



MSDL ‘Butternut’ LD-BQ Debate ONLINE Tournament
Saturday, November 12 , 2022

Hello:

The Massachusetts Speech and Debate League is pleased to invite you to the Butternut LD-BQ Debate Tournament to be online using NSDA Campus on Saturday, November 12, 2022. We will be working hard to make the tournament enjoyable, affordable, and accessible for all. Schools interested in Public Forum Debate may attend the Burkill Tournament at Natick HS. Schools interested in in-person LD Debate are encouraged to attend the Scarsdale tournament in New York.

The tournament will offer the following events:

Format	Debaters per entry	Division	Rounds
Lincoln Douglas (LD)	1	Varsity	4-5 preliminary rounds
		Novice ^(a)	4-5 preliminary rounds
Big Question (BQ)	1-2	Open	4 preliminary rounds

Notes (a) 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.

Entry Fees are \$7/debater.

Payment:

- Make checks payable to the MSDL.
- Please mail registration checks to the MSDL Treasurer as close to the tournament date as possible, but no later than 30 days following the tournament.
- MSDL Treasurer address: MSDL, c/o Jim Honeyman Treasurer, 219 Walnut St., Wellesley, MA. 0281

1. School eligibility

- This tournament is open to high school students in Massachusetts and points adjacent. As we do not wish to overlap attendance with Scarsdale, no NY students may attend the Butternut.
- 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

Format	Division	Resolution
Lincoln Douglas	Varsity	2022 September/October topic – <i>Resolved: The People’s Republic of China ought to prioritize environmental protection over economic growth.</i>
	Novice	The “modest novice” topic – <i>Resolved: Civil disobedience in a democracy is morally justified.</i>
Big Questions	Open	Resolved: <i>Humans are primarily driven by self-interest.</i>

3. Judges

- Technical requirements - see information on the judge resource page ([here](#)).
 - The tournament will use electronic balloting. All judges must have accounts on Tabroom.com.
 - This tournament takes place online. Judges must have an internet capable device and be on a network that is compatible with NSDA Campus. It is the team’s responsibility to ensure that judges test their equipment’s compatibility with NSDA Campus prior to the tournament (see judge resource link, above).
- Judges must be prepared to adjudicate rounds in the division they sign up for. You can find instructional videos on the judge resource page ([here](#)).
- Number of judges owed - Schools must provide 1 judge for every 2 entries they register in each division (Novice LD, Varsity LD, or BQ) at each level. For example:
 - A school with 3 varsity LD debaters and 1 novice LD debater must provide 2 varsity

LD judges and 1 novice LD judge.

- Unfortunately, this tournament has no hired judges.
- How long must judges be available?
 - Judges must be available for all rounds on Saturday. If a judge must leave early, it is the responsibility of the school to arrange shifts (i.e., one judge for the morning and one for the afternoon) and to register both judges appropriately.
- Penalties for missing judges
 - The schools of judges who do not judge their assigned rounds are subject to a \$50 missing judge penalty per round missed.

4. Registration deadlines

- Enter competitors and judges on Tabroom.com.
- Competitor entries are due Wednesday, November 9 at 5:00 PM.
- Judge entries are due Thursday, November 10 at 6:00 PM.
- Send changes after that time to Paul Wexler at pjwexler06@gmail.com and MSDLDebate@gmail.com
- *Note: Entry fees owed as of 5 p.m. Wednesday, November 9 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 or not.*
- Entry fees are \$7 per debater.

5. Schedule on tournament (Saturday, November 12)

- Confirm registration / send last-minute changes by 7:45 AM
 - Text 781-330-6610
 - Identify school in text
 - If no changes, state “No changes”
 - Drops should be for unavoidable circumstances (e.g., illness). In that case, specify the division and the debater(s) who will not be competing. E.g., “For Lake Placid HS - Robert Marshall will not be competing in Novice LD.”
- Round schedule - Available [here](#), when finalized.
 - Round 1 will be posted at 8:30 AM. Judges and debaters must be in their room by 8:50 AM, with Round 1 starting by 9:00 AM.
 - Rounds will be single-flighted.
 - We aim to have five preliminary rounds in LD so as to increase the number of debaters earning a winning record for the day and hence a state bid. We will hold a

fifth round only if we can conclude the tournament by around 5:00 PM.

6. Other

- 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).
- Resources
 - See the Judge Resources page on MSDLOnline.org. Click on the RESOURCES dropdown, and select DEBATE JUDGE RESOURCES.
 - For technical help during the tournament, email MSDLDebate@gmail.com, or text (857) 245-7122.
- 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.