



Massachusetts Forensic League State Debate Championship Tournaments Saturday, March 27, 2010

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 March 27th at Oak Middle School, Shrewsbury.

Qualification

Only MFL member teams and their qualified students are invited to compete. There is no qualification requirement for Policy Debate. A student or Public Forum team must have advanced to eliminations at the Lexington or Manchester TOC tournaments, or finished in the top 8 of any other sanctioned MFL tournament, in order to qualify for States. Public Forum teams must qualify as a team, not individually; the qualifying team must have qualified together. The tournament is open to all who wish to observe.

There are no entry caps. Students may not double enter in two Debate events, but may enter both the State Debate and the State Speech & Congress tournament on April 10 if they so choose according to the rules of that tournament.

Member schools are allowed four wild cards across both divisions of policy debate, four wild card entries across both divisions of LD, and two wild card entries in Public Forum debate. Wild card entries are not subject to qualification. A **new school** is one which has not competed in the MFL in the previous four years; new schools may have four wild card entries in Public Forum Debate. Please indicate in the online registration system the students' qualifying tournament or wild card states.

Schools from adjoining states are welcome to join the MFL and participate at the MFL State Debate Tournament if they have no state championship tournament of their own.

Novices

A "novice" is defined as a student in their first year in Debate. Only novice students may enter Novice Policy or Novice LD. Students who have competed in previous years in Speech events, but not Debate events, may still enter Novice divisions. Students who have earned bids in JV divisions who are not in their first year of debate must register for States in Varsity divisions.

Judges

Schools must provide 1 judge for every 2 Policy Debate entries, and 1 judge per 3 entries in both LD and Public Forum divisions.

Judges in Novice LD and Novice Policy may be varsity students (Juniors and Seniors). Please note clearly on your online registration any judges who are "Novice only" judges. You must bring adult judges in PFD, Varsity Policy, and Varsity LD; you may not cover Varsity entries by bringing additional Novice judges. All judges must have judges at least one prior debate tournament.

Please note: your judging obligation extends one round past when your students are active. That means all judges must stay through semifinals (or finals in events that do not warrant more elimination rounds). Missing judges, and/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 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 be hiring 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, please direct them to Sara Sanchez at sarabsanchez@gmail.com.

Topics

LD will use the NFL March/April topics. PF will use the March topic. Policy will use the 2009-2010 National topic.

Fees

The cost is \$5 per student plus a \$25 school fee. The school fee will be waived if there are two or fewer students competing. Please **text** Sara Sanchez at 801-635-7008 between 7:30 AM and 8:00 AM the morning of the tournament to confirm your entry and judges, *whether or not you have any drops or changes*. MFL rules, and the smooth operation of the tournament, require all schools to check in or face a \$25 fine.

Approximate Schedule

8-8:30	Registration
8:30	Round 1
10:30	Round 2
1:00	Round 3
3:30	Round 4
6:00	Awards, Hall of Fame Presentation, and Semis/Finals Announcements
6:30	Policy Finals, PF & LD Semis
7:30	PF & LD Finals

Registration Instructions

Registrations must be entered on the MFL website (<http://www.massforensics.org>) by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, March 24th, 2010. Because we have to verify bids, *we cannot accept any late adds after Wednesday the 24th*. We can accept drops without penalty until Friday, March 26 at 12:00 noon.; after that time they will incur a nuisance fee of \$10. All entrants to the MFL State Championship Tournament must have paid their MFL dues before competing.

Standard rules of professionalism, etiquette, and respect for our hosts and their school shall apply at all times.

Sincerely,

The MFL Board

**Directions to:
Oak Middle School
45 Oak Street
Shrewsbury, MA 01545**

From the East via Masspike:

- I 90 West to Exit 11A
- Merge onto Route 495 NORTH (2.7 miles)
- Exit 23B onto Route 9 WEST(8.9 miles)
- RIGHT turn onto Oak Street and the school is a half mile on the right

From the South via Rt 495:

- Follow directions above from Rt 495 North

From the North via Rt 495:

- Rt 495 SOUTH to Exit 25B
- Merge onto Route 290 West (7.4 miles)
- Exit 23A onto Rt 140 SOUTH toward Shrewsbury (2.1 miles)
- At Shrewsbury Center, turn right onto Main Street
- Stay left onto Maple Avenue (1 mile)
- Left onto Oak Street

From the West and other locations not above - Google it.