



MICHIGAN SPEECH COACHES, INC

30941 Cedar Creek Dr. Farmington Hills, MI 48336

c) 248.505.5765 e) Douglasbevier@wlcsl.org

www.michiganspeechcoaches.org

Dear Coach:

This page has been created to provide you with additional information about MSCI's May Conference on Mackinac Island since you have indicated you will be attending.

Please visit the MSCI website at www.michiganspeechcoaches.org for a detailed instructional video and further information about the competitive events for this year's MSCI May Conference.

Sub-Section Breakdown:

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|----|------------------------------------|----|----------------------------------|
| A: | Coach & Chaperone Workshops and PD | C. | Tournament Judging Information |
| B: | Regulations | D. | Competition & Student Activities |

A. COACH & CHAPERONE WORKSHOPS/Professional Development—Saturday

1. **Schedule** will be published and distributed on email by MSCI Past-President, Douglas Bevier (Douglasbevier@wlcsl.org).
2. **Registration** may be expected for some sessions. These will be identified in a forthcoming email.
3. **Locations** will be posted in tournament information provided at registration. Certificates will be provided for participants.
4. **Workshops & PD** will be offered for those who are interested. This year's workshops will include:

- "Trends in Education & Speech Activities: What We have Learned from COVID that Can Help Use Succeed in the Future"
- "Constructive Critiques: A Continued Discussion on Providing Ballots that Make A Difference"
- "Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: Socially Responsible Strategies for Vetting, Selecting and Performing"

B. TOURNAMENT AND CONFERENCE REGULATIONS

1. **Masks**--While in the hotel, all participants, judges, and coaches will be masked while in public areas and during competition.
2. **Curfew**--Students must comply with curfews and refrain from congregating in hallways.
 - a. On Friday, **students must be in their assigned rooms AND QUIET by midnight.**
 - b. On Saturday, **students must be in their assigned rooms AND QUIET by 1:00 am.**
 - c. Tournament staff, coaches, parents, chaperones, and Grand Hotel security will be expected to strictly enforce these rules for the safety of the students.
 - d. Violations outside of the hotel and within may be dealt with by the Mackinac Island Police Department at the hotel's discretion.
3. **Laws**--All laws regarding the consumption or use of tobacco, alcohol, or drugs will be enforced by the hotel staff and the Island police. Smoking by all contestants is prohibited.
4. **Supervision**--The school's head coach or faculty representative, who must be an MSCI member, is required to be at the tournament site (hotel and grounds) for the entire weekend and assume the responsibility for their students. This includes enforcing all conference rules and regulations.
 - a. **HIGH SCHOOLS:** Each school must provide one adult (21 years or older) chaperone for each 10 students brought to the conference.
 - b. **MIDDLE SCHOOLS:** defined as those in grades 6-8, must have one adult (21 years or older) chaperone for every 6 students brought to the Grand.
 - c. Each team must provide one adult chaperone for the dance. This person will be designated at registration.

Promoting Better Speech Activities in Michigan



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5. **Participation**--Students must participate in all preliminary rounds of competition, any elimination rounds they reach, or the workshops for which they register. Failure to comply will result in appropriate sanctions to the individual and the team.

C. TOURNAMENT JUDGING INFORMATION

1. Judges may be high school seniors. I.E. and Poetry Slam judges need one year of experience in the corresponding event. Public Forum judges require no debate experience; the less, the better.
2. Judging obligations:
 - a. **I.E.:** One judge should be provided for every six entries. Any multiple or duo entry will count as two entries, for judging obligations.
 - b. **Public Forum:** One judge for every two debaters
 - c. **Poetry Slam:** One judge for any amount of contestants.
3. Please contact the Conference Director if you cannot meet your judging obligation. Some schools bring additional judges and coverage may be available if we know early.
4. Please do not hire a pool of judges from another school as it increases the difficulty of creating a viable schematic.
5. Please double-check that you indicated whether your judges are high school students or older on the initial registration. Make changes if the need arises.
6. Judges are obligated to judge all rounds including elimination rounds. Schools will be fined \$25 per round for each missed round. **Any individual registered as a judge should plan on judging every round.**
7. **WE WELCOME EXTRA JUDGES**

D. COMPETITION & STUDENT ACTIVITIES

SPIRIT OF COMPETITION

While this competition is meant to be a “fun” tournament, we expect a reasonable level of professionalism and decorum. In the “spirit of competition,” please prepare students accordingly. Pieces should reach minimum time recommendations, be reasonably prepared, and be appropriate for presentation to a public audience. Further, performance pieces should never ridicule or degrade other participants, schools, or the activity. Pieces should meet the standards for appropriateness used during the regular competition season. Failure to meet these standards may incur scoring penalties or other team sanctions determined appropriate by the tournament director and/or the MSCI Executive Board. MSCI shall base these decisions on the seriousness of the rule infringement.

STANDARDS FOR PERFORMANCE: All performances should be appropriate for a general audience. Although the presentations are not specifically designed for children, the material should be deemed suitable for all ages and parents should feel comfortable letting younger children watch these presentations unattended. The material may contain little to no violence, no strong language, no drug use or references and no sexual dialogue or situations. The performances can contain witty jokes and humor and some snippets of language may go beyond polite conversation, but they are common everyday expressions. **It is expected that in Poetry Slam these considerations will still be followed.**

POETRY SLAM

Students perform their original poetry in a competition evaluated by 5 judges, scored on a scale of 1-10 (using one decimal point). Poems must be no longer than 3 minutes. Students may not use any props, stools, or musical accompaniment. Poems and physical actions must be PG-rated. Please note: the PG rating is for Poetry Slam only. All other categories are G ratings. The high and low score will be dropped and the three remaining scores will be added together to determine the poet’s score for the round. There will be a .5 deduction for each 10 seconds the poem goes over 3 minutes, with a 10-second grace period. This means that the penalty goes into effect at 3:11. All participants need to be prepared with a minimum of 3 poems, as students may not repeat poems until the final round. There will be 2 preliminary rounds of slam with a semi-final and a final round. Students will be placed in sections of 4-8 for each flight. There may be



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2 or more flights of slammers in each round. The final round will take place in the theatre during lunch. After finals, Slam participants will eat lunch and spend the remainder of the day participating in a writer's workshop.

PUBLIC FORUM DEBATE - MSCI is proud to host the annual MIFA Public Forum Debate State Tournament.

Public forum debate can be compared to a nationally-televised debate, such as 'Crossfire' in which the debaters argue a topic of national importance, typically one involving foreign or domestic policy as opposed to Lincoln-Douglas' more philosophy centric debate, in terms that a "common" person would understand. Similar to policy debate, the debate in public forum debate is conducted by teams of two people alternating speeches for their side, either affirming or negating their topic. In contrast to policy debate, there is little focus on extreme speed or debate jargon or argumentation theory; instead, successful public forum debaters must make persuasive and logical arguments in a manner that is accessible to a wide variety of audiences. Public forum debate focuses on not only logical, but research-based arguments. Judges often will be lay judges with no special debate training.

This event is administered by the Michigan Interscholastic Forensic Association. Questions regarding format/rules should be directed to Jon Becker (Executive Director of MIFA) at director@themifa.org.

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

1. **General Guidelines and Requirements:**

- a. The spring tournament marks the official beginning of the 2022-2023 competition season for high school students and the conclusion of the 2021-2022 season for middle school students.
- b. **HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS:** Must present a new piece and **MAY NOT** use a piece performed in past or present competitive seasons
- c. **MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS:** May use one of their two pieces from the current MIFA season (or a new one) as long as it is appropriate for the category.
- d. **ALL PERFORMANCES MUST BE APPROPRIATE!!**
- e. Please leave cubes, stools and chairs at home! **NO STOOLS, CHAIRS, OR CUBES WILL BE ALLOWED** during the competition. Please **DO NOT** plan to use Grand Hotel furniture for your performance—it will be deemed against the rules and you risk disqualification. Learn to be creative!
- f. Information about IE events being offer can be found on the organization's website.

Please visit the MSCI website at www.michiganspeechcoaches.org for a detailed instructional video and further information about the competitive events.

We look forward to seeing you at the Grand Hotel!

Douglas Bevier, President
Charlie Rinehart, Past-President
Amy Janz, President-Elect
Ruth Kay, Treasurer
Kirstin Carolin, Secretary
John Rutherford, Trustee
Heather McKaig, Trustee
Adam Blaylock, Trustee

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