



# Massachusetts Speech & Debate League

## *Massachusetts Speech and Debate League State Championship Tournaments Speech & Congress Saturday, April 6, 2019*

The Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Speech and Debate League is pleased to announce the State Finals in Speech and Congress. The tournament will be hosted on April 6th at Acton-Boxborough Regional High School under the direction of the MSDL Board.

### **Qualification**

Only MSDL member teams and their qualified students are invited to compete. In Speech, a student is considered “qualified” for a category if he/she has received two bids in that category at any MSDL sanctioned tournament this season or has been awarded a “bonus bid” as determined by his/her coach. Bonus bids were allocated to individual schools based on the cancellation of the Mardi Gras tournament. For Multiple Reading, qualification is according to the MSDL Rules and Policies as follows: The State qualification for multiple will be by piece and one more than 50% of the cast in that piece. Alternatively, 100% of a cast may qualify together and may enter with another piece. In order to qualify for States, casts and pieces must receive two bids. For Congress, a list of qualifiers is available on the website. The tournaments are open to all who wish to observe.

Novice Extemporaneous Speaking is not offered at States. Students who earned bids in Novice Extemporaneous Speaking may apply at most 2 bids in Novice Extemp towards 1 bid in Extemporaneous Speaking at States. So, students may qualify in Extemporaneous Speaking if they have 2 bids in NX and 1 bid in Varsity Extemp.

### **Entries & Wild Cards**

In Speech, entry is subject to the following limitations:

1. A student may not enter more than three events in which he/she has qualified, *including* Multiple Reading. A student may not use the same material in more than one event.
2. Students entered in Group Discussion or Congress may not double or triple enter.
3. Each student may only enter once in any given event.

4. Students entered in a prep room draw event may double – but not triple enter. Students may enter only one prep room draw event.

We will make every effort to make the day easy on every student. However, *students should think carefully about the choice to double or triple enter*. Students will be held responsible for making it to all their rounds of competition before the rounds are finished. Students in draw events will be responsible for coordinating with the prep room staff.

In Congress, students will be split into the appropriate number of chambers by blind draw.

Schools receive two wild card entries to use combined between Speech and Congress. Wild card entries are not subject to qualification. A **new school** is a school that has not competed in the MSDL in the preceding four years. A new school may enter up to four wild card entries to be used combined between State Speech and Congress during its first two years of competition.

## **Multiple**

Multiple will perform three times throughout the course of the day. A student may participate in only one Multiple. Please include the names of the students in the Multiple from the drop-down menu on the website. Six multiples will advance to finals; in the event of an unbreakable tie between 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> place, only five will advance.

## **Novices**

A “novice” competitor is defined as any student who has not competed in high school forensics in a previous school year. A student who competes in two or fewer high school tournaments while in middle school retains novice status; but if a student competes in more than two high school tournaments, that student cannot be considered a novice. In Extemporaneous Speaking, a student may be considered a novice if it is his/her first year in high school Extemp. Please make sure to indicate all novices in your student roster online. Special recognition will be given to the top-ranking novice in each category.

We will also hold a Novice Oral Interpretation final round for the top novices entered in Children’s Literature, Play, Poetry and Prose who do not advance to the final round in those events. Please register your novice readers for Novice Oral Interpretation to ensure that their scores are reviewed for participation in this novice final round.

## **Congress Legislation**

Congress Legislation is due to PJ Wexler by March 29<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM. Please email bills and resolutions to Mr. Wexler at [pjwexler06@gmail.com](mailto:pjwexler06@gmail.com) by that date. If you do not receive an acknowledgement within one business day, please call Mr. Wexler at 781-330-6610. One piece of legislation per school will be chosen, provided that legislation meets basic requirements. It is expected that every school participating in Congress will submit legislation or receive a waiver from Mr. Wexler.

## **Extemporaneous Speaking**

Preliminary round questions will cover international, national, and economic topics. All questions will be derived from online and print editions of current political and news magazines and newspapers. The final round topic area will be: 50 States Issues.

## **Group Discussion**

The Group Discussion topic area will be Immigration.

## Judges

Schools must provide one judge for every five Speech and Congress entries, or fraction thereof. Given that this is our State finals, we urge coaches to bring experienced judges, who are qualified to judge high-level competition. **At a minimum, schools must bring judges who have judged or competed at one speech tournament.** Coaches should spend time with their judges in advance of the tournament reviewing the events to ensure that they are prepared for the competition.

A \$50.00 penalty will be imposed for each missing judge. This penalty is not to be used in lieu of your requirement; if we do not have sufficient judges, we may have to reduce your entry numbers in line with your number of judges. All judges are expected to stay through Finals. Missing judges, or judges who leave early, seriously compromise the smooth operation of the tournament. If you have a judge who must leave before the end of the day, you must find a replacement for that judge. Any judge who is not available to judge a round of their obligation may incur the \$50.00 missing judge penalty.

## Awards

Awards will be presented to all finalists in Speech. The top novice in each speech category will also receive special recognition. Team Sweepstakes awards will be presented to the top ten speech schools based on their best 16 scores from any category. These scores will be computed by using preliminary ranks and final placement.

## Fees

The cost is \$5 per entry. Any school that has not paid its 2018-2019 dues will not be allowed to participate in the state tournament. Drops not reported before 8:00 AM on the morning of the tournament will cost \$10 each.

## Registration Instructions

Registrations must be entered on Tabroom ([www.tabroom.com](http://www.tabroom.com)) by 6 p.m. on **Tuesday, April 2, 2019**. Because we have to verify bids, *we cannot accept any late adds after Tuesday the 2nd of April*. Drops should be emailed to [jeba78@verizon.net](mailto:jeba78@verizon.net).

Please email to [jeba78@verizon.net](mailto:jeba78@verizon.net) the number of seniors who will be attending so that we can plan for the senior reception to be held after final rounds.

## Registration Confirmation

Saturday morning confirmation should be texted or called (text preferred) to 508-397-5143. All schools should confirm their registration, whether or not you have drops, and advise us of any last-minute drops on the morning of the tournament by texting or calling 508-397-5143 between 7:30 and 8:00. If you send a text, please be sure to include your school name. MSDL rules, and the smooth operation of the tournament, require all schools to check in before 8:00 AM or face a \$25 fine.

## **MSDL Double Entry Awards**

To recognize students for excellence in different disciplines, the MSDL will award an additional honor, the MSDL Double Entry award, to students who achieve merit in two distinct events.

Double entry awards will be given to the top students achieving in events in two of the following divisions:

Interpretation: DP, DUO, PR, PO, KL, PL, MULT, POI

Debate: Debate, Congress, GD

Limited Preparation: VX, RB, IMP

Platform: OO, DEC, INFO

## **Approximate Schedule**

8-8:30 Registration

8:30 Judges Meeting

8:30 Speech General Meeting and Postings

9:00 Congress Meeting & Session 1

9:00 Time Block I

10:30 Time Block II

12:00 Time Block III

1:30 Time Block IV

2:45 Time Block V & Semi-Finals

4:30 Finals

6:00 Senior Reception

6:30 Awards

*Standard rules of professionalism, etiquette, and respect for our hosts and their school shall apply at all times.*

*The Massachusetts Speech and Debate League fosters a culture of diversity and inclusion. We expect all members of our community to treat one another with respect. Should you have any issues, please come to the TAB room and ask to speak with a member of the MSDL Board.*

We look forward to seeing you at the tournament!

Sincerely,

*The MSDL Board*

# Directions to Acton-Boxborough Regional High School

36 Charter Road  
Acton, MA

## **From NORTH/SOUTH**

Take Route 495 to Route 2 East. Follow directions for **From WEST**.

## **OR**

Take Route 128 to Route 2 West. Follow directions for **From EAST**.

## **From EAST**

- Take Route 2 West to Acton, Exit 43, exiting from the left lane onto Route 111.
- Go straight at the light.
- At the first right, turn onto Charter Road (the school campus).

## **From WEST**

- Take Route 2 East to Exit 42 – the Acton/Maynard exit.
- At the end of the ramp, turn right onto Route 27.
- At the first light (~1/2 mile), turn right onto Route 111.
- At the first right, turn onto Charter Road (the school campus).

## **ONCE ON CAMPUS:**

- Follow Charter Road to the High School parking lot, straight ahead.

Buses can unload in the main entry circle.

Private vehicles and vans can park in the parking lots on either side of Charter Rd.

**Text or Call to Confirm Entry by 8:00 AM: 508-397-5143**