

**Washington Arlington Catholic Forensic League
Lincoln-Douglas Debate Metropolitan Championship Final Tournament
March 7-8, 2008
Freedom 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 are detailed in the WACFL By-Laws. If you have any questions about this information, please call Kristin Hamilton at **(540) 635-5801** or email hamiltkb@pwcs.edu.

Registration

Registration is due to Kristin Hamilton by 9 pm on Wednesday, February 27, 2008. All registrations must be complete including the school name, each student's name, the division in which they are competing, all judge names, any division or school restrictions on the judges, and the coach's name and phone number.

You can register in one of two ways:

Preferred by E-Mail to hamiltkb@pwcs.edu by 9pm on Wednesday, February 27th. You will receive a confirmation by Thursday morning. If you have not received a confirmation by noon on Thursday, call Kristin immediately at 540-635-5801.

Call Kristin Hamilton at 540-635-5801 between 7 and 9pm on Wednesday, February 27th.

Drops should be made by phone call to Kristin at 540-635-5801 by 9pm on Tuesday, March 4th. 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 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) one has been earned. If you believe there is an error on this list, please call Kristin Hamilton. *Please remember that there is NO Novice Metro-Finals.*

Qualifications to MetroFinals are earned by being a 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. Students who have compiled at least a 3-1 Record at two WACFL L-D Debate Preliminary Tournaments are also qualified to compete at Finals in the division the two 3-1 records were achieved. ***(Due to the shortened LD III tournament on 12/15 @ Westfield, a 2-1 record will be used in lieu of 3-1 for LD III only.)*** Additionally, the first place finisher in each Novice Division tournament throughout the year is automatically qualified to Junior Varsity Metro-Finals.

In addition, to avoid a Bye in the Varsity Division, one student in the Junior Varsity division will be selected by the Vice-President. 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 exists in the Varsity division, then 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 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 March 5th.

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 they have judged in at least one WACFL Preliminary Lincoln-Douglas Debate Tournament at the Varsity level in the current year or were an L-D Debater in WACFL in the past. 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 Four 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 another of Washington. 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 four (4) 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 2 Seed from Washington in Semi-Finals and the Number 2 Seed from Arlington will debate the Number 1 Seed from Washington in Semi-Finals. The winners of the two Semi-Finals will debate in the Final Round to determine the WACFL L-D Debate Champion.

If there are fewer than 7 debaters in a division, then 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, then a tournament requiring power pairing will be held as follows. In Rounds 1 and 2 pairings are random with no debater meeting a second time, and no school hitting school. Round 2 will follow side constraints.

Rounds 3 and 4 are power paired, each high-high, with no debater meeting a second time. 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. Round 4 will follow side constraints.

Rounds 5 and 6 are power paired, each high-high, with no debater meeting a second time. 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. The pairing will indicate side constraints, if any, opponents, and each debater's wins/losses and speaker points. Coaches will have 10 minutes to determine how they will handle School Debating School Rounds. They may have the students debate the round and have the ballots awarded by the judges. They may award one or both ballots to either debater and not hold the round, in which case

Speaker Points will be averaged across the entire tournament for these ballots. 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. Elimination Rounds begin with Quarter-Finals and are made up of the top 8 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 - Resolved: Hate crime enhancements are unjust in the United States.

Schedule for WACFL Lincoln-Douglas Debate Metropolitan Championship Finals:

Friday, 7 March, 2008

3:30 - 4:00 pm	**On-Site Registration and Entry Fee Payment ***in auditorium*** (immediately inside the main entrance on the left)
4:15 - 4:30 pm	Opening Meeting in auditorium (<i>after the opening mtg, the cafeteria will be the student lounge for the remainder of the tournament</i>).
4:30 - 6:00 pm	Round 1
6:15 - 7:45 pm	Round 2
7:45 - 8:30 pm	Dinner, Food Will be Available for Purchase On-Site
8:30 - 10:00 pm	Round 3

**** PLEASE NOTE:** Freedom's classes will still be in session until nearly 3:50 pm on Friday. For that reason, coaches and their students are asked to ***go directly to the auditorium (immediately inside the main entrance on the left) for registration. Students and coaches are asked not to enter other areas of the building until school releases and the tournament begins.*** At the conclusion of the opening meeting, the cafeteria will be the student lounge for the remainder of the tournament.

Saturday, 8 March, 2008

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 4
10:30 - 10:45 am	Round 5 Coach's Meeting
10:45 - 12:15	Round 5
12:15 - 1:00 pm	Lunch, Food Will be Available for Purchase On-Site
1:00 - 1:15 pm	Round 6 Coach's Meeting
1:15 – 2:45 pm	Round 6
3:30 pm	Elimination Round Announcements
3:45 – 4:30 pm	Junior Varsity Quarter-Finals
4:45 – 5:30 pm	Semi-Finals
5:45 – 6:30 pm	Finals
6:45 – 7:00 pm	Awards

A Schedule Note: We will do our best to stay on schedule and will need your help, the help of your judges, and your students' help. Please understand that we may be delayed on Saturday as we ensure that we are following all League 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, your packet will be mailed to you. We will ***not*** release the packets, the ballots, or information about who has qualified for NCFL Nationals until the Awards Ceremony for any reason.