



***Massachusetts Forensic League
State Championship Tournaments
Speech & Congress
Saturday, April 4, 2009***

The Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Forensic League is pleased to announce the State Finals in Speech and Congress. The tournament will be hosted on April 4th by Westford Academy under the direction of the MFL Board.

Qualification

Only MFL 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 MFL sanctioned tournaments this season. Please see the bid list on the website to confirm your students’ bids before registering. For Multiple Reading, qualification is according to the MFL 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. The tournaments are open to all who wish to observe.

Novice Extemp and Novice Reading are not offered at States. Students who earned bids in Novice Extemp may apply at most 2 bids in Novice Extemp towards 1 bid in Extemp at States. So students may qualify in Extemp if they have 2 bids in NX and 1 bid in Varsity Extemp. Students in Novice Reading may apply 2 bids in Novice Reading towards 1 bid in one of either Poetry Reading, Prose Reading, Play Reading or Children’s Literature at States. So students may qualify with 2 bids in NR and one bid in the category they are entering in at States. Students may not use the same NR bids twice to qualify in two separate events.

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. A student may not use the same material in more than one event.
2. Students entered in Group Discussion or Congress may not double enter.
3. Students entered in Extemporaneous Speaking may double enter, but may not triple enter.
4. Each student may only enter once in any given 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.

In Congress students will be split into the appropriate number of chambers by blind draw.

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 MFL 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.

Double-entry award

This year, for the first time, the MFL will offer awards for the top six students who earned the most sweepstakes points over two events in the course of the State Championships. Students may not double enter at State Debate; however, debate points will make students eligible for these awards if they then also enter the State Speech and Congress tournament the following week. The double entry awards will be given out at the State Speech and Congress tournament on April 4th.

Multiple

Multiple will perform three times throughout the course of the day with a final to follow. A student may participate in only one Multiple. Multiple counts as a full event for double-entry. The break to finals will be determined by tournament director guided by the cleanliness of the cumulative scores' break; ordinarily 3-4 Multiples will advance to finals.

Novices

A "novice" is defined as a student in their first year in forensics (Speech, Congress or Debate); in Extemporaneous Speaking, a student may be considered a novice if it is his/her first year in 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 non-novice category.

Congress Legislation

Every school competing in Student Congress at States must submit one piece of legislation. Congress Legislation is due to PJ Wexler by March 28th. Please email bills & resolutions to Mr. Wexler at paul_wexler@needham.k12.ma.us by that date. If you do not receive an acknowledgement within one business day, please call Mr. Wexler at 781-455-0800 x2423. Legislation will be chosen to maximize school diversity, subject diversity, and quality debate.

Extemporaneous Speaking

Prelim round questions will cover international, national, and economic topics. The final round will be about Massachusetts state issues and politics. All topics will be derived from current editions of political and news magazines, as well as newspapers.

Group Discussion Topic Area

The Group Discussion topic area is the US Economy.

Judges

Schools must provide one judge for every five Speech and Congress entries, or fraction thereof. **Schools should bring judges who have judged or competed at a minimum of one speech tournament.** We are relying on the coach of each team to bring judges with appropriate experience for a State Finals tournament.

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 missing judge penalty.

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.

Approximate Schedule:

- 8-8:30 Registration
- 8:30 Judges Meeting
- 9:00 Congress General Meeting & Session 1
- 9:15 Speech General Meeting
- 9:30 Round 1
- 11:00 Round 2
- 12:30 Round 3
- 1:00 Congress Session 2
- 2:30 Semifinals (If necessary in large events as determined by the tournament director)
- 3:30 Finals
- 4:15 Finals of events with semis
- 6:00 Awards

Awards

Awards will be presented to all finalists in Speech. The top novice in each non-novice 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. The point scoring system will be based on the total number of contestants in each section on the day of the tournament. That is to say:

In categories where there is a majority of sections of 4, the point scoring system will be as follows:

In categories where there is a majority of sections of 5, the point scoring system will be as follows:

Students rank	Sweepstakes Points	Student's Rank	Sweepstakes Points
1	5	1	5
2	4	2	4
3	3	3	3
4	1	4	2
5	1	5	1
		6	1

Fees

The cost is \$5.00 per entry. Please make checks payable to Massachusetts Forensic League.

Drops

Saturday morning confirmation should be called or texted to 617-285-6448. 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 calling or texting 617-285-6448 between 7:30 and 8:00.

Registration Instructions

Registrations must be entered on the MFL website (<http://www.massforensics.org>) by 6 p.m. on Tuesday, March 31st, 2009. Because we have to verify bids, *we cannot accept any late adds after Tuesday the 31st of March*. Registration fees and judge obligations are frozen as of that time. We can accept drops without additional penalty until Thursday, April 2nd at 5:00 p.m.; after that time they will incur a nuisance fee.

To register for the tournament, you will need a login for the MFL website. If you do not have an email address contact listed in the MFL database, please email Chris Palmer at palmer@massforensics.org. All entrants to the MFL State Championship Tournament must have paid their MFL dues before registering.

Standard rules of professionalism & etiquette, and respect for our hosts and their school will be abided by at all times.

Sincerely,

The MFL Board

Directions to: Westford Academy

You will want to get into Westford by taking I-495; from Boston the easiest way to do this is to take 93 N to 128 S to 3 North, and then get on 495 South. From Worcester or 128 it may be easier to take either the Mass Pike, Route 2 or Route 9 to 495 North.

Westford is off of Exit 32 (Boston Road) on 495. If you are approaching from the south, going north on 495, you will want to turn left on Boston Road after the offramp. If you approaching from the north, going south on 495, you will want to turn right onto Boston Road.

From Boston Road: At stop sign, turn left onto Main Street. Proceed on Main - it will turn into Forge Village Road. Turn left on Patten. At the stop sign, (Patten Rd) enter the Westford Academy parking lot. Westford Academy is on the left. There are three entrances to Westford Academy. The first and third entrances are adjacent to a parking lot. The second entrance is one way.