



Massachusetts Forensic League State Debate Championship Tournament Saturday, April 12th 2008

The Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Forensic League is pleased to announce the State Championship Debate Tournament, to be held on April 12th at Sacred Heart High School under the direction of the MFL Board.

Qualification

Only MFL member teams and their qualified students are invited to compete. A student or two-person 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. Two person teams in Policy and Public Forum 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 4/5 if they so choose according to the rules of that tournament.

Member schools are allowed four wild cards across both divisions of policy debate, two wild card entries for Novice LD, and two wild cards to use between Varsity LD and 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 Novice LD and four to split between Varsity LD and Public Forum Debate. Please indicate in the online registration system the students' qualifying tournament or wild card status.

Novices

A "novice" is defined as a student in his or her 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 judges per 3 entries in both LD divisions and Public Forum.

Judges in Novice LD and Novice Policy may be varsity students (Juniors or 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 judged at least one prior debate tournament.

Please note: your judging obligation with 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. Any judge who is not available to judge a round of his/her school's obligation will incur a \$50 missing judge penalty.

A \$50.00 penalty will be imposed for each missing judge. We cannot provide hired judges directly to schools for this tournament, which means 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.**

That said, we are making a commitment this year 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, please direct them to Chris Palmer at palmer@tabroom.com.

Fees

The cost is \$5.00 per entry. Please make checks payable to Massachusetts Forensic League.

Morning Registration

Please call in to Chris Palmer at 617 285 6448 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 call 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, April 9th, 2008. Because we have to verify qualifiers, *we cannot accept any late additions after Wednesday the 9th of April*. We can accept drops without penalty until Friday, April 11th at 12:00 noon; after that time they will incur a nuisance fee. All entrants to the MFL State Championship Tournament must have paid their MFL dues before registering.

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

Sincerely,
The MFL Board

**Directions to:
Sacred Heart High School
399 Bishops Highway Kingston, MA 02364**

From the North: Route 3 South to Plymouth. Take Exit 6 (Rt. 44 West toward Carver). Follow Rt. 44 until you see the sign for Rt. 80. Take a right at that light and follow Rt. 80 to the blinking light. Sacred Heart High School is on the corner.

From the South/Cape Cod area: Route 3 North to Exit 6 in Plymouth. At bottom of ramp, take a left onto Rt. 44 West toward Carver. Follow directions as above.

From the West: Route 495 South toward Cape Cod. Take Exit 6 for Rt. 44 East toward Plymouth. Follow Rt. 44E to the Exit for Spring Street (Carver/Plympton). Take Spring St. ramp and turn right onto Spring St. At the end of that street, take a left onto High Street and continue for approximately 1.5 miles. (High St. becomes Parting Ways Rd.) At blinking light, take a left onto Rt. 80/Bishops Highway. Sacred Heart High School is on the corner.

From the Southwest/New Bedford area: Route 195E toward Cape Cod. Take exit 22B to Rt. 495N toward Middleboro. Take Exit 2 for Rt. 58N toward Carver/Plymouth. Stay on Rt. 58N to Rt. 44E toward Plymouth. Follow Rt. 44 until you see the sign for Rt. 80 at the stop light.