

***Massachusetts Speech and Debate League
State Debate Championship Tournament
Saturday, March 28, 2015***

The Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Speech and Debate League is pleased to announce the State Debate Championship Tournament. The tournament will be hosted on March 28th at Boston Latin High School.

Food and beverages will be available for purchase at the tournament site.

The tournament will offer Novice and Varsity divisions in all three of the following events:

Policy (CX): Both Policy divisions are “open evidence”.

Lincoln Douglas (LD).

Public Forum (PF). Note – If the tournament director judges interest in the novice division to be insufficient, the two PF divisions will be combined. That will happen by the end of the evening on Sunday, March 22. In that case, all novice-qualified teams signed up to compete in the novice division will be automatically entered into the single open PF division. Schools in that case must provide open-division qualified judges to cover all PF entries they wish to retain.

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1 Entry Requirements

1.1 Bid qualification requirements

A Policy team may participate in the state debate championship without having satisfied any bid qualification requirement. PF and LD teams may participate in this tournament if they earn a bid (i.e., an invitation). An entry can earn a bid by accomplishing either of the following:

1. Having a preliminary round winning record at an MSDL sanctioned tournament during the 2014-15 season.
2. Finishing among the top 8 teams at a sanctioned MSDL tournament during the 2014-15 season.

Note that a PF bid must be earned as a team. That is, two debaters entering as a team at the state championship can earn a bid for their joint entry only as a result of their having debated together at a previous tournament.

Bid qualifications for the varsity PF and LD divisions must be earned in varsity or open divisions. Accomplishments in a junior varsity or novice division can only be used to earn bids in a novice division at the state championship tournament. Novice debaters can also use Varsity bids to qualify in novice divisions. Results from the league's novice tournament (October 25 at Sacred Heart High School) cannot be used to qualify for participation at the State Championship tournament in any division.

When registering online, please indicate the tournament where each LD or PF entry earned a state championship bid. In the "Finish/Points" field, enter the entry's record at that tournament or specify that the entry cleared to break rounds if they qualified at either the Averill or Big Lex tournaments.

Records for LD (varsity and novice) and for PF for each MSDL tournament are available [here](#).

1.2 Wildcard rules

An entry that does not earn a bid to the state debate championship may still participate as a "wildcard". Wildcard entries are subject to the following limitations:

1. "New" schools may each send a total of four wildcard entries across both the LD and PF divisions. A new school is one that has not competed in Policy, LD, or PF debate in the MSDL during the previous four years.
2. Other schools may each send a total of four wildcard entries across both the LD and PF divisions. The total number of wild card entries used in either the PF or LD divisions may not exceed three.

When registering online, please indicate if an entry is being submitted as a wildcard entry.

1.3 Novice status

The novice divisions at the state championship tournament are open only to novice entrants. Students who have competed in previous years in speech events, but not debate events, are considered novices. A novice debater who has qualified to compete in the varsity division for an event can but does not have to compete in the novice division of that event. In the Policy division, students who have not debated in an open-evidence division prior to the current academic year may register as novices.

Be sure that the novice / varsity status of each of your debaters is correctly specified in Tabroom. To check their status, click on your email address in the upper right corner of the Tabroom screen. Then click on the "Students" tab. Varsity / Novice status appears in the second column from the right.

1.4 Other entry requirements

- Only MSDL member schools are invited to compete, and debaters may enter in one tournament division. Schools from adjoining states are welcome to join the MSDL and participate at the MSDL State Debate Tournament if they have no state championship tournament of their own.
- Tournament participants must be in 9th through 12th grade.
- Members of two-person teams must attend the same school.
- No solo debaters (“mavericks”) can enter in paired events (CX and PF)
- All schools entering the MSDL State Championship Tournament must have paid their MSDL dues before competing.

2 Judges

2.1 Number of judges needed

Schools must provide 1 judge for every:

- 2 Policy Debate entries,
- 2 entries in LD, and
- 2 entries in PF.

Please note the following additional requirements:

1. These are separate judge pools, so each judge that you bring can fulfill only the requirement for one division. For example, if your school enters one policy team and one PF team, you need a judge for the Policy pool and a second judge for the PF pool.
2. Novice division judges may be varsity students who are in either their junior or senior year of high school. Please note clearly on your online registration any judges who are “Novice only” judges. High school students who are judging may not compete at the state championship tournament.
3. Judges in the varsity divisions and in the open PF division must be adults and may not have attended high school during the current academic year. You must have enough adult judges to cover the ratios specified above for debaters entered in either the varsity or novice divisions. For example, if you enter 1 varsity LD debater and one novice LD debater, you need two judges – one for each division.
4. All judges must be former debaters or have judged in at least one prior debate tournament.
5. Please be sure all judges are familiar with basic round formats (speech order, speech times, prep time). We will not have time to review those points in the judge briefing. Refer newer Public Forum judges to the online manual ([here](#)).

2.2 When your judges can leave

- All judges are obligated through the first break round of any division in which their school has an entry. Judges from schools with teams that break are obligated through the final round in that division.
- Missing judges and 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 provide a qualified replacement, or incur a \$50 missing judge penalty.
- We cannot provide hired judges directly to schools for this tournament. If you do not have sufficient judges, we may have to reduce your entry numbers in line with your numbers of judges. However, we will again attempt to hire outside neutral judges to make the judging pool more experienced and easier to manage. If you know of any experienced neutral judges who may be interested in participating at States, please direct them to Joshua Cohen at jcohen1964@gmail.com.

3 Debate topics

LD will use the NFL March/April topics. PF will use the March topic. Policy will use the 2013-2014 national topic. The resolutions appear below:

- Policy Debate – Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase its non-military exploration and/or development of the Earth's oceans.
- LD – Resolved: Just governments ought to ensure food security for their citizens.
- PF – Resolved: In the United States, students should be guaranteed two years of free tuition to a community or technical college.

4 Fees

The cost is \$10 per student. Hence, fees are \$20 per Policy team or PF team, and \$10 per LD debater. **Please make checks payable to Massachusetts Speech and Debate League.**

5 Registration

5.1 Online registration instructions

Team registration	Due Tuesday, March 24 at 7:00 PM	Enter on Tabroom.com (http://www.tabroom.com)
Judge registration	Due Wednesday, March 25 at 7:00 PM	Enter on Tabroom.com
Team changes	Due Tuesday, March 24 at 7:00 PM	Enter on Tabroom.com
Team drops	Due by Thursday, March 26 at noon	Before March 26 at 5:00 PM, make drops at Tabroom.com. After that time, email jcohen1964@gmail.com

5.2 Day of tournament – Entry confirmation

As we cannot be sure we have cellular reception at the tournament site, **registration confirmation is in person from 7:45 to 8:15 AM**. If you run into unusual problems, you can try to text 617-606-2264. Please remember to include the name of your school in your text message. Please leave adequate time for unanticipated delays. Teams that are late may face forfeiture of their first round.

6 Approximate schedule

- **7:45 to 8:15 – Onsite registration**
- **8:15 – Judge meeting(s)**
- 8:45 – Round 1. Times for subsequent rounds will depend on the size of the field and the available resources.
- The tournament will break to appropriate elimination rounds that will be determined on the basis of field size and scheduling considerations.
- Awards are tentatively scheduled to start at 7:30 PM.
- Departure by 8:00 PM

7 Sweepstakes

Sweepstakes will be calculated based on points accrued by the top three entries in each division for each school.

- In LD and PF: For each round won, a school earns 4 points. For each round lost, the team earns 1 point.
- In CX: For each round won, a school earns 5 points. For each round lost, the team earns 2 points.

8 Conduct and care of the host school

Judges and Debaters – Please remember that we are guests at Boston Latin High School. Finding a school to host the debate championship tournament is challenging, so please respect the building. Other than rearranging student desks for the round, please leave each room exactly as you found it.

Room rules

- NO students may enter any room before the judge arrives.
- Judges and debaters may not use the teacher's desk, chair, or touch anything on a teacher's desk. Tournament participants may not use any classroom supplies (paper, pens, etc.).
- Judges and debaters may not touch any items on desks, tables, or other surfaces.
- Judges and debaters may not use, move, or unplug any electronic device – even temporarily. Only outlets with nothing plugged in may be used.
- Judges and contestants may not erase or write anything on any whiteboard. Do not write on Smart Boards since doing so can cause costly damage.

Enforcement

Members of the Boston Latin High School community will be checking on and photographing rooms before and after rounds.

Any violation of these rules can result in a forfeit. Repeated violations can result in a team's disqualification from the tournament and possible disqualification of that team's school.

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

Version: March 2, 2015

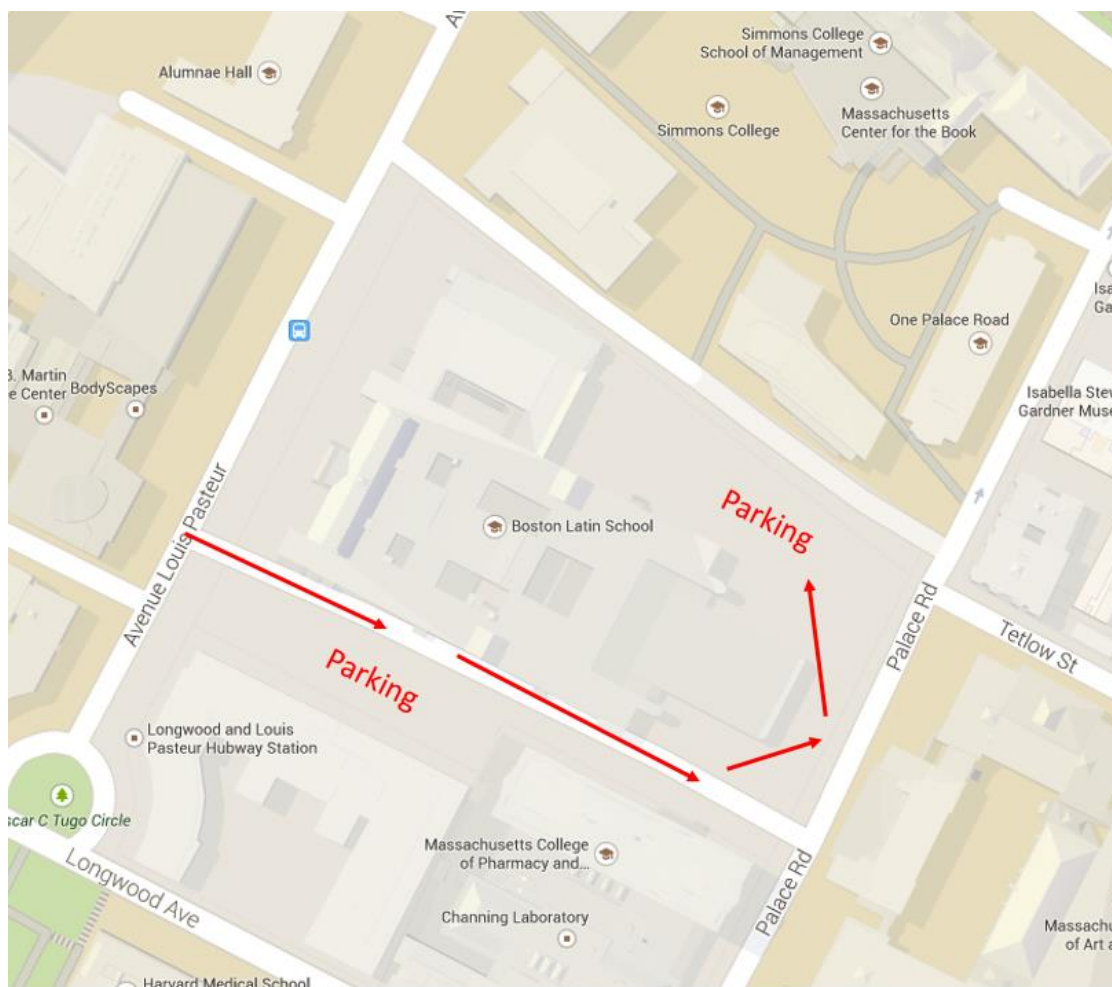
Please check back for revisions. Changes will be noted on the last page

Parking

Boston Latin High School
78 Avenue Louis Pasteur
Boston, MA 02115

The front of the Boston Latin School faces onto Avenue Louis Pasteur. The entrance to the parking lot is to the right as you face the front of the school. There are spaces for parking to the right of the school and behind the school.

We encourage you to carpool to the Boston Latin HS site, as parking is not as extensive as it is at more suburban high schools. If your team is traveling in a bus, please let us know as soon as possible (email jcohen1964@gmail.com).



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LIST OF INVITATION REVISIONS since March 1

Date	Page(s)	Revision
3/2	2	Section 1.2 – Changed wild card limits.