

**Washington Arlington Catholic Forensic League
Lincoln-Douglas Debate Metropolitan Championship Final Tournament
March 4-5, 2016
Dominion High School**

Dear WACFL Coaches,

This note provides all the information you will need to participate in the Washington Arlington Catholic Forensic League's Lincoln-Douglas Debate Metropolitan Championship Final Tournament. Please read this information carefully because it details the Registration Procedures for the Tournament and the Rules that we will be following during the Tournament. The rules and procedures discussed below are detailed in the WACFL By-Laws. We encourage each coach, judge and student competitor to carefully read the WACFL By-Laws prior to registering for and competing in the Metropolitan Championship Final Tournament. If you have any questions about this information, please text or call: **Ann Marie Duffy at (202) 297-0713 or email at annybird@gmail.com.** *(Please remember to identify your school and include the subject "WACFL" in any communication).*

Registration

Registrations are entered via tabroom.com and are due no later than Friday, February 26, 2016 at 9:00pm eastern. All registrations must be complete.

If you have any questions, please contact Ann Marie via email (annybird@gmail.com) or via phone at 202-297-0713. *(Please remember to identify your school and include the subject "WACFL" in any communication).*

Drops should be made via tabroom.com by 9pm on Tuesday, March 1, 2016. Drops after this time do not reduce your registration fees or judging commitments.

Registration Fees for Participation in the WACFL Lincoln-Douglas Debate Metropolitan Championship Finals. Regardless of the 'Dues Plan' each School has selected to join WACFL, each school must pay \$10 per student entered into the Metropolitan Championship Final Tournament. Registration Fees are due to WACFL at On-Site Registration on Friday afternoon.

Eligibility

Eligibility to Participate in WACFL Lincoln-Douglas Debate Metropolitan Championship Finals.

There are several ways a student is eligible to compete in the Championship Finals. These are detailed in the By-Laws and summarized here. A List of Qualified Students is on the web site noting all those whom the League's records indicate are eligible to compete. Students must compete in the 'Highest' Division in which they have Qualified during the year. The attached listing does not show a 'lower' division (Junior Varsity) qualification if a 'higher' division (Varsity) qualification has been earned. If you believe there is an error on this list, please call Ann Marie Duffy. *Please remember that there is NO Novice Metro-Finals.*

Qualifications to Metro Finals are earned by: (1) being a Varsity or Junior Varsity Medal Winner at a WACFL L-D Debate Preliminary Tournament or being announced as an Additional Qualifier at a WACFL L-D Debate Preliminary Tournament; (2) achieving at least a 3-1 Record at two WACFL L-D

Debate Preliminary Tournaments (note: students are qualified to compete at Finals in the division the two 3-1 records were achieved); and (3) achieving first place in the Novice Division at any of the tournament throughout the year (note: these students are qualified to Junior Varsity Metro-Finals).

******* Due to the weather conditions that impacted LD IV, we are adding additional eligibility factors. For Varsity and Junior Varsity students who have received a 3-1 record at a previous preliminary WACFL tournament this season, a registration for LD IV will count as a second 3-1 record in the division in which the student has previously earned a 3-1 record. Additionally, based upon your registration for LD IV, you can add a maximum of 2 student entries as 'wildcards' to Metro Finals. The students must be entered in the division (Varsity or Junior Varsity) that was indicated on the LD IV registration. Please note that there is no novice division at Metro Finals. *******

In addition, one student in the Junior Varsity division will be selected by the Vice-President to potentially compete in the Varsity Division to avoid a BYE in the Varsity Division. This student will be invited to attend the Varsity Championship Tournament on a Stand-By basis. If, and only if, at the close of On-Site Registration on Friday afternoon, an uneven number of entries exist in the Varsity division, the Stand-By debater will be entered into the Varsity tournament. This one entry will not require additional judges to be provided by the school and will have the rights and privileges of all Varsity debaters once the tournament begins, including the ability to earn a qualification for NCFL Grand Nationals. The Vice-President will arrange this Stand-By Debater by February 28th.

Judging Requirements

Judging Requirements at WACFL Lincoln-Douglas Debate Metropolitan Championship Finals. Every school that enters debaters must provide a full complement of **EXPERIENCED, QUALIFIED** judges. **If a school is entering any Varsity Debaters, then all of that school's judges must be 'Varsity Qualified.'** A judge is considered 'Varsity Qualified' if the judge has judged in at least one WACFL Preliminary Lincoln-Douglas Debate Tournament at the Varsity level in the current year or was an L-D Debater in WACFL in the past, but is more than one year out of high school. Judges considered 'JV Qualified Only' must have judged in at least one WACFL Preliminary Lincoln-Douglas Debate Tournament in the current year.

In the Varsity Divisions, One Judge for Every Two Students or portion thereof is required and in the Junior Varsity Division, One Judge for Every Three Students or portion thereof is required for your school's entry.

In the Varsity Division, two judges will judge each round and final rankings are based on total Wins and Losses. In the Junior Varsity Division, one judge will judge each round. Three judges will judge all Elimination Rounds.

Please remind all your judges that in WACFL L-D Debate Tournaments, they are not to disclose their decisions to the debaters nor are they to give oral critiques. They should write full and constructive ballots.

Pairing Procedures for WACFL Lincoln-Douglas Debate Metropolitan Championship Finals.

In Varsity, two 'Divisions' of Varsity are held simultaneously: a Division of Arlington Varsity and a

Division of Washington Varsity. Arlington Debaters will not debate Washington Debaters during the 6 Preliminary Rounds of Diocesan Competition. Based on these 6 Rounds the Qualifiers for NCFL Grand Nationals are determined – **six (6)** from the Arlington Diocese, and **five (5)** from the Washington Archdiocese. Varsity Elimination Rounds determine the WACFL Champions and do not count for, nor impact on, the qualifications for NCFL Grand Nationals. The Number 1 Seed from Arlington will debate the Number 1 Seed from Washington in the Final Round to determine the WACFL L-D Debate Champion.

If there are fewer than 7 debaters in a division, the tournament will follow a Round-Robin format with all debaters hitting each other. The best win/loss record determines the winner with ties broken by head-to-head competition.

If more than 7 debaters compete in a division, a tournament requiring power pairing will be held as follows: (1) in Rounds 1 and 2 pairings are random with no debater meeting a second time, and no school hitting school; (2) Round 2 will follow side constraints; (3) Rounds 3 and 4 are power paired, each high-high, with no debater meeting a second time. (Note: If more than 14 debaters are entered in the division, no school will debate itself in either round. If fewer than 14 debaters are entered in the division, then a school may debate itself in both rounds); (4) Round 4 will follow side constraints; (5) Rounds 5 and 6 are power paired, each high-high, with no debater meeting a second time (Note: A school may be paired against itself if power demands regardless of the number of entries. Side constraints may be broken in Round 6 if power pairing requires it. In this case, sides are determined by a coin flip in the rounds).

When a School is Paired against Itself. The pairing will be shown to one coach from each school in a group meeting of all coaches in the division in which the school-hit-school round is taking place. In the event a school is paired against itself, a current results sheet for each varsity division, showing each debater's win-loss record, total points, and total ranks, will be posted in an area of the Tab Room. This posting will be available for all coaches to view for that round. The results sheet may only be examined during a ten (10) minute period following posting, after which time coaches must leave the tab room. If a coach needs to make a coach's decision, he/she must do so prior to leaving the room. Coaches will have ten (10) minutes from posting time to inform the tab room how to handle school meeting school. In the event that there is no school paired against itself, there will be no posting of the win-loss record, etc. Coaches are **not to divulge the records** of debaters from any other schools to their school's team.

In Junior Varsity the Pairing Procedures are the same as those of the Varsity Division, except that Arlington Diocese debaters may debate Washington Archdiocese debaters throughout the tournament. Also, students from the same school may not be paired against each other. The Final Round in Junior Varsity will have the top 2 seeded debaters at the end of the 6 preliminary rounds. Entries in the JV Division are not eligible to qualify for NCFL Grand Nationals.

Topic for the WACFL Lincoln-Douglas Debate Metropolitan Championship Finals. Students will debate both sides of the **NFL March/April Topic** which was announced on February 1, 2016.

March/April 2016 LD Topic

Resolved: The United States ought to promote democracy in the Middle East

Schedule for WACFL Lincoln-Douglas Debate Metropolitan Championship Finals:

Friday, March 4, 2016

4:00 - 4:30 pm	**On-Site Registration and Entry Fee Payment ***in Library***
5:00 - 6:30 pm	Round 1
6:30 - 7:15 pm	Dinner, Food Will be Available for Purchase On-Site
7:15 - 9:00 pm	Round 2

**** PLEASE NOTE:** Dominion's classes will still be in session until 3:48 pm on Friday. For that reason, coaches and their students are asked to arrive after 3:30 pm and **NOT TO ENTER THE BUILDING UNTIL 4:00pm.** Please note that Registration closes at 4:30 pm. ******

Saturday, 5 March, 2016

8:00 - 8:15 am	Re-Registration Check-In outside library; Food will be Available for Purchase On-Site
8:15 - 9:45 am	Round 3
10:30 - 12:00 pm	Round 4
12:15 - 1:00 pm	Lunch, Food Will be Available for Purchase On-Site
1:00 - 1:15 pm	Round 5 Coaches' Meeting
1:15 - 2:45 pm	Round 5
3:30 - 3:45 pm	Round 6 Coaches' Meeting
3:45 - 5:15 pm	Round 6
6:00 - 6:45 pm	Finals
7:00 - 8:00 pm	Awards

Please understand that we will take additional time to prepare results on Saturday as we ensure that we are following all WACFL by-laws, taking extra care preparing the pairings, and tabulating and checking results.

Packets will only be released at the conclusion of the Awards Ceremony. If you or your students leave early, please contact the Lincoln-Douglas Vice President to make arrangements for your packet. **We will not release the packets, the ballots, or information about who has qualified for NCFL Nationals until the Awards Ceremony for any reason.**