

The Maine Forensic Association cordially invites you to attend the State Championship Speech and Debate Tournament at Thornton Academy on Saturday, January 26, 2019. Read through the entire invitation carefully to facilitate a fair and efficient tournament.

**Preregister** by 8 p.m., Friday January 11, 2019 on [Tabroom.com](http://Tabroom.com) (Tournament decisions made based on data available at this time.)

**Final Registration/Judge Hire Requests** by 11:55 p.m., Wednesday, January 23, 2019 on [Tabroom.com](http://Tabroom.com)

We hope to see you all there!

Brian Dodge (dodgeb@portlandschools.org)  
Deering HS Debate  
President, MFA

## Participation

Schools may participate in the State Tournament if they:

- Belong to the Maine Principals' Association.
- Have no outstanding State Tournament fees from any previous year.

## Tournament Events

The State Tournament hosts all MFA events including:

- **Debate:** Lincoln Douglas in three divisions (Varsity, Junior Varsity and Novice) and Public Forum in two divisions (Varsity and Novice).
- **Congressional Debate:** House(s) and Senate
- **Speech:** Dramatic Interpretation, Duo Interpretation, Extemporaneous Speaking, Humorous Interpretation, Information Speaking, Oratorical Declamation, Original Oratory, Original Works, Oral Interpretation of Literature, Program Oral Interpretation, Novice Poetry Reading, Novice Prose Reading, and Storytelling.

## Division Qualifications

Any coach may file for an exception to divisions assignments of a debater due to extenuating circumstances by submitting a written petition to the MFA President. The MFA President shall have the final authority in making decisions regarding debater assignment to debate divisions.

Divisions may be collapsed or categories may be cancelled due to low registration numbers.

Coaches, competitors, and judges should read MFA event handbooks and manuals for complete rules. See [maineforensic.org](http://maineforensic.org).

### Lincoln Douglas Debate

Per the State Tournament Handbook:

- **Novice** Lincoln Douglas is a division for students in their first year of forensics competition.
- **Junior Varsity** Lincoln Douglas is a division for students with no more than one year of prior debate experience.
- **Varsity** Lincoln Douglas is a division open to any High School debater.

### Public Forum Debate (Team of exactly two)

Per the State Tournament Handbook:

- **Novice** Public Forum is a division for Freshmen and Sophomores in their first year of interscholastic debate.
- **Varsity** Public Forum is a division open to any High School debater.

### Individual Events (Speech)

- Novice Prose Reading and Novice Poetry Reading are limited to students in their first year of MFA competition.
- Oratorical Declamation is limited to freshmen and sophomore competitors.
- All other speech events are open to any high school student regardless of previous experience.

## Entry Limits

Each school team is limited to:

- 6 Lincoln Douglas entries in each division
- 6 Public Forum teams in each division
- 4 entries per Speech category

There is no entry limit for Congressional Debate, but schools should distribute their House entries equally among the chambers.

Competitors may double enter only in Speech categories.

## Event Topics

### Lincoln Douglas

**Resolved:** The United States ought not provide military aid to authoritarian regimes.

### Public Forum

**Resolved:** The United States federal government should prioritize reducing the federal debt over promoting economic growth.

### Congressional Debate

The docket will be posted at [maineforensic.org/news](http://maineforensic.org/news) when ready.

## Extemporaneous Speaking

### Domestic

- Round 1: Gun control
- Round 2: Environment
- Round 3: Immigration
- Round 4: This week in the news

### Foreign

- Round 1: Brexit
- Round 2: Russia
- Round 3: Syria
- Round 4: This week in the news

## Fees

Make out checks and P.O.s to the Maine Forensic Association based on an invoice presented to you at the tournament and available on TabRoom. Invoice totals are calculated according to below:

### Regular Participant School

- \$7 per individual entry
- \$14 per paired entry

### First-year Participant School

- \$3.50 per individual entry
- \$7 per paired entry

## Hiring judges

Schools may request to hire judges from the MFA for \$60.00 each (while supplies last).

See also additional fees related to half judges in the Judging Requirements section.

## Drops

Schools that drop competitors or judges after 5 p.m. Friday, January 25, 2019 will not be refunded the entry fee. Drops after 7:30 a.m. will be assessed a \$10.00 nuisance fee per drop.

## Judging Requirements

Schools are required to bring a certain number of **trained judges** calculated per number of entries. **In the event a school cannot meet their judge quota, the school must drop entries until they meet the judge to competitor ratio.**

- **Public Forum Debate:** One judge per two entries (a team counts as one entry) or any fraction thereof (e.g. three teams require two judges). Every third, fifth and seventh judge must be unaffiliated. Judge burden may not be combined with Lincoln-Douglas.
- **Lincoln-Douglas Debate:** One judge per two entries (a team counts as one entry) or any fraction thereof (rounding up). Every third, fifth and seventh judge must be unaffiliated. Judge burden may not be combined with Public Forum.
- **Congressional Debate:** One judge per five entries or fraction thereof. Every other judge must be unaffiliated.
- **Speech:** One judge per five entries (Duo team counts as one entry) or any fraction thereof (e.g. 11 entries require three judges). Every third, fifth and seventh judge must be unaffiliated.

## Specify judge qualifications

Judges should be registered into Tabroom.com. In the notes field, indicate any strengths or conflicts. Example of notes:

- Parent of a competitor (considered affiliated with the school, also, please provide the student's name in the TabRoom notes).
- Teacher in team's school (considered affiliated with that school).
- Individual affiliated with a specific competitor (considered affiliated with that competitor only).
- Aptitude or nationals experience in a specific event (e.g. "NSDA qualifier DI"; "alumnus LDer"; "professional actor")
- Cross training (e.g. "experienced in speech and PF")

## Judging expectations

Judges should expect to remain for the duration of the tournament. Any judge who departs early will incur the hiring school a penalty fee.

- The fee for a judge departing early without notification prior to the Wednesday before the event is \$60.
- If a judge can only attend half the day and Tab is notified by the Wednesday before the event, the judge will count as a half judge and incur a \$30 fee. There is no fee if this half judge is registered beyond the school's judge burden.
- Two half judges equal a whole judge.
- First-year speech judges are **considered half judges** due to judging constraints.

## Hiring judges

As a last resort to meet quotas, schools may request to hire judges from the MFA (first come first served, while supply lasts). Make your requests through Tabroom.com. Hires confirmed by the tournament hosts as of Wednesday, January 23 at 8 p.m. will be billed to the hiring school.

## Online balloting

While paper ballots will be available, we are encouraging all judges to participate in online balloting through Tabroom.com. To participate, judges must:

- Have an [account on Tabroom.com that is linked](#) to your school's judge list.
- Bring their own device for indicating their adjudications and comments.

To read ballots at the end of the day, students should also have an account linked to your team on Tabroom.com.

## Registration and Drops

Pre-register by **8 p.m., Friday January 11, 2019** at Tabroom.com to provide the host with best estimates for food and capacity requirements. Collapsing or cancellation of events will be decided based on pre-registration information after this time.

Registration in Tabroom, including competitors and judges will be accepted no later than **11:55 p.m., Wednesday, January 23, 2019**.

Coaches may drop competitors in Tabroom.com for a full refund until **5 p.m., Friday, January 25, 2019**. Drops after that time are non-refundable.

Drops at or later than **7:30 a.m. January 26, 2019** will incur an additional \$10 nuisance fee.

## Dropping Competitors and Judges

Coaches may drop competitors or judges on Tabroom until 8:00 a.m., Saturday, January 26 or **call or text the MFA hotline (207) 370-4632**.

Entry fees and judge obligations are frozen at 5 p.m. Friday, January 25. An additional drop fee of \$10 per dropped competitor goes into effect at 7:30 a.m. January 26. If dropping a judge means the school is not meeting the judge-to-competitor ratio based on the fee freeze deadline of **5 p.m., Friday, January 25, 2019**, the school must hire a new judge (if available) or drop competitors.

On Saturday before arriving at the tournament, coaches should drop competitors and/or judges on Tabroom or via call/text to the MFA hotline (207-370-4632). Drops at registration will not only incur the above mentioned nuisance fee but will result in delays to the start of the tournament.

## Ethics and Sourcing

For complete rules and guidelines for the Maine State Tournament, refer to the [Maine State Championship Handbook](#) and the [Maine Forensic Association By-laws](#).

## Ethics

The MFA has an official code of ethics to which all participants (students, judges, and coaches) will be held accountable. Any challenges of plagiarism, falsified evidence, or other unethical behavior should be brought to the attention of either the event moderator or a member of the executive committee during the tournament. These situations will be taken seriously and handled accordingly.

Read the Code of Ethical Behavior at [maineforensic.org](http://maineforensic.org) under the [About section](#) of our website.

## Original Sources and Arguments

In the event someone presents a formal challenge to a moderator or the Executive Committee (Tournament Directors):

- All competitors in interpretation events (Dramatic Interpretation, Humorous Interpretation, Duo Interpretation, Program Oral Interpretation, Oral Interpretation of Literature) must bring to the tournament the original source material (original printed source, printout of source from NFL approved website, photocopy of entire printed source) in case of a challenge.
- All competitors in Original Oratory and Original Works must bring hard copy scripts to the tournament.
- All competitors in Extemporaneous Speaking, Informative Speaking, Public Forum, Lincoln-Douglas, and Congressional Debate should be able to produce all quoted sources.

Neither competitors nor coaches will be allowed to print original source material, scripts, or evidence on the day of the tournament.

## Protests

The members of the MFA committee of officers and moderators present shall have full power to adjudicate any protest, dispute, or interpretation of the rules. Protests must be filed in writing and must include:

- Name of coach filing protest (a coach of record must file the protest) and school, city, state.
- Code of person/team being protested.
- Round being protested.
- Section/room and speaker number of person/team being protested
- Specific infraction being protested described with supporting detail.
- Signature of protesting coach.

After the infraction has been observed/discovered, the protest must be filed in a timely manner. A timely manner is defined as within one hour of the end of the round in which the infraction occurred, unless a specific rule specifies otherwise.

Once a protest has been issued:

1. The challenged entry must bring their relevant materials (see original sources above) with their coach to the Tabulation room in a timely manner (defined as within one hour of the protest, with extensions if the coach is in round). Failure to do so results in forfeit.

2. The MFA officers and moderators will first determine if the source meets the requirements listed above in the original sources section of the invitation. If it does not, the result is a forfeit.
3. For Speech, if the source is accepted, the officers will determine if the performance meets the requirement of being significantly different from the original presentation. If it is not, the result is a forfeit.

## Tabulation and Awards

MFA rules for State Tournament differ slightly from normal season procedures.

**Speech tabulation** will run three preliminary rounds and a final round for the top approximately six competitors. Final round will include a panel of three judges per category.

**Debate tabulation** will run four preliminary rounds. The top four competitors or teams will move into a single elimination semi-final round, with the winners moving on to a final round. The final round will include a panel of three judges per category.

## Competition Awards

Formal awards from the Maine Principals' Association will be presented to the State's best competitors in all Varsity divisions.

The top three competitors in each category (13 categories in Speech, two categories with five total divisions in Debate, and two categories in Congress) will receive a plaque or medal, and fourth and fifth place competitors will receive ribbons.

The top five schools will receive sweepstakes awards in Speech, Debate (PF and LD), and Congressional Debate; a trophy for first place and plaques for runner-up through fifth place.

## Annual Awards

Voting to recognize outstanding teams and people for season-wide performance will occur in the first half of the tournament day for:

- (School) Sportsmanship for each event category: Speech, Debate and Congressional Debate
- Coach of the Year (one award, combining the above three categories)
- Judge of the Year (one award, combining the above three categories)
- Scholarship to a graduating student in each of the three areas of competition (Speech, Debate and Congressional Debate)

For Coach of the Year and Judge of the Year, discuss as a team before [submitting nominations with a brief justification \(optional\) by 11:55 p.m., Wednesday, January 23](#). Nominations are collected by MFA secretary Lyndsy Denk.

Scholarship nominations are collected by MFA secretary Lyndsy Denk. [Nominations may be made by any MFA coach, nominating their own or another's student, by 11:55 p.m., Wednesday, January 23](#).

# Other Logistics

## Food

Competitors will be able to purchase light breakfast items, lunch, snacks, dinner and water. Competitors not wishing to purchase or with dietary restrictions beyond vegetarian should bring their own food.

Judges and coaches will be provided with complimentary breakfast, lunch and dinner, including vegetarian and gluten-free options.

## Schedule

The State Tournament includes additional rules that extend the day beyond the normal tournament schedule. All participants should anticipate a flexible schedule based on the (tentative) schedule below:

8:00-8:30	Tournament check-in
8:45	Welcomes and briefings
	Extemp draw (extempers report to prep room)
9:00	Start all events (Morning session includes two rounds of Speech, three rounds of Debate, and Session I of Congressional Debate.)
11:30	Lunch
12:30	Resume all events (Afternoon session includes two more rounds of Speech (prelim and final), three rounds of Debate (fourth prelim, semifinals, and finals), and Congressional Debate session 2.)
6:00	Dinner
7:00 (approximately)	Awards Ceremony in auditorium

Please plan on staying through the entire ceremony, weather permitting.

## Accommodations

We aim to make competition accessible and welcoming to all who wish to participate. Tournament participants can find gender-neutral accommodations throughout the school based on signage.

Coaches or students should reach out to the tournament host to request ADA accommodations.



## Weather

The MFA Executive Committee will make any decisions about postponing the State Tournament no later than 9 p.m. Friday, January 25 and notify teams via the MFA email list, the MFA website, and if so late as to make necessary, by phone call to coaches.

The State Tournament snow date is Saturday, February 2. For Public Forum, we will maintain the January topic.

## Directions

Please plan accordingly to arrive no later than 8:30 a.m. at [Thornton Academy 438 Main St, Saco, ME 04072](#).

## Tournament Media Promotion

News coverage is some of the best peer pressure to increase school, district and community support for forensics! The MFA may distribute press releases to newspapers, TV stations, the MPA, and other interested parties. In the event that any guests show up, Vice President D'Arcy Robinson will act as liaison/point of contact. It is the affirmative duty for each coach to inform the Executive Committee of any student who is not to be filmed, photographed or interviewed by the media. Please check your team records and discuss with all team members today!

Information will be distributed as it becomes available.