

**Washington Arlington Catholic Forensic League
Public Forum Debate Metropolitan Championship Final Tournament
February 29 & March 1, 2008
Massaponax High School**

******Please note that we will be using the
MARCH Public Forum Topic for both days of this tournament.******

Dear WACFL Coaches:

This letter provides all the information you will need to participate in the WACFL Metropolitan Championship Final Tournament for public forum debate. Please read this information carefully. It details the registration procedures for the tournament as well as the rules that we will be following during the tournament. These rules and procedures are detailed in the WACFL by-laws. If you have questions or concerns, please e-mail WACFLVPPublicForum@wacfl.org.

Registration

The registration deadline is 9:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 26, 2008. Registration information should include school name, names of students, division of competition (varsity or junior varsity), judge names, division or school restrictions on judges, and coach's name and phone number.

REGISTRATION is via e-mail to WACFLVPPublicForum@wacfl.org.

DROPS should be made via e-mail to WACFLVPPublicForum@wacfl.org no later than 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 27th. Drops after this time do not reduce your registration fees or judging commitments.

Registration fees for the metropolitan championship tournament are separate from the dues plan chosen in the fall. Regardless of the dues option chosen in the fall, each school must pay \$10 for each debater entered in the metropolitan championship tournament (\$20 per team). Registration fees are due to WACFL at on-site registration on Friday.

Eligibility

Eligibility for participation in WACFL public forum debate metropolitan championship finals is determined in several ways. These are detailed in the by-laws and summarized here.

Students must compete in the "highest" division in which they have qualified during the year. That is, if a student has qualified in both JV and varsity, the student must compete in varsity.

Also please remember that students qualify separately for the metropolitan championship final tournament. They do not qualify as teams. Therefore, coaches may combine any students who are qualified as they see fit. However, it is important to remember that the team must advance to the national tournament in the same composition as it competed in metro finals. If John and Susie compete together as a team at metro finals and qualify for nationals, then John and Susie must be registered together for the national tournament. They may not switch partners at that point.

The following qualifiers are eligible to compete in the metro final tournament:

1. A student who was a medal winner at any preliminary WACFL tournament.
2. A student who was named an additional qualifier at any preliminary WACFL tournament.
3. Any student who earned a 3-1 record in two preliminary tournaments, or any student who earned a 4-0 record in one preliminary tournament who has not otherwise qualified.
(Due to the shortened Public Forum III tournament on 12/15 @ Westfield, a 2-1 record will be used in lieu of 3-1 for Public Forum III only.)
4. Any student called up by the Vice-President for Public Forum Debate.

To avoid a bye, one team in each division may be selected by the Vice-President for Public Forum Debate and invited to attend the 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 a division, then that division's stand-by team will be entered into the tournament. This additional team will not incur a registration fee or a judging obligation. However, the stand-by team will acquire all the rights and privileges of all other teams once the tournament begins, including qualification for the NCFL Grand National Tournament.

Judging Requirements

Judging requirements at WACFL public forum metropolitan championship finals must be strictly met. Every school entering debaters must provide a full complement of qualified judges. **If a school is entering any varsity debate teams, then all of the school's judges must be qualified to judge at the varsity level.** Judges are qualified to judge at the varsity level if they have judged at least one WACFL preliminary Public Forum Debate tournament at the varsity level or if they were Public Forum, Policy, or L-D debaters themselves. Judges qualified to judge at the junior varsity level must have judged in at least one WACFL preliminary Public Forum debate tournament in the current year.

In the varsity division, schools must provide one judge for every two public forum teams entered, or fraction thereof. In junior varsity, schools must provide one judge for every three teams entered, or fraction thereof.

Each school is responsible for meeting judge requirements. Begin now to arrange for your judges. Schools are responsible for arranging for and confirming each judge's presence, for paying the judge, and for any rules infractions by that judge.

Please remind all your judges that they should not disclose decisions nor give oral critiques. They should, however, write full and constructive ballots.

In the varsity division, each round will be judged by two judges. Final results are based on total wins and losses. In the junior varsity division, each round will be judged by one judge. All elimination rounds will be judged by three judges.

Tournament and Pairing Procedures

Pairing procedures for public forum debate championship finals follows.

In junior varsity, the pairing procedures are the same as those of the varsity division. However, Washington and Arlington teams compete together throughout the tournament. Junior varsity debate teams are not eligible to qualify for the NCFL Grand National tournament. We hope to begin elimination rounds with quarter-finals if our schedule allows, otherwise they will begin with semi-finals. Elimination round participants are the top seeded teams at the end of the six preliminary rounds.

In varsity two divisions of debate are conducted simultaneously. One division is composed of Arlington diocese debate teams, and one division is composed of Washington archdiocese debate teams. Arlington debate teams will not debate Washington teams during the six preliminary rounds of debate. Qualifiers for the national tournament are determined from the first six preliminary rounds of debate. Six debate teams from Arlington and four debate teams from Washington will be eligible to compete at the national tournament. Varsity elimination rounds determine the WACFL champions; elimination rounds do not determine the qualifiers to nationals. In the elimination rounds, the number one seed from Arlington will debate the number two seed from Washington, and the number two seed from Arlington will debate the number one seed from Washington in a semi-final round. The winner of the two semi-final rounds will debate in the final round to determine the WACFL policy debate champion for the year.

If there are fewer than seven teams in a division, then the tournament will follow a round-robin format.

If there are more than seven teams in a division, then the tournament will be power paired in the following manner. In rounds one and two, the pairings are random with no teams meeting a second time and no school debating another team from that school. Round two will follow side constraints. Rounds three and four are power paired, high-high, with no team meeting a second time. If more than 14 teams are entered in the division, no school will debate itself in either round three or four. If fewer than fourteen teams are entered in the division, then a school may debate itself in both rounds. Round four will follow side constraints. Rounds five and six are power paired, high-high, with no team meeting a second time. A school may be paired against itself if power pairing demands it, regardless of the number of entries. Side constraints may be broken in round six if power pairing requires it. In that case, sides will be determined by a coin flip in the round.

When a school is paired against itself, coaches have two options: allow the debate between the two teams from their schools to take place, or award one or both ballots to either team with an average of speaker points from all other rounds in the tournament.

A current results sheet for each varsity division, showing each team'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 after Round 2 and after each subsequent round is recorded (with the exception of the final preliminary Round 6). The results sheet may only be examined during a ten (10) minute period following posting, after which time coaches must leave the tab room. Coaches will have ten (10) minutes from posting time to inform the tab room how to handle school meeting school.

Coaches may disclose results to their own teams at their discretion but may not share that information with other schools.

March 2008 Topic (used for both days of the Metrofinal Tournament)

Resolved: The US system of presidential primaries is contrary to democratic values.

Schedule for WACFL Public Forum Debate Metropolitan Championship Finals

Friday, February 29, 2008

3:15-4:00 p.m.	On-site registration and fee payment
4:15-4:30	Opening meeting
4:30-6:00	Round 1
6:15-7:45	Round 2
7:45-8:30	Dinner. Food will be available for purchase on site.
8:30-10:00	Round 3

Saturday, March 1, 2008

8:00-8:15 a.m.	Re-registration, Food will be available for purchase on site.
8:15-9:45	Round 4
10:30-10:45	Round 5 Coaches' Meeting
10:45-12:15 p.m.	Round 5
12:15-1:00	Lunch. Food will be available for purchase on site.
1:00-1:15	Round 6 Coaches' Meeting
1:15-2:45	Round 6
3:30	Elimination round announcements
3:45-4:45	Quarter-final rounds
5:00-6:00	Semi-final rounds
6:15-7:15	Final round
7:30	Awards

We will do our best to stay on schedule and will need your help, as well as the help of your judges and your students. Please understand that we may be delayed 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 see the Vice-President for Public Forum Debate to arrange to receive 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.