



# *the Brookline Ball*

COME PARTICIPATE IN THE SPEECH AND  
DEBATE COMPETITION OF A LIFETIME!

**MARCH**

**SATURDAY      7      8-6**

**2026**

Brookline High School  
115 Greenough St, Brookline 02445

Sign up with Tab Room



# The Brookline Brookline Ball

The Brookline School Speech and Debate Team is excited to invite you and your team to the 2026 Brookline Ball, to be held at Brookline High School on Saturday, March 7th, 2026. The Brookline Ball is an MSDL sanctioned tournament for students in grades 9-12. Entries must represent the school they attend. No “independent” entries may compete.

## **General Information**

The Brookline Ball will offer all MSDL Speech events as well as Public Forum, and Lincoln Douglas Debate. Please note that due to space limitations, Congressional Debate, Group Discussion, Novice and Varsity Extemporaneous Speaking, and Radio Broadcasting may be subject to caps. Students may double-enter in all events except PFD, LD, Congress, and Group Discussion. Double-entered students may not enter the same event more than once and may not use the same material in more than one event.

Students may not double-enter in two “prep room” events (VX, NX, RB). “Prep room” events are limited to double entry or Multiple. Other speech entries may enter Multiple as a third event.

We look forward to seeing you in the!



Sincerely,

Graciela Mohamedi  
graciela\_mohamedi@psbma.org





## Registration

Registration opens on Friday, February 13, 2025

Register on-line at [Tabroom.com](http://Tabroom.com)

- All schools must have submitted a signed MSDL Participation Agreement prior to attending the tournament in order to participate. No "independent" entries are allowed.

Because of space constraints we have had to limit numbers in some events. Those will go to a waitlist. We will do the first sweep of that waitlist on Tuesday, March 3 and then accept additional entries after that as space permits. (Specifically, our prep rooms can hold no more than 30 competitors, so Radio and Extemp will be limited to a maximum of 30 each.)

## Speech Registration

- The deadline for new additions is 5:00 pm, Tuesday, March 3, 2026.
- You may enter your own name changes and drops in the system until Thursday, March 5 at 5:00 pm. After that, email drops to [brooklinespeechdebate@gmail.com](mailto:brooklinespeechdebate@gmail.com)
- Please remember to register your novices in PR, PO, PL and KL in both their main event and the Novice OI Final event. They will be placed on the NOI waitlist and admitted if they advance to the NOI final.

## Debate Registration

All entries will initially be placed on the waitlist. We will do a first sweep on Tuesday, March 3 and then accept additional entries after that as space permits.

- The registration deadline for new additions is Wednesday, March 4 at 5:00 PM.
- The registration deadline for drops is Thursday, March 5 at 5:00 PM.

## Drops & Name Changes

Drops that occur after 5:00 pm on Thursday, March 5 should be emailed to [brooklinespeechdebate@gmail.com](mailto:brooklinespeechdebate@gmail.com) or called in on Saturday morning between 7:00-7:45 am to 781-526-7363.

## Registration Fees

Individual Speech events & Multiple: \$10 per entry

DUO Interp: \$20

PFD: \$20 per team

LD: \$10 per entry

Registration fees may be paid by cash or check made out to: **Brookline High School**. We strongly prefer fees be paid at registration. However, if you cannot pay on site, please send your check (made out to Brookline High School) by Monday, March 15, 2026 to:

Graciela Mohamedi  
Brookline High School  
115 Greenough St, Brookline, MA 02445

## Judges

You must bring 1 judge for:

- Every 5 entries, or fraction thereof in speech events
- Every 2 entries, or fraction thereof, in each PFD or LD division.

Judges must be available to judge all preliminary rounds and out-rounds. If one of your judges must leave early, please arrange for a replacement judge to take their place. There will be a \$100 fine for each missing judge. This fee is not to be used in lieu of providing required judges.

Please note that judges for all events except Novice PF and Novice LD Debate must have graduated from high school and must have filed CORI/SORI background checks with the school that brings them to the tournament. Junior or senior year students in at least their second academic year of interscholastic high school debate (any combination of Public Forum, Lincoln Douglas, or Policy) and having earned at least 200 NSDA points may judge in the novice division of PF or LD Debate.

Judging requirements are finalized on Thursday March 5 at 5:00 pm. If you have drops after that time, it does not change the number of judges you are required to bring.

We will be using online balloting for both Speech and Debate. All judges must bring an internet-capable electronic device, preferably a laptop computer or tablet, in order to complete balloting. Judges must also have accounts on Tabroom.com in order to receive ballots.

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# Event Specific Information

## Extemporaneous Speaking

Questions will focus on topics of national, international and economic interest. The final round will focus on issues related to public health.

## Group Discussion

The topic area is Ukraine with sub-topics on negotiations with Russia, the future role of European countries in regard to Ukraine, post-war reconstruction, and security guarantees for Ukraine.

## Public Forum Debate

We will use the March NSDA PFD topic: *Resolved: The United States federal government should ban corporate acquisition of single-family residences.*

## Lincoln Douglas Debate

We will use the March/April NSDA LD topic: *Resolved: The United States military ought to abide by the principle of non-intervention.*

## Multiple

If there are 5 or fewer Multiples competing at the tournament, there will be no final round held in that event. If there are more than 5 multiples, then between 3 and 4 will break to finals. The goal will be to make a clean break and the number that will advance will be determined by the tournament director.

## Novice Oral Interp

A final round will be held in Novice Oral Interpretation for all non-advancing novices in Children's Literature, Play Reading, Poetry Reading, and Prose Reading. Initially, all NOI entries will be placed on a waitlist.

## Awards

- Trophies will be awarded to all finalists.
- The “Top Novice” in each non-novice event will also receive an award.
- Top speakers in PFD will receive medals.
- The top 5 Multiple entries, top 8 PFD, and top 3 LD entries will receive awards.

Sweepstakes awards will be presented to the top 10 schools. The top 10 scores in 10 different events plus the next two high scores in any events (figured after finals) will count toward sweepstakes. Preliminary ranks as well as ranks from semi-finals and finals will be used to determine the final standing in events that have a semi-final round.

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## Diversity & Inclusion

The Brookline Speech and Debate Team fosters a culture of diversity and inclusion (see MSDL Community Standards - [here](#)). We expect all members of our community to treat one another with respect. Should any participant have any issues they wish to discuss, TAB room staff would be happy to connect them with our equity officer. Additionally, standard rules of professionalism and etiquette will be expected at all times.

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## Refreshments

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

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# Supervision and Conduct

## Students must be accompanied by an adult

That adult must be approved by their school administration, who will be responsible for them during the entire time they are present at the “Brookline Ball” Tournament.

The coach, or designated responsible adult, is expected to be physically present at the tournament site at all times when students from their school are there.

## Respect classroom spaces

In order to be able to host tournaments, we rely upon the generosity and good will of the faculty and staff at Brookline. Please be respectful of their classroom spaces, as well as their belongings.

- No one, including judges, should sit at or touch anything on a teacher's desk.
- No one may unplug anything from an electric outlet, even temporarily.
- If you discover that something is amiss, please report it to the TAB room **as soon as possible** so that we can address the issue before Monday morning.

## Remain out of spaces designated as off-limits

Students found in parts of the building that have been designated as off limits - including, but not limited to, the gym or the roof - may be disqualified from the tournament and asked to leave.

## Saturday Morning Check-in

One Coach from each team should call 781-526-7363 to check in between 7:00-7:45 am on Saturday morning.

If there is no answer, leave a message and/or text. Even if you have no drops, please call so we can begin to re-panel rounds at 8:00 am and start the tournament on time. MSDL rules permit a \$25 penalty fee assigned to schools that fail to check-in during the morning call-in period.

## Tentative Schedules

Speech		PF and LD Debate	
7:00-7:45 AM	Call-in: 781-526-7363	7:00-7:45 AM	Call-in: (781) 526-7363
8:15-8:45 AM	Registration	8:15-8:45 AM	Registration
8:15 AM	New Judge Meeting	8:15 AM	Meeting - ALL Debate Judges
9:00 AM	Meeting for ALL Speech judges	8:45 AM	Round 1
9:00 AM	Student meeting in Cafeteria	Rounds will continue Throughout the day	
9:30 AM	Time Slot 1		
Rounds will continue throughout the day			
3:30 PM	Draw for Finals (VX, NX, RB)	4:00 PM	Elimination Round (PF)
4:00 PM	Finals	6:15 PM	Awards
6:15 PM	Awards		

### Our Address

Brookline High School  
115 Greenough St  
Brookline, MA 02445

# Invitation Updates

Date	Update