



**THE NEWTON SOUTH SPEECH TEAM INVITES YOU TO  
The MFL**

**"Reach For the Stars"  
Speech Tournament  
9 JANUARY 2010**

**AN MFL SANCTIONED, DOUBLE-ENTRY TOURNAMENT  
17 MFL EVENTS WILL BE OFFERED—AND ONE EXTRA!**

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**

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8:15-8:45	Registration (please call between 7:00-8:00 to check in.)
8:30	Judge Meetings
9:15	General Opening Meeting & Postings in Cafeteria
9:30	Round 1
10:45	Round 2
12:00	Round 3
1:15	Round 4
2:00	Multiple & Semi-finals
3:15	Draw for Extemp & Radio finals in Library
3:45	Finals
5:45	Awards

We look forward to seeing you on January 9<sup>th</sup>!

Sincerely,

Lisa Honeyman (Tournament Director)



617-559-6550 (school)

617-875-1347 (cell)

[lisa.honeyman@verizon.net](mailto:lisa.honeyman@verizon.net)

Jolie Yu & Justin Kieran (Student Hosts)

# **GENERAL INFORMATION**

## **DELICIOUS BREAKFAST, LUNCH, SNACKS, AND BEVERAGES WILL BE SOLD THROUGH THE DAY**

1. The tournament is double-entry in all events except NEX, VEX, Radio, Group, PFD and Congress. Double-entered students may not enter the same event more than once and may not use the same material in more than one event.
2. All students except those entered in Congress and PFD may enter Multiple Reading. Those who are already double-entered may "triple-enter" in Multiple.
3. Registration is \$5 per entry. Duo Interpretation, PFD and Multiple Reading count as one entry each. Registration fees may be paid by cash or check. Checks should be made out to **Newton South High School**. Please note that if you have late drops that incur fees, you will be expected to pay those fees when you register even if you bring a check that was made out of for the original amount.
4. You are required to bring one judge for every five entries or fraction thereof in speech events and one judge for every 2 entries or fraction thereof in PFD. Judges must be available to judge all preliminary rounds *and* finals. If one of your judges must leave early, you must arrange for a replacement judge to take his/her place. Because we are running semi-finals, judging will be tight and we need everyone to be available. There will be a \$50 fine for each missing judge. This fee is not to be used in lieu of providing required judges.

*Please note that judging requirements are finalized at the time registration closes on Wednesday at 5:00 pm. If you have drops after that time, it does not change the number of judges you are required to bring.*

5. At the conclusion of the awards ceremony, please have a representative from your school pick up your results folder. Ballots will not be mailed.

### **GROUP DISCUSSION TOPIC:**

"Air and space: past, present and future."



### **EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING:**

Topic areas will focus on:  
The Americas, Africa, Asia and "The Developed World".

## **PUBLIC FORUM DEBATE:**

We will use the January NFL PFD topic.

Because of space limitations, we will only be able to host up to 24 PFD teams. Each school will be restricted to a maximum of 4 PFD entries. If you would like to bring more than 4 teams or if you register after 24 teams have been entered, please enter your additional teams in the system to be put on the wait-list. Once registration closes, we will notify coaches about whether or not their additional entries can be accommodated.

## **CONGRESS:**



Bills will soon be available at [www.massforensics.org](http://www.massforensics.org).  
Contact Mr. PJ Wexler, VP Congress, if you have questions.

The Congress day will be broken into three sessions. Session 1: 9:30-11:45; Session 2: 12:15-2:30; Finals: 3:30-4:45 (or thereabouts). This will allow us to have three separate judging teams. Judges who are assigned to congress will judge one session of congress and will judge other events during the other times. There will be two judges in each chamber during each of the two preliminary rounds in addition to the parliamentarian. Each judge will write ballots and will nominate and vote for students at the end of their session. The parliamentarians will also write ballots and will nominate and vote for students based upon what they see throughout the two preliminary sessions. Thus, students are seen by more judges and should benefit from more feedback and a greater variety of perspectives. Students must be active in the chamber during both preliminary sessions so that both sets of judges have the opportunity to see them speak. If you have any judges that are particularly interested in judging this event, please let the tournament know and we'll try to get them into a session.

## **SEMI-FINALS:**

If an official MFL speech event has 40 or more entries, we will run a semi-final round, in addition to the three preliminary rounds. (This will not apply to Congress or Group Discussion.) We can do this as long as we do not have more than 3 events that reach the 40+ entry level. If more than 3 events are this large, we will only run semi-finals in the 3 largest events. We are reasonably certain that we will run semis in Prose and Novice Reading since these have had large entries at the last few tournaments this year. But, we'll wait and see how registration goes and let you know once registration closes. (Because multiple will run at the same time as semi-finals, it would be impossible for a student to be in a group semi-final and also do multiple.)

## **A NOTE ABOUT MULTIPLES:**

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 5 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.

## **AWARDS:**

Trophies will be awarded to all finalists. The "Top Novice" in each non-novice MFL event will also receive an award. Semi-finalists will receive medals. The top 4 PFD entries will receive trophies. A special award will be given to the top 'new' school. (A school that is an MFL member for the first time this year.)

Sweepstakes awards will be presented to the top 10 schools. We will use the 5-4-3-2-1-1 system to award points for preliminary ranks and final standings. The top 10 scores in 10 different events plus the next two high scores in any events (figured after finals) will count towards sweepstakes. We will use preliminary ranks as well as ranks from semi-finals and finals to determine final standing in events that have a semi-final round. All semi-finalists will earn one additional sweepstakes point over what they earn from their preliminary ranks. This is consistent with the 5-4-3-2-1-1-1 system for final placement. Thus, all students in out-rounds who rank 7th - 12th will earn one additional point, while those placing 1st through 6th will earn a few more points, depending upon where they place. Competitors who make it to finals will earn points for their final standings (not ranks in finals.)

## **REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

***REGISTER ON-LINE AT [HTTP://WWW.MASSFORENSICS.ORG](http://www.massforensics.org)***

***DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2010 AT 5:00 PM.***

If you are having trouble with the online registration system, send an e-mail to Chris Palmer at [palmer@massforensics.org](mailto:palmer@massforensics.org).

## **DROPS:**

You may enter your own drops in the system until Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. Drops made between Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm and Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 pm must be emailed to [lisa.honeyman@verizon.net](mailto:lisa.honeyman@verizon.net). Drops that occur after 9:00 pm on Friday should be called in on Saturday morning between 7:00-8:00 am. If you do not receive a confirmation e-mail within a few hours or if you prefer to use the phone, please call (617) 875-1347 with drops. All changes to entries made after January 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm will incur a \$5 penalty fee in addition to the \$5 registration fee.



## **SATURDAY MORNING CHECK-IN:**

***Please call (617) 559-6544 to check in between 7:00-8:00 am on Saturday morning. If there is no answer, do not leave a message. Instead, try again in a few minutes. If you still can't get through, try 617-875-1347. (You are not likely to get a person at 617-875-1347 because we do not have any cell phone reception in the TAB room area of NSHS.) 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. MFL rules permit a \$25 penalty fee assigned to schools that fail to check-in during the morning call-in period.***



## **STANDARD RULES OF PROFESSIONALISM AND ETIQUETTE MUST BE ABIDED BY AT ALL TIMES**



***Please note: Students must be accompanied by an adult, approved by their school administration, who will be responsible for them during the entire time they are present at the "Reach for the Stars" Tournament. Schools are responsible for making sure all adults that they bring to the tournament have passed the CORI check, required by Massachusetts State Law.***

In order to be able to host tournaments, we rely upon the generosity and good will of the faculty and staff at Newton South. 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. 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.

Students found in parts of the building that have been designated as off limits may be disqualified from the tournament and asked to leave.

## IN ADDITION TO 17 OFFICIAL MFL EVENTS, WE WILL BE OFFERING “MIXED TEAM IMPROV”, USING FOLLOWING RULES:

1. Teams will consist of 2 students from 2 different schools. Competitors may request to be paired with a specific individual from another school, but requests will only be honored if both competitors request one another. If you would like to do Team Improv but do not have a particular partner in mind, we would be happy to play match-maker (randomly). In order to make a partner request, please e-mail [lisa.honeyman@verizon.net](mailto:lisa.honeyman@verizon.net) by the close of registration.
2. Each team draws two locations and each player on the team draws a character. Players may trade characters before the scene starts. The scene must start in one location and end in the other. Timing starts as soon as drawing is done. Discussion, preparation, and performance should all be done within the time limit.
3. Sweepstakes points earned by an improv team will be awarded to both of the schools those students represent.
4. Improvs must stand on their own and not rely on material prepared in advance, written or memorized. Introductions are not allowed. No material may be used that was created prior to the start of the round.
5. The basics of **C**haracter, **R**elationship, **O**bjective, **W**here (C.R.O.W.) should be established early in the improv. Teams will be judged on the ability to establish and use environment, establish who they are and how they relate to their partners, and to clearly pursue an objective.
6. Players should be rewarded for *working together* to add interest to the scene and bring it to a satisfying conclusion. This does not mean characters must agree; it means *players agree on the situation*. Players should be penalized for BLOCKING (A form of canceling, which completely denies an offer. Example: "Is that your car?" "What car? There's no car here.")
7. Creativity is to be rewarded *within the structure and the above guidelines*. A spectacularly funny stand-up routine that ignores the rules of the structure should not be highly ranked.

**Time:** Begins as soon as students have drawn their selections.  
[Time limit: 6 minutes. 30 second grace period.]

**Note:** This event will have 3 preliminary rounds and a final round running at the same time as other speech events.

