

THE BOARD OF THE MASSACHUSETTS FORENSIC LEAGUE INVITES YOU TO

**The Second Annual MFL All-Novice
Speech Meet
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2008
at Milton Academy**

**WHILE THIS EVENT WILL BE RUN BY THE MFL BOARD,
IT IS NOT A QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT FOR STATES**

The MFL All-Novice Speech Meet will be run concurrently with the annual MFL Convention (open to students this year!) and an MFL judge training session.

Details for both are attached to this invite.

The purpose of the All-Novice Speech Meet is to give new speech competitors a chance to compete in a less intimidating, educational environment prior to the start of the regular MFL season. All students who are classified as novices under MFL rules are invited to participate.

Students with 2 or more years of experience in high school forensics are invited to judge.

We look forward to seeing you on October 11th!

Sincerely,

The MFL Board

Chris Palmer (president)
Lisa Honeyman (VP/Secretary)
Joyce Albert (Chair of Speech)
PJ Wexler (Chair of Congress)
Jonathan Peele (Acting Chair of Debate)
Rob Croteau (Treasurer)
Sarah Donnelly, Nancy Gahagan, Patrice Jean-Baptiste, Susan Marianelli,
Wendy O'Neill and Dan Sapir (at-Large members)



If you have questions about this tournament, please contact Chris (palmer@massforensics.org) or Joyce (joyce@massforensics.org).

GENERAL INFORMATION

DELICIOUS BREAKFAST, LUNCH, SNACKS AND BEVERAGES WILL BE SOLD THROUGHOUT THE DAY

Because the purpose of the All-Novice event is entirely educational, we will be holding three rounds of friendly competition followed by an exhibition round by varsity students. The three rounds will simulate regular competition, but there will be no final round. Novices who compete will receive their ballots at the end of the tournament so that they can use the feedback as they work to improve their performances for future tournaments. Students who place 1st in any round of an individual event will receive a medal at the end of the day. Debaters who end the day with at least 2 wins out of 3 will also earn a medal.

This meet is happening very early in the season, so we are offering a limited number of events. The time limits and rules for each event will be the same as at all official MFL tournaments except where noted below.

The following events will be offered:

Congress – special instructional session
Duo Interp (Binders allowed, but not required.)
Group Discussion
Novice Extemp
Novice LD
Novice PFD
Novice Policy
Oratory (Dec and OO combined. Manuscript allowed, but not required.)
Play Reading
Poetry Reading
Prose Reading
Impromptu

NOTES ABOUT EVENT ENTRY

Students who would ordinarily enter **Children's Literature** should enter Poetry or Prose, depending upon the genre of their material.

Students who would ordinarily enter **DI** or **HI** should enter the appropriate reading event, depending upon the genre of their material. Binders will be required.

If there are 6 or fewer entries in any **reading** event, we will try to combine it with a similar event.

If there are fewer than 6 entries in **GROUP**, we will not offer that event and will suggest that students who would have entered Group attend the special congress instructional session instead.

If there are not enough entries in any of the **DEBATE** events to make the event viable, we will not run the event. Instead, students who would have entered the event will be encouraged to attend the special congress instructional session.

CONGRESS

Congress will run as a special event, separate from the schedule for the rest of the day. When the individual events begin their first round, there will be a brief exhibition round in Congress. Here, the novices will watch varsity competitors demonstrate how a congress chamber operates. Then there will be some instruction time followed by a practice round in which the novices will participate.

JUDGING



You are required to bring one judge for every five entries or fraction thereof for speech events and congress. For PFD and Policy Debate, it is one judge per two entries. For LD it is one judge per 3 entries. Judges should be available to judge all 3 time slots. There will be a \$50 fine for each missing judge. This fee is not to be used in lieu of providing required judges.

Students with two or more years of experience in high school forensics are invited to judge, as are qualified adults. Extra judges are always welcome. If we have enough judges, we will attempt to use two judges in each round instead of the usual one. So please bring extras if you have them.

Please note that judging requirements are finalized at the time registration closes on Thursday at 5:00 pm. If you have drops after that time, it does not change the number of judges you are required to bring. If you register EXTRA judges, we are going to be depending upon them to come. You cannot drop them after the registration deadline.

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

GROUP DISCUSSION TOPICS:

The overall topic is the Presidential Election.

1. Do Presidential debates do anything to inform the electorate?
2. How important is a Vice Presidential nominee to the election of the president?



The third topic will be announced at the tournament, but will be about the election.

EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING:

Each of the three rounds of Extemp will focus on one of these areas: National, International and Economic news.

DEBATE TOPICS: We will use the NFL debate topics for October 2008.

AWARDS:

Medals will be awarded to students who place 1st in any of their IE rounds. Students who win at least two out of three debates will also receive a medal. Final placements will not be determined and there will be no sweepstakes awards. All participants will receive a certificate.



REGISTRATION INFORMATION

The fee for entry is \$5 per entry. Duo Interp counts as a single entry as does each Policy Debate and PFD teams.

Register on-line at www.massforensics.org beginning on October 1, 2008.

Deadline: Wednesday, October 8, 2008 at 7:00 PM.

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

DROPS:

Drops should be e-mailed to Chris Palmer (palmer@massforensics.org) **and** Joyce Albert (joyce@massforensics.org) once registration closes. Drops that occur after 8:00 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 508-397-5143 with drops. All changes to entries made after registration closes on October 11 will incur a \$5 penalty fee in addition to the \$5 registration fee.

SATURDAY MORNING CHECK-IN:



Please 617 285 6448 to check in between 7:30-8:15 am on Saturday morning. Even if you have no drops, please call so we can begin to re-panel rounds at 8:30 am (if necessary) 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**



TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR NOVICE MEET

8:15-8:45	Registration (please call between 7:30-8:15 to check in.)
8:30	Judge Meeting
9:00	General Opening Meeting
9:30	Round 1
10:45	Round 2
12:00	Round 3
1:00	Lunch
1:45	Exhibition Round & Keynote Address followed by awards

DIRECTIONS TO MILTON ACADEMY

170 Centre St
Milton, MA 02472



From Boston or Logan Airport by automobile:

Take I-93 south (Fitzgerald "Southeast" Expressway) to Exit 10, Squantum Street, Milton. Turn right at yellow blinker. Go 2/10 mile to traffic light, then bear left onto Centre Street. Milton Academy is just after the second traffic light.

By automobile from the South Shore:

Follow Route 3 north to I-93 south (Route 128 north toward Route 95) to Exit 5B. Travel north on Randolph Avenue (Route 28 north) to the fifth traffic light. (Do not turn left at the fourth traffic light where Route 28 diverges). At fifth traffic light, turn left onto Centre Street. This is Milton Academy.

By automobile from the Massachusetts Turnpike:

Take I-95 south (Route 128 south). When I-95 veers off to Providence, stay on 128 south (I-93 toward Braintree) to Exit 5B. Travel north on Randolph Avenue (Route 28 north) to the fifth traffic light. (Do not turn left at the fourth traffic light where Route 28 diverges). At fifth traffic light, turn left onto Centre Street. This is Milton Academy.

MFL Annual Convention Open to Students and Coaches

The Massachusetts Forensic League would like to invite you to a series of six workshops offered for free to new and prospective coaches, as well as current students of the MFL, concurrent with the Novice Tournament.

If students would like to attend both the workshop and judge the novice tournament, that is allowed; but be sure to fulfill your judging obligation. If two students wish to share the same judge code, that's fine, but each judge should stay within only one judge code, and be sure all rounds you are assigned are being judged.

Each convention session will begin shortly after each novice tournament round to be sure you can settle your new students in rounds before you attend the session.

Sessions are concurrent, but we're going to try to videotape them all and make them available

Sessions:

	Track One	Track Two
9:45	Eric Leist will present a workshop on Oral Interpretation of Literature.	Lisa Honeyman will present a workshop on the new MFL event, Impromptu Speaking.
11:00	Jonathan Chavez will present a workshop on general forensic practices called "Back to Basics"	Chris Palmer will present a workshop on starting a debate program from a speech team.
12:15	Eric Leist will present a workshop on the psychological aspect of speech from a student and coach perspective.	Jonathan Chavez will speak on current trends in extemporaneous speaking, and how to approach extemp from an interp/performance perspective.



New Judges Training 2008

Saturday, October 11

Welcome to the Massachusetts Forensic League! We are glad that you will be joining us for the 2008 2009 speech and debate season.

Currently the MFL offers 16 different speech events at each sanctioned tournament. The thought of learning how to judge that many events may seem overwhelming. The MFL has developed a training seminar with this in mind. We'll introduce you to each of the 16 events, provide tips for judging and explain what happens on tournament days. Our students will be performing for you throughout the seminar, so you can learn how to fill out the MFL ballots. You will want to bring along a notebook, writing implements, and a stop watch. We'll leave plenty of time for your questions. The seminar is free and will be held at the same time as our novice tournament, 9:30 AM on Saturday, October 11th. To register, sign up with your school's coach.

Our goal is to create a positive learning environment for our students and make judging a fun activity. The key to success for the MFL is you, our judges. Welcome.

Seminar Topics



What to expect on tournament days



Ballot writing 101



Tools of the trade



The MFL events



Judges etiquette



Tips, tricks, and other useful hints for judges

For more information contact: Wendy O'Neill at wendy@massforensics.org.

