

March 4, 2003

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of Ridgeview High School Speech and Debate, we would like to formally invite you to the NFCFL State Grand Finals that we will be hosting on Friday and Saturday, March 28-29, 2003, in Orange Park, Florida. A much abbreviated final registration will be conducted at 2:00 P.M. in the school lobby; signs will be posted at the front of the school to direct you to registration. Please plan to arrive and register on time. **Any school not arriving by 2:15 P.M. WILL BE DROPPED FROM COMPETITION.** The first round will begin at 2:30 PM.

All scripts should have been reviewed, and all competitors should have been qualified, as per the Constitution and By-Laws, so everything else is leading up to an exciting weekend of competition as we look forward to advancing our brightest and best competitors to the NCFL National Grand Finals on Memorial Day Weekend. As final preparation for this tournament, we recommend that you spend some time reviewing the local and national league rules. The NFCFL Constitution and By-Laws can be found on the league website: <http://www.nfcfl.org> Official event rules and ballots can be found on the NCFL website: <http://www.ncfl.org>

**Please remember that entry for this tournament is restricted to students who have competed at a minimum of two (2) NFCFL sanctioned regular-season tournaments this competition year.**

Additionally, students may only enter Grand Finals in an event they competed in for at least one (1) NFCFL sanctioned regular-season tournament. **ENTRIES MUST BE SENT TO DEAN RHOADS AND ARE DUE BY WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12<sup>TH</sup>.** The entry you mail must be accompanied by Script Review materials. See the NFCFL website for information on Script Review forms and procedures.

**Also, because this tournament qualifies students to Grand Nationals, ALL league competition rules will be strictly enforced. Please take the time to have your students review the rules for their event, as it will be necessary for the league's Executive Committee to disqualify entries that violate competition rules.**

All of the information you need to prepare a tournament entry is enclosed in this mailing. We have included event, meal, and lodging information as well as directions to the competition site. Please be aware that rooms are blocked in the hotels cited, however, The Players Championship is being held in the beach area the same weekend, so blocked rooms must be confirmed NO LATER THAN Friday, March 14, 2003. If you don't make the reservation by then, we cannot guarantee housing at any price. If you need assistance of any kind or have questions, please don't hesitate to contact us! We look forward to seeing you on Friday afternoon, March 28, at Ridgeview.

Sincerely,

D. Lynn Owen

D. Lynn Owen, Director of Forensics  
Ridgeview High School  
466 Madison Avenue  
Orange Park, FL 32065  
(904) 272-3003, ext. 3073 (my office)  
(904) 724-5776 (home)  
lion-n-lambii@juno.com

**LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP:** No school may compete at an NFCFL tournament without first completing all membership requirements (submission of membership card signed by school principal, accompanied by annual league dues). If you have questions regarding your membership status, please contact NFCFL President Dean Rhoads at Trinity Preparatory School (407-671-4140). Also, please remember that a school-approved adult must accompany students to the tournament and remain at the tournament site for the entire competition. If the school-approved adult is NOT the coach of record on the membership card, a letter from the school principal, signed and printed on school stationery, MUST be presented at registration. This letter must specifically name the adult in charge. Without this letter, schools may not compete at the tournament.

**QUALIFICATION STATUS:** As indicated in the cover letter, Grand Finals is NOT an “open tournament.” Contestants must meet NFCFL qualification rules in order to attend. You may check the status of your students’ qualification records at the NFCFL website (<http://www.nfcfl.org>). If you have any questions regarding qualification rules and/or the status of any specific contestant, please contact League Secretary Kathi Wells at Winter Springs High School. **Please remember that all contestants at Grand Finals must be in Grade 9 or above; no 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade students may compete at this event (this is an NCFL rule).**

**ENTRY:** We will offer competition in the NCFL-sanctioned events listed below. A member school may enter up to four qualified contestants in each event. Double-entry at NFCFL tournaments is **NOT** permitted. **Note that there are NOT novice events at Grand Finals. Novices must compete in the single, open division of their event.**

- |                                 |                        |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| --Policy Debate                 | --Student Congress     |
| --Lincoln-Douglas Debate        | --Original Oratory     |
| --Mixed Extemporaneous Speaking | --Dramatic Performance |
| --Oral Interpretation           | --Duo Interpretation   |
| --Declamation                   |                        |

The only acceptable method of entry is by completing all necessary entry forms and mailing them to Dean Rhoads. Entries should be made by the coach of the entering school. Entries must arrive at Trinity, complete with all forms and monies, prior to 3:00 pm on Wednesday, March 12.

**EVENT TOPICS & REGULATIONS:** When planning your entry, please be aware of the following:

**Policy Debate:** This year’s topic is as follows: Resolved: That the United States federal government should substantially increase public health services for mental health care in the United States.

**Student Congress:** To enter Student Congress, a school must provide at least one item of legislation. No legislation = no entry! Legislation for Student Congress is due along with all other Script Review paperwork. Bills must meet format and topic guidelines; non-conforming items will not be placed on the agenda. Following Script Review, a packet of legislation will be mailed out to each school submitting legislation, or the packet will be posted online at the NFCFL website. Also note that Presiding Officer nominations must be made on the entry form; none will be accepted after the entry has been submitted.

**Lincoln-Douglas Debate:** The topic for this tournament mirrors the national March/April topic, which is as follows: Resolved: When in conflict, the letter of the law ought to take priority over the spirit of the law.

**Oral Interpretation:** A coin flip conducted at the opening assembly will determine the prose/poetry round order.

**Duo Interpretation:** NCFL rules require the use of scripts, and movement/interaction is very restricted.

**Declamation:** Entry in this event is limited to 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students only.

**All other events follow NCFL rules, which are available on the NCFL website (<http://www.ncfl.org>). As per NFCFL rules, with violators subject to disqualification, all contestants in non-script and scripted speech events must have submitted copies of materials, to be used at State Grand Finals, for approval at NFCFL Script Review. No material may be used that has not been**

approved through this process. Memorized events must bring a written copy of the script/performance to the tournament. Remember that all NCFL Speech events include a thirty-second grace period.

**FEES:** The league-mandated fee for this tournament shall be \$8.00 per contestant in all events. Remember that each Policy Debate and Duo Interpretation unit has two contestants. **A check made out to the North Florida Catholic Forensic League must be enclosed with your entry. This is necessary in order to pay the enormous "Grand Finals Trophy Bill" that is due before the tournament begins!**

**GUARANTY FEE:** As per By-Law 9 of the NFCFL Constitution, each school with one (1) or more entries at Grand Finals must submit a \$100.00 "Guarantee Fee." Schools not qualifying students to Nationals will get this fee back at the end of the tournament. Schools qualifying one (1) or more contestants to Nationals will NOT get the guarantee fee back until the conclusion of NCFL Nationals. The Guarantee Fee is used to pay any fines/fees incurred by the school during Grand Finals or NCFL Nationals.

**DROPS:** Drops for Grand Finals must be immediately reported as follows:

- A. Before Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>: To League President Dean Rhoads
- B. After Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>: To League Vice President Jason Wysong

The drop fee structure is as follows:

- A. Drops until Tuesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm: Forfeit all entry fees and meals ordered
- B. Drops until Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm: same as above + \$10.00 drop fee
- C. Drops after Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm: a and b above + \$20.00 hassle fee

As per By-Law 26, drop fees for Grand Finals have been doubled. Fees for dropped students will be collected at registration on Friday afternoon.

**After 3:00 pm on Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, any drops should be reported to Jason Wysong on his cell phone: 407-625-9007. Drops at registration are absolutely unacceptable! Drops should be called in immediately upon discovery. If you find out about a drop on Friday morning, call it in before you get to registration so that we can adjust the tournament pairings.**

**JUDGES:** It is each school's responsibility to provide high-quality, trained judges for the tournament. If you need assistance locating judge-training materials, please contact an NFCFL officer.

The judge quota has been revised for the 2002-2003 competition year. These changes were adopted at the annual meeting of the NFCFL in May, 2002. **Each school must supply one "gold judge" who is trained in all events and will accept any judging assignment during the tournament.** Additional judges must be supplied in the following ratios:

- 1 judge for every 2 Policy Debate Teams, or fraction thereof
- 1 judge for every 2 Lincoln-Douglas entries, or fraction thereof
- 1 judge for every 5 entries in all other events, including Student Congress, or fraction thereof.

The NFCFL continues to recommend that judges be trained in all events (including Debate and Congress). Even the new "gold judge" rule does not guarantee that judge shortages will not occur. If a judge shortage does occur, the Executive Committee continues to reserve the right to ask judges in one category to take ballots for events in other categories.

**MEALS:** This is a closed-campus tournament, meaning that no commercially-prepared foods may be brought onto the campus. In accordance with new league policies, each entry fee now includes a Friday Dinner and Saturday Lunch for that entry. Additional dinners are available for \$7.00, while lunches are available for purchase at \$5.00 per person. Dinner and Lunch orders must be placed and paid when registration is sent in. In addition to the dinners and lunches purchased with the entry fees, please remember to purchase extra meals for all observers, judges, parents, and coaches, who wish to eat, in the order. Additionally, if you require any vegetarian meals, please indicate that at the time of registration. There will be a variety of snack items and drinks available throughout the tournament, so tell your students that we will take care of them.

**LODGING:** For those traveling from out of town who wish to stay in Orange Park overnight, we have blocked rooms at three area hotels. Please try to use these three hotels, if possible, because they have generously taken care of our team, and they want to serve the educational community any way they can. When contacting the hotel, mention this is for the "**Debate Team Tournament**" at Ridgeview High School. If your school is paying the hotel bill, mention and bring with you your school's tax exempt certificate, so no sales tax will be charged.

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**Holiday Inn/Orange Park**  
**I-295 and U.S. 17**  
**Orange Park, FL 32073**  
**(904) 213-1540**

This hotel has 50 rooms, double occupancy (4 people each), blocked for this event on the evening of Friday, 3/28/03. The cost is \$65.00/room. The hotel offers:

- A restaurant serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner.
- Room service daily from 6:00 AM to 10:00 PM.
- Free HBO and cable, with pay-per-view movies and Nintendo
- In-room coffee maker, iron/ironing board, and hairdryer
- Fitness Center, coin-operated laundry, and pool

**Directions to hotel:**

From I-295, exit at Highway U.S. 17 (aka Roosevelt Boulevard/Park Avenue).  
Travel south on U.S. 17, approximately 0.5 miles.  
Hotel is on the right.

**Directions to Ridgeview High School from hotel:**

South on U.S. 17, approximately 2 miles.  
Right on Kingsley Avenue; follow approximately 3 miles.  
Left on Blanding Blvd., follow approximately 4 miles.  
Right on Madison Ave., school on right at 466 Madison Avenue.

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**Comfort Inn**  
**I-295 & U.S. 17**  
**Orange Park, FL 32073**  
**(904) 264-3297**

This hotel has 50 rooms, double occupancy (4 people each), blocked for this event on the evening of Friday, 3/28/03. The cost is \$56.00/room. The hotel offers:

- Free continental breakfast.
- Free HBO and cable.
- In-room coffee maker, microwave, and mini refrigerator.
- In-room iron/ironing board, and hairdryer
- Pool

**Directions to hotel:**

From I-295, exit at Highway U.S. 17 (aka Roosevelt Boulevard/Park Avenue).  
 Travel south on U.S. 17, approximately 0.5 miles.  
 Hotel is on the left.

**Directions to Ridgeview High School from hotel:**

South on U.S. 17, approximately 2 miles.  
 Right on Kingsley Avenue; follow approximately 3 miles.  
 Left on Blanding Blvd., follow approximately 4 miles.  
 Right on Madison Ave., school on right at 466 Madison Avenue.

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**Hampton Inn**  
**6135 Youngerman Circle**  
**Jacksonville, FL 32244**  
**(904) 777-5313**

This hotel has 50 rooms, double occupancy (4 people each), blocked for this event on the evening of Friday, 3/28/03. The cost is \$65.00/room. The hotel offers:

- Free continental breakfast.
- Free HBO and cable.
- In-room coffee maker.
- In-room iron/ironing board, and hairdryer
- Pool

**Directions to hotel:**

From I-295, exit at Hwy 21 (aka Blanding Boulevard).  
 Travel south on Hwy 21, approximately 0.25 miles.  
 Turn right on Youngerman Circle.  
 Hotel is on right.

**Directions to Ridgeview High School from hotel:**

South on Hwy 21, (Blanding Blvd.) approximately 6 miles.  
 Right on Madison Ave., school on right at 466 Madison Avenue.

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**FINAL REGISTRATION:** Confirmation of entry and payment of fees shall take place at 2:00 P.M., on the afternoon of the tournament in the lobby of the school. Please arrive promptly and follow the signs from the front of the school to the registration area. According to NFCFL regulations, registration will close promptly at 2:15 P.M. Schools which have not completed final registration by this time will be removed from the tournament in the interest of running an on-time event.

**SCHEDULE:** The NFCFL Executive Board will set the tournament schedule. All events will offer 5 rounds of preliminary competition. Events with 18 or more contestants will break to elimination rounds. Student Congress will feature 2 long sessions. A Super Congress will be held if there are 18 or more entries. Awards will commence as quickly as possible after the completion of any elimination rounds.

Each event at this tournament will follow its own unique schedule. Unlike regular-season tournaments, all events will NOT be posted at the same time. It is imperative that your students and judges pay close attention to their surroundings to see when rounds are posted and judges are called.

Most events will feature two rounds of competition on Friday evening, though some events may include three rounds. After the overnight break, we will begin at 7:30 am Saturday and continue with the remaining preliminary rounds. Following lunch, any required elimination rounds will be held. The tournament concludes late Saturday afternoon or early Saturday evening with the Grand Finals Awards Ceremony.

**CELL PHONE FOR DAY OF COMPETITION:** (904) 813-5773

**DIRECTIONS:**

- **FROM ORLANDO** – Take **I-4 East** to **I-95 North (exit left)**. Follow **I-95 North** to **I-295 North (exit left)**. ***BEWARE--THERE'S A LOT OF CONSTRUCTION GOING ON AT THIS EXIT!!! SLOW DOWN, and BE CAREFUL!!! WE WANT YOU HERE IN ONE PIECE!!!*** Follow **I-295 North** to either exit at **U.S. 17** or **Blanding Blvd. (U.S. 21)** to hotels.
- **FROM GAINESVILLE** – Take **301 North** to **I-10 East (exit right)**. Take **I-10 East** to **I-295 South (exit right)**. Follow **I-295 South** to either exit at **U.S. 21 (Blanding Blvd.)** or **U.S. 17 (Park Ave.)** to hotels. **Follow directions from hotels to school**
- **FROM JACKSONVILLE**- Take any route to **Blanding Blvd.** Go South on Hwy 21, (Blanding Blvd.) approximately 6 miles. Then, turn right on **Madison Ave.**, school on right at **466 Madison Avenue**.

**NFCFL STATE GRAND FINALS ENTRY FORM**

*Must be mailed to Dean Rhoads along with Script Review materials. Deadline for entry to be in Dean's hands is 3:00 pm on Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>.*

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Coach: \_\_\_\_\_

School #: \_\_\_\_\_

Home #: \_\_\_\_\_

School Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Policy Debate

1. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

Student Congress (Presiding Officer designee must be indicated with "\*\*\*\*" on this entry)

1. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

Lincoln-Douglas Debate

1. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

Original Oratory

1. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

Mixed Extemporaneous Speaking

1. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

Dramatic Performance

1. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

Oral Interpretation

1. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

Duo Interpretation

1. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

Declamation

1. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

## JUDGING REQUIREMENTS

Gold Judge: 1 per school \_\_\_\_\_

Policy Debate: 1 judge for every 2 teams or fraction thereof

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lincoln-Douglas Debate: 1 judge for every 2 contestants or fraction thereof

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speech: 1 judge for every 5 contestants, including Student Congress, or fraction thereof

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## FEE CALCULATION

<u>1</u>	Guarantee Fee for Grand Finals/Nationals	x \$100.00:	\$100.00
_____	# of students competing at tournament (\$8.00 entry fee + \$7.00 dinner + \$5.00 lunch)	x \$ 20.00	_____
_____	# of additional Friday dinners	x \$ 7.00	_____
_____	# of additional Saturday lunches	x \$ 5.00	_____
	<b>TOTAL FEE DUE TO NFCFL IN ONE CHECK:</b>		_____

## MEAL ORDERS

**PLEASE ORDER MEALS FOR ALL COACHES, JUDGES, CONTESTANTS, PARENTS, OBSERVERS, BUS DRIVERS, ETC.**

Friday Dinner: Dinner will consist of Italian pastas, salad, bread, dessert, and soda.

\_\_\_\_\_ # of regular dinners

\_\_\_\_\_ # of vegetarian dinners

Saturday Lunch: Lunch will consist of pizza, salad, cookies, and soda.

\_\_\_\_\_ # of regular lunches

\_\_\_\_\_ # of vegetarian lunches

**RESERVE ENTRY LIST**

Under the provisions of the NFCFL Constitution, name changes for Grand Finals are not normally permitted because all speech event contestants must be approved in the Script Review process. Substitutions are, however, permitted in the following events:

1. Policy Debate
2. Student Congress
3. Lincoln Douglas Debate
4. Extemporaneous Speaking

In order to use the “reserve entry” system, you must list all possible entries that would be entitled to participate at Grand Finals (eg: 2 tournaments attended, and at least 1 in one of the events listed above). All reserve entries will have their status verified at Script Review. **IF A STUDENT’S NAME IS NOT PRINTED ON THE RESERVE ENTRY LIST, HE/SHE CAN NOT BE SUBSTITUTED INTO THE TOURNAMENT LATER.**

“Reserve entries” must be activated by calling the contact person for drops (see invitation) and notifying that person that you are replacing one of your regular entries with a reserve entry. Again, because of the Script Review process, reserve entries may ONLY be used in one of the events listed above.

**To utilize reserve entries, print the name of the student below:**

<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
-------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------

I verify that the above listed students qualify as “reserve entries” under the guidelines noted above.

Signature of Coach: \_\_\_\_\_

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_