

FLORIDA FORENSIC LEAGUE

TOP TEN REMINDERS FOR THE REGIONAL QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT

FEBRUARY 7, 2009

- 1) School participation at the Regional Tournament is **essential!**
 - A school's failure to compete at least one student at its regional tournament results in forfeiture of entry privileges at Novice State unless the school is prohibited from travel by their school district due to an "FCAT Blackout". If this applies to you a letter stating this on school letterhead and signed by your principal needs to be mailed to Carol Cecil prior to the Regional Tournament.
 - A school's failure to compete at least one student at its regional tournament results in forfeiture of the privilege of participation in Coach of the Year voting.
 - A school's failure to compete at least one student at its regional tournament may decrease the number of qualifiers from its region next year. Qualifying spots are awarded to each region on the basis of previous year's participation. Thus, skipping this year's regional tournament could decrease the number of qualifying slots in your region next year, making it harder for your students to qualify in 2010.

- 2) The Regional Tournament is a **QUALIFIER**, not a **PRACTICE**.
 - Students should come to this tournament as prepared as they would be for CFL Grand Finals or the NFL District Tournament.
 - Only students who can actually attend the State Championship on March 6 & 7 at Royal Palm Beach HS in Palm Beach County should compete at the regional tournament.
 - There are substantial financial penalties for dropping from the State Championship, and drop fees are rarely waived.

- 3) First year-students may compete at the Regional Tournament and qualify to the State Championship without losing their eligibility to compete at Novice State. In theory, a novice could win the State Championship and still compete at Novice State the next month.

- 4) Double entry and double qualification are encouraged by FFL!
 - As a benefit of membership in FFL, students who double-enter are NEVER charged an additional fee. There is no cost difference between single-entry and double-entry!
 - Double entry is permitted in most events. Exceptions: TD, LD, PF, GI, SC
 - Students may not cross-enter between UX and IX.
- 5) All students and adults must comply with the provisions of the *FFL Civility Code*.
 - The *Civility Code*, which was approved by the membership in the fall of 2005, prescribes generally accepted rules of behavior at forensic contests.
 - Coaches are responsible for ensuring that their students and judges abide by the provisions of this document.
 - The *Civility Code* is available for download at <http://www.floridaforensics.org> Click on the link to the FORMS page.
- 6) Electronic devices are prohibited in all events including TD.
 - This prohibition includes all rounds in all events and the extemp prep room.
 - Contestants may keep time on an electronic device if that device is incapable of storing or retrieving other types of data.
 - Judges in debate events may flow rounds on laptop computers.
 - Penalty for violation of this rule may include disqualification.
- 7) Coaches must certify that their judges are trained!
 - Judges should be given a copy of the latest version of the State of Florida Uniform Judging Manual. This document serves as the FFL training manual. Tournament directors will not provide copies, so coaches should duplicate and distribute them to their judges before the tournament.
 - Coaches should ask their judges to bring a digital timer for use during rounds.
 - The judge-training manual is available for download at <http://www.floridaforensics.org> Click on the link to the FORMS page.
- 8) Interpretation/speech contestants must follow FFL rules regarding their pieces/orations.
 - The name of each contestant's piece/oration must be recorded on the school's entry form. That piece must be used at both the Regional Tournament and the State Championship. Failure to perform the listed piece at either tournament will result in disqualification.
 - FFL has its own rules for determining whether a piece is published. Please see Rule 30 of the *Governing Documents* for more information. Pieces that may be acceptable at other tournaments like NCFL may not meet the FFL standard for publication. Pieces that do not meet the FFL publication standard may not be used at FFL competitions, and the penalty for violation is immediate disqualification.
 - Students **must** bring a copy of their piece/oration and appropriate documentation of publication where applicable to all FFL tournaments. That

copy must be presented to FFL officials upon request; failure to provide any required information will result in immediate disqualification.

--There is a thirty (30) second grace period for all FFL interpretation/speech events. Any contestant who performs/speaks beyond the grace period may not be ranked in first place for that round.

9) In FFL, Student Congress has its own manual and procedures

--Coaches should download and print a copy of the *FFL Student Congress Manual* for each Congress contestant. The manual is available at <http://www.floridaforensics.org> in the FORMS section.

--Each school may nominate two (2) of its students for Presiding Officer.

--Each qualifier to the State Championship may submit one piece of legislation for the agenda. Qualifiers should read the State Championship invitation for details.

10) It is every coach's responsibility to understand FFL rules and review them with students.

--General tournament regulations and event-specific rules can be found in the *FFL Governing Documents*, which are available for download from the FORMS page on the FFL website (<http://www.floridaforensics.org>).

--At a minimum, the league recommends review of the following policies:

1. **Coaches** should pay special attention to:

--Rule 3: School-Sanctioned Adults

--Rule 4: Judging Responsibilities

--Rule 5: Alternates & Drops

--Rule 9: Protests

--Rule 18: Student No-Show/Non Performance in a Round

--Rule 19: Protection of Property – This is FFL's vandalism prevention policy – please read it carefully & review with all of your students

2. **Debaters** should pay special attention to:

--Rules 25-28: **Debate Event Rules & Regulations – there have been changes in prep time, tie-breakers, and powering of rounds.**

3. **Speech/Interpretation** event contestants should pay special attention to:

--Rule 30: General IE/Speech Event Regulations, including publication rules, singing limits, etc.

--Rule 31.E: Extemp Prep Room Rules

--Rules 32-37: Specific IE/Speech Event Rules

--Rule 37 (specifically letter N - regarding further restrictions on theme dressing in Group Interpretation)