



**Massachusetts  
Speech & Debate  
League**

**INVOICE**  
**Membership Application**  
7 September 2022

2022-2023 membership dues:           \$ 50  
Paid:   \$ 0  
Amount due:                                 \$ 50

**Membership Information:**

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Adult Contact/Coach name \_\_\_\_\_

Coach e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Coach: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Signature signifies coach has read and agrees to the terms of the MSDL Participation Agreement.

**Signature of principal/head of school\*:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\*Signature signifies principal/head of school has read and agrees to the terms of the MSDL Participation Agreement.

Please mail this signed Invoice/Participation Agreement to the address below before the first tournament your school attends this year. If you prefer, you may email a copy of the form as a PDF, as long as all signatures are handwritten. **\$50 dues may be paid any time up to the first Saturday in December (late fee applies after that)**, but the MSDL needs this signed agreement before your students participate in any tournaments for liability reasons. Dues are waived for new programs (inactive in the past four years.)

Massachusetts Speech & Debate League  
c/o Jim Honeyman, treasurer  
219 Walnut Street  
Wellesley, MA 02481

# HIGH SCHOOL PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

## Massachusetts Speech & Debate League

- 1. This signed participation agreement must be received by the MSDL treasurer each year before your school registers for its first MSDL tournament of the academic year.** From a liability perspective, the MSDL needs evidence prior to registration that your school's participation is approved by your administration and that an adult coach or advisor is registering and managing your team. This signed agreement may be mailed as hardcopy or emailed as a PDF, as long as all signatures are handwritten in the PDF. Once the form is in, your high school will be posted on the MSDL website as eligible to register, and tournament directors may assign your registrants to rounds.
- 2. All schools participating in MSDL sanctioned tournaments must submit this signed participation agreement,** even if they do not intend to become MSDL members or participate in States. This includes middle schools or out-of-state schools which may, from time to time, be invited to attend MSDL tournaments. Programs or teams comprised of students from more than one school are not eligible to register at MSDL sanctioned tournaments.
- 3. Whether a tournament is online or in-person, the signatures on this document signify that your administration approves of your school's current students representing your school at MSDL speech and debate tournaments.**

**In Person Competition:** By signing this participation agreement, your school's head of school and adult head coach acknowledge that:

- Your students are chaperoned at tournaments at all times by an adult approved by your school administration. Adult chaperones are responsible for being on-site with students at all times and for making sure your students follow all rules set by the tournament and the host school.
- Your adult chaperones are further responsible for dealing with any medical or disciplinary emergencies which might arise involving students from your school.
- All judges from your school are adults, which means they are at least 18 years of age AND have not attended high school or competed in the MSDL during the current academic year. The only exceptions are tournaments

which explicitly call for student judges in their invitations, such as the Novice Tournament.

- All adults from your school attending MSDL tournaments meet the requirements set by your school administration for adults who work with students in extra-curricular activities.
  - Students are not authorized to register themselves or other students for tournaments. Only adult head coaches or their adult delegates are recognized as having authority to conduct official business with the MSDL on behalf of your team.
5. **Online Competition:** By signing this participation agreement, your school's head of school and adult head coach acknowledge that your students may be participating in speech and debate competitions online. Furthermore, during selected rounds and award ceremonies, students may be shown on screen as part of a live stream. Students will have the option to turn off their cameras during those times, and may choose not to attend award presentations if they prefer.
6. **Eligibility for States:** Only students from schools which have paid annual dues and become members may register for the State Speech or Debate Tournaments. Teams wishing to renew membership and qualify students for the State Tournaments are responsible for payment of \$50 annual dues to the MSDL treasurer by the first Saturday in December. A late fee of \$50 will be assessed after the first Saturday in December. New programs, defined as programs which have not participated during the previous four consecutive academic years, do not have to pay dues in their first year.

If the treasurer has not received a school's dues and late fee by 5:00 pm Friday of the week before the first scheduled State Tournament, that school becomes ineligible to register for or compete at either State Tournament, even if they have students who have qualified. Please plan ahead!