

2024 Varsity State Bulletin

Wellington HS



FLORIDA FORENSIC LEAGUE, INC.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT

MARCH 2nd & 3rd 2024

January 26, 2024

Dear FFL Coaches,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to provide the following information regarding the 2024 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT. The 792 students who qualify for this event will compete on SAT. MARCH 2nd & SUN. MARCH 3rd at Wellington HS in Wellington, FL. Our host, Paul Gaba, has been working hard to prepare for a memorable State Championship!

Only students who qualified through the Regional Tournament process or who earned one of the 6 auto-qual spots via FFL-sanctioned tournaments may compete at the State Championship. When the results from your region's qualifying tournament have been certified, coaches of schools with qualified students can begin editing student entries via [speechwire.com](https://www.speechwire.com). All results from regionals will be automatically populated from the regional tournaments. However, coaches must verify entries for accuracy.

Please read the information in this invitation carefully. You must adhere to ALL deadlines—failure to do so will result in the penalties listed. We are committed to running an efficient and on-time event, but we will only be successful if all member schools follow the published requirements.

Good luck to your qualifiers on their preparations for the tournament. I look forward to seeing you in March!

Yours very truly,

Carol Lynne Cecil
President, Florida Forensic League, Inc.
2024 State Championship Tournament Director

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Questions on Competition, Rules, Judges

Tournament Director: Carol Cecil

[fforensicleague@gmail.com](mailto:f forensicleague@gmail.com)

G. Holmes Braddock

3601 SW 147th Ave

Miami, Florida 33185

Questions on Directions and Meals

Tournament Host: Paul Gaba

paul.gaba@palmbeachschools.org

Wellington HS

2101 Greenview Shores Blvd

Wellington, FL 33414

Email is the preferred method of contact for all questions and concerns.

INFORMATION FROM FLORIDA FORENSIC LEAGUE, INC.

The Full Invitation Will Be Published And Sent Out To Coaches Soon!

Tournament Hotels

FFL has secured two sets of room blocks at two different locations. Hotels are at a premium because it is polo season in Palm Beach and spring break.

Holiday Inn Palm Beach-Airport Conf Ctr, an IHG Hotel

Address: 1301 Belvedere Rd, West Palm Beach, FL 33405

Phone: (561) 659-3880

\$209/Night

RESERVATION CUTOFF DATE 2/9/24

Approximate Distance from Wellington HS (26 Minutes / 15.1 miles)

Reservation Link:

<https://www.holidayinn.com/redirect?path=rates&brandCode=HI&localeCode=en®ionCode=1&hotelCode=PBIAT&checkInDate=01&checkInMonthYear=022024&checkOutDate=03&checkOutMonthYear=022024&PMID=99801505&GPC=FFL&cn=no&viewfullsite=true>

Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott West Palm Beach

Address: 2045 Vista Pkwy, West Palm Beach, FL 33411

Phone: (561) 227-3040

\$269/Night

RESERVATION CUTOFF DATE 2/9/24

Approximate Distance from Wellington HS (23 Minutes / 12.2 miles)

Reservation Link:

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1691503007619&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

Essential Things To Be Aware Of

- There will be no "Second Chance Lottery" this year. This is why we implemented the FFL-sanctioned tournaments' 6 auto-qualification spots.

- **TOPIC AREAS**

USX:

Round 1 US Foreign Policy

Round 2 Economics and Business

Round 3 The 2024 Election Cycle

Round 4 Legislative Affairs

Round 5 The Judicial Branch

Semis Arts, Pop Culture, and Society

Finals Social Inequalities

Semis clarification: Questions may include anything found on the pages of Entertainment Weekly, ESPN, the Arts/Culture section of the NY Times, etc...

FX:

Round 1 US Foreign Policy

Round 2 Elections 2024

Round 3 Global Institutions

Round 4 Western Hemispheric Affairs

Round 5 Eastern Hemispheric Affairs

Semis Historical Revisionism

Finals International Relations

Semis clarification: The questions will pose a What If scenario reversing a historical fact and pose a question on it. An example: Joe Biden never withdraws American troops from Afghanistan. What is the Taliban doing now to regain control of the nation?

IMP:

Round 1 Song Lyrics from the Superbowl

Round 2 Jeopardy Triple Stumpers

Round 3 Famous Floridians

Round 4 Toys and Games

Round 5 Recently in Stuff

Semis It's Memeable

Finals Quotations

Semis clarification: Prompts will be visual memes from the internet*

- WORLD SCHOOLS DEBATE - The number of qualifiers per region in World Schools Debate has changed.

Region 1 - 1 Team

Region 2 - 6 Teams

Region 3 - 1 Team

Region 4 - 4 Teams

Region 5 - 4 Teams

Region 6 - 7 Teams

Region 7 - 1 Team

- WORLD SCHOOLS DEBATE - Please vote and encourage your students to vote for the World Schools Debate - Florida Topic. Coaches and students can vote as many times as they like.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FDSDFWB>

- WORLD SCHOOLS DEBATE - Will have 6 preliminary rounds

Round 1 – Impromptu

Round 2 – Prepared

Round 3 – Impromptu

Round 4 – Prepared

Round 5 – Prepared

Round 6 - Impromptu

Quarters – Prepared

Semis – Impromptu

Finals – Prepared (Florida motion)

Round 2 - This topic will still deal with immigration, but we are working on verbiage

Round 4 - This House believes civil litigation should have the same requirements as criminal litigation.

Round 5 - TBD

Quarters - TBD

- JUDGING - Schools cannot hire out their entire judging obligation. Schools must provide qualified judges. A limited number of judges will be available for hire. The price of hired judge fees is also increasing.
- JUDGING - Schools with 15 or more entries who wish to hire judges should email the league president, Carol Cecil - flforensicleague@gmail.com
- JUDGING - We are working with Ben Stewart from SpeechWire to integrate a judge rating system into SW for the Varsity State Tournament. Still, if we cannot launch it for VS we sincerely hope it will be in place next season. If it cannot be integrated this year, we will ask coaches to complete a judge rating form for each judge. The link to the form will be sent to coaches and posted in SW.
- JUDGING - FFL has updated the webpage to provide judging resources, including a mobile judging guide that can be downloaded and viewed on a smartphone.
- JUDGING - We will have ballot auditors again this year. We will be fining \$10 per instance where we ask judges to provide more feedback or change a ballot because of questionable comments.
- JUDGING - All head coaches will be considered as a part of the judge pool for out-rounds in all events.
- ENTOURAGE RULE - The Entourage Rule states that individuals who provide coaching or research support for participants in the Policy, PFD, LD or Congressional Debate must fulfill certain obligations as judges. Specifically:
 1. For Policy, PFD, LD: Coaches or research support individuals must be entered in the judge pool for a minimum of two rounds. They should also be available to judge elimination debates.
 2. For Congressional Debate: Coaches or research support individuals must be entered as judges and be available for elimination debates.

Note - If there is a valid reason why someone requires an exception to these obligations, they should contact tournament administrators (Brian McAninch - fiforensicleaguecommunications@gmail.com) before the tournament to seek approval

Consequences for violating the Entourage Rule are as follows:

1. Policy, LD, and PFD They will lose their strikes (if offered).
 2. Schools with Congressional Debaters: They will be fined the fee for an uncovered judge (\$300).
- REMIND 101 - We will be making announcements via Remind 101 in addition to email/SpeechWire notifications - please encourage judges & students to join - here is the join link <https://www.remind.com/join/24eagles-1>
 - LinkTree - We also have a LinkTree where we post general information <https://linktr.ee/floridaforensicleague>