



## MFL Default Tabulation Rules

MFL tournaments are not tabbed according to league rules or standard; it is simply the default set of tabulation procedures used by each tournament. Tournaments may deviate from these standards at the discretion of the tournament director, but this is very rare. Any deviation should be clearly announced and/or listed in the tournament invitation, so no one is surprised. This is the tabulation method used in the State Tournament and the Hall of Fame tournament. The procedure for state bids is spelled out in the Rules of the MFL, and is not subject to alteration by tournament directors.

The ordinary MFL speech tournament features 3 rounds of preliminary competition and a final round. The ordinary MFL debate tournament features 4 preliminary rounds of competition; sometimes, but not often, a final is also held.

To advance to the final in speech, first cumulative ranks in prelims are considered, and then the sum total of reciprocal ranks, then quality points. Ties in ranks and ties in awarding debate wins are not allowed. Speaker (quality) point ties are allowed, as are low point wins in debate. Half points are allowed in debate, but not in speech. This is also the overall formula used for tournaments without final rounds. In debate, number of wins is first, followed by total speaker points across the day, followed by opposition wins, followed by judge controlled variance.

Final rounds have three judges. Overall rankings out of the final rounds are determined first by total cumulative score (the three judges in finals and the three prelim round judges all counting equally), then judges preference in the final round (which student in a tie was favored by more judges in the final), then reciprocal scores across the day, then quality points across the day. This is the same formula used to determine who advances from semifinal rounds in tournaments that offer them.

The typical sweepstakes system is the “Lucky 13” system, where the students counted for sweepstakes are the best student in each of 10 different events, plus the next 3 best scores in any event. That means a school needs breadth across events to do well in sweepstakes. In the MFL, sweepstakes formulas vary more widely and more often in than tabbing formulas.