

**Washington Arlington Catholic Forensic League
Lincoln-Douglas Debate Metropolitan Championship Final
Tournament March 4-5, 2022 @ VIRTUAL**

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 contact: **Richard Henkle** at rhenkle@dominionschool.com.

Registration

Registrations are entered via tabroom.com and are due no later than Friday, February 25, 2022 at 9:00pm eastern. All registrations must be complete.

If you have any questions, please contact Richard via email and be sure to put the following in the Subject Line: **"LD METROS."**

Drops should be made via tabroom.com by 9pm on Tuesday, March 1, 2022. 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 electronically by the virtual tournament start.

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. *Please remember that there is NO Novice Metro-Finals.*

Qualifications to MetroFinals 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); or
- (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).

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 March 3rd.

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** were 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 One Student is required**
- **In the Junior Varsity Division, One Judge for Every Two Students or portion thereof is required for your school's entry.**
- In the Varsity Division, two judges will judge each round
- In the Junior Varsity Division, one judge will judge each round.
- 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.

Please note the recent update to the Bylaws: Schools will be required to submit all judge names, and back-ups, by the Registration Deadline provided by the Vice-President of the event. The WACFL Executive Council will evaluate the qualifications of all judges submitted. They may request additional evidence of qualification as necessary. The Executive Council reserves the right to reject judges they deem unqualified. This rejection does not relieve schools of their judging requirement. Judges that have not been submitted by the deadline may not be accepted as judges at Metrofinals.

Pairing Procedures for WACFL LD 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.

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 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 and adjusted points, will be posted in a specific coaches' meeting virtual utility room for 10 minutes.

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 will not be paired against each other. 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, 2022.

March/April 2022 LD Topic

Resolved: In a democracy, a free press ought to prioritize objectivity over advocacy.

Schedule for WACFL Lincoln-Douglas Debate Metropolitan Championship Finals:

Friday, March 4, 2022

4:00 - 4:30 pm	Virtual Registration
5:00 - 6:00 pm	Round 1
Dinner on your own	
7:00 - 8:00 pm	Round 2

Saturday, March 5, 2022

8:00 - 8:30 am	Virtual Re-Registration (<i>only notifications of changes via email to wacfl.tabroom@gmail.com</i>)
8:45 - 9:45 am	Round 3
10:30 - 11:30 am	Round 4
11:30 - 12:30 pm	Lunch
Coaches' Meeting	
1:00 - 2:00 pm	Round 5
Coaches' Meeting	
3:00 - 4:00 pm	Round 6
5:00 pm	Announcement of NCFL Qualifiers

Please understand that we will take additional time to prepare results on Saturday as we ensure that we are following all WACFL By-laws.

Digital Packets will only be released at the conclusion of the Announcements.