

**MISSISSIPPI HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION
and Debate State Championships**

Speech

April 23 - May 1, 2021

All MHSAA Member Schools are cordially invited to compete in the State Championship taking place from April 23rd through May 1st virtually online at www.tabroom.com

ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS

Participating schools must be member schools of the Mississippi High School Activities Association (MHSAA).

EVENTS

This portion of the tournament includes three Debate events (Public Forum Debate, Policy Debate, and Lincoln-Douglas Debate). The fourth debate event, Congressional Debate, takes place on April 9-10, 2021.

The tournament also offers 14 Speech events separated into two flighted lists:

Flight A = Program Oral Interpretation, Prose Interpretation, Original Oratory, Dramatic Interpretation, Duet Acting (asynchronous), Impromptu Speaking and Expository Speaking (supplemental).

Flight B = Poetry Interpretation, Humorous Interpretation, Declamation, Informative Speaking, Extemporaneous Speaking, Duo Interpretation (asynchronous), and Storytelling (supplemental)

******The Supplemental Events of Expository and Storytelling may only be entered by 9th and 10th graders. There is no qualification requirement. Each school may enter up to four competitors in each category as long as he/she does not have more than 2 events per flight.***

TOPICS

The 2021 MHSAA Storytelling Topic is *“Take Off the Mask: Stories of Self Discovery.*

EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING topics will alternate each round from Domestic and International Topics assigned:

Round 1	=	International	Economy/COVID Recovery
Round 2	=	Domestic	The Biden Administration’s 1st 100 Days
Semis	=	International	Organizations
Finals	=	Domestic	Social Issues

POLICY TOPIC

RESOLVED: The United States federal government should substantially increase its protection of water resources in the United States.

PUBLIC FORUM TOPIC

Resolved: The benefits of the International Monetary Fund outweigh the harms.

LINCOLN-DOUGLAS TOPIC

Resolved: The United States ought to guarantee universal child care.

MHSAA STATE TOURNAMENT

RULES AND REGULATIONS

BASIC RULES FOR THE STATE TOURNAMENT

Each student participating in the State Championship Tournament must complete the entry requirements of eligibility as well as the qualification process before the deadline. That deadline is at midnight on the Monday before the weekend of the tournament. No additions or substitutions of any kind will be made after that time. Drops will incur fees that must be paid at registration.

1. Round Set-Up

- A. *Platform Events – 2 preliminary rounds of competition with the top twelve students advancing to semifinals then the top six advancing to finals.*
- B. *Lincoln-Douglas Debate/Public Forum Debate – 5 preliminary round, quarterfinals, semifinals, and finals.*
- C. *Policy Debate – 4 preliminary rounds, semifinals, and finals*
- D. *Congressional Debate – competitors compete in two three-hour preliminary sessions and a three-hour Super Session final including the top 24 competitors in the competition.*

2. *Advancement in Tournament*

- A. *Advancement in Platform Events shall be determined by:*
 - 1. *Total Ranks from Round 1, Round 2, and Semifinals*
 - 2. *Total Speaker Points from all Rounds*
 - 3. *Sum of the Inverse Reciprocals*
 - 4. *Total # of 1's, total # of 2's, 3's, etc.*

- B. *Advancement in Debate Events shall be determined by:*
 - 1. *Win/Loss Record*
 - 2. *Total Speaker Points*
 - 3. *Opponent Win/Loss Record*
 - 4. *Adjusted Win/Loss Record*
 - 5. *Adjusted Speaker Points*

3. *The top six students/teams in Platform Events shall receive awards. In Debate Events, the finalists, semifinalists, and quarterfinalists will receive awards. In Congressional Debate, the top eight competitors and all presiding officers will be recognized.*

4. *Judges in Tournament*

A. *In Platform Events:*

1. *Rounds 1 and 2 will have one judge.*
2. *Semifinals may have 1 or 2 judges depending on the number of entries in the events (less than 15 requires only one).*
3. *Finals will always have three judges.*

B. *In Debate Events:*

1. *Preliminary Rounds will have 1 judge*
2. *Quarterfinals will have 1 or 3 judges (depending on judge availability).*
3. *Semifinals and Finals will always have 3 judges.*

C. *A School must provide judges for:*

1. *1 qualified judge for every 10 entries (or fraction of) in Platform Events; or pay a judge fee of \$10.00 per entry not covered.*
2. *1 qualified judge for every two Lincoln-Douglas Debaters.*
3. *1 qualified judges for every 2 Public Forum Debate Teams.*
4. *1 qualified judge for every 2 Policy Debate Teams*
5. *For every debate entry not covered, there is a fee of \$25.00*
6. *A judge can only cover 1 Debate or 1 Platform Event judging position.*
7. *Schools must provide one qualified judge in each category entered.*
Schools that do not provide the required judge(s) will not be permitted to compete in those divisions. Schools may hire additional judges as described above if they cannot provide other judges. The hiring of judges must be done on or before the registration deadline.

D. *Judges shall use the MHSAA ballots in Platform Events. The judge's rank and rating of individual participants should reflect rule violations and severity of offenses but not disqualify the participation of the individual.*

5. *Students in Tournament*

A. *A student may enter one of the following combinations (if qualified):*

1. *1 Debate + 1 Flight A Event + 2 Flight B Events*
2. *2 Flight A Events + 2 Flight B Events*

B. *The tournament will offer Debate and Platform Events in a two-day Competition with Debate beginning on Friday evening and concluding Saturday; and Platform Events taking place all day on Saturday.*

C. *Decency Clause. Students participating in any interpretation event involving MHSAA member schools must have in his/her possession in each round a copy of the exact manuscript to be used with a cover sheet that contains the clause "The decency standards reflected in the piece uphold the values and morals of the student's school, community, and family."*

1. *The student's coach and at least one of the student's parents/guardians must sign the statement.*
2. *Failure to comply with this rule will result in disqualification of the student for that event. Forged signatures will result in the student being placed on probation for the remainder of the semester. A second forged incident will result in the student being denied entry to any tournament for the rest of the semester.*

6. *Royalties. MHSAA assumes no responsibilities for the payments of royalties or other fees connected with the performance of any material at a speech, debate, or other platform event competition. In the event a challenge by a representative or holder of copyrighted material is filed regarding whether the material has received proper clearance for performance, the performing school shall be required to verify payment of royalty or clearance for use.*

Platform Events

1. *Students will automatically qualify in a specific event for the MHSAA State Championship Tournament by making finals in the previous year's State Tournament.*
2. *Students will automatically qualify in a specific event for the MHSAA State Championship Tournament who place first in that event at an MHSAA-recognized tournament.*
3. *Students may qualify in a specific event who place in the finals (2nd – 6th place) and/or semifinals (7th – 12th) in that event a combination of two (2) times at a MHSAA-recognized tournament.*
4. *Students do not have to use the same cutting of a literary work in order to qualify for the MHSAA State Championship Tournament in Interpretation events (including Declamation). If a student changes cuttings they do not have to begin the qualifying process again when using the piece.*
5. *In partnered events (Duo Interpretation, Duet Acting), partners must qualify together. If a student changes partners, the new partnership must re-qualify.*
6. *If an individual student qualifies in more than two events in one flight that student will be given the choice of which qualified events he/she will enter.*

Debate Events

1. *Students will automatically qualify in a specific event for the MHSAA State Championship Tournament by making finals, semifinals, or quarterfinals in the previous year's State Tournament.*
2. *In two-person events, partners must qualify as a team. Competitors automatically qualify by placing in finals or semifinals at a MHSAA-sanctioned event.*
3. *Policy teams or Public Forum Debate teams, which reach or are named to quarterfinals at an MHSAA-recognized tournament twice will qualify the team for the MHSAA State Championship Tournament.*
4. *Lincoln-Douglas Debaters who reach or are named to quarterfinals in an MHSAA-recognized tournament twice will qualify for the MHSAA State Championship Tournament.*
5. *If an individual student qualified in more than one debate event, he/she will be given the choice of which event he/she will enter.*

Congressional Debate

1. *Currently, MHSAA does not require a specific qualification process for the MHSAA State Congress.*
2. *Coaches may register between 1 – 10 competitors to the MHSAA State Congress Competition at his/her own discretion.*

Designated Wild-Card Entries

Any MHSAA Member School may have a total of five (5) entries in the MHSAA State Championship Tournament that have not qualified according to any of the previously-listed requirements. At the sole discretion of the school's coach(es), the five (5) entries may be divided among as many as five (5) students or as few as two (2) students with one receiving four and the second receiving one. These entries will be designated as Wild-Card Entries.

[SWEEPSTAKES SCORES AND PLACEMENTS](#)

State Championship Team

The top three (3) teams at the MHSAA State Championship Tournament, as well as the top three (3) teams in Debate Events and the top three (3) teams in Speech Events, will be determined by the sweepstakes formula outlined below. The team accumulating the most points from their top 25 entries will be declared the MHSAA Speech and Debate State Champion Team. This rule is only for the state championship.

State Championship Individual Performer

The top six (6) Individual Performers will be determined by the sweepstakes formula outlined below. Competitors will receive points in his/her best four (4) events. No student may count all five events if they are also entered in MHSAA State Congress. The individual student performer accumulating the most points will be declared the MHSAA Top Individual Performer State Champion.

Sweepstakes Formula

Platform Events

- *First Place Finalist* = 5 points
- *Second Place Finalist* = 4 points
- *Third Place Finalist* = 3 points
- *Fourth, Fifth, Sixth Place Finalists* = 2 points
- *Non-Advancing Semifinalists* = 1 point

Debate Events

- *First Place Finalist* = 8 points
- *Second Place Finalist* = 6 points
- *Non-Advancing Semifinalists* = 4 points
- *Non-Advancing Quarterfinalists* = 3 points

Congressional Debate

- *First Place Finalist* = 8 points
- *Second Place Finalist* = 6 points
- *3rd and 4th Place Finalists* = 4 points
- *5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th Finalists* = 3 points
- *Non-Placing Finalists* = 1 point

Ties

Counting the number of First Places each team has earned will break ties; a tie will be broken in favor of the team with the greater number of First Places. If the teams have an equal number of First Places, then the number of Second Places will be counted and used as a tiebreaker. Placings through Sixth Place will be used in turn as tiebreakers. If the teams remain tied after counting all of the First Place through Sixth Place finishes that each team has earned, the tie shall be declared unbreakable, and two trophies will be awarded.