



NCFCA Tournament Structure

For the many new families and clubs participating in NCFCA, the number and different types of speech and debate tournaments can sometimes get confusing. In the past, these tournaments have gone by several different names, but with the transition to a regional tournament model a new naming system is appropriate. The transition to the following tournament naming conventions will run concurrent with the transition to the regional tournament model.

Qualifying Tournaments – Qualifying Tournaments (“Qualifiers”) are any of the numerous feeder tournaments in which a competitor can earn an invitation to the Regional Invitational Tournament. These tournaments are organized and planned according to NCFCA rules and guidelines by the Regional Coordinator and State Representatives within a region.

Regional Invitational – The Regional Invitational Tournament (“Regional”) is held in each region at the end of that region’s competitive season. Invitations to the Regional will be given by event to competitors meeting a set criteria at Qualifiers. The top competitors at this tournament will proceed to the National Championship.

National Open Tournament – A National Open Tournament (“Open”) is one of several tournaments approved by the NCFCA Board to be held in diverse locations each competitive season. These tournaments are designed to be very large, attract competitors from throughout the country, and offer all league events (debate and speech). The top competitors at an Open will proceed directly to the National Championship. The Opens are organized and run by NCFCA with assistance from local co-sponsors and/or hosts.

National Championship – The NCFCA National Championship (“Nationals”) is the highest level of competition within NCFCA. Nationals is held in June each year at various locations throughout the country.