Academy

NOCFL Assistant Moderator

Lisa Geary and Anne-Liese Juge Fox

Tournament Host

**Deadlines:**

Congress Entry Due: Friday, February 28, 2020 (3:00 p.m.)

Non-Congress Entry Due: Monday, March 02, 2020 (3:00 p.m.)

Drops/Name Changes Due: Tuesday, March 03, 2020 (3:00 p.m.)

Judge Name Entry Due: Tuesday, March 03, 2020 (3:00 p.m.)

Last Day to “Hire” Judges: Friday, February 28, 2020 – preferred (3:00 p.m.)

(See “judging notes” on pp. 1-2) Monday, March 02, 2020 – at the latest (3:00 p.m.)

**Entry Limits:**

Students may not enter Duo and Debate

Students may enter only one Debate category

Any student may enter Congress

Students may enter up to three Individual Events

Please remember that students may attend the National Tournament in only **ONE event**. Coaches should know their competitors’ event priorities **BEFORE** the coaches meeting on Saturday.

**Judging Requirements:**

Debate: 1 judge per 2 entries or fraction thereof

IEs**:** 1 judge per 5 entries or fraction thereof

Duo**:** 1 judge per 5 entries or fraction thereof

**If your school owes four or more judges in any category, then at least half of your judges must be community volunteers.** If you cannot find the appropriate number of community judges, you may hire community judges (max of two) at $75 per judge. Please see page 2 for more details. If your school cannot meet its judging obligation through community judges and/or “hired” judges, your entry must be adjusted. **Hired judges are ONLY for those schools who require four or more judges in a category.**

**If your school owes fewer than four judges in any category, you must provide all of your judges.** If you cannot meet this expectation, your entry must be adjusted.

All judges *not assigned for a round are to remain on stand-by* until all ballots have been given out. **Judges are obligated until one round past your school’s elimination from the tournament.** If a judge misses an assignment, the school will be fined $25 per occurrence.

**Fees:**

$ 8.00 for each IE and LD entry

$16.00 for each Duo and PF team

$16.00 for each Congress entry (includes dinner)

$25.00 Hospitality Fee for each school

**Event Rules:**

* We use the NSDA topics for LD (March/April) and PF (March).
* The OI rotation for Prose/Poetry will be posted on the Round 1 paneling sheet.
* **Duo Interp will NOT use binders. The event is Duo Interp, NOT Duo Reading.**
* The use of computers, electronic storage and retrieval devices is allowed in Debate rounds and Congress sessions, as well as Extemp Prep. Please note the following conditions based on event: While in the debate competition room, you must supply your own power source (battery or power cord). The ONLY power source allowed for computers in Extemp Prep is BATTERY POWER. Competitors in Extemp MAY NOT plug in their computer in the prep at any time in the prep room, not even between rounds. Competitors in Debate (Policy, LD, PF) may use email chains in rounds, but may not use the internet for research, file retrieval, or connecting to persons outside the round. Using such devices inappropriately will result in a disqualification from the tournament. In Extemp prep, students may not use cell phones, Blackberries, or other personal electronic devices for file retrieval or timing (this includes “smart watches”). Student may NOT connect to the internet in the Extemp prep room. If competitors are using systems such as, but not limited to, Drop Box, Prep’d, or Extemp Genie, they must the offline version.
* As per NCFL rules, Extempers may NOT use a notecard when speaking and may NOT utilize any form of pre-written speeches during prep.
* The first time a student goes over the 30 second grade period in Duo or IEs, he/she can be ranked no higher than 2nd.
* If a student goes over the grace period for a second time, the tab room will adjust the rank, if necessary, to be no higher than 4th.

**Tabulation Procedures**

Congress: If there are more than 26 entrants, we will divide into two chambers. Based on judges’ ranks only, the top 8, or at most half (whichever is less), from each chamber will advance to finals. If there are 26 or fewer, we will have one chamber. Based on judges’ ranks only, the top 16, or at most half (whichever is less), will advance to finals. Placement in the final chamber will be based on judges’ ranks only. Standard multiple-judge tie breaking procedures will be used if the total rank is tied (judges’ preference, reciprocal fractions, etc.).

Duo and IEs: If there are more than 20 entrants, we will have two prelims and break to semis. If there are 20 or fewer, we will have three prelims and break to finals. If breaking to semis, the goal is to find the cleanest break that allows half of the field to advance. If two totals are equidistant from the goal, we will break more than half. Two judges will be used in each semis panel and the ranks will be added to the prelim ranks. To break to finals, the goal is 6 finalists (based on three prelims or two prelims/semis). We will break no fewer than 5 and no more than 7. If the break at 5 is equally clean as the break at 7, then 5 will break to finals. To keep the number of finalists between 5 and 7, we may use reciprocal fractions as the first tie-breaker. Previous ranks will be ignored when determining places among the finalists.

Debate: If there are 16 or more entrants, we will break to quarters. If fewer than 16, we will break to semis. Breaks will be based on (in order) # of wins/byes, adjusted speaker points, total speaker points, and opposition wins. For PF, judges will assign points to each debater, but the team total per round will be used to determine the high and low to be dropped. Elim brackets will not be broken if entrants from the same school are paired against each other.

**Awards:**

Medals will be awarded to all finalists in Duo and IEs, to the top 6 in Congress, and to all who break in Debate. According to the formula below, team awards will be given to the top 3 schools in IEs/Duo, the top 3 in Debate/Congress, and the top 3 overall. A Forensics Award and a Thespian Award will be given as well, using the same formula.

**Sweepstakes Points**:

1st 2nd 3rd Finalists (4th+)

Duo 50 35 20 10

IEs/Congress 35 25 15 5

LD 35 25 15

PF 50 35 20

**Tournament Schedule**

**Thursday, March 05, 2020 – Isidore Newman School, New Orleans**

1:30 p.m. Congress Registration

2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Session 1

4:15 – 6:15 p.m. Session 2

6:15 – 7:00 p.m. Dinner (provided) and Announcement of Finalists

7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Final Session (will announce a list of medal winners ASAP)

**Friday, March 6, 2020 – Christ Episcopal School, Covington**

3:15 p.m. Registration begins

3:45 p.m. Registration ends

4:00 p.m. RD. 1 Debate (LD, PF, Policy) and Duo

5:30 p.m. RD. 2 Debate (LD and PF) and Duo

6:00 p.m. RD 2 Debate (Policy)

7:00 p.m. RD. 3 Debate (LD and PF) and Duo (Rd. 3 or Semi-finals)

8:00 RD. 3 Debate (Policy) IF NEEDED based on entries (I doubt there be more than 3 rds of policy prelims needed.

8:30 p.m. RD. 4 Debate (LD and PF) and Duo Finals (Duo finals may be moved to Saturday if needed)

\*The policy schedule will be tweaked as needed based on interest and entries.

\*I’m a little concerned about getting in that Duo final, depending upon judges or other things that could happen. Please be prepared for the possibility that Duo finals will run on Saturday. If we get it in on Friday night, great. But if not, that’s fine too!

**Saturday, March 7, 2020 – Christ Episcopal School**

7:30 a.m. Registration for schools only with IE entries

8:00 a.m. EXTEMP DRAW (Room TBA)

8:30 a.m. Individual Events Round 1

10:00 a.m. EXTEMP DRAW

10:30 a.m. Individual Events Round 2

12:00 p.m. Debate Elim 1 (LD and/or PF)/Duo finals (if needed)

1:00 p.m. EXTEMP DRAW

1:30 p.m. Individual Events Round 3 or Semi-Finals

3:00 p.m. Debate Elim 2 (All divisions)

4:30 p.m. EXTEMP DRAW

5:00 p.m. Individual Event Finals

6:00 p.m. Debate Elim 3 (If needed)

5:15 p.m. Coaches’ Meeting

6:15 p.m. Awards

*The Saturday schedule on Saturday is tentative and will be adjusted accordingly during the day if needed. The tabroom reserves the right to revise the Saturday schedule. Do NOT leave campus! If we push round times and your team and judges are not on campus, you stand the risk of forfeits and fines.*

*NEW ORLEANS CATHOLIC FORENSIC LEAGUE*

# 2020 DIOCESAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

**NATIONAL QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT FOR THE GRAND NATIONALS**

This form is designed to help make the coaches’ meeting more efficient. Remember that your competitors (if entered in more than one event), need to know prior to the tournament, the event they will choose to compete in at the Grand National Tournament. Coaches need to be prepared to give that decision at the meeting. Once the meeting is over, the New Orleans entry for the Grand Nationals is set. Schools may be fined for any drops afterwards.

Contestant:

School:

Using only the events in which a student is entered at the Diocesan Tournament, please list the events he/she prefers to attend at Nationals.

Most preferred event:

Second most preferred:

Third most preferred:

Fourth most preferred:

Fifth most preferred:

Please have this discussion with your competitors in advance of the tournament!