

February 18, 2017

Dear PCFL Friends:

Our varsity final and national qualifier is scheduled for March 4, 2017 at William Tennent High School. Special thanks to Mr. Donato Luongo, Mr. Duncan Cherrington, and the entire William Tennent debate community for hosting us!

The Philadelphia Catholic Forensic League qualifies the top six (6) competitors in each league event to the NCFL Grand National Tournament over Memorial Day weekend. We invite you to register on Tabroom.com.

Schedule

The league has collapsed the tournament into one single day. It will not be short, but it is one day, instead of two days over two weekends (life is about choices, trade-offs, and risk assessment). A detailed schedule is posted on Tabroom for your convenience.

In debate, all entries are guaranteed between two (2) and four (4) debates, depending on the size of the event. Rounds three (3) and four (4) (if necessary) are power matched. Then, the top eight (8) entries will be seeded in a bracket and the winners qualify to nationals. The losers have a second chance debate to fill our 5th and 6th slots.

Concessions

Additional information will be forthcoming under separate cover. We will be taking pre-orders for student lunch and dinner.

Entries

Each league member school may send two entries in each event to qualifiers. Those entries must be pre-qualified as per below. Please only bring students who will be able to attend nationals if they qualify.

Students may enter only one event (no double entry).

Pre-qualification

- To compete in CX, LD, or PFD at the Varsity Debate Finals on 3/4, a student must have competed in one of the debate events (CX, LD, or PFD) in either the Varsity or JV division at a PCFL Tournament this academic year. (PLEASE NOTE: a student does not have to have competed in the same debate event or with the same partner.)
- To compete in Speech at the Varsity Speech/Congress Finals on 3/4, a student must have competed in one of the speech events in either the Varsity or JV division at a PCFL Tournament this academic year.
- To compete in Congress at the Varsity Speech/Congress Finals on 3/4, a student must have competed in Congress in either the Varsity or JV division at a PCFL Tournament this academic year.

Tabroom will have a space to populate the tournament your student(s) pre-qualified at. There is a field that follows requesting their rank at that tournament. Please fill in the PCFL event from this season; you need not complete the placement field. It is a Tabroom default that the league does not need.

Topics

We will use the March 2017 national Lincoln-Douglas and Public Forum topics.

Congress

Student congress will use our finals packet, which is attached. The docket order will be randomly drawn on the 4th.

Scripts

Orators need to bring signed copies of their scripts; speech contestants should have original source available in case of protests.

Judges

Judge burdens are expanded at this tournament:

- Two (2) judges owed for one (1) entry or three (3) judges owed for two (2) entries in debate;
- One (1) judge owed for two (2) entries in speech/congress, with a maximum of five (5) total speech/congress judges owed.

We will allow schools to count no more than one-third (1/3) of their judges twice toward the quota, meaning that it may be possible that if you owe (6) total judges, that could possibly be four (4) people if two (2) double-register, subject to the following limitations:

- We will round down to the whole judge (e.g., providing three (3), four (4), or five (5) judges will only let you potentially count one of those twice between categories, as per below);
- Double-registering of judges is not allowed between CX/IE or LD/PF since those events are simultaneous on the schedule;
- If you are claiming double registration for one or more judges, you must email judge chair Jeff Kahn at kahnjb@gmail.com since he will be assigning judges to pools anyway.

All judges must be experienced and qualified. The judge chair (Jeff Kahn) will verify the experience of all judges in the category they are registered. The Executive Board may vote on any judges unknown to us and chose not to accept the judge; this decision is based on relevant and recent experience, not our opinion on the quality of the judge.

All judges are obligated through the entire tournament in their event; even if none of your entries make the bracket, we need your judges for both qualification rounds.

Hired Judges

If you do not intend on sending students to finals, but you and/or your other coaches and judges would be interested in being hired by the tournament, please email judge chair Jeff Kahn at kahnjb@gmail.com.

Fees

Entry fees for all the season-end tournaments (\$5 per student entered) are due at JV Finals in April. League Treasurer Kate Sundeen will send an invoice.

I look forward to seeing you on the 4th. I inevitably did not explain something clearly enough or in sufficient detail, so by all means, please send any questions you have.

Best,

s/Chris Berdnik
PCFL Vice-President