



November 1, 2019

Dear Coaches:

Your team is cordially invited to the Michigan Interscholastic Forensic Association Debate State Finals which will be held at Wayne State University on Friday, December 13 and Saturday, December 14, 2019. Registration is now OPEN on tabroom.com through midnight on Monday December 2nd. Further details below.

Looking forward to seeing you all there!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jon Becker".

Jon Becker
Executive Director MIFA

Contacts:

Tournament Director

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GENERAL TOURNAMENT INFO

Register & Entry Fees: Please register at <http://mifadebatestatefinals.tabroom.com>

Deadlines vary by event, see table below. If you have any questions or difficulties, email director@themifa.org.

Events/Divisions	Fee	Limitations	Deadlines ALL @ MIDNIGHT
School Fee	\$25		w/ registration
Policy State Finals: Varsity Novice	\$25/team	2 teams max w/ unlimited students who may alternate between rounds (but not swap between teams)	Registration M 12/2/19 Conf Call Tue 12/3/19 Judge Ratings Thur 12/5/19
DUDL Policy Tournament #4: Varsity Junior Varsity (JV) Novice Unrestricted Novice Restricted	\$25/team	No limit on # of teams entered. JV open to Novice Restricted may only use DUDL evidence packet and arguments.	Registration Wed 12/11/19
Public Forum State Finals: Varsity Novice Middle Level	\$25/team	Maximum of 6 judges provided by a school. If registering >12 teams total (across all divisions), additional judges will need to be hired thru tournament.	Registration Wed 12/11/19
Legislative State Finals: Varsity Novice	\$10/indiv	Participating schools <u>MUST</u> submit at least one piece of legislation for the docket. Limit 10 contestants per division.	Bills Due Wed 11/27/19 Docket Out Mon 12/2/19 Registration Wed 12/11/19

Definitions:

“Novice” - a competitor who participated in 5 or fewer rounds (at 2 or fewer tournaments) in the prior academic year. For a team to compete in any Novice division, both partners must meet this definition.

“Middle Level” - a student who competes for a Middle or Junior High school. Typically grades 6-8, although some school buildings include 5th and/or 9th grades in which case those students are eligible to compete at that level.

Change Fees: After the event registration deadline a \$25 “nuisance” fee will be assessed for each change (drop, add, name, division etc) in addition to the registration fee. Changes the day of the tournament before it begins are \$50. Changes after the tournament begins are \$100. Drops after the deadline do not decrease judging obligations.

Judge Requirements: Schools must provide sufficient judges to meet these obligations or hire through the tournament:

Policy = 1 judge per team, approx 6-7 rounds (or split between 2 judges w/ 3-4 rounds each)

Public Forum = 1 judge per 2 teams (max of 6 judges provided, then must hire add'l thru tournament)

Legislative = 1 judge per 5 contestants

Any judge your school provides must have passed your district’s background check policy.

ALL judges are expected to be available to judge any round including eliminations.

Any judge may be asked to judge in Public Forum, regardless of what event they’re registered for.

Policy and PF judges should have a tabroom.com account and bring a device to facilitate online balloting.



Hired Judges: If you are unable to provide sufficient judges to meet your school's obligation, a limited number are available for hire through the tournament (Policy judges are \$200, PF and Legislative judges are \$100). Please indicate your need to hire when you register.

Rules: Tournament administration will enforce MIFA rules as found on the [Resources tab](#) of the website.

ADA Accommodation: Coaches should initiate any request for accommodation by the tournament registration deadline. The information will be treated confidentially and used to assist tournament administrators in determining what reasonable accommodation(s) can be provided for a student, judge or coach to participate in a MIFA event fairly, safely and effectively. ADA Form available [HERE](#).

Food: ALL MEALS MUST BE PRE-ORDERED for ALL Coaches, Judges AND Students! MEALS for DUDL STUDENTS AND COACHES WILL BE PAID by DUDL, but coaches must indicate how many meals they need. When registering, please indicate how many of each meal you need to order under the "Concessions" tab. In the interest of "going green" we are no longer providing bottled water. There are several bottle filling stations in every building. Cups and MIFA water bottles will be available.

> Friday Dinner (\$8/per): Jet's Pizza, breadsticks, salad bar, dessert

> Saturday Breakfast (FREE, please indicate # of meals to help us plan): light continental

> Saturday Lunch (\$8/per): Jimmy John's boxed lunch - choice of sub (turkey, italian, veggie), pickle spear, chips, cookie

There are also several options on/near campus including a Starbucks, Panda Express, Taco Bell inside the Student Center.

Lodging: The MIFA has reserved hotel blocks with great rates at a few area hotels. [Updated hotel list HERE](#)

Contact Becca Weissman, MIFA Business Manager (billing@themifa.org) with lodging questions.

Location: Our thanks to Wayne State University and the Wayne Forensic Union who will once again host the MIFA State Finals Debate Tournament. [A printable map of the campus can be found HERE](#).

> Policy events will be in Manoogian Hall - 906 W. Warren Detroit MI 48201

> Public Forum will be held in several buildings (dress warm!), based out of State Hall - 5143 Cass Ave Detroit MI 48201

> Legislative events will be held in Manoogian Hall - 906 W. Warren Detroit MI 48201

Parking: Policy teams may park in Structure #2 (North of Manoogian). PF & Legislative teams may park in Structure #6 (East of State Hall) or on the street. Parking in either Structure is ~\$7/day. DUDL schools can pick up parking passes at check in.



Policy Debate State Finals

MIFA will offer competition for 2-person teams in both Novice & Varsity events using the National High School Policy Debate Resolution for 2019-20, *Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially reduce Direct Commercial Sales and/or Foreign Military Sales of arms from the United States.*

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER: If your school participates in MIFA Policy Debate **ONLY**, there is **NO** MIFA Membership fee, only registration fees apply. However, you are still required to complete the [Principal Authorization form](#) for liability issues. You will only be invoiced for tournament fees - registration, judges, food & changes.

Varsity Policy Debate State Championship

Entries: Varsity is limited to (2) teams per school. You may have more than 2 students per team & rotate participants between rounds. You may not rotate students between teams in prelims (eg. students on Team A may not rotate on to Team B). Schools, not individual teams qualify to advance to elims and may then swap students between teams.

Judges: One certified judge for every two-person team. Or preferably 2 judges who will split the commitment and watch 3-4 rounds each. Judges must complete the [MIFA Certified Judge Form for Policy Debate](#) and have a tabroom.com account for online balloting. Judge Ratings/Strikes will be due by midnight on Thursday 12/5/19.

Format: The tournament format is likely to be 5 rounds breaking to semis, but the final decision regarding # of rounds, advancement, etc. is determined after registration closes by the tournament committee during the GoTo Meeting conference call scheduled for 7pm Tuesday 12/3/19. All registered head coaches will be invited by email.

Awards: State Champion, Runner-up, (2) Semi-Finalists as well as the Top Speakers will be recognized

Novice Policy Debate State Championship

Entries: Novice is limited to (2) teams per school. You may have more than 2 students per team & rotate participants between rounds. You may not rotate students between teams in prelims (eg. students on Team A may not rotate on to Team B). If both teams from a given school would qualify to advance to elims, then coaches may then swap between all students.

Judges: One certified judge for every two-person team. Or preferably 2 judges who will split the commitment and watch 3-4 rounds each. Judges must complete the [MIFA Certified Judge Form for Policy Debate](#) and have a tabroom.com account for online balloting. Judge Ratings/Strikes will be due by midnight on Friday 12/1.

Format: The tournament format is likely to be 4 rounds breaking to semis, but the final decision regarding # of rounds, advancement, etc is determined after registration closes by the tournament committee during the GoTo Meeting conference call scheduled for 7pm Tuesday 12/3/19. All registered head coaches will be invited.

Awards: State Champion, Runner-up, (2) Semifinalists will be recognized

Schedule & Locations

The tournament will likely run on a flighted schedule alternating between Varsity rounds and Novice rounds in order to maximize mutually preferred judging and allow teams to use their novices to scout for varsity and varsity to prep novices.

The [schedule is posted HERE](#). The link will update with the final schedule after the conference call on Tues 12/3/19.



DUDL Policy Debate Tournament #4

MIFA will also host the Detroit Urban Debate League events using the National High School Policy Debate Resolution for 2019-20, *Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially reduce Direct Commercial Sales and/or Foreign Military Sales of arms from the United States.*

REGISTRATION & MEMBERSHIP REMINDER: DUDL Schools are welcome to enter the MIFA State Tournament in either the Novice Policy or Varsity Policy events and compete in those divisions or enter the DUDL Tournament #4 listed below or a combination of entering some teams in the MIFA tournament & some teams in the DUDL tournament.

MIFA TOURNAMENT: If your school **ONLY** participates in the MIFA **Policy** Debate State Tournament events, there is **NO** MIFA Membership **fee**! Your school will only be invoiced for tournament related fees - registration, hired judges, food & changes. However, you are still required to complete the [Principal Authorization form](#).

DUDL TOURNAMENT: If your school participates in the DUDL Policy Debate Tournament #4 events, ALL fees are covered by your membership in the DUDL including - registration, hired judges, food & changes.

DUDL TOURNAMENT #4 DIVISIONS

Entries: There is no limit on the number of teams a school may enter.

Judges: Schools must provide 1 judges for every 2 teams. Judges may be used in the MIFA State Tournament judge pool as well and therefore must complete the [MIFA Certified Judge Form for Policy Debate](#) and have a tabroom.com account for online balloting.

Format: The tournament format will be 5 rounds breaking to semis-finals.

Awards: Champion, Runner-up, (2) Semi-Finalists and Top 10 speakers will be recognized.

DUDL Open Policy division (2 day/2-person): Open to high school students in their 2nd-4th season of Policy competition.

DUDL Jr Varsity Policy division (2-day/2-person): Open to high school students in their 2nd-4th season of Policy competition. Typically those with limited tournament experience (compared with those in the Open division).

Unrestricted Packet Novice division (2-day/2-person) Open to high school students in their first season of Policy competition.

Restricted Packet Novice division (2-day/2-person) Open to high school students in their first season of Policy competition. **Restricted novices will be limited to the DUDL novice affirmatives and evidence set as per DUDL rules. For this tournament, novices in the restricted/packet division may use the following files found at urbandebate.org under the "Teach Debate" link.**

Schedule & Locations

The tournament will likely run on a flighted schedule alternating between Varsity rounds and Novice rounds in order to maximize mutually preferred judging and allow teams to use their novices to scout for varsity and varsity to prep novices.

The [schedule is posted HERE](#). The link will update with the final schedule after the conference call on Tues 12/3/19.



Public Forum Debate Events

MIFA will host all Public Forum events using the November/December 2019 NSDA Public Forum Resolution, **Resolved: The benefits of the United States federal government's use of offensive cyber operations outweigh the harms.**

Varsity Public Forum Debate State Championship

Entries: There is no limit to the number of teams a school may enter, except schools with more 12 entries (across all divisions) MAY ONLY PROVIDE a MAX of 6 judges and MUST hire their additional judges through MIFA.

Format: 5 preliminary rounds (1&2 preset, 3rd lag paired, 4th & 5th power paired), Semis and Finals

Awards: State Champion, Runner-up, (2) Semi-Finalists and 1st-10th Speakers will be recognized

Novice Public Forum Debate State Championship

Entries: There is no limit to the number of teams a school may enter, except schools with more 12 entries (across all divisions) MAY ONLY PROVIDE a MAX of 6 judges and MUST hire their additional judges through MIFA.

Format: 5 preliminary rounds (1&2 preset, 3rd lag paired, 4th & 5th power paired), Semis and Finals

Awards: State Champion, Runner-up, (2) Semi-finalists and 1-10th Speakers

Middle Level Public Forum Debate State Championship

Entries: There is no limit to the number of teams a school may enter, except schools with more 12 entries (across all divisions) MAY ONLY PROVIDE a MAX of 6 judges and MUST hire their additional judges through MIFA.

Format: 4 preliminary rounds (1&2 preset, 3rd lag paired, 4th power paired) Semis if needed & Finals

Awards: State Champion, Runner-up, (2) Semi-finalists (if required) and Top Speakers will be recognized

Judges for All PF Events: Schools must provide one judge for every two, 2-person teams or fraction thereof. Any adult high school graduate, regardless of debate experience, may judge this division. Lay judges are encouraged. Schools with 12+ entries (across all divisions) MUST hire additional judges through MIFA.

We will be offering **online balloting** at the State Tournament for the first time this year. Judges who wish to use this option must attend one of the [online webinars](#) prior to the tournament and/or have used tabroom.com's online balloting features before. There will be paper ballots for those who do not wish to use the online system.

Schedule

The tentative [schedule is posted HERE](#). The link will update with the final schedule after registration closes.



Legislative Debate Events

Docket

All participating schools must provide at least one piece of legislation. All bills and/or resolutions must be emailed as a PDF file to director@themifa.org **no later than 5pm on Wednesday November 27, 2019**. The tournament director may supplement the docket with legislation from NSDA website. The docket will be posted to the website and provided to participating schools on **Monday, December 2nd, 2019**. Novice and Varsity will use the same docket.

The Tournament Committee and the Executive Director shall use a blind selection process to evaluate and select the legislation for the Tournament. State Tournament Legislative Sessions will have four (4) bills each. Each bill in a round must be from a different school and the bills will be assigned to the preliminary sessions randomly by the tournament director. The four (4) top-ranking bills shall be assigned to the Super Session. It is the responsibility of each school to duplicate copies of the legislation for each of its participants.

Style guide: All legislation must be on one (1) page, using a traditional twelve (12) point font and double spacing. Each line should be numbered. Legislation may be in the format of either a bill or a resolution. Components of a bill include a statement of the policy, a definition of key terms in the policy, the date of implementation, the government agency responsible for the administration of the bill, the mechanisms for enforcement or compliance and funding issues. Components of a resolution include a series of reasons for a specific recommendation. The reasons for the resolution are captured in a series of "Whereas" statements accompanied by a "Therefore" statement. The resolution should contain a clear statement of the appropriate action. Bills and Resolutions must be national in scope and impact. Sample bills and resolutions are available for viewing on the MIFA website.

The tournament director may reject legislation deemed inappropriate because of content, inflammatory language choice, or incorrect formatting. If the tournament director rules the proposed legislative item of a school unacceptable, the director will provide a rationale for the decision. If the bill or resolution is rejected, the school must provide an alternative item to participate.

Varsity Legislative Debate State Championship

Entries: Schools may enter up to 10 contestants.

Judges: One judge for every 5 students or fraction thereof.

Format: The tournament will have two preliminary sessions and a Super Session.

Awards: 1-10th place speakers and Super Session Presiding Officers will be recognized

Novice Legislative Debate State Championship

Entries: Schools may enter up to 10 contestants.

Judges: One judge for every 5 students or fraction thereof.

Format: The tournament will have two preliminary sessions and a Super Session.

Awards: 1-10th place speakers and Super Session Presiding Officers will be recognized

Schedule

The tentative [schedule is posted HERE](#). The link will update with the final schedule after registration closes.