



***Massachusetts Speech and Debate League  
Online Pumpkin Speech Tournament  
Saturday, October 10, 2020***

The Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Speech and Debate League is pleased to announce the first speech tournament of the 2020-2021 season, the Online Pumpkin Speech Tournament. The tournament will be hosted online on Saturday, October 10, under the direction of the MSDL Board.

The tournament will include all speech events, live, utilizing the National Speech and Debate Association's NSDA Campus through Tabroom.

Participating schools must be members of the Massachusetts Speech and Debate League and must have completed and submitted their 2020-2021 Participation Agreement with signatures from school administration.

Due to the late start of most schools in Massachusetts this year, we have decided to delay the Novice Tournament until October 24<sup>th</sup>. Nevertheless, novices are welcome to participate in the Online Pumpkin Speech Tournament; participation in this tournament will not affect their eligibility for the Novice Tournament.

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.

**Entries**

Entry is subject to the following limitations:

1. Students in Extemporaneous Speaking, Novice Extemporaneous Speaking, Radio Broadcasting, and Group Discussion may not double enter.
2. Each student may only enter once in any given event.
3. In Extemporaneous Speaking, Novice Extemporaneous Speaking, and Radio Broadcasting, after speaking, all students should stay in the competition room to see the next speaker. The last speaker should watch the performance of the first speaker prior to drawing.

4. In all events, students should make sure that there are always at least two students in a competition space. Double-entered students should delay going to their second event if it would leave just one competitor in the competition space

## **Event Procedures**

### All Events

Both movement and lots of color can contribute to a deterioration in the quality of the video 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. The camera should 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.

### Duo Interpretation

Each student should 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 in a breakout session with the judge(s), but we cannot guarantee that the partners will be beside each other in the online space. Interaction and gestures should be planned accordingly.

### Extemporaneous Speaking

Preliminary round questions will cover international, national, and economic topics. The final round topic will be education. All questions will be derived from online and print editions of current political and news magazines and newspapers.

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 turned on and microphones turned off. When it is time for the student to speak, the extemper will proceed to the assigned speaking space.

### Group Discussion

The topic area for Group Discussion is Education. Focus areas may include remote learning, gap year options, standardized testing, public school funding, and civics education. Students will receive specific questions from the judge at the start of each round.

### Multiple Reading

Multiple Reading may perform only once, depending on the number of Multiples entered. A student may participate in only one Multiple.

### 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 should remain in the prep room space with cameras and microphones turned on. When it is time for the student to speak, the broadcaster will proceed to the assigned speaking space. The broadcaster may present with the video function turned off to simulate an actual radio broadcast.

## **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.

## **Judges**

Schools must provide one judge for every five Speech 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 prior to the date of the 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.

If you have a judge who is not available for every round, you must find a replacement for that judge. All judges are expected to be available to judge for every round. Missing judges seriously compromise 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.

## **Awards**

The awards ceremony will be live-streamed at the conclusion of competition. 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.

Instead of Team Sweepstakes awards at each online tournament, we will be presenting cumulative sweepstakes awards at the end of the first semester. These awards will be based on the scores of all students from each school, computed by using preliminary ranks. Sweepstakes awards will be presented in different categories:

Interpretation: DP, DUO, PR, PO, KL, PL, MULT, POI

Debate: Debate, Congress, GD

Limited Preparation: VX, NX, RB, IMP

Platform: OO, DEC, INFO

We will also award a cumulative Novice sweepstakes award, based on preliminary round scores for all novices.

## **Fees**

The entry fee for all events except Duo Interpretation is \$6 per entry. The entry fee for Duo is \$12.

## **Registration Instructions**

Registrations must be entered on Tabroom ([www.tabroom.com](http://www.tabroom.com)) by 5 p.m. on **Tuesday, October 6th**. There is significant planning that must take place in order to secure virtual rooms for our online tournament with live performances in all events. We ask that you register only those students who actually plan to participate in the tournament.

Drops can be made until 5:00 on **Wednesday, October 7th**, after which drops should be emailed to [jeba78@verizon.net](mailto:jeba78@verizon.net).

## **Payment**

Since we will not be meeting in person for the tournament, checks – made out to Massachusetts Speech and Debate League - should be mailed within 30 days after the tournament to:

Jim Honeyman, MSDL Treasurer  
219 Walnut Street  
Wellesley, MA 02481

## **Registration Confirmation**

Please text (508-397-5143) or email ([jeba78@verizon.net](mailto:jeba78@verizon.net)) confirmation of your registration by 8:00 AM on Saturday morning, October 10. This will allow us to manage any last-minute drops and get the tournament off to a prompt start.. Please be sure to include your school name. MSDL rules require all schools to check in before 8:00 AM or pay a \$25 fine.

## **Tentative Schedule – subject to change**

8:30 Judges Meeting  
9:30 Round 1  
11:30 Round 2  
1:30 Round 3  
4:00 Finals  
6:00 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*