



**The Virginia
Forensics League
and the NFL
Virginia District**

www.VaNFL.org

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***“From the
Mountains...
To the Sea.”***

November 30, 2008

Dear NFL Coach,

We are pleased to offer the 58th Annual NFL Virginia State Championship on January 23/24, 2009, at the spectacular University of Virginia, located in downtown Charlottesville. We anticipate that this will be the largest and best NFL State Championship in Virginia's history.

We will offer, in only two days, the premier state tournament... offering competition in the NFL Speech Events (DX, FX, OO, DI, HI, and Duo), the NFL Debate Events (LD, PF, CX), NFL Congress (Senate and multiple Houses), and VaFL Supplemental Events (Imp, Prose, Poetry, and Storytelling). The top three competitors in each NFL event gain qualifications to NFL Nationals, held this June in Birmingham, Alabama.

Joining us in Tab will be: Martha Lee (Treasurer, Clerk of Congress), Arch Painter (Speech Tab Chair), Bill Wonneberger (Debate Tab Chair), Mark Ingerson, Chris Cleary, and Kelley Stallard (Speech Assistants), Julian Dotson, Steven O'Baugh, and Deborah Ketchum (Debate Assistants), Rebecca Dovi (Congress Assistant and Secretary), Donald Hitt (Ballot Table), Jason Warren (Ombudsman), and BA Gregg (Tournament Director). We also practice Transparent Tab in Virginia NFL. This means that we will bring in coaches during their off-rounds to assist in tabulation, preparation of ballots, and auditing. For all Tab Staff, results and outcomes of rounds are strictly confidential and are not to be shared with anyone outside the boundaries of the Tab Room.

Complete information on the NFL Virginia State Championship is found on our website, www.VaNFL.org under States. This website is the end-all and be-all of the NFL Virginia State Championship. This letter is only a rough guideline of the tournament. The webpage contains everything you need to know and the links to get everything done..

This letter includes:

- 1) A check-list for deadlines and actions. All actions and deadlines referenced are found on the Registration Timeline page of the VaNFL.org/states website. Print the list, post it by your desk, and make sure that you are on-target for the tournament.
- 2) A FAQ Guide to the tournament. The information contained is not to act as a substitute for the information on the website or any NFL manual.
- 3) The Schedule is found on the website under Logistics. As the Schedule is dependent upon the number of entries in each event, this will be finalized the weekend following close of Registration. For now, Registration begins at Cabell Hall at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, January 23rd, closes at 11:00 a.m., followed directly by Congress. Check the website.

We hope to see you there at the largest NFL National Qualifier in the history of Virginia! If you have any questions, definitely email or call. I eagerly await to see you and your team, until that time, I remain,

**Sincerely Yours,
Rev. BA. Gregg**

As VaNFL States is a tournament with rigorous guidelines for entry, and deadlines with severe ramifications if those deadlines are not followed, here is a simple checklist-timeline for you to print out and follow. **All deadlines referenced and action-buttons are located on the Registration Timeline page on the VaNFL.org/states website. That page is your primary guide for registration completion guidelines.**

Deadline	Action
<input type="checkbox"/> Start Now! (The more NFL points your school has, the more degrees, the more degrees, the more students you can enter at NFL States... if you have received an invitation to Charter Status... fill it out and send it back asap... this means more kids for Congress)	Enter all student NFL points in at NFLOnline.org. <i>You will need your 2008/09 NFL Dues paid and password/ username from NFL. For VaFL schools, if you are in good standing for the season, we have taken care of your NFL membership and renewal. For NFL schools part of VaNFL, the membership renewal form is available at www.vanfl.org under Forms and Manuals. If you do not have, or have forgotten, your NFLOnline password and/or username, email nflcustomerservice@nflonline.org and request one. If you are unsure of point entry, go to www.vanfl.org/project1200 and there is a complete explanation on NFL points. Remember, points are cumulative since the freshman year (even if your school wasn't in NFL) and work across all leagues and invitationals.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> December 24, 2008 5:00 p.m.	Submit non-binding Registration Estimate. <i>Based on records on NFLOnline, you can compute the total number of entries in each event. Submission of PreRegistration Estimate is required. It is highly advisable that you arrange your hotel reservations at this time, as we anticipate a goodly number of teams.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> January 9, 2009 5:00 p.m.	Early Registration (optional)... 15% Discount <i>Please follow the requirements for Regular Registration (listed below)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> January 9, 2009 5:00 p.m.	Congress eLegislation submitted. <i>We will close Congress eSubmission at this time and post the finalized packet and docket for the first cycle that evening.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> January 15, 2009 5:00 p.m.	All students attending NFL States must be members in good standing (25 points), listed on NFLOnline. <i>Now is the time to put in all old points from previous years, and make sure that your school's membership dues are in order. The rule is: the sooner the better.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> January 16, 2009 5:00 p.m.	Regular Registration (strictly enforced)
All Registrations must include:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Title submission. All titles of oratories, DI, HI, and Duo pieces must be submitted online. Complete ISBN information must be made for all interp events. 2. Judges paradigms. All LD, CX debate judges must submit an online judge paradigm. 3. Letter of Single-Intent. All students double-entered in NFL events (DX, FX, OO, DI, HI, Duo, LD, CX, PF, and/or Congress) must fill out a Single-Intent Letter with all necessary signatures of coach, parent, and principal. 4. Signature forms. All students on your team entered in Congress and/or NFL Speech/Debate must sign each form and then that form must be signed by the coach and principal.
<input type="checkbox"/> January 23, 2009 10:00 a.m.	Onsite Registration, UVA Main Campus, Cabell Hall
You must bring with you:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All letters of Single-Intent and both signature sheets. 2. Hard copies of all oratories (including bibliography), and all cuttings of Duo, DI, and HI pieces. 3. A check for all costs referenced on your invoice.



Quick-Start Guide to VaFL States/ NFL Qualifiers

Date: Friday-Saturday, January 23/24, 2009

Location: University of Virginia, Cabell Hall

Events: All NFL Speech, Debate, and Congress

For all coaches, new and experienced, the NFL National Qualifier and Virginia Forensics League States can be an overload of information and lots of rules and policies and forms to have up in the air. As it is the NFL Virginia District's prime intent to lower the bar for as many schools to attend the tournament as possible, this Quick-Start Guide will help coaches understand how the tournament will work and what will be required of them. This Quick-Start Guide does not take the place of the Official NFL District Tournament Manuals, but is a great starting-place for all coaches.

Why are VaFL States/ NFL National Qualifiers so early?

Yes, running States in January is awfully early. Earliest in the nation. In the past, we've run Debate and Congress in January and moved Speech to the end of April. This method worked well, in that we leveled the playing field for private schools by having debate early, and allowed all schools an opportunity to enter all their NFL Points to have a full complement at Speech States in April.

However, there were some impediments with this method: schools found their budgets depleted, their administration unwilling, and their kids committed in other extra-curriculars in April. Additionally, coaches and students were just, well, burned-out and didn't really feel as though they were bringing their best performances to the table.

Resultantly, the NFL Virginia District Committee talked long and hard over the summer to figure out the right way to do VaFL States and the NFL National Qualifier for Speech. The VHSL Calendar calls for around 98 district, regional, and state tournaments in speech, debate, and congress from the beginning of February until the middle of April. Without forcing students to make a choice between VHSL States and NFL Nationals, there is absolutely no way to shoe-horn in a tournament from February to April in the state.

Therefore, when considering the optimal time for VaFL States/NFL Qualifiers, we chose the last weekend of January as one that does not conflict with any league tournaments. More, since VaFL States is before VHSL Districts, coaches can point out to administrators that that VaFL/NFL Qualifiers at the end of January is the tournament that will prepare their students the best for VHSL Districts and Regionals, as it could be presented as a warm-up for States. Hence, administrators will be a little more forthcoming with transportation and funding requests. More, as this weekend corresponds to most schools' in Virginia weekend after final exams and start before the second semester, the date really becomes ideal to ensure maximum competition from across Virginia. Finally, VHSL only covers teams under their catastrophic insurance policy when a non-VHSL event occurs before the terminal tournament (Speech in March, Debate in April). Hence, this date is the best possible one for Virginia.

Where are VaFL States/ NFL National Qualifiers held?

Thanks to the eagerness of Calvin Li (former Woodson debater) and the hospitality of the Washington Debating Society, we will host VaFL States/NFL Qualifiers at Cabell Hall, on the University of Virginia Main Campus, in Charlottesville, Virginia. As a result of a voting of schools and coaches in summer and the planning of the tournament, we believe that this new location for VaNFL States will offer the best location for the most amount of schools.

Are there tournament hotels nearby?

Yes, we are arranging with the Cavalier Inn at 105 Emmet Street to get rooms for under \$80/ night. We will have the Promotion Codes on the www.VaNFL.org/states website by December 1. Registration may be made via the same website under the Logistics Page, by just clicking on the hotel icon.

How are meals handled?

Virginia NFL will provide a judge lounge for judges. Student competitors are encouraged to purchase food from the Washington Society. They may venture off campus, if allowed by their coach and school policy; however, as rounds are very quick at this tournament, they may do so at their own risk. All judges are on standby until we officially release pools. If a judge is not present in the judge lounge when the name is called, their school will be fined \$25 per missed standby round.

Who can compete?

All students in good standing who are NFL members (25 points or more) in NFL Virginia schools with their dues current with Ripon are qualified to compete at VaFL States/ NFL Virginia Qualifiers. The real key to getting all the students you want to VaFL States/ NFL Qualifiers is getting in their NFL Points online as soon as possible. Start early, keep up your point entry throughout the year. Task a student to enter points for your team. Or, if you are new to coaching, Enroll in Project 1200 on the www.VaNFL.org website. If you have less than 25 degrees, we will not only enter your students and results, we will pay for your lifetime student memberships. If you have over 25 degrees, we will still enter your students' NFL points totally free of charge and willingly.

Should students compete who have no intention to go to NFL Nationals?

By all means! In order to qualify a certain number of students to NFL Nationals, we need to have a certain number of entries in each event (12 in individual events, 10 in team events, and 30 in Congress). We have no problem with students who help others out by competing with no intention of going to NFL Nationals. To compete under such circumstances speaks great things about the character of the coach and the student. By all means, come and play!

How many students can we send in Speech and Debate?

For Speech and Debate, schools may send up to four entries in each NFL event (CX, LD, PF, DX, FX, OO, DI, HI, and Duo). Schools may enter as many entries as they can within their NFL Speech and Debate Quota. The Quota is based on a formula of total degrees, found on NFL Online, found on NFL Online seven days before the tournament. The chart is below:

NFL Speech and Debate National Qualifier Quota Chart	
1 - 15 members and degrees 3 entry	81 - 90 members and degrees 19 entries
16 - 20 members and degrees 5 entries	91 - 100 members and degrees 20 entries
21 - 30 members and degrees 8 entries	101-120 members and degrees 22 entries
31 - 40 members and degrees 10 entries	121-140 members and degrees 24 entries
41 - 50 members and degrees 12 entries	141-160 members and degrees 26 entries
51 - 60 members and degrees 13 entries	161-180 members and degrees 27 entries
61 - 70 members and degrees 15 entries	181-200 members and degrees 28 entries
71 - 80 members and degrees 17 entries	201-230 members and degrees 29 entries

Entries in debate or speech figure into the entry quota. A two-person team (CX, PF, and Duo) are counted as one entry against the quota. A student who is double-entered in two individual events counts as two against the quota.

How many students can we send in Student Congress?

Congress functions as a separate tournament quota system. Schools that are Affiliates may send two entries to the Senate and two entries to the House. Schools may enter as many entries as they can within their NFL Congress Quota found in the chart to the right:

Chapter	Senate	House	Chapter	Senate	House
Affiliate	2	2	76-100 degrees	2	6
1-20 degrees	2	2	101-150 degrees	2	7
21-35 degrees	2	3	151-200 degrees	2	8
36-55 degrees	2	4	201-250 degrees	2	9
56-75 degrees	2	5	251-300 degrees	2	10

PLEASE NOTE: A school's allotment in the Senate **may not** be moved to increase a school's allotment in the House.

We cease all competition rounds in Speech and Debate and run sessions of Congress. We not only encourage students to enter in Congress, but we encourage it through allowing a 25% reduction of tournament registration costs if a school uses its full quota in both NFL Speech/Debate and Congress. Congress has a completely separate entry quota that does not effect your Speech and Debate Quota. Therefore, it is no impediment, but a great benefit, for your students to enter in Speech and Debate and Congress.

How is the tournament structured?

We have scheduled the tournament to allow most students to double-enter in Speech and Debate events and to even triple-enter in Congress events. The complete schedule is found online. The tournament is unique in the state and nation, in that we allow students an opportunity to compete in as many events and rounds as possible.

How is the NFL Speech tournament scheduled?

We will run the tournament according to the California Plan (viz. TD 26-27). We anticipate three preliminary rounds with three-judge panels. We will break to semifinal rounds with three-judge panels, followed by final rounds with five-judge panels. Speech preliminary rounds will be double-patterned, with events being either Pattern A or B. Students may double-enter in the same pattern. Students may even triple-enter in Speech events if one of those events is a VaFL event.

How is the Debate tournament scheduled?

We will run the tournament according to the double-down method; this means that students are still in the NFL National Pool until they lose two rounds (double-down). The first two rounds are paired randomly. Subsequent rounds will be power-paired according to the District Tournament Manual. Certain LD and PF rounds will be single-flighted, others will be double-flighted; the schedule will be the final authority for rounds. We will use single-judge panels in debate until eight or fewer teams remain in the NFL National Pool; at that point, we will move to three-judge panels.

How is the Congress tournament scheduled?

Beginning the first block on competition on Friday, we will have a 120-minute Congress Session, followed by debate events and speech events. On Saturday morning, we will begin with a 60-minute Congress Session. Between each round of speech and debate, we will offer another a one hour session of Congress, suspending all debate and speech events. Congress, therefore, allows students the opportunity to compete without impacting their performance in Speech and Debate. Coaches will preregister their students for the House and will then be divided into chambers onsite during the Friday morning registration, conducting a blind draw with the registrar. Each school may submit two pieces of legislation online up to two weeks before the tournament. The Clerk of Congress will preset the docket according to date of submission and topic area. Once a complete sequence of the topic areas has been fully debated, the chamber may elect to modify the docket. However, as all students must give at least one speech to have a valid House and as students wishing to qualify to NFL Nationals must give at least three speeches, parliamentary maneuvering is discouraged.

How do students double- and triple-enter?

Because the tournament is structured to allow students to compete in multiple events, students can double-enter in speech and debate events and triple-enter in Congress. The exception to double-entry are:

- CX Debaters, due to time-constraints, may only double-enter in Congress.
- PF Debaters may not double-enter in Duo, unless their partners are the same.
- Because of time constraints, we cannot allow students to double-enter in DX and FX.

All students who are multiple-entered must present a completed single-intent form at the time of onsite registration. The Single-Intent Form is located in the signature packet in the Registration Timeline section of the website.

Students who directly qualify to NFL Nationals in a team event (CX, Duo, PF) in places 1-3 must attend NFL Nationals in their team event; unless both members of the team event have qualified in their single-events.

What is the judge burden?

The Judge Burden has been designed to allow adequate judging provided by the school and not over-burden the schools. The Judge Burden chart is to the right. All debate judges (CX and LD) must submit a paradigm online before the tournament. Speech judges will be selected by the tournament officials to sit on 3-person Public Forum debate rounds. Congress judges will be assigned by the tournament from the Judge Pool. There is no direct judge burden for Congress.

Event	Judges	Entries
Speech	1	3
PF Debate	1	2
LD Debate	1	2
CX Debate	1	2

All judges are instructed to read the Instructions for Judging Events available in the Documents and Downloads Section of the VaFL States / NFL National Qualifiers website.

What are the Extemp Topic Areas?

Topic areas will be determined by random draw before each round. The topic areas for Domestic Extemp are: Politics, Social, Economic, the Presidential Election. The topics for Foreign Extemp are: Global Economics, Asia, Europe/ Russia, Africa/ The Americas, Middle East, and Globalization. The final round for both DX and FX will feature US Foreign Relations.

Will we have Supplemental Events?

We will continue our tradition of Supplemental Events in 2006-07. Students may enter Supplemental Prose, Poetry, Impromptu, and Storytelling. They may double-enter these events and two NFL Speech/Debate events, as long as they are not triple-entered within the same pattern. All rules for Supplementals are standard VaFL rules.

What are the student awards?

Medals will be awarded to all NFL Speech Semifinalists and trophies to all NFL Speech Finalists. Ribbons will be awarded to all VaFL Supplemental Speech Semifinalists and trophies to all VaFL Supplemental Speech Semifinalists. In debate, trophies will be awarded to the top eight entries in all events. Speaker medals will be given to the top five debaters in each event. A plaque will be given to each of the NFL National Qualifiers.

Who goes to NFL Nationals?

Assuming that we reach a minimum in Speech and Debate (12 in single events, 10 in team events), we can send the top 3 entries in each event to NFL Nationals, due to the Bonus Entry of Project 1200. We will send the top two competitors in the Senate and the top competitor in each House.

Since a student can, with Congress, be triple-entered and, conceivably, triple-qualify to NFL Nationals, we will determine the qualifiers and call-ups from the Single-Intent Letters. Team Events must go to NFL Nationals in the team event, unless both team members qualify in their individual events. If a student is called up, the student can have his or her choice to go in the team event or the individual event.

What are the school awards?

School awards are computed by the total number of debate rounds, speech rounds, and congress speeches from a school. Team events are counted double for sweepstakes computation.

We will again offer the UVA Jefferson Debating Society Award for Excellence in LD Debate, the American Legion Awards for Excellence in Public Forum Debate and Student Congress, the James Madison Award for Excellence in Policy Debate, and the George Mason Award for Excellence in Speech. Each of these awards have been named after our valuable college, community, and corporate sponsors.

Additionally, we will offer the Large School Sweepstakes Cardinal Cup for the three best-performing large chapters in the state; we will offer the Mid-Sized School Sweepstakes Dogwood Cup for the three best-performing mid-sized chapters in the state; finally we will offer the Small School Sweepstakes Dominion Cup for the three best-performing chapters in the state. Determination of category will be done at the close of registration by dividing up all registered schools into three divisions, according to their chapter strength.

For schools at their first time at NFL National Qualifiers/ VaFL States, they are placed in a special pool for the Franklin-Grady Emerging Schools Sweepstakes for the three most successful schools at their first time at the National Qualifier. The championship team will receive a large traveling trophy, inscribed with the top Franklin-Grady Teams since the award's inception.

The NFL Sweepstakes Plaque will be awarded to the school with the best performing 15 entries in Speech and Debate. The NFL Traveling Tournament Trophy will be awarded to the school with the best cumulative score in the District Tournament. The winning school's name will be inscribed on the traveling trophy and will be retired when a school has won the trophy three times.

How do we register?

Coaches should go to the www.VaNFL.org/states website and go to the Tournament Registration Timeline Page. All registration of judges and entries will be done via Tabroom.com. The website has instructions and online tutorials for creating a chapter. Follow the instructions closely on the Tournament Registration Timeline Page for all forms and manuals. Have these forms filled out and signed and bring them with you to the tournament.

What do we bring with us?

In the Download Packet from the Tournament Registration Timeline webpage, there is a handy checklist. What is contained will be: (1) Original copies of Interp pieces and cuttings. These original copies and cuttings are only to be used if there is a question. (2) Original Oratory copies with signature forms, attesting originality. (3) Single-Intent letters properly filled out and signed for all students double-entered. (4) Signature forms for Speech and Debate Districts and Congress Districts. (5) Check for registration and any monies owed to Ripon. Check should be made payable to NFL.

If you have any further questions, contact Rev. BA Gregg at bagregg@rma.edu or on cell at 540.303.0380.