

The MFA Team is pleased to invite you to a the November 2nd MFA Virtual Tournament!

**Registration deadline:** Wednesday, October 30th at 11:55pm

**Judge entry deadline:** Friday, November 1st at 8:00pm

**Fees and judge obligations frozen (nonrefundable):** Saturday, November 2nd at 8:00am

**Drop deadline:** Saturday, November 2nd at 8:00am

**\$10 Penalty for drops applied:** Saturday, November 2nd at 8:00am

Any questions, please contact Nyssa Gatcombe, Tournament Director, by email, phone, or text:  
[ngatcombe@gmail.com](mailto:ngatcombe@gmail.com), (603) 545-4752

## Minimum requirements for virtual competition

As this is a virtual tournament that will be [hosted on Tabroom.com](https://www.tabroom.com) and NSDA Campus, there are three core requirements for participating in a virtual competition with the MFA:

1. **All participants (coaches, students, and judges) each must have an account on Tabroom.com** as posting and competition is all completed online. New students can [register with Tabroom.com](https://www.tabroom.com) and ensure they are [linked to their team's roster](#).
2. **Prior to tournament day**, ensure each participant (students, judges, and coaches) have access to [campus.speechanddebate.org](https://campus.speechanddebate.org) on the network from which they will be participating. If necessary, work with respective network managers to whitelist the domain.

## Recommendations and reminders for the new season

- [Submit your membership dues and forms](#). While not required, the MFA and NCFL offer lower rates if you join before December.
- [Managing rosters for NSDA members](#)
- [Tabroom Account Sign-up and Linking Instructions](#)
- Set expectations early and often with the [MFA Code of Ethics](#).

## Registration

Registration must be completed through Tabroom.com by 11:55 p.m. Wednesday, October 30th

## Entry Fees

- \$7.00 per entry (New schools \$3.50)
- Teams (Duo and PF) are two entries (\$14)

## Drops

Coaches can drop and change entries until Saturday, November 2nd at 8:00 a.m. Invoices will be prepared by the end of the tournament day. Late add requests are not encouraged and will be accepted only at the discretion of the tournament host. Drops after this time will be assessed an additional charge of \$10 per entry.

Call or text the MFA hotline (207-370-4632) Saturday morning once you are en route to the tournament to confirm your team and judge attendance. Drops communicated prior to arrival will be waived the \$10 penalty.

## Event categories

- Lincoln-Douglas Debate: 3 levels, if numbers allow
- Public Forum Debate: 2 levels, if numbers allow
- Congressional Debate: Senate and House, as needed
- Speech: All [Maine State Tournament categories](#), double-entry allowed

## Event/division definitions

**Novice** level is for students competing in their first year of high school forensics (i.e. first year competitors). Note that Oratorical Declamation is limited to freshmen and sophomore students only.

**Varsity** level is for competitors with more than one year of experience who wish to try a higher level of competition.

**Double-entry** in Speech events is for students competing in more than one event (ex. Humorous Interpretation and Extemporaneous Speaking).

## Topics

### Extemporaneous Speaking topics

Review carefully the [high level topics for Extemporaneous Speaking here](#). Prompts will focus only on these topics.

NOTE: Competitors *will* be allowed to access sources on the web during preparation.

### Congressional Debate

Docket Forthcoming.

The docket will be posted no later than one week prior to the tournament.

## PLEASE NOTE, WE ARE USING SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER TOPICS FOR THIS TOURNAMENT

\*Having only one other Sept/Oct tournament this season, MFA felt it prudent to explore these topics for one additional debate considering that the Nov/Dec topics have four tournaments over that timeframe

Lincoln-Douglas resolution

**Resolved: The United States ought to require that workers receive a living wage.**

Public Forum resolution

**Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially expand its surveillance infrastructure along its southern border.**

## Judge Requirements

Help the meet run smoothly and fairly by supplying your required, trained judges, including unaffiliated, in accordance with MFA rules. Have all your judges finalized by 8:00 p.m. Friday, November 1st

Fractional entries round up (i.e. three LD entries = 2 judges). Third, fifth, and seventh judge must be neutral/unaffiliated for Speech, LD, PF.

- Lincoln-Douglas Debate: one judge for every 2 LD entries
- Public Forum: one judge for every 2 teams
- Speech or Congressional Debate: one judge for every 5 entries

Judges are expected to be available for ALL rounds of competition. Fines will be assessed for judges departing early unless cleared through Tabulation.

## Registering judges

**All tournament participants** must have an account on the tournament platform **AND** be linked to their school to fulfill your judge quota. [Complete or share the steps here prior to tournament day](#). Missing a judge results in a \$75 fine.

Note judge conflicts or shadow needs in your judge registration on Tabroom.com. Email the tournament host for any complex judge situations. Remember a parent cannot judge the category in which their child is competing.

[Best practices: Judge notes](#)

## Meeting your judge burden

If you are struggling to fulfill your judge burden, many coaches have success by announcing their need to the Maine listserv and negotiating an exchange, including pay rate. In this case, add a negotiated judge to your Tabroom roster using the judge's email address so they are appropriately linked.

If you still can't fulfill your judge burden, the tournament may have extra judges available for you to hire. If so, fees for purchasing judges will be \$60 per judge. Contact the Tournament Director for support.

If you have extra judges, contact the Tournament Director so the judge can be added to the judge hire pool.

## Judging guidelines in a virtual environment

- All ballots will be accessed through [tabroom.com](http://tabroom.com).
- Judges are expected to have their camera on at all times during the round. Exceptions may be made for low bandwidth.
- Due to the nature of the online settings, judges often interact with students in their home spaces. If you observe a situation in which a student may be in physical, emotional, or psychological danger, notify the Tabulation staff immediately (or as soon as safely possible).
- We are all influenced by implicit bias, or the stereotypes that unconsciously affect our decisions. When judging, our implicit biases negatively impact traditionally marginalized and disenfranchised students. Before writing comments or making a decision, reflect on any biases that may affect your decision making.

## Checking into tournament

To complete online check-in:

1. Confirm that each of your students, judges, and yourself are logged into the following (opening multiple tabs recommended):
  - a. [maineforensic.org/onlinetournament](http://maineforensic.org/onlinetournament). Passwords will be emailed to all participants the morning of the tournament.
  - b. Tabroom.com
  - c. Respective e-mail accounts associated with Tabroom.com. All Tabroom announcements are issued by email and/or text depending on user preference.
2. Once you have confirmed that everyone is present and prepared, [follow these instructions to check into the tournament](#). Check-in closes promptly to accommodate paneling of rounds.

# Awards

Tournament sweeps will be awarded to the top three teams each in Speech, Debate, and Congressional Debate. Individual awards for first through third in each category, and honorable mention as determined by Tab.

Note that ties in record will be broken first by MFA guidelines. Tabulation of awards follows standards adopted by MFA.

## Schedule online

*The schedule is subject to change. Watch the live blog on [maineforensic.org/onlinetournament](http://maineforensic.org/onlinetournament) for updates throughout the tournament day.*

7:30-8:30 a.m. Online check-in (see below)

- It is the coach's responsibility to validate that all students are ready for online competition.
- Tabulation will close check-in promptly to then panel rounds.
- Note that delays or errors in affirming your check-in may delay the tournament.

8:35 Virtual breakouts for judge and student briefings. Keep an eye out for an email blast with a link to your respective virtual briefing.

9:00 Rounds begin following briefings

## Debate round schedule

- Round 1 9:00-9:50 a.m.
- Round 2 10:00-10:20 a.m.
- Round 3 11:30-12:20 p.m.
- Lunch 12:20-1:30 p.m.
- Final round 1:30-2:20 p.m.

## Speech round schedule

- Round 1 9:00-10:30 a.m.
- Round 2 10:45-noon
- Lunch Noon-1:00 p.m.
- Round 3 1:00-2:30 p.m.
- Final round 3:00-4:30 p.m.

## Congressional Debate session schedule

- 9:15-noon **Session 1**
- Noon lunch
- 1:00-3:00 p.m. **Session 2**