Massachusetts Speech and Debate League
State Championship Tournaments
Speech & Congress
Saturday, April 9, 2022

The Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Speech and Debate League is pleased to announce the State Finals in Speech and Congress. The tournament will be hosted on April 9th at Acton-Boxborough Regional High School under the direction of the MSDL Board.

MSDL masking policy requires that all attendees wear a mask at all times with the following exceptions: when eating or when actively speaking in a round. Masking is optional when actively speaking in a round; all judges and students should respect the choices of others with regard to masking while actively speaking in a round.

The tournament is open to all observers. Student observers should be registered through Tabroom at no charge. Observers are welcome to attend all preliminary rounds. Elimination round attendance is open first to non-advancing competitors. Elimination round attendance is limited to the number of chairs already in the competition room. There is no standing, sitting on the floor, sharing seats, or bringing chairs in from another room.

Qualification

Only MSDL member teams and their qualified students are invited to compete. In Speech, a student is considered “qualified” for a category if he/she has received two bids in that category at any MSDL-sanctioned tournament this season. For Multiple Reading, qualification is according to the MSDL Rules and Policies as follows: The State qualification for Multiple will be by piece and one more than 50% of the cast in that piece. Alternatively, 100% of a cast may qualify together and may enter with another piece. In order to qualify for States, casts and pieces must receive two bids. For Congress, a list of qualifiers is available on the website.

Novice Extemporaneous Speaking is not offered at States. Students who earned bids in Novice Extemporaneous Speaking may apply at most 2 bids in Novice Extemp towards 1 bid in Extemporaneous Speaking at States. So, students may qualify in Extemporaneous Speaking if they have 2 bids in NX and 1 bid in Varsity Extemp.

There will be a final round in Novice Oral Interpretation for the top six non-advancing competitors in Children’s Literature, Play Reading, Poetry Reading, and Prose Reading.
Entries & Wild Cards

In Speech, entry is subject to the following limitations:

1. A student may not enter more than three events in which he/she has qualified, including Multiple Reading.
2. Students entered in Group Discussion or Congress may not double or triple enter.
3. Each student may only enter once in any given event.
4. Students entered in a prep room draw event may double – but not triple enter. Students may enter only one prep room draw event.
5. A student may not use the same material in more than one event.

We will make every effort to make the day easy on every student. However, students should think carefully about the choice to double or triple enter. Students will be held responsible for making it to all their rounds of competition before the rounds are finished. Students in draw events will be responsible for coordinating with the prep room staff at the beginning of the day. In Congress, students will be split into the appropriate number of chambers with specific assignments generated by the Tabroom program.

Schools receive two wild card entries to use combined between Speech and Congress. Wild card entries are not subject to qualification. A new school is a school that has not competed in the MSDL in the preceding four years. A new school may enter up to four wild card entries to be used combined between State Speech and Congress during its first two years of competition.

Multiple

Multiple will perform three times throughout the course of the day. A student may participate in only one Multiple. Please include the names of the students in the Multiple from the drop-down menu on the website. Six multiples will advance to finals; in the event of an unbreakable tie between 6th and 7th place, only five will advance.

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.

Congress Legislation

Congress Legislation is due to Joe Bowden by Monday, March 28 at 8pm. Please email bills and resolutions to Mr. Bowden (preferably in Word or Google Documents format) at joe.bowden@gmail.com prior to that day and time. Legislation shall be published approximately ten days prior to the tournament. All schools participating in the State Congress are expected to submit legislation. If any school is unable to submit legislation, then a coach should contact Mr. Bowden to request a waiver in accordance with MSDL Rules. One piece of legislation per school will be chosen. Legislation should be of a quality befitting a State Championship competition. Schools are encouraged to submit legislation as soon as possible to allow for review and suggestions for revision.
**Extemporaneous Speaking**

Preliminary round questions will cover international, national, and economic topics. All questions will be derived from online and print editions of current political and news magazines and newspapers. The final round topic area will be: Issues Affecting States. The final round of Extemporaneous Speaking will include cross-examination.

**Group Discussion**

The Group Discussion topic area will be Education. Focus areas are Equity, Government Regulation, College Tuition, and School Security.

**Judges**

Schools must provide one judge for every five Speech and Congress entries, or fraction thereof. All judges must have graduated from high school at least six months prior to the date of the tournament. Given that this is our State Finals Tournament, we urge coaches to bring experienced judges, who are qualified to judge high-level competition. At a minimum, schools must bring judges who have judged or competed at one speech 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 numbers of judges. All judges are expected to stay through Finals. Missing judges or judges who leave early seriously compromise the smooth operation of the tournament. If you have a judge who must leave before the end of the day, you must find a replacement for that judge. Any judge who is not available to judge a round of their obligation may incur the $50.00 missing judge penalty.

**Awards**

Awards will be presented to all finalists. The top novice in each speech category will also receive special recognition. Team Sweepstakes awards will be presented to the top ten speech schools based on their best 16 scores from any category. These scores will be computed by using preliminary ranks and final placement.

**Fees**

For this year, there will be no fee for attendance at States. Any school that has not paid its 2021-2022 dues will not be allowed to participate in the state tournament. Drops not reported before 8:00 AM on the morning of the tournament will cost $10 each.

**Registration Instructions**

Registrations must be entered on Tabroom (www.tabroom.com) by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 5, 2022. Because we have to verify bids, we cannot accept any late adds after Tuesday the 5th of April. Drops should be emailed to jeba78@verizon.net.

Please email to jeba78@verizon.net the number of seniors who will be attending so that we can plan for the senior reception to be held after final rounds.
Registration Confirmation

Saturday morning confirmation should be texted or called (text preferred) to 508-397-5143. All schools should confirm their registration, whether or not you have drops, and advise us of any last-minute drops on the morning of the tournament by texting or calling 508-397-5143 between 7:30 and 8:00. This helps us to get the tournament started promptly. If you send a text, please be sure to include your school name. MSDL rules and the smooth operation of the tournament require all schools to check in before 8:00 AM or face a $25 fine.

MSDL Double Entry Awards

To recognize students for excellence in different disciplines, the MSDL will award an additional honor, the MSDL Double Entry award, to students who achieve merit in two distinct events.

Double entry awards will be given to the top students in events in two of the following divisions:

Interpretation:  DP, DUO, PR, PO, POI, KL, PL, MULT
Debate:  Debate, Congress, GD
Limited Preparation:  VX, RB, IMP
Platform:  OO, DEC, INFO

Approximate Schedule

8-8:30 Registration
8:30 Judges Meeting
8:30 Speech General Meeting and Postings
9:15 Congress Meeting & Session I
9:15 Time Block I
10:30 Time Block II
12:00 Time Block III
1:30 Time Block IV
2:30 Time Block V & Semi-Finals
4:00 Finals
5:30 Senior Reception
6:00 Awards

*Standard rules of professionalism, etiquette, and respect for our hosts and their school shall apply at all times.*

We look forward to seeing you at the tournament!

Sincerely,

The MSDL Board
Directions to Acton-Boxborough Regional High School
36 Charter Road
Acton, MA

From NORTH/SOUTH
Take Route 495 to Route 2 East. Follow directions for From WEST.
OR
Take Route 128 to Route 2 West. Follow directions for From EAST.

From EAST
• Take Route 2 West to Acton, Exit 43, exiting from the left lane onto Route 111.
  • Go straight at the light.
  • At the first right, turn onto Charter Road (the school campus).

From WEST
• Take Route 2 East to Exit 42 – the Acton/Maynard exit.
  • At the end of the ramp, turn right onto Route 27.
  • At the first light (~1/2 mile), turn right onto Route 111.
  • At the first right, turn onto Charter Road (the school campus).

ONCE ON CAMPUS:
• Follow Charter Road to the High School parking lot, straight ahead.

Buses can unload in the main entry circle.

Private vehicles and vans can park in the parking lots on either side of Charter Rd.

Text or Call to Confirm Entry by 8:00 AM: 508-397-5143