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***Massachusetts Speech and Debate League
State Debate Championship Tournament
Saturday, March 25, 2017***

The Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Speech and Debate League is pleased to announce the State Debate Championship Tournament. The tournament will be hosted on March 25th at Acton-Boxborough Regional High School. The tournament will offer the following divisions:

Policy: Two divisions – Varsity and Novice. Both Policy divisions are “open evidence”.

Lincoln Douglas (LD): Two divisions – Varsity and Novice.

Public Forum (PF): Two divisions – Varsity and Novice

Only MSDL member schools are invited to compete, and debaters may enter in one tournament division. Schools from adjoining states are welcome to join the MSDL and participate at the MSDL State Debate Tournament if they have no state championship tournament of their own. Middle school students are invited to participate in this tournament, subject to bid requirements (below) and Section 1.2 of the MSDL Rules and Regulations.

As explained below, participation is further governed by (1) bid qualification requirements, (2) wildcard rules, and (3) novice status rules.

Bid Qualification Requirements

A Policy team may participate in the state debate championship without having satisfied any bid qualification requirement. PF and LD teams may participate in this tournament if they earn a bid (i.e., an invitation).

- An entry can earn a bid earning a winning preliminary record at any MSDL sanctioned tournament.
- Bid qualifications for the open PF division and for the varsity LD division must be earned in varsity or open divisions. Accomplishments in a junior varsity or novice division can only be used to earn bids in a novice division at the state championship tournament. Novice debaters can also use Varsity bids to qualify in novice divisions.

Note that a PF bid must be earned as a team. That is, two debaters entering as a team at the state championship can earn a bid for their joint entry only as a result of their having debated together at a previous tournament.

When registering online, please indicate the tournament where each LD or PF entry earned a state championship bid. In the “Finish/Points” field, enter the entry’s preliminary round record at that tournament.

Bid information for each MSDL tournament is available [here](#). Be sure to review the README file at the same location.

Wildcard Rules

An entry that does not earn a bid to the state debate championship may still participate as a “wildcard”. Wildcard entries are subject to the following limitations:

1. “New” schools may each send a total of four wildcard entries across both the LD and PF divisions. A new school is one that has not competed in Policy, LD, or PF debate in the MSDL during the previous four years.

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2. Other schools may each send a total of two wildcard entries across both the LD and PF divisions.

When registering online, please indicate if an entry is being submitted as a wildcard entry.

Novice Status

The novice divisions at the state championship tournament are open only to novice entrants. Students who have competed in previous years in speech events, but not debate events, are considered novices. A novice debater who has qualified to compete in the varsity division for an event can but does not have to compete in the novice division of that event. In the Policy division, students who have not debated in an open-evidence division prior to the current academic year may register as novices.

Be sure that the novice / varsity status of each of your debaters is correctly specified in Tabroom. To check their status, click on your email address in the upper right corner of the Tabroom screen. Then click on the “Students” tab. Varsity / Novice status appears in the second column from the right.

Judges

Schools must provide 1 judge for every:

- 2 Policy Debate entries,
- 2 entries in LD, and
- 2 entries in PF.

Please note the following additional requirements:

1. These are separate judge pools, so each judge that you bring can fulfill only the requirement for one division. For example, if your school enters one policy team and one PF team, you need a judge for the Policy pool and a second judge for the PF pool.
2. Novice division judges may be varsity students who are in either their junior or senior year of high school. Please note clearly on your online registration any judges who are “Novice only” judges. High school students who are judging may not compete at the state championship tournament.
3. Judges in the varsity divisions and in the open PF division must be adults and not current high school students. You must have enough adult judges to cover the ratios specified above for debaters entered in either the varsity divisions or in the open PF division.
4. All judges must be former debaters or have judged in at least one prior debate tournament.
5. Please be sure all judges are familiar with basic round formats (speech order, speech times, prep time). We will not have time to review those points in the judge briefing. Refer newer Public Forum judges to the online manual ([here](#)).

Judge obligation.

Judges are obligated through the first break round of any division in which their school has an entry. Judges from schools with teams that break are obligated through the **final round** in that division.

Missing judges and 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 attempt 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 Joshua Cohen at jcohen1964@gmail.com.

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Topics

LD will use the NFL March/April topics. PF will use the March topic. Policy will use the 2015-2016 national topic. The resolutions appear below:

Policy Debate – Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase its economic and/or diplomatic engagement with the People’s Republic of China.

LD – Resolved: The United States ought to guarantee the right to housing.

PF – Resolved: The United States should no longer pressure Israel to work toward a two-state solution.

Fees

The cost is \$10 per student. Hence, fees are \$20 per Policy team or PF team, and \$10 per LD debater. **Please make checks payable to Massachusetts Speech and Debate League.**

Registration Instructions

Team registration	Due Tuesday, March 21 at 5:00 PM	Enter on Tabroom.com (http://www.tabroom.com)
Judge registration	Due Wednesday, March 22 at 5:00 PM	Enter on Tabroom.com
Team changes	Due Tuesday, March 21 at 5:00 PM	Enter on Tabroom.com
Team drops	Due by Thursday, March 23 at noon	Before March 23 at 5:00 PM, make drops at Tabroom.com. After that time, email jcohen1964@gmail.com

All schools entering the MSDL State Championship Tournament must have paid their MSDL dues before competing.

Registration Confirmation

As we cannot be sure we have cellular reception at the tournament site, **registration confirmation is in person from 8:00 to 8:25 AM**. If you run into unusual problems, you can try to text 617-606-2264. Please remember to include the name of your school in your text message. Please leave adequate time for unanticipated delays. Teams that are late may face forfeiture of their first round.

Approximate Schedule

- **8:00 to 8:25 – Onsite registration**
- 9:00 – Round 1. Times for subsequent rounds will depend on the size of the field and the available resources.
- The tournament will break to appropriate elimination rounds that will be determined on the basis of field size and scheduling considerations.
- Awards are tentatively scheduled for 7:00 PM.

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Sweepstakes

A school's sweepstakes score will be calculated based on the top two scores earned by its entries in each division, with novice and varsity divisions counting separately.

An entry's score is the number of wins it earns from both preliminary and elimination rounds, including byes and coach-overs. Wins in Policy debate will be scaled up by a factor of 1.5.

Conduct and Care of Host School

Judges and Debaters – Please remember that we are guests at Acton-Boxborough Regional High School. Finding a school to host the debate championship tournament is challenging, so please respect the building. Other than rearranging student desks for the round, please leave each room exactly as you found it.

Room rules

- NO students may enter any room before the judge arrives.
- Judges and debaters may not use the teacher's desk, chair, or touch anything on a teacher's desk. Tournament participants may not use any classroom supplies (paper, pens, etc.).
- Judges and debaters may not touch any items on desks, tables, or other surfaces.
- Judges and debaters may not use, move, or unplug any electronic device – even temporarily. Only outlets with nothing plugged in may be used.
- Judges and contestants may not erase or write anything on any whiteboard. Do not write on Smart Boards since doing so can cause costly damage.

Enforcement

Members of the Acton-Boxborough Regional High School community will be checking on and photographing rooms before and after rounds.

Any violation of these rules can result in a forfeit. Repeated violations can result in a team's disqualification from the tournament and possible disqualification of that team's school.

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

We look forward to seeing you at the tournament!

Sincerely,

The MSDL Board

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Driving Directions

Acton-Boxborough Regional HS
36 Charter Rd
Acton, MA 01720

DIRECTIONS (see map, next page)

From Metro Boston, heading west:

- Take Route 2 west to Exit 43. NOTE – Exit to the LEFT off of Route 2.
- After exiting, continue straight onto Route 111.
- Cross Main Street. A Sunoco gas station will be on your right.
- After crossing Main Street, take your first RIGHT onto Charter Road.
- Follow Charter Road to its end. See PARKING, below.

From the west, heading east:

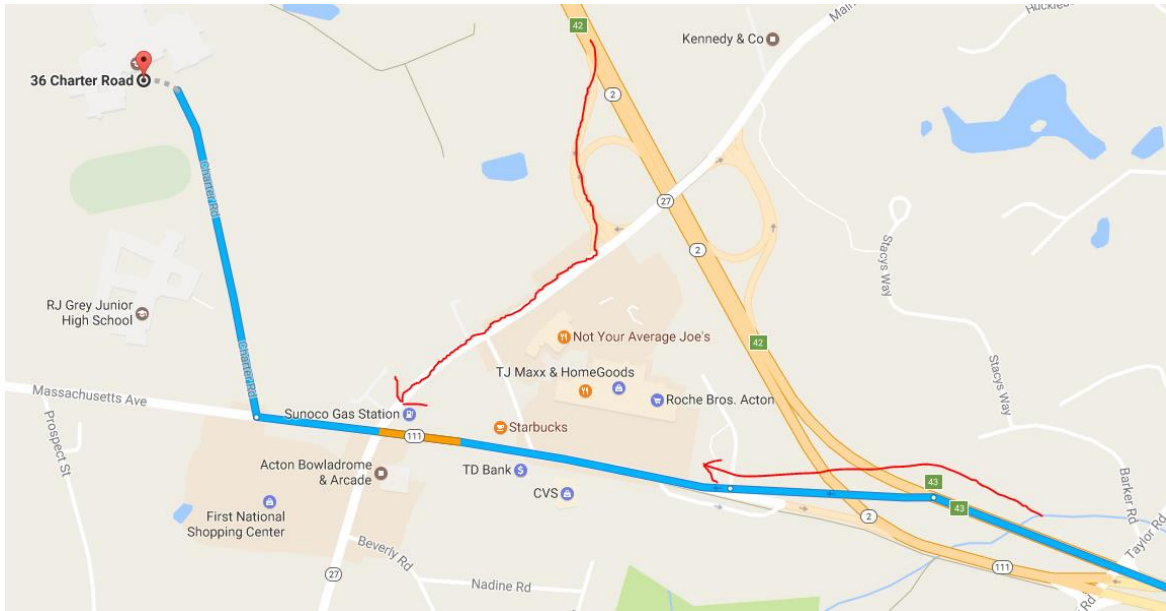
- Take Exit 42 off of Route 2.
- Take a right onto Main Street
- Follow Main Street until you reach Route 111.
- Take a Right onto Route 111.
- Take your first right onto Charter Road.
- Follow Charter Road to its end. See PARKING, below.

PARKING

- Park in lots on either side of the main entrance.
- Do NOT park in the circular driveway.

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LIST OF REVISIONS since March 1, 2017

Date	Page	Revision
3/5	3	Updated resolutions to be debated at State tournament.