



# Back To School Bulletin

**Fall Meeting** – 2023 – Fall Meeting (Virtual via Zoom) Saturday 8/19/23 – the link is here, but it is also included in this email as well.

**Fall Meeting Link** -

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5274822859?pwd=Sm1nMmMvNXBZSCtuSThqZi85TnpMQT09>

**Meeting Time** – 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

**Regional Quals** – 2024 – Saturday – 2/3/24 – locations per Regional Director’s Discretion – Tournaments will be in person unless otherwise noted.

**Varsity State** – 2024 – Saturday/Sunday – 3/2 – 3/3/24 – Wellington HS – Macaw – Host Paul Gaba. I have already secured 1 hotel block and am working on more.

**Novice State** – 2024 – Saturday/Sunday – 4/13 – 4/14/24 – Apopka HS – Timacuan – Host Cathy Brown. I am working on securing hotel blocks.

**Middle School State** – 2024 – The MS State Committee will decide which format is best for middle school students and determine dates and locations if necessary.

## Other Important Dates/Religious Holidays

8/26/23 - SAT

4/13/24 – ACT

9/9/23 - ACT

4/22/24 – Passover Begins

9/15/23 - Rosh Hashanah

9/24/23 – Yom Kippur

10/7/23 – SAT

10/28/23 - ACT

11/4/23 – SAT

12/2/23 – SAT

12/9/23 - ACT

2/10/24 – ACT

3/9/24 - SAT

3/31/24 – Easter

## **FFL Executive Board**

President – Carol Cecil – [f forensicleague@gmail.com](mailto:f forensicleague@gmail.com)

VP - Operations – Dario Camara - [dariocamara@gmail.com](mailto:dariocamara@gmail.com)

VP – Middle School Operations – Aly Fiebrantz-Awsare - [afiebran@nova.edu](mailto:afiebran@nova.edu)

Secretary – Benjamin Gaddis - [gaddisb@trinityprep.org](mailto:gaddisb@trinityprep.org)

Treasurer – Grant Chmielewski - [grant.chmielewski@ocps.net](mailto:grant.chmielewski@ocps.net)

## **FFL Regional Directors**

Region 1 – If you are interested in serving, please Contact Carol Cecil - [f forensicleague@gmail.com](mailto:f forensicleague@gmail.com)

Region 2 – Nathan Johnston - [njohnston@lhps.org](mailto:njohnston@lhps.org)

Region 3 – If you are interested in serving, please Contact Carol Cecil - [f forensicleague@gmail.com](mailto:f forensicleague@gmail.com)

Region 4 – Bo Lint - [bobby.lint@ahschool.com](mailto:bobby.lint@ahschool.com)

Region 5 – Kate Hamm - [khamm@ransomeverglades.org](mailto:khamm@ransomeverglades.org)

Region 6 – Ryan Levesque - [ryan.levesque@ahschool.com](mailto:ryan.levesque@ahschool.com)

Region 7 – If you are interested in serving, please Contact Carol Cecil - [f forensicleague@gmail.com](mailto:f forensicleague@gmail.com)

## **TREASURER MAILING ADDRESS – W-9 ATTACHED! UPDATE THIS INFORMATION WITH YOUR BOOKKEEPERS!**

We are now in our 2<sup>nd</sup> year of having of having Grant Chmielewski as FFL Treasurer.

Please Make Sure To Read Over Grant’s Treasurer’s Info -

Dr. Phillips HS  
ATTN – Grant Chmielewski  
6500 Turkey Lake Rd  
Orlando, FL 32819

Please make sure that you update the mailing address with your bookkeepers. I am going to make sure I say this every time I send an email because Cathy Brown as of last season was still getting checks mailed to her. She has not been the treasurer in over 5 years! We even had a school send a check to Maureen Mannion at Legacy HS.

## **FFL Membership Drive**

We are slated to open the 2023-2024 FFL Membership Drive on or before September 1, 2023. I will send a separate email with instructions. We will be using SpeechWire to conduct the membership drive. I have already provided Ben Stewart from SpeechWire all of the documents needed to work on the Membership Drive on his end.

## **FFL Fall Meeting Agenda**

### **Slack**

To decrease the length of the FFL Fall Meeting we have created a Slack. The Slack is a forum for coaches to discuss agenda items in advance of the Fall Meeting. We will not have a marathon Fall Meeting this year that drags on forever. If you wish to participate, here is the link. This is for coaches only. Please do not share with students.

[https://join.slack.com/t/slack-add7335/shared\\_invite/zt-1u0df4dgx-g3zkjZXMB2IZHCbLosqjwQ](https://join.slack.com/t/slack-add7335/shared_invite/zt-1u0df4dgx-g3zkjZXMB2IZHCbLosqjwQ)

## **Old Items That Still Need To Be Dealt With**

1. Revamped Congress Manual – Ready For September 2023 – Paul Gaba, Wellington HS – [Emailed To League On 7/6/23](#)

## **New Agenda Items**

1. We need a WSD committee to codify rules. EBoard – [Combined with #2](#)
2. We need a committees 1) to review and present suggestions for the bylaws / governing docs 2) sweepstakes 3) WSD also listed on its on in #1 4) judge training (this has to be on the agenda so that we can make changes in the docs so that). EBoard – [Combined with #1 also added Civility Code, Limited Prep Events , Middle School Committees - Will need to vote on anything that requires rule changes or verbiage changes other that changes to correct grammar & spelling](#)
3. Notecard rule for Impromptu. EBoard – [Combined with #2 – But will need to vote on whether this makes it on to Fall Ballot](#)
4. 2 forfeits/no-shows and you are disqualified. EBoard – [Need To Vote](#)
5. Decrease # of events offered at Middle School State / Novice State. EBoard – [Tournament Operations](#)

6. Update Civility Code. EBoard Combined with #2 – But will need to vote on whether this makes it on to Fall Ballot
7. Regional Director Stipend – Eboard will not receive a stipend – Eboard Need To Vote
8. Change ADS to 10 minutes – Ben Gaddis – Trinity Prep Need To Vote
9. Rule #4 – C – P.32 - Qualified Judges Needed – Jason AlFord - Everglades HS Need To Vote but also combines with #2 to be dealt with in committee.
10. Policy Debate – Marna Weston - Abraham Lincoln
11. Move Middle School State to online – Marna Weston - Abraham Lincoln – Tournament Operations
12. Congress Packet – Perhaps ask each school to submit a piece of legislation with their annual membership – Jason AlFord - Everglades HS – Need To Vote Because This Will Require Change To Manual
13. Rule 30 I Page 39 "In impromptu rounds the proposition will use the competition room as prep and the opposition will prep just outside the competition room." – Gabriel de Tuya - Christopher Columbus Combined with #2 – But will need to vote on whether this makes it on to Fall Ballot

Proposed Change: "In impromptu rounds all teams will receive the motion and prep in one large predetermined area under monitoring of multiple FFL representatives." Reasoning: Allows for announcements/roll call to occur prior to motion release. Allows for all parties to receive motion at exact same time. Discourages use of electronic devices to receive motion (like if it was blasted over Remind). Limiting all to one area also means we need less people to observe prep.

14. Rule 30 J Page 40 "During preparation, as prescribed by NSDA rules, teams will only be allowed to use a dictionary, a single volume encyclopedia, or a World Almanac as a resource. No electronic devices will be allowed and possible suspicion of using one will result in a loss of the round and zero speaker points for the round." – Gabriel de Tuya - Christopher Columbus Combined with #2 – But will need to vote on whether this makes it on to Fall Ballot

Proposed change: "USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES: In all rounds, impromptu or prepared, no electronic devices will be allowed and possible suspicion of

using one will result in a loss of the round and zero speaker points for the round. During impromptu preparation, as prescribed by NSDA rules, teams will only be allowed to use a dictionary, a single volume encyclopedia, or a World Almanac as a resource." Reasoning: Clarifies issues with use of electronics in any and all rounds. It perhaps could be listed as its own stand alone rule as well, instead of being lumped in with impromptu prep rules as it is here.

15. Potential Additions to Rule 30 (Listed below more informally so there is room for discourse) **Combined with #2 – But will need to vote on whether this makes it on to Fall Ballot**
  - A. Have a dedicated prep room in advance of the tournament. This prep room should be able to host at least 100 students. Rationale: See proposed change to rule 30i, plus having a dedicated prep room allows for announcements, rule clarifications, role call, and a potential printing center (see 2b below)
  - B. Clarification on no electronics policy (we saw how the use of electronics in prepared rounds led to disqualification.) a. My suggestion: adopt the same rule as TFA - no electronics during rounds or impromptu prep, all cases must be printed prior (see proposed change to Rule 30J) b. Jacob from Stoneman had a great suggestion: Set up a printing center in the prep room, where cases must be sent at least an hour in advance. Charge WSD entries a large fee for this accommodation. Layout cases in a yellow envelope to be picked up by a team rep.
  - C. The addition of a proper World Schools Ballot is necessary. Speechwire does not currently have a quantifiable way to enter a worlds ballot. We also do not have a worlds ballot on the FFL page. I can speak with Ben Stewart to see how we make this possible
  - D. Ideally, round 1 would be impromptu, so that during prep we can have a short judge training session. Yes, I know that schools are responsible for training, but since this event is still being standardized, a training prior to round 1 at least the first few years, could go a long way for keeping the events identity unique from that of other debate events.
16. How to manage team expenses in the light of new legislation prohibiting "fair share" fees to participants. (I have been trying to find the specific statutory language here but haven't located it yet; heard about it from our school's bookkeeper.) - Richard Burns - Buchholz High School – **Not A Voting Issue**
17. Finding a means by which to prohibit "spreading" in PF and LD (perhaps by putting word limits on cases) - Richard Burns - Buchholz High School – **Not A Voting Issue**

because:

- A. It is anti-communicative
- B. It encourages "gish gallops" which are a dishonest form of discourse
- C. It promotes the use of abusive "one-way hash" arguments
- D. It limits judge pools by pushing lay judges away (one college judge even explained to me that if a panel is 2 "spread" judges and one lay judge, debaters will simply leave the lay judge out entirely in favor of winning the "spread" judges).
- E. It promotes abuse, i.e. debaters writing cases too long to be read in the allotted time (even at indecipherable speeds) and yet demanding opponents respond to points never read aloud in the round.
- F. It necessarily reduces the degree to which arguments can be engaged on their merits and analyzed for quality, logical consistency, etc.
- G. It drives many competitors away from debate events.

18. Split Hurricane District into two/Re-zone Jacob Abraham – Marjory Stoneman Douglas & Marna Weston Abraham Lincoln – [Need To Vote Because This Will Require Change To Manual](#)

19. COY – Anyone who is nominated for district coach of the year, remains eligible for state coach of the year until they win. – Jacob Abraham – Marjory Stoneman Douglas – [Need To Vote Because This Will Require Change To Manual](#)