

MASSACHUSETTS SPEECH & DEBATE LEAGUE

The Board of the Massachusetts Speech & Debate League invites you to the nineteenth annual

2024 MSDL All-Novice Tournament

Saturday, October 19, 2024

at Xaverian Brothers High School, 800 Clapboardtree Street, Westwood, MA 02090

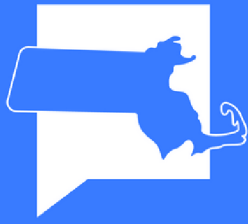
The purpose of the MSDL All-Novice Speech and Debate Meet is to give new students a chance to compete in a less intimidating, educational environment prior to the start of the regular MSDL season. While this event will be run by the MSDL Board, it is not a qualifying tournament for States.

For the purposes of this tournament, 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. This tournament is essentially for first-year high school forensic students; those returning high school forensics students, who may be eligible for novice extemp or novice debate at subsequent tournaments this season, should not plan to attend this tournament.

Students with 2 or more years of experience in high school forensics are invited to judge; however, each school with participating students **must have at least one adult in attendance**. Extra judges are always welcome and will receive assignments.

Buses and cars can pull into the main parking lot at Xaverian Brothers High School. Tournament attendees should proceed through the campus ministry entrance. There will be greeters outside to welcome and direct people.

We look forward to seeing you on October 19th!



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General Information

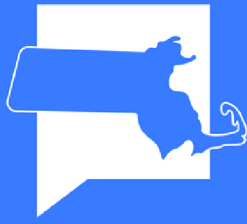
Because the purpose of the All-Novice event is entirely educational, students will participate in rounds of friendly competition. An exhibition round in various events by varsity students will follow. Rounds will simulate regular competition, but there will be no final round. Novices who compete will receive their ballots after the tournament so that they can use the feedback as they work to improve for future tournaments.

Standard MSDL events will be offered. If there are 6 or fewer entries in any event, we may combine it with a similar event. Please visit www.msdlonline.org for descriptions and rules for each event.

Competitors in memorized events (OO, DEC, DP, DUO, INFO) will not be penalized for using manuscripts at this tournament.

Delicious breakfast, lunch, snacks, and beverages will be sold throughout the day.

Standard rules of professionalism and etiquette must be abided by at all times.



MASSACHUSETTS SPEECH & DEBATE LEAGUE

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, and to abide by our Community Standards:

MSDL Community Standards

The Massachusetts Speech and Debate League (MSDL) affirms and upholds the following values and standards and expects those who take part in our tournaments to do the same:

Inclusivity and Equity

We, the MSDL community, welcome people associating with any intersection(s) of identity and uphold that all members of our community deserve respect. We are made stronger by embracing the differences of our members.

Dignity and Safety

We believe that the welfare and dignity of our community members must be protected and preserved. In practice, this means that all community members (coaches, students, judges, and observers) will be mindful of the impact and consequences of their words and actions. We share responsibility to act with the intention to protect the well-being of others, even when engaging with conflicting ideas and opinions.

Integrity and Honesty

All members of our MSDL community must conduct themselves honorably, and must scrupulously compete within the rules of our events while promoting our community standards.

Collegiality and Fun

We aim to support each other and create camaraderie even while being serious about competition.

Should you have any issues, please come to the TAB room and ask to speak with our equity team.



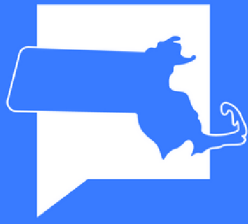
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Event Specific Information

- **CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE.** Congressional Debate will run separate from the rest of the schedule. The day will begin with a brief exhibition round. Here, the novices will watch varsity competitors demonstrate how a Congressional Debate chamber operates. Then, there will be some instruction time followed by a practice round in which the novices will participate. After lunch, there will be a training session on writing legislation.

Legislation for Congressional Debate will be posted on Tabroom approximately one week prior to the tournament. While student-written legislation for the Novice Tournament is not expected, coaches are welcome to submit legislation to Joe Bowden, Chair of Congress, at joe.bowden@gmail.com for review and potential inclusion in the packet.

- **GROUP DISCUSSION.** The topic area will be: **The 2024 Elections**, with a focus on immigration, the economy, social issues, and Congressional elections. The first round will be a tutorial.
- **EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING.** Rounds will focus on these areas: National, International, or Economic news.
- **RADIO.** Copy will come from wire services and/or newspapers.
- **BIG QUESTIONS.**
 - **Resolved: Creativity is a more powerful force than intelligence.**
- **LINCOLN-DOUGLAS.**
 - **Resolved: In a democracy, voting ought to be compulsory.**
- **PUBLIC FORUM.**
 - **Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially expand its surveillance infrastructure along its southern border.**



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Judging

Congressional Debate: Students with two or more years of experience in high school forensics are encouraged to sign up as judges for Congressional Debate. These students will participate in an exhibition round, assist with instruction, and judge the novice practice round.

Debate events: You are required to bring one judge for every two entries or fraction thereof. New programs for which this requirement poses a challenge should contact the Chair of Debate (Josh Cohen - jcohen1964@gmail.com).

Speech events: You are required to bring one judge for every five entries or fraction thereof.

Judges in all categories should be available to judge all time slots. There will be a \$50 fine for each missing judge. This fee is not to be used in lieu of providing required judges.

Students with two or more years of experience in high school forensics are invited to judge, as are qualified adults. For debate, student judges should have two years of competitive debate experience and have earned at least 200 NSDA points; an adult is qualified if they debated in high school or have judged at a high school debate competition at least once before. Extra judges are always welcome. If we have enough judges, we will attempt to use two judges in each round instead of the usual one, so please bring extras if you have them.

*Please note that judging requirements are finalized at the time registration closes on Wednesday, October 16 at 5:00 pm. **If you have drops after registration closes, it does not change the number of judges you are required to bring.** If you register EXTRA judges, we are going to be depending upon them to come. You cannot drop them after the registration deadline.*

Individuals interested in learning to judge debate may attend this tournament and shadow judges in order to learn the judging process. These individuals should not be registered as judges, but you should notify the Tab Room during registration if you have individuals in need of a debate training partner.



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Registration Information

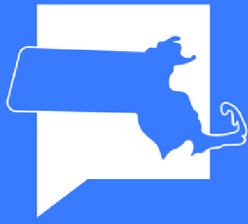
- The registration fee is \$10 per student. The cost for a Duo Interpretation entry or a PFD team is therefore \$20.
- Register online at www.tabroom.com beginning on September 23, 2024. If you are having trouble with the online registration system, send an email to Joyce Albert at jbalbert78@gmail.com.
- **Registration Deadline:** Wednesday, October 16, 2024 at 5:00 PM.

Drops

- Drops may be made online until Thursday, October 17, 2024 at 5:00 PM; drops should be emailed to Joyce Albert (jbalbert78@gmail.com) once registration closes.
- Drops that occur after 8:00 PM on Friday should be texted/called in to 508-397-5143 on Saturday morning between 7:00-8:00 AM. *Be sure that your message specifies your school, the event, and the name of the competitors who have dropped.*

Saturday Morning Check-in

Please text (preferred) or call 508-397-5143 to check in between 7:00-8:00 AM on Saturday morning. Even if you have no drops, please text or call so we can begin to re-panel rounds at 8:00 AM (if necessary) and start the tournament on time. *Be sure that your message specifies your school.* MSDL rules permit imposition of a \$25 penalty fee on schools that fail to check in during the morning call-in period.



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Tentative Schedule

7:00-8:00	Check-in Calls/Texts Please text or call 508-397-5143. Please remember to identify your school!
8:15-8:45	Registration
8:30	Judge Meeting
9:00	General Opening Meeting
9:30-2:00	Speech Rounds & Congressional Debate Session
9:15-3:15	Debate Rounds (lunch during free flight)
2:30	Exhibitions and Congressional Debate Bill Writing Session
4:00	Estimated Departure Time

Please note that we will provide a final schedule once registration is complete.