

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

**The Fifteenth Annual (and First Online) MSDL All-Novice
Speech and Debate Meet
Saturday, October 24, 2020**

While this Event will be run by the MSDL Board, it is not a qualifying tournament for States.
The Event is open to only to students of MSDL member schools.

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 at the beginning of the regular MSDL season. The tournament will be held live for all events online on the NSDA Campus platform and will give students the opportunity to try out the platform that the League will be using for online tournaments this year.

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** for each school. Extra judges are always welcome and will receive assignments.

Observers will not be able to attend rounds as the platform's video quality can be compromised by extra attendees in the room.

All participating schools will have a "Team Room" on the Tabroom platform for use during the tournament day. This is a virtual room where members of the team – including coaches and judges – can hang out together when they are not in competition rooms.

Please read this invitation carefully as it includes specific information about standards and rules changes for this online tournament.

We look forward to seeing you on October 24th!

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)	Tammie Ruda	Chris Sheldon

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.

General Information

Because the purpose of this 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 access to their online ballots after 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. If a script is used, it should be at least partially visible throughout the performance.

Event Specific Information

- **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, except in Multiple Reading where this type of movement is permitted.

- **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: Space, with a focus on the International Space Station, returning to the moon, militarization of space, human exploration of Mars, and the future of NASA.
- **EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING.** Each of the three rounds of Extemp will focus on one of these areas: National, International, and Economic news. Students will be assigned to a specific prep room where they will receive three questions. Throughout the prep period, students should remain in the prep room space with cameras on and microphones off. When it is time for the student to speak, the student will leave the prep room and enter the assigned speaking room space.

- **RADIO.** Copy will come from wire services and/or newspapers. Students will be assigned to a specific prep room where they will receive a link to the radio package for that round. Only materials from the package assigned for that round should be used in that round. Throughout the prep period, students must remain in the prep room space with cameras on and microphones off. When it is time for the student to speak, the student will leave the prep room and enter the assigned speaking room space. The broadcaster may present with the video function turned off in order to simulate an actual radio broadcast. Judges will have access to a copy of the packet for each round.
- **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 2020 topic.
 - Resolved: The United States federal government should enact the Medicare-For-All Act of 2019.
- **READING EVENTS:** The script should be at least partially visible throughout the performance.
- **DUO INTERPRETATION:** Each student should enter the speaking room space separately – even if both members of a Duo reside in the same household. Only the Duo that is performing will have their cameras on, but we cannot control which student appears on which side of the screen. Interaction and gestures should be planned accordingly. Since voices cannot overlap using an online platform, the grace period in Duo Interpretation is extended to 60 seconds.
- **MULTIPLE READING:** Each student should enter the speaking room space separately – even if more than one member of a Multiple team resides in the same household. Given the constraints of an online environment, blocking and movement may need to be extremely limited. Since voices cannot overlap using an online platform, the grace period in Multiple Reading is extended to 60 seconds.

Judging

Each school is required to provide one judge for every five entries or fraction thereof for speech events and Congress. For Debate, each school is required to provide one judge for every two 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 list extras if you have them.

*Please note that judging requirements are finalized at the time registration closes on Tuesday, October 20 at 5:00 pm. **If you have drops after registration closes, it does not change the number of judges you are required to provide.** If you register EXTRA judges, we are going to be depending upon them to come. You cannot drop them after the registration deadline.*

Registration Information

- The registration fee is \$6 per student. The cost for a Duo Interpretation entry or a PFD team is therefore \$12. The cost for a Multiple entry is \$6.
- Double entry is allowed only in Multiple Reading.
- Register on-line at www.tabroom.com. If you are having trouble with the online registration system, send an e-mail to Joyce Albert at jeba78@verizon.net.
- **Registration Deadline:** Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at 5:00 PM.

Drops

- Drops may be made online until Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at 5:00 PM; drops should be e-mailed to Joyce Albert (jeba78@verizon.net) once registration closes.
- 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.

Payment

Each school should send payment within 30 days after the tournament by check, made out to the Massachusetts Speech and Debate League (MSDL). Please make sure to indicate the name of the school on the check or envelope. Invoices for the tournament are available through Tabroom.

Checks should be mailed to the MSDL Treasurer:

Jim Honeyman
219 Walnut Street
Wellesley, MA 02481

Please contact Jim by email at jimhoneyman1@gmail.com to inquire about electronic payments via bank-to-bank transfer. We are unable to accept payments via Venmo or credit card at this time.

SATURDAY Morning Check-in

- **Please text (preferred) or call 508-397-5143 to check in between 7:30 and 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

8:00-8:30	Check-in Calls/Texts (<i>Please text or call 508-397-5143</i>)
8:30	Judge Meeting
8:45	Student Welcome Meeting
9:00-3:00	Speech Rounds & Congress Sessions
9:30-3:30	Debate Rounds (lunch during free flight)
3:00i-3:45	Speech Exhibitions and Congress Bill Writing Session