

TO: Speech & Debate Coaches/Directors
FROM: Alex Huck, MSHSAA Assistant Executive Director
SUBJECT: State Championship Information Letter

Congratulations to each of you on a successful season! You and your students have worked very hard throughout the year, and you should be very proud of your efforts and accomplishments.

DEBATE EVENTS: Friday, April 24, 2026, starting at 8:30 a.m. **Directors Meeting: 7:45 a.m.**
Finals held on Saturday, April 25, 2026

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS: Saturday, April 25, 2026, starting at 8:30 a.m. **Directors Meeting: 7:45 a.m.**

Coaches/Directors Registration, Meetings, and Judging Information

- Coaches/Directors for debate may begin registering and picking up onsite school information packets at **7:30 a.m. on Friday** in the Plaster Student Union, Room 313.
- Following registration on Friday, there will be a coaches/directors meeting beginning at **7:45 a.m.**
- Coaches/Directors shall pick up their debate ballots ASAP and report immediately to their assigned room for judging at the conclusion of the coaches/directors meeting. Round 1 of Debate begins at 8:30 a.m. All debate ballots are to be returned to Headquarters by the coach/director completing the ballot.
Only approved school coaches/directors shall report for judging responsibilities as a school judge. Failure to fulfill the judging responsibility will result in a \$50 fine per round as per the MSHSAA Speech & Debate Manual.
- Coaches/Directors of Individual Events may begin registering and picking up onsite school information packets at **7:30 a.m. on Saturday** in the Plaster Student Union, Room 313. Following registration on Saturday, there will be a coaches/directors meeting beginning at **7:45 a.m.** Coaches/Directors shall pick up their IE ballots ASAP and report immediately to their assigned room for judging at the conclusion of the coaches/directors meeting. Round 1 of IE's begin at 8:30 a.m. All IE ballots are to be returned to Headquarters by the school coach/director completing the ballot and given to the IE Ballot Manager. ***Only approved school coaches/directors shall report for judging responsibilities as a school judge. Failure to fulfill judging responsibility will result in a \$50 fine per round as per the MSHSAA Speech & Debate Manual.***
- School Judges: All coaches/directors are required to be available for one round beyond elimination of their team for debate and are required to be available for judging the final IE round.
- Finals Judging Assignments for all events will be released at 12:30 p.m. from the headquarters room (Plaster Student Union – Room 313).
- All coaches, directors, or assistant directors who plan to attend and participate at the State Tournament must be an “Approved” coach/director(s) as posted on your schools Coaches and Directors page of the MSHSAA website.
- Furthermore, all coaches, directors and assistant directors must also have completed the mandatory Online Rules Review for Speech & Debate. Unapproved coaches/directors will be asked to refrain from being in the headquarters and tab rooms and may not work onsite with qualifying students or serve in any capacity as a crew/stage set up personnel for group events.
- If a school has a coach/director(s) who has not completed the online rules review, the school athletic/activities director must open the review for the director(s) to complete in order to be an approved coach/director for the state tournament.

U.S. and INTERNATIONAL EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING: All competitors shall be in the draw room prior to the first draw rather than prior to the draw time of your student. First and second round draw times will be 30 minutes prior to speaking time for Extemporaneous Speaking entries (1:00 p.m.). Draw meeting will be held in **CHEEK HALL 102.**

*These time schedules are based on the regulations found in the MSHSAA Speech & Debate Manual located on the MSHSAA website (www.mshsaa.org).

Other Important Information

- The Headquarters for the MSHSAA State Speech & Debate Tournament will be located in Plaster Student Union, Room 313 on Friday and Saturday.
- All Individual Events will be held in classrooms located in a number of different buildings on campus. See Room Assignments and Schedule document posted to the Speech & Debate page on the MSHSAA website (www.mshsaa.org).
- The eight performers in each Individual Event with the lowest rankings at the completion of the two preliminary rounds will advance to a final round of competition. No alternates will be selected. A random drawing to determine the performance time for the final round will be held at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday in the TAB room.
- Individual Event final rounds on Saturday will start at 1:30 p.m., with the exception of the two Extemporaneous Speaking Draws, which will be held at 1:00 p.m.
- Policy, Lincoln Douglas and Public Forum Debates on Saturday are TBA (not earlier than 12:30 p.m.). Attempts will be made to start Debate at 12:30 p.m.
- **Schedules will not be released until the morning of competition. However, you will be emailed a “Registration Letter” upon the completion of state tournament scheduling process. This registration letter will be emailed on or before Monday of Week # 41. Upon receipt of the registration letter, please check your performance entries carefully to make sure that all students are entered correctly into their events. If you notice an error, please call Alex Huck (573-875-4880) immediately so that the omission can be resolved prior to the day of the tournament.**

PARKING

- Parking on campus will be free again this year, so please make sure to park in the areas permitted by Missouri State University. Campus Map is located on the MSHSAA website on the Speech & Debate page.
- Only use one parking pass per vehicle/bus and leave the parking pass on the dashboard at all times.
- **Do not provide a parking pass to fans. Failure to comply will result in the loss of free parking for our qualifying schools for this event.**
- Cars and vans shall use the following parking lot: Any Yellow Lot.
- Busses shall use the following parking lots: 39, 44, 51 or 52.
- **Please print your parking pass by using the link included in the registration letter email.**