



***Tim Averill Invitational Debate Tournament***  
***Friday-Saturday, October 29-30, 2021***

Hello:

Manchester Essex Regional High School is pleased to invite you to the Tim Averill Invitational Debate Tournament to be online using NSDA Campus on Friday and Saturday, October 29 – October 30, 2021. We will be working hard to make the tournament enjoyable, affordable, and accessible for all. We are pleased to announce that our director of tabulation will again be our coach emeritus, Tim Averill.

The tournament will offer the following events:

	Division	Rounds	Days
Public Forum	Varsity *	5 preliminary rounds, break to octos	Friday and Saturday
	Novice	4 preliminary rounds	Saturday only
Lincoln Douglas	Varsity	4 preliminary rounds, break to finals	Saturday only
	Novice	4 preliminary rounds	
Policy	Varsity	4 preliminary rounds	Saturday only
	Novice	3 preliminary rounds	

\* Teams advancing to the semi-final round in the Varsity division of Public Forum debate will earn a bid to the University of Kentucky Tournament of Champions.

Important information will be posted on the main page of the website, and on these three pages: (1) the Judge Resource page, (2) the Competitor Resource page, and (3) the Schedule. All are available through the tournament website.

- Go the to the tournament page on Tabroom.com
- Look for the yellow buttons on the right for these web pages under the heading, “Tournament pages & Forms”.

We look forward to hosting you!

Josh Wladkowski  
Director of Debate  
WladkowskiJ@mersd.org

Timothy C. Averill  
Debate Coach Emeritus  
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## 1. School eligibility

- This tournament is open to high school students (Grades 9 to 12).
- Only accredited public and private schools may enter competitors.
- 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 resolutions

The tournament will offer three types of debate.

Format	Abbreviation	Number of debaters per entry	Resolution
Policy	CX	2 <sup>(*)</sup>	2021-2022 topic, “ <i>Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase its protection of water resources in the United States.</i> ”
Lincoln-Douglas	LD	1	VARSITY – 2021 September/October topic, “ <i>Resolved: The member nations of the World Trade Organization ought to reduce intellectual property protections for medicines.</i> ”
			NOVICE – The “modest novice” topic – “ <i>Resolved: Civil disobedience in a democracy is morally justified.</i> ”
Public Forum	PF	2 <sup>(*)</sup>	2021 September/October topic: “ <i>Resolved: The North Atlantic Treaty Organization should substantially increase its defense commitments to the Baltic states.</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.

## 3. Who qualifies to debate in the novice division

All formats will have two divisions. Students who did not compete in debate in two or more interscholastic tournaments prior to the current academic year can compete in the Novice division.

## 4. Registering debaters

Register debaters on Tabroom.com.

## 5 Registering Judges

### 5.1 Judge qualifications

- Varsity division – 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.
- Novice division – Any judge qualified to judge varsity may be registered to judge novice. In addition, current high school students who have competed in high school debate for two years prior to the current academic year and have participated in at least 8 tournaments can judge in the novice division.
- 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](#)) or this video ([here](#)).

### 5.2 Number of judges owed

Schools must provide 1 judge for every 2 entries for each type of debate (CX, LD, or PF), at each level (varsity or novice), or fraction thereof. For example:

- A school with 4 varsity CX teams must provide 2 varsity CX judges.
- A school with 3 varsity PF teams and 1 novice PF team must provide 2 varsity PF judges and 1 novice PF judge.
- A school with 5 varsity PF teams and 2 varsity LD teams must provide 3 varsity PF judges and 1 varsity LD judge.
- Section 5.1 details the qualifications for judges in each division, at each level.

### 5.3 How long judges must be available

- Varsity PF – Schools must cover their obligation (Section 5.2) for all preliminary rounds, and for one elimination round past the last round in which they have any participating debaters. For example:
  - If no varsity PF debaters from a school clear to the first elimination round, that school's varsity PF judges are obligated to be available through the first elimination round only.
  - If one varsity PF team from a school clears to the first elimination round and then loses that round, the school's varsity PF judges are obligated to be available through the second elimination round.
- Other divisions – Judges must be available for all rounds on Saturday.

### 5.4 Penalties for missing judges

- 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, October 26 at 3:00 PM	Enter on Tabroom.com ( <a href="http://www.tabroom.com">http://www.tabroom.com</a> )
Judge registration	Due Thursday, October 28 at 3:00 PM	Enter on Tabroom.com
Team changes and team drops	Due Thursday, October 28 at 3:00 PM	Enter on Tabroom.com up to October 28 at 3:00 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 3 p.m. Tuesday, October 26 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: \$6 per entry.
- CX, Novice PF: \$12 per entry.
- Varsity PF: \$20 per entry.

### **7.2 How to pay registration fees – if you have not paid already**

- Make checks payable to – **Manchester Essex Speech and Debate**.

Mail to:

Manchester Essex Speech and Debate  
c/o Josh Wladkowski  
Manchester-Essex Regional High School  
36 Lincoln Street  
Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA 01944

- Payment accepted up to 30 business days after the tournament.
- One payment per school
- Do not mail cash!
- Be sure to identify your school on the check (e.g., in the memo field).

## 8 Tournament schedule

- **ROUND SCHEDULE – Pairings posted and time due in rooms – See [here](#).**
- **For Friday registration (schools with Varsity PF entries)** – 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.
  - Friday registration is open 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM.
  - 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 [MSDLDebate@gmail.com](mailto:MSDLDebate@gmail.com) or text (617) 564-0281. Be sure to specify your name and school.
- **For Saturday registration – (schools with no Varsity PF entries)** – Email [MSDLDebate@gmail.com](mailto:MSDLDebate@gmail.com) or text (617) 564-0281.
  - Saturday registration is from 6:00 AM to 7:45 AM.
  - Specify your school
  - Specify either “All OK” or the change – including the division (e.g., “Novice PF”).
  - If you registered on Friday (for Varsity PF) and have no changes to any other entries, you do not need to contact us on Saturday.
- **Judge briefings**
  - **Note – All judges, including experienced judges and former debaters, must come to the judge briefing on the first day they judge at the tournament.**
  - Friday briefing – 4:15 PM
  - Saturday briefing – 8:00 AM (for Saturday-only judges)
  - The judge briefing will be in the tournament judge lounge.
    - Log into Tabroom.com.
    - Click on your username (email address) in the upper right corner of the screen.
    - Then click on the yellow UPCOMING BALLOTS & PANELS button under JUDGING on the right side of the page.
- **Awards**
  - Will take place at the conclusion of preliminary rounds in CX, LD, and Novice PF on Saturday – probably around 6:30 PM. Elimination rounds in Varsity LD and Varsity PF will continue after the awards ceremony.
  - We will post a link for the awards ceremony on the tournament’s main page.
- **Detailed information on round times**
  - As the tournament progresses, we will post anticipated times for rounds on the SCHEDULE page. Go to the tournament on Tabroom.com and click on the yellow SCHEDULE button on the right.

## **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**

- See the Judge Resources and Competitor Resources web pages on the tournament page on Tabroom.com. Click on the yellow buttons on the right on the tournament home page.
- 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 judge lounge and ask to speak to Tim Averill, the tournament director.
- Standard rules of professionalism, etiquette, and respect for all competitors, judges, and tournament staff.



**Version: October 28, 2021**  
**Please check back for revisions. Changes will be noted on the last page**

## **LIST OF SUBSTANTIVE REVISIONS since September 22, 2021**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Page(s)</b>	<b>Revision</b>
10/18	7	Friday judge briefing now starts at 4:15 PM.
10/18	7	Round posting times – link to detailed web page with schedule.
10/28	1	Number of prelim rounds adjusted based on final field size and scheduling needs