

**Texas State Junior Classical League**  
**Certamen Rules**  
**2018-19**

**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 I), 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. Veterans may not compete in certamen.
- C. No player may play at the novice or intermediate level at the state convention more than once.

**II. The Competition**

- 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. Representing Texas at NJCL Competitive Certamen**

- A. The Area team in each division that wins Finals will be the team that represents the state at NJCL Competitive Certamen.
- B. 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.
- C. 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 nor the second place team can compete at nationals, the TSJCL state chairs will make a decision regarding entering a team in that division of the national competition that year.

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

- A. The composition of the state team (the winning Area team) may be altered at the discretion of the team coach after at least one state chair has been consulted on the matter. Reasons for replacing a team member or alternate include, but are not limited to: missing practice, not studying, being a disruption to the team, or not contributing to the effort of the team.
- B. After the TSJCL convention, a team sponsor 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. New players shall earn their position as a player or an alternate through the challenge process.
- C. 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.

### **V. Certamen Challenges**

- A. 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 three or more questions in order to win the position. If a player loses his/her position to an alternate, he/she 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. The challenge process can be modified at the discretion of the team coach.

- B. At the beginning of practice for national competition, the team coach should announce the appropriate time(s) for challenges. Whenever possible, a neutral party should read the challenges match. It is recommended, but not required, that the challenges end two weeks before the national competition to allow the team to practice together as a team.

Any further questions concerning TSJCL Certamen Rules should be directed to:  
[chairs@tsjcl.org](mailto:chairs@tsjcl.org).