



Massachusetts Speech and Debate League
State Championship Tournaments
Speech & Congress
Saturday, May 23, 2020 – Sunday, May 24, 2020

The Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Speech and Debate League is pleased to announce the State Finals in Speech, Debate, and Congress. The tournament will be hosted online on May 23 and 24th under the direction of the MSDL Board.

All events will be held live utilizing Tabroom and Zoom or on a similar platform.

Novice Extemporaneous Speaking and the Novice Oral Interpretation Final are not offered at States.

Qualification

Given the extraordinary circumstances this year, qualification requirements have been waived for this year. All students from MSDL member teams are invited to compete.

Entries

Entry is subject to the following limitations:

- Students in Debate, Congress, or Group Discussion may not double or triple enter.
- Students may not enter more than three events *including* Multiple Reading. A student may not use the same material in more than one event.
- Each student may only enter once in any given event.
- Students entered in a prep room draw event (VX or RB) may double – but not triple enter. Students may enter only one prep room draw event.

We will make every effort to make the schedule 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 into 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 with specific assignments generated by the Tabroom internet application.

Awards

We hope to live-stream the awards ceremony at the conclusion of competition on Sunday. Arrangements will be made to distribute awards to all finalists when it is safe for us to do so. 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

In view of the many hardships presented by the COVID-19 situation, the MSDL Board has decided to waive all entry fees for the 2020 State Finals tournament. All participating schools should have paid their 2019-2020 prior to registering for the state tournament. Drops not reported before 5:00 PM on May 20th will incur a \$10 drop fee.

Registration Instructions

Registrations must be entered on Tabroom (www.tabroom.com) by 5 p.m. on **Friday, May 15, 2020**. There is significant planning that must take place in order to execute our first fully online tournament with live performances in all speech and debate categories. We ask that you register only those students who actually plan to participate in the tournament. Drops should be emailed to jeba78@verizon.net and to jcohen1964@gmail.com and will incur a \$10 drop fee after 5:00 on May 20th.

All students must turn in a Video Release Authorization to their coach by May 15th. Here is the link: [2020 MSDL State Championships Video Release](https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn%3Aaaid%3Ausc%3AUS%3Af0215a51-b50e-4b01-bfe3-9be7d51e1385); full link: <https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn%3Aaaid%3Ausc%3AUS%3Af0215a51-b50e-4b01-bfe3-9be7d51e1385>

Please save the document as follows: “School Name” – “Student Last Name” “Student First Name” (Ex. Acton Boxborough-Hennessey-Sue)

Coaches can upload the form after registering a student for the tournament. Click on the EDIT button for the student, and the option to download the form and upload the completed form will be available. Please be sure all uploaded forms are fully completed.

Registration Confirmation

Please text (508-397-5143) or email (jeba78@verizon.net) confirmation of your registration on Friday evening, May 22, or by 8:00 AM on Saturday morning, May 23. This will allow us to manage any last-minute drops and get the tournament off to a prompt start on Saturday morning. Please be sure to include your school name. MSDL rules require all schools to check in before 8:00 AM or face a \$25 fine.

FURTHER INFORMATION

- Speech and Congress – Pages 3 to 5
- Debate: CX, LD, PF, and BQ – Pages 6 to 12
- ***Log of changes to invitation since May 1 – PAGE 13 – Please check periodically***

Speech and Congress Event Procedures

All Events

Both movement and lots of color can contribute to deterioration of video quality over an online platform. We encourage students to wear plain-colored clothing (i.e. minimal patterns), and, if possible, to perform in front of a neutral solid background or plain-colored wall. If a computer-generated background is used, it may only be a single, solid color with no pattern. Only one video camera may be used, and that camera must remain stationary throughout the performance. No sets are allowed. Students may use a microphone or headset, but these should not be used as props or to make non-vocal sound effects.

No time signals will be provided in any events. Students in need of time indicators should time themselves, synchronizing the start of timing with the judge. The judge's time is the official time.

Students may elect to sit or stand for their performance, but they cannot move from a seated to a standing position or vice versa during the performance.

Watch your e-mail and online on Tabroom and msdlonline.org for a guide to online events.

Reading Events

The script should be at least partially visible throughout the performance.

Duo Interpretation

Each student enter the competition space separately – even if both members of a Duo reside in the same household. We expect that each Duo will be judged one at a time in a breakout session with the judge(s), but we cannot guarantee that the partners will be beside each other in the online space nor which side they will appear on even if they are next to each other on-screen. Interaction and gestures should be planned accordingly.

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 sources. The final round topic area will be: States Issues.

Students will be assigned to a specific prep room where they will receive three questions. Throughout the prep period, students remain in the prep room space with cameras and microphones turned on. When it is time for the student to speak, the prep room coordinator will move the extemper to the assigned speaking space.

Note – There will be no cross-examination in this event for this tournament.

Group Discussion

The topic area for Group Discussion is Gender Issues. Focus areas are workplace harassment, wage gap, education, non-binary identification, and mass/social media. Students will receive specific questions from the judge at the start of each round.

Impromptu Speaking

We expect that we will be utilizing a prep room for Impromptu to distribute topics. Students will receive three topics, and upon selecting one, will then be transferred to a breakout room for completing the prep time and presenting.

Informative Speaking

Modifications to visual aids for optimal viewing over Zoom are acceptable, but visual aids must not be electronic.

Version: May 7, 2020

Please check back for revisions. Changes will be noted on the last page

Multiple Reading

Multiple will perform in three preliminary rounds. 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. Each student in the Multiple should enter the competition space individually – even if more than one member of a Multiple team resides in the same household. We expect that each Multiple will judged one a time in a breakout session with the judge(s). Blocking and movement may need to be extremely limited. It is acceptable for student performers to remain seated while presenting the reading, although that is not required. Six multiples will advance to finals; in the event of an unbreakable tie between 6th and 7th place, only five will advance.

Radio Broadcasting

Students will be assigned to a specific prep room where they will receive a link to the radio package for that round. Throughout the prep period, students must remain in the prep room space with cameras and microphones turned on. When it is time for the student to speak, the prep room coordinator will move the broadcaster to the assigned speaking space. The broadcaster may present with the video function turned off to simulate an actual radio broadcast. We will be providing a copy of the packet for each round to the judge.

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.

Congress Legislation

Congress Legislation is due to Mr. PJ Wexler by Friday, May 15th at 3:00 PM. Please email bills & resolutions to Mr. Wexler at 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. Specific information about Congress will be e-mailed out to schools in the coming weeks.

Judges

Schools must provide one judge for every four Speech and Congress entries, or fraction thereof. All judges must be capable of conducting rounds online and judging online through Tabroom. All judges must have graduated from high school at least six months prior to the date of the tournament. Given that this is our State Finals Tournament, we urge coaches to provide experienced judges, who are qualified to judge high-level competition. **At a minimum, schools must provide 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.

Since the tournament will be held over two days, it is acceptable to provide a different judging pool for each day. However, the total number of judges provided each day must cover the entire entry. For judges covering only one day, please indicate which day on your registration.

If you have a judge who is not available for every round on a given day, you must find a replacement for that judge. All judges are expected to be available to judge for every round on the day for which they are signed up. Missing judges seriously compromises the smooth operation of the tournament. Any judge who is not available to judge a round of their obligation may incur the \$50.00 missing judge penalty.

Tentative Schedule – subject to change

Saturday, May 23

9:30	Speech Judges Meeting
9:30	Congress Meeting & Session 1
11:00	Speech Round 1
1:30	Speech Round 2
2:00	Congress Session 2
3:30	Speech Round 3

Sunday, May 24

9:30	Speech Judges Meeting
10:15	Congress Semifinals (if necessary)
10:30	Speech Semifinals
1:00	Speech and Congress Finals
4:00	Awards

Standard rules of professionalism and etiquette shall apply at all times.

We look forward to seeing you at the tournament!

Sincerely
The MSDL Board

DEBATE

Here are the highlights:

- Section 1 – The resolutions – We are using January/February for LD and February for PF.
- Section 2 – Public Forum now has three divisions – Novice, JV (new), and Varsity. Coaches must properly assign entries to these divisions based on their experience level.
- Section 3 – Your judges must have at least one tournament of experience before judging at the state championship.
- Section 4 – The schedule: The MSDL Board has decided that in LD and PF, depending on registration numbers, we may now break to octo-finals to give more students an opportunity to compete in elimination rounds.
- Section 5 – A few things:
 - Normal rules for use of internet are in force – so, you may use the internet for research during the round, but you may not communicate via the internet with anyone not competing or judging the round;
 - This section describes the accommodations we are making if participants run into internet problems during the competition.
- Section 6 – Debate sweepstakes
- Section 7 – Extended preparation time for the online tournament

If you have any issues registering for debate, please contact Josh Cohen at jcohen1964@gmail.com. I am happy to help you.

1. Debate formats

The tournament will offer four types of debate.

Format	Abbreviation	Number of debaters per entry	Resolution
Policy	CX	2 ^(*)	2019-2020 topic, “ <i>Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially reduce Direct Commercial Sales and/or Foreign Military Sales of arms from the United States.</i> ”
Lincoln-Douglas	LD	1	2020 January/February topic: “ <i>Resolved: States ought to eliminate their nuclear arsenals.</i> ”
Public Forum	PF	2 ^(*)	2020 February topic: “ <i>Resolved: The United States should replace means-tested welfare programs with a universal basic income.</i> ”
Big Questions	BQ	1 or 2	2019-2020 topic: “ <i>Resolved: Objective morality exists.</i> ”

(*) No solo entries can participate in CX or PF at the state tournament, even during preliminary rounds.

2. Debate experience levels and divisions

Each format will have one, two, or three divisions. Please classify your entries as follows. See Notes (a) and (b) following this table for further information.

Format	Divisions
CX	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Varsity – Entries with one or two debaters with 2+ years of experience Novice – Entries with two debaters both in their Novice year
LD ^(c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Varsity – Debaters with 2+ years of experience Novice – Debaters in their Novice year
PF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Varsity – Entries with one or two debaters with 3+ years of experience JV – Entries with at least one debater with 2 years of experience, and the other debater with either 1 or 2 years of experience. Novice – Entries with two debaters both in their Novice year
BQ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open – Includes all entries consisting of debaters with any level of experience.

Notes

- (a) To keep the division sizes balanced, we ask that you not put your entries in divisions that either over- or understate their level of experience. For example, please do not put a pair of 2nd-year PF debaters in the Varsity PF division. The varsity division is reserved for entries with at least one debater who has 3+ years of experience.
- (b) A Novice debater is a student who has not competed in debate in two or more inter-scholastic high school competitions prior to the current academic year (2019-2020). “Debate” includes CX, LD, PF, BQ, and Congressional Debate.
- (c) For LD and CX, coaches may assign first year debaters to the varsity division.

3 Registering Judges

3.1 Judge qualifications

- *All judges must be former debaters in PF, LD, or CX, or have judged in at least one prior interscholastic debate tournament.*
- The tournament will use electronic balloting. *All judges must have accounts on Tabroom.com.* For more information on setting up accounts, see [here](#).
- Please be sure all judges are familiar with basic round formats (speech order, speech times, prep time). *We may not have time to review those points in the judge briefing.*
- **Varsity, JV, and Open divisions** – Judges must be adults and not current high school students, and cannot have graduated from high school during the current academic year.
- **Novice division:**
 - Any judge qualified to judge Varsity, JV, and Open divisions is also qualified to judge in the Novice division.
 - Novice division judges may be high school students in at least their third year of high school debate. That is, they would be classified as “Varsity” debaters, as defined in Section 3 of this invitation. Judges may not compete at the state championship tournament.

3.2 Number of judges owed

Schools must provide 1 judge for every:

- 2 entries in CX,
- 2 entries in LD,
- 2 entries in PF, and
- 2 entries in BQ.

Please note the following additional requirements:

- These divisions have separate judge pools, so each judge that you bring can fulfill only the requirement for one division. For example, if your school enters one CX team and one PF team, you need a judge for the CX pool and a second judge for the PF pool.
- Each school must have enough adult judges to cover the ratios specified above for debaters entered in the Varsity, JV, and Open divisions.
 - For example, if your school brings two varsity teams and two novice teams, at least one judge brought by your school must be able to judge in the varsity division (to cover your two teams entered in that division).
 - The number of varsity-division judges a school brings for each format must be at least one-half the number of Varsity, JV, or Open division teams the school enters for that format. For example, if a school enters 3 Varsity PF teams and 3 Novice PF teams, it will owe a total of 3 judges (6 teams total and a 2:1 team-to-judge ratio). Because it has 3 Varsity teams, and one-half of 3 is 1.5, at least 2 of its 3 judges must be qualified to judge Varsity.
 - Note that in PF, VARSITY division judges will adjudicate rounds in both the Varsity and JV divisions. Novice division judges will judge only Novice debater rounds.

3.3 How long judges have to stay at the tournament

- Judges may register to participate on Saturday, May 23, on Sunday, May 24, or on both days. Schools must cover their obligation on both days of the tournament.
- All judges are obligated through the first break round of any division in which their school has an entry.
- Judges from schools with teams that break are obligated through the **semi-final round** in that division.
- Judges from schools with teams that win one break round are obligated through the **final round** in that division.
- Once the tournament staff has identified and verified the presence of judges for an out round, they will send notification via email to the judge pool so that other judges who are not obligated past the current round can depart if they wish. For example, once the staff has verified that all octo-final judges are present, other judges whose teams did not break to octo-finals can depart.

3.4 Penalties for missing judges

- Missing judges and judges who leave early seriously compromise the smooth operation of the tournament. If a school has a judge who must leave before the end of his or her obligation, that school must provide a qualified replacement, or be potentially subject to a \$50 missing judge penalty.
- Unfortunately, the league cannot guarantee that it can provide hired judges directly to schools for this tournament. If a school does not have sufficient judges, the tournament director may have to reduce that school's entry numbers to be in line with its judge roster.

3.5 Entering judges into Tabroom

3.5.1 Judge notes and judge pools

When you register an individual to judge at the state championship, tabroom will prompt you for three additional pieces of information, as illustrated in the screen shot, below: (1) Judge notes, (2) Judge Pools, and (3) Other Info.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

The screenshot shows a web form titled 'ADDITIONAL DETAILS'. It has three main sections: 'Judge Notes' with a text input field containing 'Conflicts, time constraints, etc'; 'Judge Pools' with a table of judge assignments and a 'Save Details' button at the bottom.

Judge Pools		Each judge must be in a minimum of 1 pools	
PF1 Varsity	Massachusetts Online Tournament	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	✗ 2 judge(s) required , 1 provided
PF3 Novice	Massachusetts Online Tournament	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	✓ 1 judge(s) required , 1 provided

- JUDGE NOTES: Use this field to let us know the following:
 - Enter “Current HS student” if the judge is still in high school. That way, we will know that this individual can only judge in the novice division.
 - Enter any conflicts of interest – e.g., if the judge knows a student who debates for another high school. Note – you do not need to let us know of any conflicts with the school the judge is affiliated with.

Version: May 7, 2020

Please check back for revisions. Changes will be noted on the last page

- Be sure to erase any information in the JUDGE NOTES field that is left over from previous tournaments.
- JUDGE POOLS (for CX, LD, and PF debate only):
 - Assign the judge to ONE judge pool.
 - Current high school students must be assigned to the NOVICE pool. Current high school students may not judge in BQ debate (because BQ has one, open division that includes varsity debaters).
 - Judges who have graduated from high school may be assigned to either the NOVICE or VARSITY pool.
 - Please assign your judges to the two pools in rough proportion to the number of teams you have in each division. For example, if two-thirds of your entries in PF are in the Varsity division, assign approximately two-thirds of your judges to the varsity division.
 - In order to accommodate the tournament, the tab staff may reassign adult judges to a different judge pool (e.g., to the novice pool even though that judge is signed up to judge varsity).
- OTHER INFO (ADA/ACCESSIBLE ROOM NEEDED) – Does not apply to an online tournament.
- *Be sure to click on SAVE DETAILS when you are done entering information for this judge. You*

3.5.2 Judge availability

- Judges can participate on Saturday, Sunday, or on both days. To make a judge available on only one day, click on “All rounds” in the **Availability** column in an event’s judge list. You will then see two rows – one for Saturday, and one for Sunday. In the far right column, click on the AVAILABLE button, and it will change to UNAVAILABLE. (You can click on the UNAVAILABLE button to toggle it back to AVAILABLE).

LIMIT JOSHUA COHEN'S AVAILABILITY

Block	Time Not Available	Fee if under obligation	Available
Saturday 5/23	Sat 8:30 AM through Sat 6:00 PM	\$25	Available
Sunday 5/24	Sun 8:30 AM through Sun 4:00 PM	\$25	Available

Toggle the "Available" button to mark a judge as not available for a given time block.

You owe your full judge burden for every time block. A judge marked available for only part of the tournament will result in a fee unless another judge is made available for the parts the first judge is missing.

- Then click on the “Return to” button to the right. You will see the change you made to the Availability column. You will also see a warning above this table if you no longer cover your obligation.

Edit	Name	Link?	Availability	Pools	Details	Conflicts	
	Joshua Cohen	✓	Not available Sunday 5/24	PF1 Varsity			
	Keith Henzer	✓	All rounds	PF3 Novice			
	Robin Ruthazer	✓	All rounds	PF1 Varsity			

- Note that the POOLS column specifies the division for each judge (novice or varsity).

4 Tournament schedule

- Round times are for LD, PF, and BQ
- CX will run as appropriate given the duration of the rounds

Saturday, May 23

- **8:30 to 9:15 – Judge and student briefings...** *Note – All judges, including experienced judges, former debaters, and current student debaters who are judging must come to the judge briefing.*
- Pairings released by 9:00
- 9:15 – Round 1
- 10:30 – Round 2
- 12:00 – Round 3 plus lunch
- 2:00 – Round 4
- 3:30 – Round 5

Sunday, May 24

- 9:00 to 9:30 – Judge briefings
- 9:30 – Octo-finals in PF and LD, semi-finals in BQ
- 11:00 – Quarter-finals in PF and LD, finals in BQ
- 1:00 – Semi-finals in PF and LD
- 2:30 – Finals in PF and LD
- 4:00 – Awards and festivities

Note – only entries with winning preliminary round records are eligible to participate in break rounds.

5 Student conduct

5.1 Internet usage

- Internet usage must comply with rules specified in the MSDL Rules and Policies document, Section 3.3.3.6: “In round internet access in LD, Policy, PFD and Big Question debate events is permitted for research, retrieval and communication but not for communication with persons not actively judging or competing in that debate. Violation of communication rules will result in disqualification of the individuals involved. If a coach is in violation, it will also result in the notification of the principal/head of the associated school. Internet access is not guaranteed. A team that is unable to provide their evidence upon request is assumed not to have that evidence.”

5.2 Connectivity problems during the competition

- Each team will be allocated a bank of 15 minutes to resolve technical issues interfering a competitor’s participation in the round. After that time is elapsed, participation must continue. If one member of a two-person entry cannot participate due to technical problems, his or her teammate may not act as a substitute.

5.3 Inclusion

- 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.

5.4 Professionalism

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

6 Sweepstakes for Debate

- A school’s sweepstakes score will be calculated based on the top two scores earned by its entries in each division, with Novice, JV and Varsity divisions counting separately.
- An entry’s score is the number of wins it earns from both preliminary and elimination rounds, including byes and coach-overs. Wins in Policy debate will be scaled up by a factor of 1.5.

7 Preparation time for Debate

To accommodate the use of online technology, we are extending preparation time for the debate events. As described in Section 5.2, each team or entry can also use up to 15 minutes of time per round to resolve technical connectivity issues.

Format	Preparation time
CX	10 minutes per team
LD	5 minutes per entry
PF	4 minutes per team
BQ	4 minutes per entry

Version: May 7, 2020

Please check back for revisions. Changes will be noted on the last page

LIST OF REVISIONS since May 1, 2020

Date	Page(s)	Revision
May 2	9-10	Section 3.5 revised to show how you can specify which day or days your debate judges can participate in the tournament.
May 4	2	Judges do NOT need to complete the video release form
May 4	2	The video form can be directly uploaded onto Tabroom.com
May 7	3	Extemp – There will be no cross-x
May 7	7	For LD and CX, coaches may assign first year debaters to the varsity division.
May 7	8	Note that in PF, VARSITY division judges will adjudicate rounds in both the Varsity and JV divisions. Novice division judges will judge only Novice debater rounds.