

**Washington Arlington Catholic Forensic League
Policy Debate Metropolitan Championship Final Tournament
March 5-6, 2021
VIRTUAL**

Dear WACFL Coaches:

This letter provides all the information you will need to participate in the WACFL Metropolitan Championship Final Tournament for Policy 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. 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 questions or concerns, please contact Laurel Taylor via email at laurel.taylor@acps.k12.va.us.

Registration

The registration deadline is 9:00 p.m. eastern Friday, February 26, 2021. 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. Please note there is no Novice division at Metrofinals.

Registration is via tabroom.com and is due by no later than Friday, February 26, 2021, at 9:00p.m. eastern. All registrations must be complete.

Drops should be made via tabroom by 9pm eastern on Tuesday, March 2, 2021. 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 policy 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 in Varsity or Junior Varsity at any preliminary WACFL tournament.

2. Any student who was named an additional qualifier in Varsity or Junior Varsity at any preliminary WACFL tournament.
3. Any student who earned a 2-1 record in qualifying division at two preliminary tournaments, or any student who earned a 3-0 record in a qualifying division in one preliminary tournament who has not otherwise qualified.
4. Any student who placed first in the Novice division is qualified for the Junior Varsity division Metrofinals.
5. Any student who placed 2nd through sixth in the Novice division and then earned a 2-1 record in the Junior Varsity division is qualified for the Junior Varsity division Metrofinals.
6. Any student called up by the Vice-President for Policy Debate.

To avoid a bye, one team in each division may be selected by the Vice-President for Policy 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 policy debate 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 policy debate tournament at the varsity level or if they were policy debaters themselves. Judges qualified to judge at the junior varsity level must have judged in at least one WACFL preliminary policy debate tournament in the current year.

In the varsity division, schools must provide one judge for each policy team entered. In junior varsity, schools must provide one judge for every two teams, or fraction thereof.

Each school is responsible for meeting judge requirements. Begin now to arrange for your judges. If you need help in finding qualified judges, you may call Ron Richards for suggestions, but **you are responsible for arranging for and confirming the judge's presence, for paying the judge, and for any rules infractions by that judge. Exceptions to the judge quotas will not be made.**

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.

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 Finals.

Tournament and Pairing Procedures

Prep time: At the **varsity** level, students and coaches are reminded that prep time during the round is limited to **5 minutes**.

Pairing procedures for policy 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.

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 **five** debate teams from Washington will be eligible to compete at the national tournament.

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.

In the event a school is paired against itself, a current results sheet for each varsity division, showing each team's win-loss record, total points, and total ranks, 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 may disclose results to their own teams at their discretion but may not share that information with other schools.

Schedule for WACFL Policy Debate Metropolitan Championship Finals

Friday, March 5, 2021

4:00 - 4:30 pm	Virtual Registration
5:00 - 6:30 pm	Round 1
6:30 - 7:15 pm	Dinner on your own
7:15 - 9:00 pm	Round 2

*****ADDITIONAL NOTE: In order to stay on schedule, judges, coaches, and students MUST proceed to all rounds without delay and follow league rules regarding NO ORAL CRITIQUES and NO DISCLOSURE.*****

Saturday, March 6, 2021

8:00 - 8:15 am	Virtual Re-Registration
8:15 - 9:45 am	Round 3
10:30 - 12:00 pm	Round 4
12:15 - 1:00 pm	Lunch on your own
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
6:15 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, taking extra care preparing the pairings, and tabulating and checking results.

Packets will only be released at the conclusion of the announcements.