



***Massachusetts Speech and Debate League***  
***MSDL Online #1 – Debate***  
***Saturday, September 26, 2020***

Hello:

The Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Speech and Debate League is pleased to announce the *MSDL Online #1* tournament. All events will be held live utilizing NSDA Campus.

## Contents

1.	School eligibility .....	2
2.	Debate formats – resolutions and legislation .....	2
2.1	Resolution-based debate .....	2
2.2	Student Congress – Submission of legislation .....	2
3.	Debate experience levels and divisions .....	2
4.	Registering debaters .....	3
5	Registering Judges .....	3
5.1	Judge qualifications .....	3
5.2	Number of judges owed .....	3
5.3	How long judges have to stay at the tournament .....	3
5.4	Penalties for missing judges.....	3
6	Registration Deadlines .....	4
7	Fees and participation agreement form .....	5
7.1	Entry fee amounts .....	5
7.2	How to pay registration fees .....	5
7.3	Participation agreement form – All schools.....	5
7.4	League dues – Massachusetts schools .....	5
8	Tournament schedule .....	6
9	Internet .....	7
10	Resources .....	7
11	Guidelines for conduct during the tournament.....	7
	LIST OF SUBSTANTIVE REVISIONS since September 5, 2020.....	8

## 1. School eligibility

- This tournament is open to high school students (Grades 9 to 12).
- Only accredited public and private schools may enter competitors.
- Schools must be members of the MSDL, members of the New York State Forensic League, or members of one of the New England state leagues (Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, or Vermont).
- Each school must identify an adult “Person in Charge” for their school. That person must be reachable during the tournament via phone, and must be able to reach all participants from their school – including competitors and judges. The tab staff will not have cell phone numbers for competitors and may depend on each school’s “person in charge” to contact competitors or judges from their school, when necessary (e.g., when individuals have not entered the online debate session they have been assigned to).

## 2. Debate formats – resolutions and legislation

### 2.1 Resolution-based debate

The tournament will offer four types of debate.

Format	Abbreviation	Number of debaters per entry	Resolution
Policy	CX	2 <sup>(*)</sup>	2020-2021 topic, “ <i>Resolved: The United States federal government should enact substantial criminal justice reform in the United States in one or more of the following: forensic science, policing, sentencing.</i> ”
Lincoln-Douglas	LD	1	2020 September/October topic, “ <i>Resolved: In a democracy, voting ought to be compulsory.</i> ”
Public Forum	PF	2 <sup>(*)</sup>	2020 September/October topic: “ <i>Resolved: The United States federal government should enact the Medicare-For-All Act of 2019.</i> ”
Big Questions	BQ	1 or 2	2020-2021 topic: “ <i>Resolved: Mathematics was discovered, not invented.</i> ”

(\*) We discourage solo entries in paired debate events – i.e., PF and CX – but recognize that they are sometimes unavoidable. Note that although solo entries in CX or PF can participate in preliminary rounds, they may not break to elimination rounds (if any) and may not win team entry awards.

### 2.2 Student Congress – Submission of legislation

Congress legislation should be submitted to pjwexler06 at [gmail.com](mailto:pjwexler06@gmail.com) by 3:00 PM on Friday, September 18th. Each school attending is required to submit a piece of legislation OR request a waiver.

## 3. Debate experience levels and divisions

With the exception of PF, all debate formats will have one, open division.

PF will have two divisions. Students in their first or second year of high school debate may enter JV. Students with more experience than that (even middle school experience) must enter in Varsity.

## **4. Registering debaters**

Register debaters on Tabroom.com.

## **5 Registering Judges**

### **5.1 Judge qualifications**

- All judges must be either: (a) have a high school degree, or (b) be age 19 or older and no longer be a high school student.
- Judges in LD and CX must be (a) former high school or college debate competitors, (b) have prior tournament experience judging the event they will be registered to judge at this tournament, or (c) be trained prior to this tournament to judge these events.
- The tournament will use electronic balloting. *All judges must have accounts on Tabroom.com.* For more information on setting up accounts, see [here](#).
- We ask that all judges familiarize themselves with the use of online ballots by reviewing this documentation ([here](#) for CX, LD, PF, and BQ).

### **5.2 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.

Schools with Congress entries must provide one Congress judge (regardless of the number of entries).

### **5.3 How long judges have to stay at the tournament**

- LD, PF, BQ – We anticipate that competition will run from 9 AM until 5:45 PM and will need all judges for these events to be available during this period.
- CX – We anticipate that competition will run from 9 AM until 5:45 PM, and we will need all CX judges to be available during this period.
- Student Congress – We anticipate the morning session will run from around 9:00 to noon, and the afternoon session and super session to run from about 12:45 until 5:30.

### **5.4 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 subject to a \$50 missing judge penalty.
- Unfortunately, the league has no hired judges for this tournament. Coaches should only register the number of students they can cover with their own judges.

## 6 Registration Deadlines

Team registration	Due Tuesday, September 22 at 5:00 PM	Enter on Tabroom.com ( <a href="http://www.tabroom.com">http://www.tabroom.com</a> )
Judge registration	Due Tuesday, September 22 at 5:00 PM	Enter on Tabroom.com
Team changes and team drops	Due Thursday, September 24 at 5:00 PM	Enter on Tabroom.com up to September 24 at 5:00 PM. After that time, email <a href="mailto:jcohen1964@gmail.com">jcohen1964@gmail.com</a> and <a href="mailto:MSDLDebate@gmail.com">MSDLDebate@gmail.com</a>

- *Note: Entry fees owed as of 5 p.m. Sept. 22 are final, even if you drop teams after that time because the NSDA requires us to reserve online rooms ahead of time and to pay for those rooms whether or not we use them.*

## 7 Fees and participation agreement form

### 7.1 Entry fee amounts

- LD, BQ, Student Congress: \$6 per entry.
- CX, PF: \$12 per entry.

### 7.2 How to pay registration fees

#### A. To pay by paper check:

- Make checks payable to *Massachusetts Speech and Debate League*.
- Payment accepted up to 30 business days after the tournament.
- One payment per school
- Do not mail cash!
- Be sure to identify the school on the check (e.g., in the memo field).
- Mail to:

**Jim Honeyman, treasurer**  
**Massachusetts Speech & Debate League**  
**219 Walnut St.**  
**Wellesley, MA. 02481**

#### B. To pay by electronically

- Transfer funds to the MSDL account at Citizens Bank
- Write to Jim Honeyman at [jimhoneyman@verizon.net](mailto:jimhoneyman@verizon.net) for directions.
- Payment accepted up to 30 business days after the tournament.

### 7.3 Participation agreement form – All schools

- Massachusetts schools – To participate at any MSDL tournament, including this tournament, requires a Participation Agreement, signed by adult head coach and principal, prior to attending MSDL tournaments. That form is [here](#).
  - The form must be signed by an adult coach and by the school principal.
  - It is the same form as the invoice, but league dues can be sent in separately.
- Schools from other states – Your league's participation agreement is acceptable, as long as it is signed by your principal. If you do not have such a form, please use the Massachusetts form (but you need not pay the annual dues). That form is [here](#).
- Mail signed forms to Jim Honeyman at the postal address under (A) or send a scan or photo of the signed form to [jimhoneyman@verizon.net](mailto:jimhoneyman@verizon.net).

### 7.4 League dues – Massachusetts schools

- Massachusetts schools – Regular participation in MSDL tournaments and any participation at the state tournament in the spring requires league membership. We suggest including your \$50 annual league dues with your tournament registration fees.

## 8 Tournament schedule

- Registration will be online from 6:00 AM to 8:00 AM on the day of the tournament. If you have NO CHANGES, go your registration for this tournament in Tabroom. There will be an “On-site registration” tab. On that tab, there will be a check box to confirm your team is set and ready to participate.
- Registration
  - Takes place online from 6:00 AM to 8:00 AM on the day of the tournament. The function to check in will automatically appear on your Tabroom account the same way judging assignments appear.
  - If you have late drops, you can make them at that time yourself on your Tabroom registration. Once your registration is set, you can tell Tabroom that you are checked in.
  - For any other changes, please email [jcohen1964@gmail.com](mailto:jcohen1964@gmail.com) and [MSDLDebate@gmail.com](mailto:MSDLDebate@gmail.com). If you cannot email both of these addresses, you can text (617) 564-0281.
  - *Please be sure to specify what school you are with when you contact us.*
- **8:20 to 8:50 – 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 8:45
- 5:45 PM – Awards

### Round times for LD, PF, and BQ

- 9:00 AM – Round 1
- 10:30 – Round 2
- 12:00 – Round 3
- 1:30 - Lunch
- 2:15 – Round 4
- 4:00 – Round 5

### Round times for CX

- 9:00 AM – Round 1
- 11:15 – Round 2
- 1:30 – Lunch
- 2:00 – Round 3
- 4:00 – Round 4

### Sessions for Student Congress

- 9:00 AM – Morning session
- 12:00 – Lunch
- 12:45 – Afternoon session
- 3:15 – Super session

## **9 Internet**

- 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.”
- Each team will be allocated a bank of 10 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 continue to debate solo. Rules applicable to solo debaters in two-person events then apply (see Section 2).

## **10 Resources**

- How to judge Public Forum Debate – [here](#).
- How to submit an electronic ballot – [here](#).
- Getting help during the tournament – More information is coming. We will provide:
  - In-round help by submitting a request from within the NSDA Campus platform – i.e., without having to leave your in-round video session.
  - Between-round help in a judge room that will be available as a link from your Tabroom account.

## **11 Guidelines for conduct during the tournament**

- 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.
- Standard rules of professionalism, etiquette, and respect for all competitors, judges, and tournament staff.

**We look forward to seeing you at the tournament!**

Sincerely,

*The MSDL Board*

**Version: September 12, 2020**  
**Please check back for revisions. Changes will be noted on the last page**

## **LIST OF SUBSTANTIVE REVISIONS since September 5, 2020**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Page(s)</b>	<b>Revision</b>
9/12/20	4	We added a second email address ( <a href="mailto:MSDLDebate@gmail.com">MSDLDebate@gmail.com</a> ) to which you should also send registration changes after the 9/24 deadline for entering them yourself in Tabroom.
9/12/20	6	We added a second email address ( <a href="mailto:MSDLDebate@gmail.com">MSDLDebate@gmail.com</a> ) to which you should send registration changes the morning the morning of the tournament. We also added a text number: (617) 564-0281.