

The Board of the Massachusetts Speech & Debate League invites you to

**The Fourteenth Annual MSDL All-Novice
Speech and Debate Meet and Judge Training
Saturday, October 19, 2019
at Walpole High School
275 Common Street, Walpole, MA 02081**

While this Event will be run by the MSDL Board, it is not a qualifying tournament for States

The purpose of the MSDL All-Novice Speech and Debate Meet is to give new speech competitors a chance to compete in a less intimidating, educational environment prior to the start of the regular MSDL season.

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. All students who are classified as novices under MSDL rules are invited to participate.

Students with 2 or more years of experience in high school forensics are invited to judge; however, there **must be at least one adult in attendance** with the students. Extra judges are always welcome and will receive assignments.

We plan to offer a **judge training** session (individual events only, not debate) from 9:30 until noon, provided that we have a minimum of 10 people registered to attend. The session will provide new and returning judges with all that they need to know about running a round, event rules, criteria for judging, and writing constructive ballots. The event will feature live demonstrations by MSDL student volunteers. We encourage you to bring prospective parent judges to the training sessions while your experienced students cover the judging requirements for the novice tournament. On the last page of this invitation please see the flyer on the judge training that can be distributed to interested parents. If you have parent or other adult judges who would like to attend the training, but you are having trouble satisfying your judge requirement – please e-mail Joyce Albert at jeba78@verizon.net; we can probably provide you with student judges from another school so that your parent judges can attend the training. Participants in the training session must be registered online with your tournament entry so that we will have enough seats and printed materials for all.

Following the judge training session, we'll hold an open forum for coaches. This is a great opportunity to ask questions, bring up important issues, get advice, and for new or newer coaches meet other coaches in the league, as well as a few members of the MSDL Board.

We look forward to seeing you on October 19th!

Sincerely,
The MSDL Board

Greg Cunningham (President)	Joyce Albert (Chair of Speech)	Joe Bowden	Scott Caron
Lisa Honeyman (VP/Secretary)	PJ Wexler (Chair of Congress)	Sue Hennessey	Sheryl Kaczmarek
Jim Honeyman (Treasurer)	Josh Cohen (Chair of Debate)	Chris Sheldon	Keith West

General Information

Because the purpose of the All-Novice event is entirely educational, we will be holding three rounds of friendly competition followed by an exhibition round by varsity students. The three rounds will simulate regular competition, but there will be no final round. Novices who compete will receive their ballots at the end of the tournament so that they can use the feedback as they work to improve their performances for future tournaments.

Standard MSDL events will be offered. If there are 6 or fewer entries in any event, we may combine it with a similar event. Please visit www.msdl.org for descriptions and rules for each event.

Competitors in memorized events (OO, DEC, DP, DUO, INFO) will not be penalized for using manuscripts at this tournament.

Delicious breakfast, lunch, snacks and beverages will be sold throughout the day.

At the conclusion of the day, please have a representative from your school pick up your results folder. Ballots will not be mailed and will not be distributed before the end of the exhibition round. If you cannot stay, we will hold your folder for you and you can pick it up at the Revere Tournament on October 26th.

Standard rules of professionalism and etiquette must be abided by 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.

Event Specific Information

- **CONGRESS.** Congress will run as a special event, separate from the schedule for the rest of the day. When the individual events begin their first round, there will be a brief exhibition round in Congress. Here, the novices will watch varsity competitors demonstrate how a Congress chamber operates. Then there will be some instruction time followed by a practice round in which the novices will participate. After lunch there will be a training session on writing legislation.
- **GROUP DISCUSSION.** The topic area for group discussion will be: Emerging Technologies with specific questions drawn from the areas of biology, energy, military, and/or communication.
- **EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING.** Each of the three rounds of Extemp will focus on one of these areas: National, International, and Economic news.
- **RADIO.** Copy will come from wire services and/or newspapers.
- **LINCOLN-DOUGLAS.** We will use the Modest Novice topic.
 - Resolved: Civil disobedience in a democracy is morally justified.
- **PUBLIC FORUM.** We will use the September/October 2019 topic.
 - Resolved: The European Union should join the Belt and Road Initiative.

Judging

You are required to bring one judge for every five entries or fraction thereof for speech events and Congress. For Debate, you are required to bring one judge for every three entries or fraction thereof. Judges should be available to judge all time slots. There will be a \$50 fine for each missing judge. This fee is not to be used in lieu of providing required judges. Students with two or more years of experience in high school forensics are invited to judge, as are qualified adults. Extra judges are always welcome. If we have enough judges, we will attempt to use two judges in each round instead of the usual one. So please bring extras if you have them.

*Please note that judging requirements are finalized at the time registration closes on Thursday, October 17 at 5:00 pm. **If you have drops after registration closes, it does not change the number of judges you are required to bring.** If you register EXTRA judges, we are going to be depending upon them to come. You cannot drop them after the registration deadline.*

We will be holding a speech Judge Training Session during the tournament. Since experienced students are encouraged to judge this tournament, this is an excellent opportunity for you to bring parents who are interested in judging but would benefit from training before they take on any rounds. Individuals registered for Judge Training may not be registered as judges for this tournament.

Individuals interested in learning to judge debate may attend this tournament and shadow judges in order to learn the judging process. These individuals should not be registered as judges, but you should notify the Tab Room during registration if you have individuals in need of a debate training partner.

Registration Information

- The registration fee is \$5 per student. The cost for a Duo Interpretation entry or a PFD team is therefore \$10.
- Register on-line at www.tabroom.com beginning on September 23, 2019. If you are having trouble with the online registration system, send an e-mail to Joyce Albert at jeba78@verizon.net.
- **Registration Deadline:** Thursday, October 17, 2019 at 5:00 PM.

Drops

- Drops may be made online until Thursday, October 17, 2019 at 5:00 PM; drops should be e-mailed to Joyce Albert (jeba78@verizon.net) once registration closes.
- All changes to entries made after October 17 will incur a \$5 penalty fee in addition to the \$5 registration fee.
- Drops that occur after 8:00 pm on Friday should be called in to 508-397-5143 on Saturday morning between 7:00-8:00 am.

SATURDAY Morning Check-in

- **Please text (preferred) or call 508-397-5143 to check in between 7:00-8:00 am on Saturday morning.** Even if you have no drops, please text or call so we can begin to re-panel rounds at 8:00 am (if necessary) and start the tournament on time. MSDL rules permit a \$25 penalty fee assigned to schools that fail to check-in during the morning call-in period. Please identify your school when texting.

Tentative Schedule

7:00-8:00	Check-in Calls/Texts (<i>Please text or call 508-397-5143</i>)
8:15-8:45	Registration
8:30	Judge Meeting
9:00	General Opening Meeting
9:30-12:00	Judge Training Session (speech events only, not for debate)
9:30-1:00	Speech Rounds & Congress Sessions
9:30-3:00	Debate Rounds (lunch during free flight)
2:00	Speech Exhibitions, Congress Bill Writing Session, and Debate Exhibition (time permitting)
3:00	Estimated Departure Time

Speech Judge Training Session

New to judging forensics?
Looking for a refresher course?

Saturday, October 19, 2019
9:30am - Noon
at Walpole High School in Walpole, MA

At this session participants will learn:

- How to run a round
- The rules for MSDL speech events
- The criteria for judging the various events
- How to give time signals
- How to rank students and what “quality points” are
- How to write a constructive ballot

The event will feature live demonstrations by MSDL student volunteers.

Massachusetts students work hard to do their best at competitions and we know our judges want to do their best too. While everyone likes to win, this activity is as wonderful as it is because of the learning opportunity it provides for kids. Learn to help all of our students become better public speakers by attending this free judge training session.