

**2012-2013 Maine Forensic Association  
State Championship Tournament**  
**Hosted by Brunswick High School**  
**January 26, 2013**

**Pre-register** by 8 p.m., Friday, January 18, 2013 at Tabroom.com.

**Final Registration/Judge Hire Requests** by 8 p.m., Wednesday, January 23, 2013 at Tabroom.com.

**Tournament Contact**

Lyndsy Shuman  
lyndsy.shuman@gmail.com  
207.659.3071  
www.maine forensic.com

**Guest speaker (TBA) after final rounds!**

and

## **THE GELATO FIASCO**

**Providing FREE gelato in the afternoon!**

The Maine Forensic Association cordially invites you to attend the State Championship Speech and Debate Tournament at Brunswick High School on Saturday, January 26, 2013. Read through the entire invitation carefully to facilitate a safe and speedy tournament.

**Participation Rules:** Schools may participate in the State Tournament if they:

- Belong to the Maine Principals' Association.
- Have paid tournament fees from previous years.

**Tournament Events:** The State Tournament hosts all MFA events including:

- **Debate:** Lincoln-Douglas in three divisions (Varsity, Junior Varsity, and Novice) and Public Forum in two divisions (Varsity and Novice).
- **Congressional Debate:** House and Senate.
- **Speech:** Dramatic Interpretation, Duo Interpretation, Ensemble, Extemporaneous Speaking, Humorous Interpretation, Oratorical Declamation, Original Oratory, Original Works, Poetry and Novice Poetry, Prose and Novice Prose, and Storytelling.

Divisions may be collapsed or categories may be cancelled due to low registration.

Coaches, competitors, and judges should read MFA event handbooks and manuals for complete rules. See maineforensic.com.

**Entry Limits:** Each team is limited to:

- 6 Lincoln-Douglas entries in each division.
- 6 Public Forum teams in each division.
- 4 entries per Speech category.

There is no entry limit for Congressional Debate.

Competitors may double enter only in Speech categories.

**Fees:** Make out checks and P.O.'s to the Maine Forensic Association based on an invoice presented to you at the tournament. Invoice totals are calculated according to below:

Each regular participant school will be charged \$7 per individual entry and \$14 per paired entry; Ensemble caps at \$21. New participant schools will be charged \$3.50 per individual entry and \$7 per paired entry; Ensemble caps at \$10.50.

No school will be charged more than \$140 for each event category (i.e. Speech, Congressional Debate, and Debate). No school will be charged more than \$210 for entries in two or more event categories.

Schools may request to hire judges from the MFA for \$50.00 each (while supplies last).

Schools that drop competitors or judges after 4 p.m., Friday, January 25 will **not** be refunded the entry fee and will be assessed a \$10.00 nuisance fee per drop.

**Judges:** Schools are required to bring a certain number of **trained** judges calculated per number of entries:

- **Debate:** One judge per two entries in both Public Forum (a team counts as one entry) and Lincoln-Douglas or any fraction thereof. Every third, fifth, and seventh judge must be unaffiliated.
- **Congressional Debate:** One judge per five entries or fraction thereof. Every other judge must be unaffiliated.
- **Speech:** One judge per five entries (Duo and Ensemble count as one entry) or any fraction thereof (e.g. 11 entries requires three judges). Every third, fifth, and seventh judge must be unaffiliated.

Judges should be registered into Tabroom.com. In the Notes field, indicate any strengths or conflicts. Example notes:

- Parent of a competitor. Most parents are affiliated with the school as a whole.
- Teacher as affiliated with the school in which they teach.
- Individual as affiliated with a specific competitor.
- Aptitude or nationals experience in specific events (e.g. "NFL qualifier in DI," "alumnus LDer," "professional actor").
- Cross-training (e.g. "trained in speech and PF")

Judges should expect to remain for the duration of the tournament. Any judge who departs early will incur the hiring school a penalty fee.

As a last resort to meet quotas, schools may request to hire judges from the MFA (first-come-first-serve while supplies last). Make requests through Tabroom.com.

**In the event a school cannot meet their judge quota, the school must drop entries until they meet the judge-to-competitor ratio.**

**Registration:** Pre-register by 8 p.m., Friday, January 18, 2013 at Tabroom.com to provide the host with best estimates for food and capacity requirements.

Registration in Tabroom.com, including competitors and judges, will be accepted no later than 8 p.m., Wednesday, January 23, 2013.

**Dropping Competitors and Judges:** Coaches may drop competitors in Tabroom.com for a full refund until 4 p.m., Friday, January 25. Drops after that time are non-refundable and will be charged a \$10 fee.

Coaches dropping judges after registration closes should notify Lyndsy Shuman through Friday night. If dropping a judge means the school is not meeting the judge-to-competitor ratio, the school must hire a new judge (if available) or drop competitors.

On Saturday before arriving at the tournament coaches must phone or text competitor and judge head count (including drops) to the MFA (207-370-4632).

**Ethics:** The MFA has an official code of ethics to which all participants (students, judges, and coaches) will be held accountable. Any challenges of plagiarism, falsified evidence, or other unethical behavior should be brought to either the event moderator or a member of the executive committee during the tournament. These situations will be taken seriously and handled accordingly.

Read the code at [maineforensic.com](http://maineforensic.com).

**Event Topics:** Topics for Extemporaneous Speaking, Lincoln Douglas Debate, and Public Forum Debate for January 2013 are posted at [maineforensic.com](http://maineforensic.com).

**Original Sources and Arguments:** In the event someone presents a formal challenge to the tabulation staff:

- All competitors in interpretation events (Dramatic Interpretation, Humorous Interpretation, Duo Interpretation) must bring to the tournament the original source material in case of a challenge.
- All competitors in Original Oratory and Original Works must bring hard copy scripts.
- All competitors in Extemporaneous Speaking should be able to produce all quoted sources.

Neither competitors nor coaches will be allowed to print original source material, scripts, or evidence on the day of the tournament.

**Tabulation:** MFA rules for the State Tournament differ slightly from normal season procedures.

Speech Tabulation will run three preliminary rounds and a double-flighted final round for the top approximately six competitors. Final round will include a panel of three judges per category.

Debate Tabulation will run double-elimination rounds with no more than six rounds using MFA pairing and breaking rules as modified from the National Forensic League rules.

**Competition Awards:** Formal awards from the Maine Principals' Association will be presented to the State's best competitors.

The top three competitors in each category (13 categories in Speech, two categories with five total divisions in Debate, and two categories in Congress) will receive a plaque or medal, and fourth and fifth competitors ribbons.

The top five schools will receive sweepstakes awards: a trophy for first place and plaques for runner-up through fifth place.

**Annual Awards:** Voting to recognize outstanding teams and people for season-wide performance will occur in the first half of the tournament day for:

- Sportsmanship for each event category: Speech, Debate, and Congressional Debate.
- Coach of the Year.
- Judge of the Year Award.

For Coach of the Year and Judge of the Year, discuss as a team and send nominations with a brief justification (optional) for the following categories to MFA Secretary D'Arcy Robinson (drobinson@rsu16.org) by 8 p.m., Wednesday, January 23.

**Food:** Competitors will be able to purchase light breakfast items, lunch, snacks, dinner, and water. Competitors not wishing to purchase or with dietary restrictions beyond vegetarian should bring their own food.

Judges and coaches will be provided with complimentary breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

**Schedule:** The State Tournament includes additional rules that extend the day beyond the normal tournament schedule. All participants should anticipate a flexible schedule based on below.

8:00 - 8:30	Tournament Check-in
8:45	Welcomes and Briefings Extemporaneous Speaking Competitors Report to Prep Room
9:00	Start All Events <sup>1</sup>
11:30	Lunch
12:30	Resume All Events <sup>2</sup>
5:30	Guest Speaker
6:30	Dinner
7:30	Awards Ceremony

Competitors may not leave the school.

**Accessibility Needs:** Coaches should report during registration any tournament participants who may need handicap accommodations to fully participate in the tournament.

**Weather:** The MFA executive committee will make any decisions about postponing the State Tournament no later than 9 p.m., Friday, January 25 and notify teams via the MFA email list, the MFA web site, and, if so late, phone call to coaches.

The State Tournament snow date is Saturday, February 2.

**Directions:** Please plan accordingly to arrive no later than 8:30 a.m. at Brunswick High School, 116 Marquoit Rd, Brunswick, ME. Google Maps offers an accurate destination.

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<sup>1</sup> Morning session includes two rounds Speech, three rounds Debate, and Congressional Debate Session A.

<sup>2</sup> Afternoon session includes one preliminary round and a final round (possibly double-flighted) of Speech, two or more rounds of Debate, and Congressional Debate Session B.

**Tournament Promotion:** News coverage is some of the best peer pressure to increase school, district, and community support of forensics! The MFA will distribute press releases to newspapers, TV stations, the MPA, and other interested parties. In the event that any guests show up, Vice President Jason Curry will be point of contact. **NO underage student will be filmed, photographed, or interviewed without an guardian-signed waiver.** Coaches should distribute, collect, and retain these waivers for reference at the State Tournament.

Hope to see you all there!

Sincerely,

Lyndsy Shuman  
President MFA