

**Texas State Junior Classical League  
Certamen Rules  
2020-2021**

**I. Area Teams**

- A. Each TSJCL Area may send one Certamen team to compete in each division of Certamen at the TSJCL State Convention: Novice (Levels ½ and 1), Intermediate (Level II), and Advanced (Level III and above). It is the responsibility of each Area to set its own rules for selecting area teams.
- B. 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.
- C. Veterans may not compete in Certamen.
- D. No player may play at the Novice division at the TSJCL convention the following year if they played on the team that placed first or second in that division the previous year, even if they qualify by their level of Latin.
- E. If a player wins first or second in the Novice division as a Level ½ A or ½ B student at the TSJCL convention in the previous year, they now must compete in the Intermediate division. No player may compete in the Intermediate division at the TSJCL convention more than once.

**II. The Competition at the TSJCL Convention**

- A. At the TSJCL Convention, there are three rounds of competition: Preliminary, Consolation, and Finals. The teams may play in matches of two or three teams. Regardless of the number of teams, the moderators will read all twenty questions for all rounds.
- B. All teams will draw to determine the matchup for the Preliminary round. There will be two matches per level during the Preliminary round. The teams which win each Preliminary round will advance to Finals. The remaining teams will then compete in the Consolation round immediately following the Preliminary round. There will be one Consolation round per level. The winner of the Consolation round will advance to play in Finals.
- C. The national rules and procedures for the play of Certamen will also be the rules for the TSJCL state competition unless otherwise stated.

**III. Texas teams for NJCL Competitive Certamen tournament**

**A. Representing Texas at the NJCL Convention**

- 1. The Area teams in the Intermediate and Advanced divisions that win Finals at the TSJCL Convention will be the teams that represent the state at NJCL Competitive Certamen. However, the TWO Area teams that place first and second in the Novice division will both be eligible to represent the state at NJCL Competitive Certamen. According to the NJCL Competitive Certamen rules, only one of the two Novice division teams can advance to the Novice semi-final round, based on points accrued during preliminary rounds.
- 2. TSJCL reimburses the NJCL registration fees for four players and one alternate in both the Intermediate and Advanced divisions. For the Novice division, TSJCL reimburses the NJCL registration fees for four players and one alternate for both teams (i.e. a total of 10 players maximum for the two Novice division teams). 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.

3. If the first place team cannot compete at NJCL, for whatever reason, the second place team may advance and will receive the registration reimbursement. If the second place team cannot compete at NJCL, then the third place team may advance and will receive the registration reimbursement. If none of the teams who played in the Final round at TSJCL are able to compete at NJCL the TSJCL state chairs will make a decision regarding entering a team in that division of the NJCL competition that year.

**B. Composition of the team representing Texas at NJCL**

1. After the TSJCL convention, the team coach is encouraged to invite players from other teams and/or other Areas to join the state team in order to strengthen the team for the national competition. Players shall earn their position as a player or an alternate through either performance at practices or a try-out process. Reasons for replacing a team member or alternate include, but are not limited to: missing practice, not studying, being a disruption to the team, repeated issues with integrity, or not contributing to the effort of the team. Coaches should consult with at least two State Chairs about their proposed practice and/or try-out plan.
2. 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.

**C. Earning placement on a NJCL competitive team**

1. At the beginning of practice for NJCL competition, the team coach should announce the appropriate time(s) for students to join. Holding some practices via video conference is recommended to make practicing more accessible to students around the state. Whenever possible, collaboration between coaches around the state is encouraged. It is recommended, but not required, that coaches inform players of the intended line up two weeks before the NJCL competition to allow the players to practice together as a team.
2. It is recommended that during practices for NJCL coaches keep stats and keep track of attendance to determine team makeup based on commitment and knowledge. Additional steps such as challenges (a round of 30 or more toss-up questions in a Certamen category or categories) may be used to determine final placement at the discretion of the team coach.
3. The selection process can be modified at the discretion of the team coach to fit the needs of the team coach.

**Any further questions concerning TSJCL Certamen Rules should be directed to  
chairs@tsjcl.org.**