



***Massachusetts Forensic League
State Championship Tournaments
Speech & Congress
Saturday, April 10, 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 April 10th by Westford Academy under the direction of the MFL Board.

Qualification

Only MFL member teams and their qualified students are invited to compete. In Speech, a student is considered “qualified” for a category if he/she has received two bids in that category at any MFL sanctioned tournaments this season. Please see the bid list on the website to confirm your students’ bids before registering. For Multiple Reading, qualification is according to the MFL Rules and Policies as follows: The State qualification for multiple will be by piece and one more than 50% of the cast in that piece. Alternatively, 100% of a cast may qualify together and may enter with another piece. In order to qualify for States, casts and pieces must receive two bids. For Congress, a list of qualifiers is available on the website. The tournaments are open to all who wish to observe.

Novice Extemp and Novice Reading are not offered at States. Students who earned bids in Novice Extemp may apply at most 2 bids in Novice Extemp towards 1 bid in Extemp at States. So students may qualify in Extemp if they have 2 bids in NX and 1 bid in Varsity Extemp. Students in Novice Reading may apply 2 bids in Novice Reading towards 1 bid in Varsity Extemp. Students in Novice Reading may apply 2 bids in Novice Reading towards 1 bid in Poetry Reading, Prose Reading, Play Reading or Children’s Literature at States. So students may qualify 2 bids in NR and one bid in the category they are entering in at States. Students may not use the same NR bids twice to qualify in two separate events.

Entries & Wild Cards

In Speech, entry is subject to the following limitations:

1. A student may not enter more than three events in which he/she has qualified, *including* Multiple Reading. A student may not use the same material in more than one event.
2. Students entered in Group Discussion or Congress may not double enter.
3. Each student may only enter once in any given event.
4. Students entered in a prep room draw event may double – but not triple enter. Students may enter only one prep room draw event.

We will make every effort to make the day easy on every student. However, students should think carefully about the choice to double or triple enter. Students will be held responsible for making it to all their rounds of competition before the rounds are finished. Students in draw events will be responsible for coordinating with the prep room staff.

In Congress students will be split into the appropriate number of chambers by blind draw.

Schools receive two wild card entries to use combined between Speech and Congress. Wild card entries are not subject to qualification.

A **new school** is a school that has not competed in the MFL in the preceding four years. A new school may enter up to four wild card entries to be used combined between State Speech and Congress during its first two years of competition.

Multiple

Multiple will perform three times throughout the course of the day. A student may participate in only one Multiple. Please include the names of the students in the Multiple from the drop-down menu on the website. Six multiples will advance to finals; in the event of an unbreakable tie between 6th and 7th place, only five will advance.

Novices

A “novice” is defined as a student in their first year in forensics (Speech, Congress or Debate); in Extemporaneous Speaking, a student may be considered a novice if it is his/her first year in Extemp. Please make sure to indicate all novices in your student roster online. Special recognition will be given to the top ranking novice in each non-novice category.

Congress Legislation

Congress Legislation is due to PJ Wexler by March 31st. Please email bills & resolutions to Mr. Wexler at paul_wexler@needham.k12.ma.us by that date. If you do not receive an acknowledgement within one business day, please call Mr. Wexler at 781-455-0800. Legislation will be chosen to maximize school diversity, subject diversity, and quality debate. It is expected that every school participating in Congress will submit legislation or receive a waiver from Mr. Wexler.

Extemporaneous Speaking

Prelim round questions will cover international, national, and economic topics. All topics will be derived from current editions of political and news magazines, as well as newspapers. The final round will be announced at the tournament and will cover traditional topics.

Group Discussion Topic Area

Gender Issues

Judges

Schools must provide one judge for every five Speech and Congress entries, or fraction thereof. **Schools must bring judges who have judged or competed at a minimum of one speech tournament.** We are relying on the coach of each team to bring judges with appropriate experience for a State Finals tournament.

All judges are expected to stay through Finals. Missing judges, 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 find a replacement for that judge. Any judge who is not available to judge a round of their obligation may incur the \$50 missing judge penalty.

A \$50.00 penalty will be imposed for each missing judge. This penalty is not to be used in lieu of your requirement; if we do not have sufficient judges we may have to reduce your entry numbers in line with your numbers of judges.

Approximate Schedule

8-8:30	Registration
8:30	Judges Meeting
9:00	Congress General Meeting & Session 1
9:15	Speech General Meeting
9:30	Round 1
11:00	Round 2
12:30	Round 3
1:00	Congress Session 2
2:30	Semifinals (If necessary in large events)
3:30	Finals
4:15	Finals of events with semis
6:00	Awards

Awards

Awards will be presented to all finalists in Speech. The top novice in each speech category will also receive special recognition. Team Sweepstakes awards will be presented to the top ten speech schools based on their best 16 scores from any category. These scores will be computed by using preliminary ranks and final placement. The point scoring system will be based on the total number of contestants in each section on the day of the tournament. That is to say:

In categories where there is a majority of sections of 4, the point scoring system will be as follows:

Students rank	Sweepstakes Points
1	5
2	4
3	3
4	1
5	1

In categories where there is a majority of sections of 5, the point scoring system will be as follows:

Student's Rank	Sweepstakes Points
1	5
2	4
3	3
4	2
5	1
6	1

Fees

Any school that has not paid its 2009-2010 dues will not be allowed to participate in the state tournament until dues and late fees have been paid. In an effort to help teams with ongoing expenses, the Board voted to waive individual entry fees at States. There will be a school entry fee of \$25. Please make checks payable to Massachusetts Forensic League. Drops and adds will cost \$10 each.

Drops

Saturday morning confirmation should be called or texted to 508-397-5143. All schools should confirm their registration, whether or not you have drops, and advise us of any last minute drops on the morning of the tournament by calling or texting 508-397-5143 between 7:30 and 8:00.

Registration Instructions

Registrations must be entered on the MFL website (<http://www.massforensics.org>) by 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 6, 2010. Because we have to verify bids, *we cannot accept any late adds after Tuesday the 6th of April.* We can accept drops without penalty until Thursday, April 8th at 5:00 p.m.; after that time they will incur a nuisance fee.

Standard rules of professionalism & etiquette will be abided by at all times.

Sincerely,

The MFL Board

Directions to: Westford Academy

You will want to get into Westford by taking I-495; from Boston the easiest way to do this is to take 93 N to 128 S to 3 North, and then get on 495 South. From Worcester or 128 it may be easier to take either the Mass Pike, Route 2 or Route 9 to 495 North.

Westford is off of Exit 32 (Boston Road) on 495. If you are approaching from the south, going north on 495, you will want to turn left on Boston Road after the off ramp. If you are approaching from the north, going south on 495, you will want to turn right onto Boston Road.

From Boston Road: At stop sign turn left onto Main Street. Proceed on Main – it will turn into Forge Village Road. Turn left on Patten. At the stop sign, (Patten Rd) enter the Westford Academy parking lot. Westford Academy is on the left. There are three entrances to Westford Academy. The first and third entrances are adjacent to a parking lot. The second entrance is one way.