

**Washington Arlington Catholic Forensic League**  
**Public Forum Debate Metropolitan Championship Final Tournament**  
**March 12th and 13th, 2021**  
**VIRTUAL**

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. 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 e-mail [pfvp@wacfl.org](mailto:pfvp@wacfl.org).

### ***Registration***

**The registration deadline is 9:00 p.m. Friday, March 5, 2021.** Registration information must 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 tabroom.com and is due by no later than Friday, March 5, 2021.** All registrations must be complete.

**Drops should be made via tabroom by 9pm on Tuesday, March 9th. Drops after this time do *not* reduce your registration fees or judging commitments.**

**Registration fees for the Metropolitan Championship Final 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 Final Tournament (\$20 per team). Registration fees are due to WACFL prior to the tournament start 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 NCFL Grand National Tournament in the same composition as it competed in MetroFinals. If John and Susie compete together as a team at MetroFinals 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.
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 one Public Forum team entered. In Junior Varsity, schools must provide one judge for every two 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 note the recent update to the By-Laws:** 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.

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. In the Junior Varsity division, each round will be judged by one judge.

## ***Tournament and Pairing Procedures***

**Pairing procedures for Public Forum Debate Championship Finals** are as 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 an area of the Tab Room. This posting will be available for all coaches to view for that round. The results sheet may only be examined during a ten (10) minute period following posting, after which time coaches must leave the Tab Room. If a coach needs to make a coach's decision, he/she must do so prior to leaving the room. 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.***

**March 2021 Topic**

**Resolved: On balance, the benefits of creating the United States Space Force outweigh the harms.**

**Schedule for WACFL Public Forum Debate Metropolitan Championship Finals `**

**Friday, March 12, 2021**

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

**Saturday, March 13, 2021**

8:00-8:30am            Re-registration,  
8:45-9:45                Round 3  
10:30-11:30am        Round 4  
11:30-12:30            Lunch on your own.  
Coaches' Meeting  
1:00-2:00                Round 5  
Coaches' Meeting  
3:00-4:00                Round 6  
5:00                        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 virtual announcements.