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Tournament Registration & Requirements

YouTube Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g2YvDEUaEPs>

NCFCA tournaments are fun and exciting for the whole family. Competition drives the intensity of our schedule, but **constructive community leads to connection** with so many people who will become lifelong friends and partners in encouragement. Speech and debate competition is hard work, but it's worth it.

Before you join us, we want to make sure you understand that registering for a tournament is a big commitment. **Regional tournaments** often span three full days, beginning with devotions at 7:15 in the morning and running through debate rounds that end as late as 9:30 in the evening. **National tournaments** can be even longer. The tournament schedule alternates between speech and debate throughout the day, and participants eat and enjoy fellowship in the small gaps between judging and competing. The days are long, but time flies when you're having fun and working hard.

If you plan to register for a tournament, you will want to **check the deadlines and information** on your NCFCA affiliate dashboard. For regular registration, you will need to request events for each competitor before the deadline, but you will not pay until registrations are processed shortly after the deadline. Then you will get an invoice and have a short window of time to pay, so be sure to watch for notifications after registration closes. There will also be a late registration window, but there's an extra fee, and the availability of events may be more limited.

It's important to understand that committing to a tournament involves more than just students getting ready to speak and debate. Each family with competitors **MUST** have at least one parent or a pre-approved chaperone available to judge and/or serve in a staff role for the entire duration of the tournament. You heard that right—the whole tournament! For in-person tournaments, this designated adult **MUST** be on the premises at all times. For online competition, they **MUST** be available to help with judging and be contacted at any point throughout each competition day.



Parent participation is absolutely essential for our tournaments to run smoothly. Every adult—from the tournament coordinator to the newest parent—plays an important role on our volunteer team. We need lots of parents to help with judging and performing other jobs during every round, so adults have to be ready to jump in as needed from start to finish. Parents should review the parent pages on our website to better understand how we need them to contribute to our league in a special way.

We know many families are **attending with younger children**, and we are pleased to offer junior activities at most of our tournaments! Children under 12 years old must be directly supervised when they are not participating in a tournament-sponsored Junior event. If you believe your family will have difficulty finding supervision for younger children while a parent judges, please talk with your club leader or tournament coordinator for suggestions about other ways you can serve at the tournament to ensure your family volunteer commitment is met.

Parents and competitors both need to take responsibility for carefully **reviewing our league policies and the rules** for every event they will be participating in. NCFCA is like any other competitive activity in its need to provide a level playing field, and all participants bless one another by doing their part to keep competition in bounds.

One last pro-tip before we wrap up this video! Before you pick out and pack your **tournament wardrobe**, be sure to double check our dress code policy and ask any questions you have about appropriate attire BEFORE the tournament! Cute doesn't always cut it for competition attire.

All of this preparation may sound daunting, but hundreds of families from the last twenty-five years would tell you, "it's worth it!" We hope you'll give it a try.