



2020 Needham High School Speech and Debate Tournament



Dear Friends:

We are pleased to invite you to the Needham High School “Day at the Oscars” aka “March Merryness” Speech and Debate Tournament, on Saturday, March 21, 2020.

This year, in celebration of a new decade and in honor of two decades plus of hosting, we are introducing the ‘**Show Them Greatness**’ award. This shall go to the students who ‘**show them greatness**’ in both a MSDL event AND a Needham ‘special event’. In those cases of students who are double entered in the regular event pattern, the best performance shall be used to determine who is so honored.

We represent the last opportunity to qualify for States in both speech debate, while striving to offer a ‘fun and festive’ venue for all. So be it in fine dress or dancing shoes (or both!) we look forward to seeing you!

- The Needham Speech and Debate Team

REGISTRATION

Please register at [Tabroom.com](https://www.tabroom.com) by **Wednesday, March 18th at 5 pm.**

When registering, please indicate the coach's mobile phone number for emergency contact.

Middle school students are welcome but must compete as part of their middle school. In accordance with MSDL bylaws, in the event that the middle school is part of the high school, students must still attend as part of a distinct school entry.

Fees: Registration fees are due at the time of registration.

- LD and PF: \$15/entry.
- Policy Debate: \$20/entry.
- Speech and Congress: \$6/entry
- Big Questions- \$5/entry

ADULT SUPERVISION

Students must be accompanied by an adult, approved by their administration, who will be responsible for them the entire time they are present at “March Merriness.” Said adults are expected to be physically present during the entire time students from their school are on site.

Said adults should carry out the registration- no students please!

DROPS AND CONFIRMATION

Changes made after the drop deadline can affect scheduling and complicated events. Please do your best to finalize plans by March 19th. All late changes are subject to nuisance fees.

Wednesday, March 18 at 5pm: All students must be registered

Thursday, March 19 at 5pm: Last chance to drop without fee.

Email all drops to pjwexler06@gmail.com on after 5pm on Thursday up until 10pm Friday. Drops after that should be texted to the below number.

All teams must text or call 781-330-6610 by 7:30 am on the day of the tournament.

- When calling or texting, identify your school.
- List any additional drops (which you tried hard to avoid).
- Confirm no changes if there are no changes. (Thanks!)

Change fees: Paid separately, at time of check-in.

- \$10 fee/change made between **per student** March 19th at 5 pm and 7:30 am text (i.e., only \$10 owed for a triple entered student who drops)
- \$25 fee/change reported at check-in that was not called in by 7:30

JUDGING OBLIGATIONS

Speech -- One judge is required per five entries in speech.

- *Entries in special events DO NOT count against the judging quota.*

Debate -- One judge per three entries in LD, PF, and Big Q.

Adult judges only in varsity LD, PF, and Big Q.

One judge per two entries in novice policy.

Late drops DO NOT change the judging obligation.

Judges are expected to be present through finals, except for those morning judges who arrange to be replaced with afternoon shift colleagues from their own school.

Fees will be assessed for schools which fail to meet obligations.

Please – do NOT rely on the fee. We count on each school to do its part.

Fees – to be made out to Friends of Needham Speech & Debate and paid at the check-in desk:

Missing judge for speech: \$50/judge

Missing judge for debate: \$75/judge

Judge absent for final round in any event: \$50/round.

Invoices for missed final rounds shall be sent directly to the principal of an offending school.

COMPETITIVE EVENTS

Debate Events: The applicable NSDA topics will be used in all forms of debate. At least four preliminary rounds shall be held. The decision between additional preliminary rounds and elimination rounds will be based on tournament registration numbers.

We ARE offering **Big Questions** this year.

We will not be offering Worlds-style Debate or Hybrid PF this year

Students competing in debate may not participate in speech events.

Speech Events: We will be offering all MSDL Speech and Debate events, plus special ‘March Merryness’ events. Student Congress legislation will be available on the MFL website.

Special Speech Events: Special events will occur during a flight between MFL event prelims and finals. **All** speech students who are NOT competing in Multiple may enter a single special event. All who do so are eligible for the ‘**Show Them Greatness**’ award. Events described below.

Group Discussion: Topic Area: Media

The concentration areas are

Mainstream Media Influence in Elections

Social Media Regulations

Corporate Influence

Media ethics

Future of Media Publications

Double Entry: Students may enter up to three speech events, including one special event.

- Students in group discussion and student congress may not double enter within the MFL events pattern. They MAY enter special events.
- Students may not compete in both multiple and special events because both occur at the same time.
- Students entered in debate events may not enter speech events.

DROP DETAILS

Please email any drops to pjwexler06@gmail.com on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday. **EVERY TEAM MUST TEXT OR CALL 781-330-6610 BY 7:30 AM ON THE DAY OF THE TOURNAMENT TO CONFIRM THEIR REGISTRATION.** Please remember to identify your school.

Remember, judging obligation is based on your original entry.

Nuisance fees of \$10 **per student** will be assessed for drops and changes from 5pm March 15th through the morning call-in. A nuisance fee of \$25 will be assessed for changes made at the table. The key to running an on time tournament is minimal last minute changes! We would rather have accuracy than your money.

Please make all checks payable to Friends of Needham Speech and Debate.

All dedicated nuisance fees for this tournament will be donated to two charities 1) Kiva and 2) the Needham High School military support groups. Thus, we are requesting that such fees be paid separately. A container shall be provided for that purpose. **Those Needham staff accepting registration fees will be instructed to nod pleasantly and point mutely to said container when pleas for exceptions to nuisance fees are made.**

Imitating a wounded doe, even brilliantly, will not suffice for requesting exceptions to such fees.

SWEEPSTAKES

Sweepstakes will be awarded to the top five schools based on their top ten entries in ten separate events, plus their next top three scores.

AWARDS

Students in 'Special Events' shall receive 'Heirloom' awards. Finalists will be able to choose from a variety of old 'heirloom' trophies, along with a trophy plate suitable for 'affixing' to their chosen heirloom trophy.

Schools interested in cleaning house and donating their old trophies (that one topped with a fish from the 1998 South by South West Yankee Swap Invitational) should feel free to reach out to the Needham coaching staff to make suitable arrangements. Many Thanks!

‘Show Them Greatness’ Award

This shall go to the students who ‘**show them greatness**’ in both a MSDL event AND a Needham ‘special event’. In those cases of students who are double entered in the regular event pattern, the event with the best performance shall be used to determine who is so honored.

Talia Newfield Award

The Talia Newfield Award, in honor of the late Talia Newfield. Talia was a member of the NHS Class of 2019,. This honor shall be earned by the top novice in Congressional Debate at the tournament.

BEHAVIOR & CLEANLINESS

Students and adults are expected to abide by standard principles of professionalism and etiquette throughout the day. Students who do not model these codes will be dropped from the tournament. Students should stay in areas specifically designated as tournament spaces, and may not use school equipment without permission, including but not limited to computers, printers, refrigerators, etc. If you have to ask, chances are you shouldn’t even look at it, let alone use it.

In addition, the expectation is that no objects be unplugged. Students or adults who unplug Needham High School devices shall be asked to leave the tournament.

No food or drink of any sort, except water, is allowed in the classrooms.

Coaches- Please inform your judges that no person, including adults, may sit, breathe, or even gaze upon a teacher’s desk. We may station a trained team of (hungry) gorgons at each teacher’s desk to enforce this rule.

Rooms: We will be checking rooms throughout the day. If a room is found to be in poor condition, the tournament will be delayed until that room is sufficiently neat. Repeat offenders will be dropped from the tournament. **Students after round three, round four, and finals are asked to erase the board of all tournament related markings.**

SCHEDULE

Please text or call **781-330-6610 by 7:30 am** on the morning of the tournament to report both **no changes** at all as well as **any** changes. Please call as soon as you know of any changes. This is a MSDL requirement. Schools that do not do so are subject to a \$25 fee in addition to other fees. The responsible adult should be the one to register and pay the fees. No students please!

Please make all checks payable to Friends of Needham Speech and Debate.

Registration is at 8am. Please arrive no later than shortly after 8am so that we can finish registration by 8:15. Rounds will begin as expeditiously as possible, we hope to have the opening draw in speech no later than 9am, coinciding with the beginning of draw.

Mandatory Text/call-in Confirmation of entry: By 7:30
Registration: 8:00
Judge Meetings (all judges): 8:30
Speech Round One Draw 9:00
Debate Round One 9:15 (or as close to it as possible)
additional debate rounds to follow expeditiously after the first round

Speech Round One 9:15 (or as close to it as possible)
additional speech rounds to follow expeditiously after the first round

Multiple/specials, Finals and Awards to follow as soon as possible.

Awards will be as close to 6:00 pm as possible -- earlier if possible.

No ballots will be released before awards. Ballots/trophies will not be mailed. If you must leave early, please make arrangements to have someone else pick up your ballots.

Scrumptious food will be sold throughout the day!

We will expedite the schedule if tournament numbers allow.

We look forward to seeing you in Needham on March 21st!

The Needham Speech and Debate Team and Coaching Staff

MARCH MERRYNESS SPECIAL EVENTS

To be held during the off round with one round of competition.

Mixed Duo... Shaken AND Stirred (aka: mixed duo)

Teams will be randomly generated from all event participants. All materials will be provided. You and your new partner will have 15 minutes of prep time for cutting and practice. The presentation must include an introduction that cites the name of the piece and the author. You may only touch and make eye contact during your introduction. The author's words as published in the literature may not be altered for this presentation with the exception that cutting is permitted. This is a scripted reading event.

Time limit: 15 minute- prep, 7 minutes, 30 second grace- presentation

Tabloid Extemp -aka Aliens Have Landed in Needham

Pulled right from the tabloid headlines. You may have already won! 15 minutes of prep time will be allotted to create a "factual", yet light hearted extemp speech. You will have 7 minutes to convince your judge that bat boy lives, and that aliens have indeed landed in Needham. Some topics may come from the Weekly World News or so we say- but if they are shut down by the Conspiracy we will make do. This is a limited prep event, (except for those who can see into the future...)

Time limit: 7 minutes, 30 second grace

Impromptu sales pitch (aka :Sold! to the Highest Bidder)

You will randomly select one item to use as the impromptu topic. 7 minutes of prep time will be allotted to create and present your sales pitch.

Freeze Improv aka “Don’t Think Twice”



https://www.google.com/imgres?imgurl=https%3A%2F%2Fclickamericana.com%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2Fthe-year-without-a-santa-claus-snow-miser-1-750x572.jpg&imgrefurl=https%3A%2F%2Fclickamericana.com%2Fmedia%2Ftelevision-shows%2Fsnow-miserheat-miser-song-the-year-without-a-santa-claus-1974&ibid=7AO5QaE4KsV4M&vet=12ahUKEwir5-HJ8dnAhWIIN8KHR-fBvQQMygCegUIARCTAg_i&docid=RV0ss_K_HTaHZM&w=750&h=572&q=mr%20freeze%20mister&ved=2ahUKEwir5-HJ8dnAhWIIN8KHR-fBvQQMygCegUIARCTAg

Based on a random physical pose made up by the judge, two players create a scene together without conferring or preparing in advance. During the scene, the players must create (a) who they are, (b) what their relationship is, (c) what they want from each other, and (d) where they are. Players are encouraged to build a scene and a crisis together, accepting, using, and building upon each other’s ideas. After a scene has gone for at least 30 seconds, but before it reaches 60 seconds, the next person in line calls “FREEZE” and taps out one of the players. The newcomer begins a new scene based on the frozen positions. Once everyone in the round has performed once, then any player may yell “freeze” after 30 required seconds of performance time per scene. No props, costumes, or furniture are allowed. The time limit for the round is twenty minutes.

Impromptu Storytelling

This event is open to all students and alumni. A mixture of history, pop culture, and dashing insight (provided by the contestant). Students will be assigned a protagonist and a setting. Seven

minutes to prepare and deliver a story. Example: Belle from “Beauty and the Beast” guest stars (as herself) on ‘How I Met Your Mother.’

Students Revenge (aka: student judging competition)

This event is open to all students. You will be writing ballots for the Mixed Duo and/or Impromptu storytelling events. Your ballots will be reviewed and ranked in this unique competition. You will need to dig deep to find thoughtful comments for the good, the bad, and the well... They may even make an appearance in Interpretative Ballot Reading, so have fun and be creative!

TEXT OR CALL 781-330-6610 BY 7:30 AM ON THE DAY OF THE TOURNAMENT TO CONFIRM ENTRIES