

## **TSJCL Certamen Rules 2006-2007**

### **A. Area Teams**

1. Each TSJCL Area may send one certamen team to compete in each of divisions of certamen at the TSJCL State Convention: Novice (Latin 1/2 and I), Intermediate (Latin II), and Upper (Latin III and above). It is the responsibility of each area to set its own rules for selecting area teams.
2. It is permissible for students to play at a higher level than the level of Latin in which they are enrolled, but not at a lower level. A student may not play in more than one level. Veterans may not compete in certamen.

### **B. The Competition**

1. At the TSJCL Convention, there are three rounds of competition: round I, round II, and finals. The teams may play in matches of two or three teams depending on the number of teams who register to compete.
2. All teams will draw to determine which team(s) they will play in the first round. The team which wins the first round will compete in the final round, all other teams will compete in round II. The winner of the second round will advance to play in the final round.
3. The national rules and procedures for the play of certamen will also be the rules for the TSJCL State Competition unless exceptions are stated.

### **C. Representing Texas at NJCL Competitive Certamen**

1. The area team in each division which wins the final competition will be the team which represents the state at NJCL Competitive Certamen. TSJCL pays the NJCL registration fees for four players and one alternate in each division. There may be more than one alternate designated for a state team, but the TSJCL will only pay for one. The team and the sponsor may agree to divide the budgeted registration money in such a way as to support more alternates.
2. If the first place team cannot compete at the national level for whatever reason, the second place team may advance and will receive the registration reimbursement. If neither the first or the second place team can compete at nationals, the TSJCL will not enter a team in that division of national competition that year.

### **D. Composition of the State Teams**

1. The composition of the state team (the winning area team) may be altered according to the discretion of the team coach with the approval of the state chairs. Reasons for replacing a team member or alternate include missing practice, not studying, being a disruption to the team, or not contributing to the effort of the team.

2. After the TSJCL convention, a team sponsor is encouraged to also invite players from other teams and other areas to join the state team in order to strengthen a team for a national competition. Such new players shall earn their position as a player or an alternate through the challenge process, as defined in Section E.
3. In accordance with the national rules, the sponsor of a certamen team may play an alternate in any round. This substitution of an alternate may occur at the discretion of the team coach.

#### E. Certamen Challenges

1. A certamen challenge is a round of 30 or more toss-up questions in a certamen category or categories. The player who answers the most questions earns the place on the team. If a team player is challenged by an alternate, the alternate must win the challenge by 3 or more questions in order to win the position. If a player loses his/her position to an alternate, s/he may re-challenge for that position, and again, the person challenging must win by three or more questions to earn the position on the team.
2. At the beginning of practice for national competition, the team coach should announce the appropriate time(s) for challenges. Whenever possible, a neutral person should read the challenges match. It is highly recommended that the challenges end two weeks before national competition to allow the team to practice together as a team.

Any further questions concerning the Certamen rules should be directed to:  
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