

Maine Forensic Association

By-Laws

2008/2009

adopted as of Sept. 2009

Maine Forensics Association 2009/2010 By-Laws
Article I- Membership

Section A. Amount of Dues

1. Annual dues shall be \$75.00 per school.

Section B. Payment of Dues

1. A bill shall be sent to all schools before the Fall Coaches Conference requesting payment of MFA dues.
2. Membership fee must be paid in full by December 1 or an additional late fee of \$25.00 will be charged.
3. Schools which pay MFA dues will be added to the MFA Mailing list and will receive all invitations to Maine Speech and Debate tournaments, depending on their stated preference.
4. News schools may pay $\frac{1}{2}$ price on MFA membership dues and tournament entry fees during their first year of membership.

Section C. Benefits of Membership

1. The Secretary will update the membership list at Fall Coaches Conference.
2. The Secretary shall publish the membership list and provide a copy to each coach by Oct. 1.

Section D. Officers and other positions

1. The MFA shall have a President, whose duties shall include
 - a. Running the Fall and Spring Coaches Conference, and any other meeting designated by the coaches
 - b. Designating a tab staff of the Speech State Championship Tournament, the Debate State Championship, and the Student Congress State Championship.
 - c. Assisting the school/s hosting the State Tournament(s) Make any other executive decisions for the good of the organization as necessary in circumstances that urgency or confidentiality does not allow an executive committee vote.
2. The MFA President shall serve a two year term. The MFA elected a president at the spring meeting in 2004. The President-Elect procedure will be utilized for future presidential terms.
3. The MFA shall have a Vice President, who is elected for 2 years beginning in the spring 2004 meeting, whose duties shall include
 - a. Assisting the President throughout the year.
 - b. Serving as a liaison between the Maine Forensic Association and the Maine Principal's Association, including the Spear Contest.
 - c. Assisting the State Tournament Director in running the tournament(s).
 - d. Overseeing the Student Advisory Board
4. The MFA shall have a Treasurer, who is elected for 2 years beginning in the spring 2005 meeting, whose duties shall include
 - a. Keeping financial records for the Maine Forensic Association.
 - b. Serving as a receiving agent for MFA dues and registration fees for State Tournaments.
 - c. Assisting the state Tournament Director in running the tournament
5. The MFA shall have a Secretary, who is elected for 2 years beginning in the spring 2004 meeting, whose duties shall include

- a. Maintaining notes at all meetings.
 - b. Publishing minutes from all meetings.
 - c. Maintaining an address list of all MFA schools
 - d. Assisting the State Tournament Director in running the tournament.
6. The MFA will annually elect moderators for each of the following areas: Policy Debate, Lincoln Douglas Debate, Public Forum, Speech and Student Congress. The moderators will serve as a reference for questions that arise in their specific field. They will help new programs get started and old programs to continue.
7. A President Elect will be elected every other year beginning in 2005 at the spring meeting. The President Elect will have voting rights like all other officers and will have one year of training before becoming President the following year for two years.

Article II - Quorum

Section A. No quorum is necessary for holding a meeting. A vote shall be binding by membership in attendance and including proxies.

Article III - Order of Business

Section A. Order of business shall follow the procedures set forth in Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

Article IV - Amendments

Section A. Amendments to these by-laws shall be proposed any time in writing and will be communicated to coaches in writing 30 days before the vote is needed.

Section B. Amendments shall pass with a two-thirds majority vote of the MFA members present.

Section C. In the event a bylaw change must be made during the commutative season, the President may authorize, with the concurrence of all other MFA Officers that a vote be taken at a tournament already scheduled. Provided that:

1. Notice of that intent be given at least one month ahead of time, and is included with the invitation to that tournament, sent to all MFA members.
2. Any discussion and vote should not interfere with the running of the tournament.
3. Provisions are made for MFA member schools to vote by mail, phone, and fax or email if unable to attend the tournament. The MFA President or their designate shall collect and tabulate these votes, before informing the MFA of the final decision.
4. The date of amendments passed will be included in future versions of these Bylaws.

Article V - Policy Debate

Section A. Topics:

1. Policy Topics shall be those determined by the NFL and published in the

Rostrum, changing annually.

Section B. Debate Format:

1. Each Policy round shall include two, two-member teams, each assigned by the tab room to represent either the Affirmative or the Negative side of the topic. Each team shall designate for the duration of the round a first speaker and a second speaker. The order of speaking and the time allotments shall be as follows:

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------------------|---|-----------|
| a. | a. | 1 st Affirmative Constructive | 8 minutes |
| b. | b: | 1 st Affirmative Cross Examination | |
| | by 2 nd Negative | 3 minutes | |
| | c. | 1 st Negative Constructive | 8 minutes |
| d. | | 1 st Negative Cross Examination | |
| | by 1 st Affirmative | 3 minutes | |
| | e. | 2 nd Affirmative Constructive | 8 minutes |
| | f. | 2 nd Affirmative Cross Examination | |
| | by 1 st Negative | 3 minutes | |
| | g. | 2 nd Negative Constructive | 8 minutes |
| h. | | 2 nd Negative Cross Examination | |
| | by 2 nd Affirmative | 3 minutes | |
| | i. | 1 st Negative Rebuttal | 5 minutes |
| | j. | 1 st Affirmative Rebuttal | 5 minutes |
| | k. | 2 nd Negative Rebuttal | 5 minutes |
| | l. | 2 nd Affirmative Rebuttal | 5 minutes |

2. Each team shall be allotted a maximum of 5 minutes preparation time to be used at each team's discretion, immediately prior to their respective speaking periods.

3. **Speed of delivery:** Excessively rapid delivery interferes with the element of communication that is basic to debate. The manner of delivery is expected to be comprehensible.

Section C. Divisions

1. It is preferred that there be two divisions: Novice and Varsity.

a. A team will be considered Novice only if neither team member has competed in previous years in interscholastic Speech, Debate or Student Congress competition at the high school level.

b. All other policy debaters are to be considered Varsity.

c. It will be left to Tournament Directors discretion to determine if there are enough teams to warrant two divisions.

Section D. Judging

1. Each participating school at a debate event shall be responsible for providing one experienced policy judge for every two teams entered in a tournament or fraction thereof.

a. Coaches who intend to provide inexperienced policy judges at a tournament must confer with the Policy Moderator and/or Tournament Director prior to the **day** of said tournament. The purpose for this rule is so that information and

support can be provided to a prospective judge and to determine that said prospective judge has sufficient forensic understanding of the policy debate format.

2. Parents of debaters shall not judge divisions in which their children are competing.
3. First year out high school graduates who competed in MFA events may judge novice rounds only.
4. Varsity debaters with a minimum of 250 NFL points may judge at the novice tournament.
5. Judges shall not judge debate rounds that include competitors from the same school said judge represents.
6. Judges shall review *General Tournament Information When Judging Policy Debate* (attached) as adopted by MFA on 9/10/04 (and as may be amended from time to time).
7. Policy Moderator shall maintain a list of the judges known to have judged policy debate within the District and make that list available to Tab Room personnel.

Section E. Tab Room Procedures:

1. Policy Tab Room personnel shall consult and follow NFL tab room procedures (as explained in the current year's NFL Manual) unless circumstances (i.e. too few teams or judges) require adjustments. All adjustments that deviate from NFL procedures shall be discussed with other tab room personnel, especially those with substantial experience. At all times, fairness and educational experience shall be the prime concern, rather than strict adherence to NFL procedures.

Guidelines to Policy Debate and how to judge it are included at the end of the Bye Laws.

Article VI - Lincoln-Douglas Debate (adopted September 2005)

Section A. Resolutions

1. Lincoln-Douglas debate Resolutions shall be those determined and published by the NFL for each tournament event date.
 - a. For the months of September and October, the Lincoln-Douglas Resolution published by the NFL for the months of September/October shall be used for tournament events, except when only a single regular debate event is scheduled for the September/October period, whereupon the NFL November/December Lincoln-Douglas Resolution shall be used.
 - b. If a tournament event is scheduled for February and is postponed until March due to inclement weather, the January/February Resolution shall be used at the March tournament event unless voted otherwise by a majority MFA member schools.

Section B. Debate Format

1. Each Lincoln-Douglas round shall include a single debater representing the Affirmative side of the Resolution and a single debater representing the Negative side of the Resolution. The order of speaking, according to time allotment, shall be as follows:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| a. Affirmative Constructive | 6 Minutes |
| b. Negative Cross Examination | 3 Minutes |
| c. Negative Constructive | 7 Minutes |
| d. Affirmative Cross Examination | 3 Minutes |
| e. First Affirmative Rebuttal | 4 Minutes |
| f. Negative Rebuttal | 6 Minutes |
| g. Second Affirmative Rebuttal | 3 Minutes |

2. Each debater shall be allotted a maximum of 4 minutes of preparation time, to be used at the debater's discretion, immediately prior to any of their respective speaking periods. (4 minutes adopted May 2008)

Section C. Participation in Lincoln-Douglas Debate

1. There shall be three Lincoln-Douglas debate divisions:

- Novice - Anyone who has not previously participated inter-scholastically in MFA competition (debate, student congress or speech) at the high school level.
- Junior Varsity - Anyone with not more than one year of prior debate experience.
- Varsity - All other debaters.

2. Successful Novice or Junior Varsity debaters are encouraged to move to the next higher debate division.

Advancement of debaters to higher debate divisions shall be left to the discretion of the debate coach, to be based on the individual circumstances.

3. Any coach may file for exception to assignment of debaters per debate division due to extenuating circumstances by submitting a written petition to the MFA President. The MFA President shall have the final authority in making decisions regarding debater assignment to debate divisions.

Section D. Judging Lincoln-Douglas Debate

1. Each participating school at a debate event shall be responsible to provide one judge for every two Lincoln-Douglas debate participants.

2. Judges shall have completed judges' training and have the following experience. Judges' training shall consist of attendance at an MFA instructional event, or other training provided by a local MFA debate coach.

a. Novice Debate - Judges may participate in the Novice division with any prior Lincoln-Douglas judging experience. First time judges (without prior judging experience) shall have observed at least one round of Lincoln-Douglas debate at an MFA tournament event with an experienced judge.

b. Junior Varsity Debate - Judges who have at least four prior rounds of Lincoln-Douglas judging experience at MFA tournament events may participate in the Junior Varsity division.

c. Varsity Debate - Judges who have at least ten prior rounds of Lincoln-Douglas judging experience at MFA tournament events may participate in the Varsity division.

3. Post-secondary students with high school and/or collegiate debate experience shall be eligible to serve as debate judges. Such students must have completed at least one MFA By-Laws

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academic year of post-secondary education, and they must meet the judging experience requirements for each division of debate. Former MFA college students shall be limited to judging the Novice division until their third post-secondary year.

4. Judges shall not judge debate rounds that include debate participants from the same school that the judge represents.

5. Parents of participating debaters shall not judge debate rounds in the debate division that their children participate.

6. Judges shall not judge any debate participant more than once at a given tournament event unless permitted by the tournament event director.

7. It shall be the participating school's responsibility to identify Lincoln-Douglas judge qualifications according to debate division. Judge qualifications shall be submitted with tournament event entry registration. In addition, any parent/school judging conflicts shall be identified with the event tournament entry registration.

Lincoln-Douglas General:

Consult the current MFA LD manual *Debating The Maine Way* for additional detailed information about common Lincoln-Douglas event rules, format and judging.

Article VII - Public Forum Debate

Public Forum - State Tournament:

Section A. Priorities: The following four priorities are absolute and control pairing procedures:

1. Draw a bye if one is required. Draw the bye first, before any pairing. (Review rule III B. Byes)
2. Do not pair a school against itself unless required by the rules (III C3 and III D5).
3. Do not pair teams which have met before in the tournament [Exception: Two teams who have previously met may meet again to avoid the same school meeting itself, or they may meet if all remaining teams have previously met.]
4. Do not break brackets at any time. Undefeateds shall be in one bracket and once defeateds in another. If there are an odd number of undefeateds then and only then draw a once defeated up to meet an undefeated.

Section B. The Pairing of Rounds 1 and 2

1. Pairing. A pre-set schedule by number should be prepared so that schools may determine their number(s) by blind draw. In rounds 1 and 2, the schedule must insure,
 - a. No team should meet another team from its school unless the small number of entries and/or random drawing of byes makes this unavoidable.
 - b. No school shall meet another school more than once unless the small number of entries and/or random drawing of byes makes this unavoidable.
2. Byes (if necessary). Byes are to be included into the numbered schedule at random but no school may have more than one bye in rounds 1 and 2.

Section C. Pairings After Round 2 and All Subsequent Rounds

1. Philosophy: A team is an independent unit, and shall be paired and assigned sides based upon its own record. The opponents debated or sides debated by other teams from its school are irrelevant and must NOT be considered when pairing or assigning sides.
2. Byes
 - a. All teams eligible for a bye must be included in the drawing of the bye.
 - b. Until three teams remain, byes shall first be drawn from teams losing to a team still undefeated. In the event no teams that remain have lost to undefeateds, or the teams losing to undefeateds have had previous byes, a blind draw shall take place among all once-defeated teams which have had no bye.
 - c. No team may have more than one bye until 3 teams remain. At that point the undefeated team must get a bye, even if that team has previously received a

bye. If no teams are undefeated, draw the bye from all teams who have had no bye.
d. No school may refuse a bye.

3. Undefeated bracket pairing procedures.

a. Pair undefeated teams against undefeated.

b. Shuffle all cards from the undefeated bracket. Place half of the registration cards on a table at the left in a single column from top to bottom. The remaining cards are to be shuffled, once again, and placed in sequence in a single column from top to bottom so that each card is opposite a card in the left column. If there are an odd number of undefeated teams, draw from the pile of "once-defeated" teams.

c. Teams from the same school shall not be paired in the undefeated bracket unless,

i. The only remaining undefeated teams are from the same school,

OR

ii. Three of four, four of five or four of six are from the same school.

4. Once-defeated Bracket pairing procedures.

a. Draw a once defeated team to meet an undefeated, if necessary. A once defeated must be brought up from a different school, so a school will not meet itself.

b. Pair once-defeated teams against once-defeated teams.

c. Shuffle all cards from the once defeated bracket. Place half of the registration cards on a table at the left in a single column from top to bottom. The remaining cards are to be shuffled, once again, and placed in sequence in a single column from top to bottom so that each card is opposite a card in the left column.

d. Teams that have met previously should not be paired, except to avoid pairing teams from the same school or if unavoidable.

e. Teams from the same school shall not be paired unless,

i. They are the last two once-defeated teams, or

ii. They are two of the last three once-defeated teams and other team draws a bye.

iii. They are a majority of the once defeated teams (after any bye has been drawn).

5. Shadow Round - In round three all 2 loss teams will be eligible for a final pairing against other two loss teams.

a. Pair twice-defeated teams against twice-defeated teams.

b. If there are an odd number of twice defeated teams, draw a bye from eligible teams.

c. Shuffle all cards from the twice defeated bracket. Place half of the registration cards on a table at the left in a single column from top to bottom. The remaining cards are to be shuffled, once again, and placed in sequence in a single column from top to bottom so that each card is opposite a card in the left column.

d. Teams from the same school shall not be paired unless,

i. They are the only two twice-defeated teams, or

ii. They are two of the last three twice-defeated teams and other team draws a bye.

iii. They are a majority of the twice defeated teams (after any bye has been drawn).

6. Elimination: A team will be eliminated as soon as it loses two debates or loses the final round when only two teams remain.

7. Determining winners: If after **SIX** rounds there remain more than one team with one loss or less, then award placement will be determined by the following order of tie breakers:

- a. Win/loss record
- b. The total number of winning ballots (byes counting as many ballots as judges in each debate in the round where the bye occurred)
- c. Head to head results
- d. The total number of wins of opponents
- e. The total number of winning ballots of opponents (byes counting as many ballots as judges in each debate in the round where the bye occurred)
- f. Run-off round

8. Three judges must be used in each debate when 8 or fewer teams remain.

Public Forum - General

Section A. Procedure: Prior to EVERY round and in the presence of the judge(s), a coin is tossed by one team and called by the other team. The team that wins the flip may choose one of two options: EITHER the SIDE of the topic they wish to defend (pro or con) OR the SPEAKING POSITION they wish to have (begin the debate or end the debate). The remaining option (SIDE OR SPEAKING POSITION) is the choice of the team that loses the flip.

Once speaking positions and sides have been determined, the debate can begin. Each speaker shall have four minutes for constructive argument, alternating between pro and con. (Please keep in mind that the debate may begin with a con speech.) Following the first two constructive speeches, the two debaters who have just given speeches will participate in a three minute "crossfire". [In "crossfire" both debaters "hold the floor"] However, the first question must be asked by the speaker who spoke first. After that question, either debater may question and/or answer at will.]

At the end of the first "crossfire", the four-minute constructive arguments are continued by the students yet to speak. At the conclusion of the last two constructive arguments, another three minute "crossfire" takes place between the two debaters who just spoke using the crossfire procedure discussed above.

Following the four constructive speeches and two "crossfire" segments, the 1st speakers for each team will each give a 2-minute summary continuing established alternation. The summary speeches should include the arguments his or her team is winning and refuting of arguments it is losing. At the conclusion of the summary speeches, all four debaters will participate in a three-minute "Grand Crossfire" in which all four debaters are allowed to cross-examine one another. The first question must be asked by the speaker who gave the first summary speech.

At the conclusion of the "Grand Crossfire", the second speakers will each give a 1-minute "Final Focus" speech. The "Final Focus" is a persuasive final restatement of why a team has won the debate.

PUBLIC FORUM DEBATE TIMING SCHEDULE

First Speaker - Team A = 4 Minutes

First Speaker - Team B = 4 Minutes

Crossfire = 3 Minutes

Second Speaker - Team A = 4 Minutes

Second Speaker - Team B = 4 Minutes

Crossfire = 3 Minutes

Summary - First Speaker - Team A = 2 Minutes

Summary - First Speaker - Team B = 2 Minutes

Grand Crossfire = 3 Minutes

Final Focus - Second Speaker - Team A = 1 Minute

Final Focus - Second Speaker - Team B = 1 Minute

Prep Time (per team) = 2 Minutes

Section B. Resolutions

1. The resolutions used for Public Forum Debate shall be those determined by the NFL and published in The Rostrum, changing monthly.
2. Tournament directors may choose an alternate topic for the resolution if all teams are given three weeks notice.

Section C. Participation in Public Forum Debate

There shall be two Public Forum Debate divisions (*the following distinctions are guidelines only, and are subject to coach discretion*):

1. Novice - Freshmen and sophomores who have not previously debated inter-scholastically.
2. Varsity - All other debaters (Open division).

Section D. Judging

1. Coaches will be required to provide a judge for every two teams entered in a tournament or fraction thereof.
2. Coaches are required to familiarize their judges with the Public Forum debate format.
3. Parents of debaters shall not judge divisions in which their children are competing.
4. First year high school graduates who competed in MFA events may judge novice rounds only.
5. Varsity debaters with a minimum of 250 NFL points may judge at the novice tournament.

Article VIII - Speech/Individual Events

Section A. Events offered at individual Maine Speech Tournaments traditionally can include: Dramatic Interpretation, Duo. Ensemble, Extemporaneous, Humorous Interpretation, Novice Poetry, Novice Prose, Oratorical Declamation, Original Oratory, Original Works, Poetry, Prose, and Storytelling.

Section B. Extemporaneous may be combined into a single event. Extemporaneous topics are limited by a committee in the fall, with additional categories added to the limited list of each month. After January 1st, no topic limitations within the division exist.

Section C. Singing in Speech events will be limited to 30 seconds per performance piece.

Section D. In Original Works both speaking and writing will count equally.

Section E. In Oratorical Declamation the use of scripts and a podium are required.

Section F. Novice Prose and Novice Poetry are limited to students in their first year of Maine Forensic Competition.

Section H. Individual Events

1. Dramatic Interpretation, Humorous Interpretation, Duo and Original Oratory must be memorized by December 1st.

2. Scripts are optional in Ensemble and Original Works

3. Scripts must be used in Poetry and Prose reading, as well as Novice Prose and Novice Poetry

4. Storytelling is neither read, nor memorized. The category rules state that the story is to be told.

5. Extemporaneous Speakers may use a note card until December 1st.

6. Multiple characters can be used in Duo.

Article IX Student Congress

Section A. Bills

1. Format of a bill needs the following;

a.. A title

b. Clause indicating who is debating it

c. A series of statements that create/outline the intricacies of the law to be passed.

d. Finished with the author's name.

e. It needs to be submitted typed.

2. A bill must be "an enumeration of specific provisions, which if enacted must be very specific about:

a. What is to be done

b. How it will be done

c. Who will be responsible for carrying out or enforcing the law

d. Penalties for non-compliance

e. Sources of funding

f. The date(s) various provisions of the law will take effect

3. Limit the bill to specific provisions. Do not include argumentation in the bill (save that

for speeches). "Whereas clauses" should not appear in bills.

4. Bills must have a short descriptive title.

5. Bills must identify the author of the bill, the author's phone number or email address,

and the date of the Congress for which the bill is being submitted

6. Bills must be submitted as text pasted into an email

7. Submit bills e-mail to the State Moderator for Student Congress

8. Format your bills so that it could be printed with 12-pt font, Times, on an 8.5”X11” page with 1-inch margins. Bills not submitted by email in the appropriate format will be

returned to the coach.

9. Each line of the bill must be numbered

10. Double space and use “hard returns” at the end of each line.

11. Bills should be submitted to the State Moderator (Aurelie Bush) on or before the due

date for each session.

12. Bills must be reviewed and submitted by coaches. Bills sent directly by a student will

not be accepted.

13. Bills should follow NFL & MFA guidelines (website for NFL Manual is: <http://debate.uvm.edu/nfl.html>.)

14. Those who write a bill may present an authorship speech.

15. Bills are typically due ten days before a tournament.

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16. Once bills are submitted they become the property of the Congress and may be debated at any upcoming tournament.

17. The docket for each tournament will be established with input from the STUCO coaches & students. The moderator will accept input up until the Tuesday before a meet.

The docket will be posted no later than the Monday before each meet on the Website.

18. Bills get preference over resolutions when a docket is established at a Student Congress meet. Bills have the force of law while resolutions merely express the general beliefs of the Congress. The order of the docket per chamber will be set up as follows:

a. Bills written by students in each chamber will be debated first (chambers can determine the order. For example if three people have written a bill in your chamber then

the members can determine the order of those three, but they must be done prior to any

other item).

b. Resolutions that students sitting in that Chamber have written will be second

c. Sponsorships and all other bills will follow at the end.

19. Each team participating in Student Congress per meet is required to submit a minimum amount of bills or resolutions:

A. one to three students = one bill or resolution

b. four to six students = two bills or resolutions

c. seven to nine students = three bills or resolutions

d. ten to twelve students = four bills or resolutions

Each team is more than welcome to submit more. Please keep in mind that those students

who submit a bill or resolution have a greater chance of speaking more.

Section B. Resolution

1. They are usually generalized statements expressing the belief of the group

adopting them, and they do not have the force of law. A resolution is the government going on record stating that something should be done about the problem.

2. Resolutions have the same requirements as bills with the following exceptions:

a. Resolutions begin: "Be it resolved by the Student Congress here assembled that..."

b. Resolutions may include whereas clauses. Whereas clauses provide the principal for adapting the resolution

Section C. Amending a bill

1. Amendments are supposed to clarify or assist in strengthening the meaning of the legislation. In other words, they cannot change the intent of the legislation.

2. Write out the amendment exactly as it is to appear on the legislation.

3. Send it up to the Parliamentarian via page or fellow politician.

4. Wait until you are recognized in the normal course of precedence.

5. After being recognized by the chair, state that you move "to amend."

6. The Presiding Officer will then read the amendment and go through the necessary motions to seek approval for amendment debate.

7. If debate is approved, an authorship speech on the amendment will be called for. Being the person that moved that it be recognized, this usually means you! This is counted as a scored speech.

8. An authorship will be given, followed by negative speech on the amendment, followed by an affirmative, etc.

9. * Don't waste a speech on an amendment. If you should choose to speak on an amendment, just make sure that the speech focuses on the amendment, and not on the rest of the legislation.

Article X - State Debate Championships

Section A. Participation

1. The MFA State Debate Championship Tournament shall be hosted at a site designated by the MFA. The President of the MFA, or a representative appointed by the President, shall serve as Tournament Director (and shall be given independent authority over administration of the competition consistent with the by-laws of the MFA and under the governance of the Maine Principals' Association).

2. All Maine secondary schools that belong to the MPA shall be permitted to enter all students upon payment of tournament registration fees. All registration fees from prior state tournament events must be paid prior to participation.

3. All Maine secondary schools shall be permitted to enter the following participants (maximum):

a. Policy Debate - Four 2-person teams.

b. Lincoln-Douglas Debate - Six debaters in each debate division (Novice, Junior Varsity, and Varsity).

c. Public Forum Debate - Four 2-person teams.

4. Degree of participation by each school shall be contingent

upon the provision of an adequate number of qualified judges (as outlined in Articles V, VI, and VII).

Section B. Awards

1. An award plaque shall be presented to the winning Policy debate team, to the winning Public Forum debate team, and to the winner of each Lincoln-Douglas debate division.
2. Award medals shall be presented to the first three places in Policy, Public Forum and in Lincoln-Douglas debate.
3. A debate sweepstakes award plaque shall be presented to the school scoring the highest debate point total, as well as to the runner-up school. For the purpose of the sweepstakes award, the top five places in each debate category shall be considered. Each school may count its top ten best scores.
 - a. Policy Debate - First five places counting as 10, 9, 8, 7, 6 and 5 points, respectively.
 - b. Public Forum Debate - First five places counting as 10, 9, 8, 7, 6 and 5 points, respectively.
 - c. Lincoln-Douglas Debate
 - Varsity Division - First five places counting as 10, 9, 8, 7, 6 and 5 points, respectively.
 - Junior Varsity Division - First five places counting as 7, 6, 5, 4 and 3 points, respectively.

Novice Division - First five places counting as 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1 point, respectively.

4. A Good Sportsmanship Award shall be voted by debate participants at the State debate Championship Tournament. The winning school shall be presented with a plaque.

Section C. Events

1. Events offered at the State Tournaments shall include: Policy debate, Public Forum debate, and Lincoln-Douglas debate.
2. The MFA President will be authorized to cancel particular debate categories based on low number of entries.

Section D. State Tournament Procedures.

1. The State Tournament shall be organized and run in compliance with the current National Tournament Rules published by the National Forensics League with the following exceptions:
 - a. Lincoln-Douglas and Public Forum will provide a "shadow round" for competitors to allow for a 3 round minimum of participation.
 - b. Lincoln-Douglas will parallel Public Forum rules for tie-breaking and determining a winner after 6 rounds.

[See Article VII, Section C; 5, 7]
(Tested 2006; Adopted 2007)

Article XI - State Speech Championships

Section A. Participation

5. All Maine secondary schools that belong to the MPA shall be permitted to enter all students upon payment of tournament registration fees.

6. Degree of participation by each school shall be contingent upon the provision of an adequate number of qualified judges (1 judge per 5 entries).

Section B. The calculation of the Sweepstakes winners will follow the NFL guidelines which use only the top ten speakers from each school.

Section C. Events

1. Events offered at the State Tournaments will include: Dramatic Interpretation, Duo. Ensemble, extemporaneous(Foreign and Domestic), Humorous Interpretation, Novice Poetry, novice Prose, oratorical Declamation, Original Oratory, Original Works, poetry, prose, and Storytelling.

2. The MFA President will be authorized to combine or cancel particular categories based on low number of entries.

Section D. State Tournament Procedures.

1) Rounds one, two and three will be randomly set up, with speaker order set to allow each student an early slot, a middle slot and a late slot.

2) The MFA President will work with TAB room personnel to determine the cutoff to qualify for the final round. Six entries will traditionally make the final round in each category, unless the MFA President feels a clear break in total ranks warrant a different number of final round qualifiers.

3) If more than seven students are determined by the MFA President to qualify for a fourth round, that round will be a semi-final round, and a final round will be held at the conclusion of that round.

4. As deemed necessary, the final round of speech can be double flighted (half of the events occurring in each flight.)

5) A panel of three judges will be used in any semi-final or final round.

6) A student will carry all preliminary round ranks into a semi-final or final round. Final results will be determined by adding up each individual preliminary round ranking and the ranking from each of three judges on the panel in the final round, a semi-final round if held.

Article XII- General Policies and Procedures

Section A. The president shall solicit nominations from the membership and present a list of names for the MFA Coach of the Year at the spring conference. The award will be a plaque or trophy.

Section B. Tournament Registration fees for Speech and Debate

1. All student events will be \$7 per student with a cap of \$21 per event.

2. Beginning in 2008-2009 fees will be a maximum of \$7 per student with a cap of \$140 per school per tournament per event and a cap of \$210 per two or more events (Events being defined as Speech, Debate and Student Congress).

Section C. Invitations to MFA sponsored tournaments are to be in the hands of the coaches two weeks prior to the tournament. Tournament Directors generally require that mail, phone, or fax registration be completed by the Wednesday or Thursday night preceding the tournament so that they may set up rounds in advance.

Section D. The MFA will provide a \$200.00 stipend for both the speech and debate areas to the host schools of the State Championship Tournament(s).

Section E. Judge Requirements and Unaffiliated Judges;

Every school entering a tournament needs to provide judges according to the following formula:

In Speech:

Every third, fifth and seventh judge would need to be unaffiliated based on the number of presentations

In LD;

Within subsections of LD (Novice, JV, and Varsity)

Every third, fifth, and seventh judge needs to be unaffiliated

In PF;

Within subsections of PF (Novice and Varsity)

Every third, fifth, and seventh judge needs to be unaffiliated

In Student Congress: (House and Senate);

One unaffiliated judge for every two judges required

Article X I- State Speech Championships

Section A. Participation

1. All Maine secondary schools that belong to the MPA shall be permitted to enter all students upon payment of tournament registration fees.
2. Degree of participation by each school shall be contingent upon the provision of an adequate number of qualified judges (1 judge per 5 entries).

Section B. The calculation of the Sweepstakes winners will follow the NFL guidelines which use only the top ten speakers from each school.

Section C. Events

1. Events offered at the State Tournaments will include: Dramatic Interpretation, Duo. Ensemble, extemporaneous(Foreign and Domestic), Humorous Interpretation, Novice Poetry, novice Prose, oratorical Declamation, Original Oratory, Original Works, poetry, prose, and Storytelling.
2. The MFA President will be authorized to combine or cancel particular categories based on low number of entries.

Section D. State Tournament Procedures.

- 1) Rounds one, two and three will be randomly set up, with speaker order set to allow each student an early slot, a middle slot and a late slot.
- 2) The MFA President will work with TAB room personnel to determine the cutoff to qualify for the final round. Six entries will traditionally make the final round in each category, unless the MFA President feels a clear break in total ranks warrant a different number of final round qualifiers.
- 3) If more than seven students are determined by the MFA President to qualify for a fourth round, that round will be a semi-final round, and a final round will be held at the conclusion of that round.
- 4) As deemed necessary, the final round of speech can be double flighted (half of the events occurring in each flight.)
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7)

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Section E Other Membership Opportunities for Debate in Maine

1. National Forensic League --For membership in the National Forensic League, which you must be in order to participate in the NFL qualifiers please contact the Chair for the State of Maine. The fee is \$99.00 a team plus \$10.00 a student for NFL. THIS MUST BE PAID IN FULL BEFORE DECEMBER 1 IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN NFL QUALIFIERS. IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT THAT AFTER EACH MEET YOUR STUDENTS NFL POINTS ARE LOG IN WITH NFL. You can go on line at www.nflonline.org, to register your team and place the NFL points after each meet. The State Moderator at the end of each meet will give each coach a copy of the NFL points for their team. It is the individual coaches' responsibility to log those points in. In order to participate in NFL qualifiers for Student Congress the student must have 25 points.
2. Catholic Forensic League is another organization which schools can participate in. If you are interested you can contact the Chair for the State of Maine.

Appendix; Policy Debate Guidelines;

General Tournament Information When Judging Policy Debate¹

Welcome to Policy Debate! Thank you for taking the time to serve as a judge. This activity could not take place without you. We hope your experience will be as enjoyable for you as it is important to the students.

¹ Adopted by MFA 9/10/04

The following are some “rules” for the day:

- 1) Please be sure to check in at the tab room when you arrive and do not leave the tournament (even if it has been previously arranged that you will leave at a time certain) without notifying the tab room.
- 2) When you are not judging a round, please remain in or near the judge’s lounge. If we need to find you, it will help keep the tournament moving
- 3) Once you have completed your ballot, please deliver it immediately to the tab room
- 4) Please make your reason for decision clear on your ballot. Comments specific to the round are necessary for debate to be a learning activity for the debaters. Please keep your comments positive and constructive.
- 5) Do not disclose the results of the rounds you judge.
- 6) Please fill out the ballot completely.
- 7) At any point during the day, if you have any questions about procedures or need any clarifications, please contact the TAB ROOM.
- 8) Please review the attached judging information.

INFORMATION ON JUDGING POLICY DEBATE

In policy debate, there are two, two-member teams: an affirmative team and a negative team. While the format of the debate is structured, the objective and approach is very similar to one you might follow if you were trying to convince the town council to build a new ball park.

For example, you would first try to persuade the audience that the town has a problem and that the problem is significant. You would explain why the current situation or system can’t solve the problem. You would present a plan of action, including some details of how it might be funded, etc. And finally, you would describe all the wonderful advantages and benefits such a plan would have.

The following is a discussion of the generally accepted standards of policy debate. This does not mean that your decision cannot deviate from the following. However, if it does, you should have a clear reason for doing so (i.e. the round had a debate on “debate theory” that made a convincing argument for you; you have a clear and convincing reason because of something that occurred in the round). We just ask you to listen to the debaters and consider these standards, decide the round based upon what you heard, then write a ballot that gives a **clear reason** for your decision.

Policy Debate Terms Explained:

The affirmative team presents what is known as a “prima facie” case. That is, a case which would convince a reasonable person that the resolution is true. There are four “stock issues” (topicality, significance/harm, inherency, solvency) that have traditionally been used to show that the affirmative case is a good example for the resolution.

Topicality:

Aff’s plan is expected to be topical (i.e. address the topic stated in the resolution). Aff should show, if they are attacked on topicality, that their plan falls under the range of the resolution’s possibilities. Imagine that the topic is a classroom assignment. Just like a paper for a class, it has to be on the topic assignment. If you don’t debate your side of the topic, you’ve failed the assignment (i.e. lost the debate).

Neg will usually attack topicality with negative definitions/arguments that claim that Aff’s plan does not do what the resolution states. To win topicality, negative **must** chose topicality as a voting issue **AND** prove to the judge that their definitions/arguments are superior **AND** prove to the judge that the Aff plan does not meet those definitions/arguments.

Like anything in debate, even topicality is up for debate. Aff may give you counter-standards that undermine Neg’s topicality claims. Evidence and logic should be looked at and then - you’re the judge! But, please, this is an important issue for the debaters, so explain clearly why you voted for or against topicality on your ballot.

Significance/Harm:

There is a significant problem and it has resulting harms.

Inherency:

That for various reasons the current system (status quo) cannot or will not fix the problem and that absent corrective action, the problem will continue to occur.

Solvency:

That Aff’s solution/plan will solve or, at least, significantly mitigate the problem, i.e. it is desirable in that their advantages outweigh possible disadvantages.

Incidentally, advantages and disadvantages **do not have to be topical** for the plan to get credit/blame.

Counterplan:

An alternative plan that is offered by the Negative team to “counter” the Aff plan (though Neg is not required to).

Evidence Explained:

Because of the nature of policy debate, both teams are supposed to support their arguments with evidence (including citations) from experts. However, you should not ignore a team’s arguments that are based on **convincing** logic. However, again, if the one team has evidence that counters the other team’s logic-based argument, those

logic-based arguments should be considered in trouble without evidence.

Debaters are to provide a copy of their plan and/or a copy of any cited evidence or evidence cards to their opponents (and/or the judge) upon request.

Policy Debate uses the following format:

1st Affirmative Constructive (8 min.)

In this speech, which is **read**, Aff lays out the problem (significance/ harms), explains why the current system cannot solve the problem (inherency), explains the “plan”, shows that their plan is sufficient to solve the problem or to at least mitigate it to some significant degree and describes the advantages (solvency).

Because this speech is prepared in advance, it is frequently read very rapidly – this is called “spreading.” It is legal. However, debaters whose use of rapid delivery interferes with their communication with the judge and debate colleagues have forgotten that debate is a form of public speaking. Teams may ask you about your philosophy on spreading before they begin. Maine teams generally do not use excessive speed.

Cross-X Explained -. This part of the debate **should not be** considered in your judging of the debate. It is simply time for the teams to find out more details about what the other team is presenting. You are urged to listen to cross-x because it will help you to understand what is going on, but it should not play a role in your decision regarding which team wins the debate. (Note: The value of cross-x is the use of the information gained in cross-x. The debaters sometimes gain concessions and get great info during cross-x; but it’s their job to bring that info into the debate. If they don’t, it doesn’t matter how helpful it is to their case – it doesn’t count.)

Debaters may ask if the judge allows open or closed cross-x. That simply means – can one of the debaters who is not “officially” part of the Cross-X ask/answer questions. This is usually up to the judge.

1st Cross-X (3 min, 1A by 2N) – In this first cross-x, the 2N speaker gets to ask the 1A speaker questions. The same format will continue after each constructive speech but the actors will change each time.

1st Negative Constructive (8 min) – In this speech, the negative will address Aff’s case and begin to raise the questions and objections regarding (any of the following, in any combination but not limited to) topicality, inherency claims, harms, solvency, the plan and its disadvantages. These objections will be based on both evidence and logic. Neg may also present a counterplan but is not required to.

2nd Cross X (3 min, 1N by 1A) - Same as above except the actors change.

2nd Affirmative Constructive (8 min) – This and the previous speeches are called “constructive” because the teams are “constructing” their positions. Thus for the affirmative, this is the last speech in which Aff may introduce the major

points/arguments of their case. In this speech, Aff generally responds to the 1st Neg's attacks, reinforces Aff's case, and describes some additional advantages.

3rd Cross X (3 min, 2A by 1N) Same as above except the actors change

2nd Negative Constructive (8 min) – In this last Neg constructive speech, the speaker responds to previous important issues and expands the debate. For example, if the 1st Neg focused on harms and the plan, the 2nd Neg might focus on inherency and present some disadvantages which might result if Aff's plan is adopted. This is the last speech in which Neg may introduce new arguments.

4th Cross X (3 min, 2N by 2A) – same as above except actors change.

Note: No new arguments should be introduced in any of the following rebuttal speeches. Debaters may provide new evidence in future speeches, but not new arguments. Don't worry, if any are introduced, the other team will cry foul – though examine carefully whether you agree (**especially in the final speech since there is no opportunity to rebut such claims.**) The real problem for you will be to distinguish between new arguments, which should not be given credit and new evidence or “refinements” of some previous arguments, which are allowed. Use your best judgment. Please read the 1st Aff. Rebuttal Note.

1st Negative Rebuttal (5 min) – Note the reversal in order. In the rebuttal speeches, the Aff team will now get to go last. However, the Neg team will have had 13 min. straight to attack Aff's case (called the “Negative Block”). This speech will address what Neg feels are the weakest points of Aff's case.

1st Affirmative Rebuttal (5 min) – This speech must respond to both the 2NC and the 1NR in very little time AND extend arguments made in the 2AC (without forgetting to extend “case” arguments from the 1AC). **Please Note:** The 1st Affirmative Rebuttal's responses to the 2nd Negative Constructive speech are **not** new arguments.

2nd Negative Rebuttal (5 min) – The 2NR needs to make sure that the judge understands their fundamental positions in the debate as well as the reasons the negative feels it should win the round.

2nd Affirmative Rebuttal (5 min) – A good 2AR traces the affirmative line of argumentation from the 1AC to the final speech, making the judge understand why, despite the negative

arguments made, that the affirmative should win the round

Prep Time: Each team has five minutes of prep time to be used however they chose. You will time them and keep track of the time used.

How to decide who wins:

Some observations:

Be careful. You are to judge the debate based on the arguments of the two teams, not your own opinions. You may find yourself judging what some might crudely, but correctly, refer to as, “some really dumb plans.” Please remain objective. Let the debating decide who wins. If Aff’s plan calls for importing elephants in row boats and the Neg team doesn’t object to anything except whether or not the row boats will be union members, Aff probably wins.

Be positive as much as possible. It takes courage to do this. They will get better with practice. You may well be viewing someone’s first debate. You likely are watching rounds with debaters of very differing experience. You are asked to make constructive comments on the ballot. Typical comments focus on presentation style, use of logic and evidence, what the deciding issue was, and the amount of “clash” in the debate (did they truly clash on the issues?).

You are the judge. Someone is likely going to tell you in the debate that “this is the voting issue and if the aff/neg wins on this issue, you (meaning the judge) HAVE to vote...” (a certain way). Your job is to balance all the issues. Seldom is there only one issue that you **have** to vote on.

Speaker Points:

In addition to deciding which team wins the debate, you will be asked to rank the speakers and give them speaker points (except at the NFL Qualifier tournament). Please reserve points below 20 for inappropriate behavior in the round. The usual point range is 22-29 with 30 being reserved for “perfection”. Usually the team with the highest combination of points will win the debate. If you find the better debating was done by the team with the lower number of speaker points, please note your ballot with “LPW” (low point win) so that the tab room will know that you made a deliberate decision to award points in this manner. The most important aspect of awarding speaker points is that you remain consistent in the standard you use in all the rounds you judge.

Flowing - OR - How do I keep track of all the arguments? Tip a legal pad sideways; make eight columns (for the eight speeches) and take notes on each speaker and how they respond to the previous speakers. It is not difficult, but it is necessary.

Credits: The above information has been borrowed from the following sources, especially *The Emory Policy Debate Handbook*; also an online handbook entitled *The Code of the Debater* that can be found at <http://debate.uvm.edu/code2001.pdf> or <http://debate.uvm.edu/code/001.html>; various judging handouts from past Maine tournaments, and from personal experience with Maine policy debate practices.