



## Fall 2018 Middle Level IE State Tournament

October 23, 2018

Dear Director of Middle Level Individual Events:

The Michigan Interscholastic Forensic Association will host our annual Fall Individual Events States Tournament for middle/junior high schools students on Saturday, November 17, 2018, at Ionia High School. There will be three rounds of competition in various speech activities and awards to the Top 12 in each event.

We look forward to having your school participate in our annual fall tournament. Thanks again for your involvement in interscholastic speech activities.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan Becker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

Jonathan Becker, Executive Director of MIFA  
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734-352-7401

Aleksandra Butts, Chair of the MIFA Middle Level Committee  
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Doug Tackman, Host at Ionia High School  
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## Fall 2018 Middle Level IE State Tournament

**TOURNAMENT LOCATION:** Ionia High School - 250 E Tuttle Rd, Ionia, MI 48846

### TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE:

8:30a	Building Open
9:00 - 9:30a	Registration
9:45 - 10:15a	General Meeting
9:45 - 10:15a	Judges Meeting
10:00a	Limited Prep Begins
10:30a - 11:45p	Round 1
11:45 - 1:00p	Round 2
12:45 - 1:30p	Lunch
1:45 - 3:00p	Round 3
3:30p - 4:30p	Awards

**REGISTRATION:** The deadline for registration is midnight on Monday, November 12, 2018.

Please register your contestants here: <http://mifafallml.tabroom.com>

A school can have a **maximum of four entries in each event**, except for Multiple which has a maximum of two entries per school.

**Entry Fees:** These fees primarily cover the cost of tournament administrative expenses and awards.

Remember: **Schools must provide 1 judge per 5 entries.** Duos & Multiples count as 2 entries.

School Fee	\$50 school (does not include any entries)
Individual Entries	\$ 8 each
Duo Entries	\$15 each
Multiple Entries	\$20 each

Entry fees can be paid online HERE: [http://www.themifa.org/store/p11/Tournament\\_Registration\\_Fee\\_.html](http://www.themifa.org/store/p11/Tournament_Registration_Fee_.html)

Checks should be made payable to: Michigan Interscholastic Forensic Association (MIFA) and can be sent to: MIFA, 30238 Spring River Dr. Southfield MI 48076

**SPECIAL CATEGORIES:** In addition to the traditional categories, we are pleased to offer **Broadcasting as a new event for 2018/19**. The editorial focus will be “the environment”. The ballot & event description is available on the website. Additionally, while fifth/sixth grade students may enter any event, **Storytelling 5/6, Prose 5/6, and Impromptu 5/6** are categories exclusively for fifth & sixth graders. The “5/6” categories are NOT open to seventh or eighth grade students. If you have seventh or eighth grade students participating in Storytelling, Prose, or Impromptu they will be in the Open division of their event.

### IMPROMPTU & EXTEMP TOPICS:

	Impromptu	Extemporaneous
Round 1	Friends	Jobs/Unemployment
Round 2	Interview Questions	Media
Round 3	Sports & Games	Immigration



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**Drops/Adds/Changes:** Contestant drops/adds/changes prior to the registration deadline can be made without financial penalty. After the deadline, ALL CHANGES must be emailed to [mifa@themifa.org](mailto:mifa@themifa.org). The school is still responsible for payment of registration fees, provision of required judges (or equivalent fee) and contestant drop/change fees:

- > prior to the tournament will incur a \$10.00 fee per drop/add/change
- > day of the tournament will incur a \$20.00 fee per drop/add/change

Drops after the registration deadline do NOT reduce your judge obligations. If you fail to provide the appropriate number of judges per your registration, the tournament will hire judge(s) to cover your obligation and invoice your school at the rate of \$100/judge. If you fail to pay for meals which you pre-ordered, the tournament will invoice your school at the rate of \$8/meal. To reiterate, schools agree to pay these fees for all contestants, judges, meals or schools dropped, changed or withdrawn after the registration deadline.

**CRITIQUE SHEETS & CONTESTANT CODES:** As you register your contestants online, contestant codes will be automatically generated by the tabroom site. If/when drops/adds occur, the original codes will not change. For instance, if you register three contestants in impromptu with codes B1, B2, and B3 and have to drop B2, the remaining two contestants will maintain their codes as B1 and B3. Please share your contestant's codes with them in advance of the tournament. Instruct students to use their first & last name along with their code when filling out critique sheets throughout the day. Duos use code & last names (eg. G3-Smith/Jones), Multiples use code and title of piece (eg. R2-Star Wars). Please explain to your students the necessity of remembering their codes and not switching with other students.

**Confirmation Email:** Prior to the tournament, you will receive a confirmation, which indicates your team contestants/codes and amount due. You can also log into your Tabroom account and see this information at any point.

**Judges/Scoring:** Schools must provide **1 judge per 5 entries or fraction thereof**. Duos & Multiples count as 2 entries. Please note: DO NOT allow judges to pass their packet of assigned rounds from one individual to another! The tournament staff must be aware of any change in judges. HOWEVER, you may provide more judges than required by simply entering them when you register in tabroom and we will reduce the number of rounds that each of them judges to allow more flexibility for the judges you provide. You can also add a "Note" to any judge like - "only 1 round please" or "leaves at noon".

We ask that you bring as many of your own judges as possible. **Any judge that you provide must meet the criteria to be a volunteer at your school (including background checks)**. High school seniors with at least two years of competitive experience in high school individual events are eligible to judge at Middle Level Tournaments. If you are UNABLE to provide the required number of judges, you may pay MIFA \$100 per judge to procure one on your behalf. Please make every attempt to provide judges as the pool of MIFA judges is limited.

There will be a mandatory meeting of directors and judges on the morning of the tournament to review developments for the tournament and the implementation of tournament protocol and scoring. Judge and contestant drop/adds will be available only at the meeting to ensure that we are able to review appropriate tournament processes with all judges. Judges will award a rank of 1,2,3,4,4,4,4 and a percentage score in the range of 75-100. A rank of 1 requires a percentage score of 100. There can be no ties in rank (except for 4) or



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percentages. Whole numbers must be used. The tournament will attempt to place (2) judges in one round of each event so that students get additional critiques and we have one more score to break ties.

**MATERIALS & SUITABILITY:** The Middle School Committee would like the forensic community to renew a commitment by participants to age appropriate material in oral interpretation. The rules and regulations for middle school level tournaments are provided in Speech Activities on the MIFA website. The rules and regulations, including precise time parameters for each event are indicated on the ballots.

Contestants must not present materials or speeches that they have previously used at a MIFA tournament. Each contestant must be able to validate the source for his or her interpretation script. A photocopy of the appropriate pages from the original source or full URL for web based material constitutes acceptable proof.

**UPDATES AND RULE CHANGE REMINDERS:** There have been changes made to middle level individual events that you should make yourself and your students aware of.

1. Contestants will no longer draw for speaking order. They will perform in the order that they are listed on the schematic. This will be the case in ALL events.
2. Extemp and Broadcasting participants should return to the Prep Room immediately after they have performed.
3. Sales and Informative may only use ONE easel per contestant. No tables or other displays.
4. Impromptu participants should follow the Middle Level Impromptu Ballot (available under Resources at [www.themifa.org](http://www.themifa.org)). The Ballot clarifies that students will draw three prompts from which they will select one, prep for no longer than one minute, and speak between 2 and 4 minutes.

**PARENTS/OBSERVERS:** Parents are welcome at the tournament. The MIFA Middle School Committee has prepared a more comprehensive document to acclimate parents to the tournament process (see the Middle Level section of the web site). If your school has adult, non-judge, volunteers, familiar with the tournament process, to help staff information stations at the tournament, please indicate the names of the individuals on the registration form.

**SWAG:** MIFA T-shirts, water bottles, etc will be available for purchase on site. Proceeds support MIFA speech activities. Please let your students know so they can plan ahead!

**FOOD/LUNCH:** Ionia High School will be offering boxed lunches. Proceeds benefit the debate & forensics program. Lunches **must be pre-ordered when you register on tabroom**. Coaches should order lunches for students, judges, coaches, and parents. Please remember to order lunches for your judges. The boxed lunch is \$8.00 and includes a sandwich, chips, and water.