

Maine ADvocate
September 12, 2015

Dear Coaches,

As we start out the new season, here are some general thoughts and happenings for **2015-2016**.

Welcome back the Thornton Academy who will field a team this year. TA's coach is Sean Turley. Bangor Christian is recruiting students as you read this. Deering is joining us and will be again coached by Kathleen Costello. Any help you can give them will be appreciated. I will get all the registration emails out by October 1st. Updates on the web pages are mostly done with a few exceptions. Oak Hill and Woodland are transitioning to new coaches and are focusing on recruiting.

Similarities and changes to the 2015-2016 Competition and Super Quiz™

1. The Super Quiz Relay™ will run as last year.
2. The ART exam will have the first ten questions referencing a piece of art with a replica of the pieces or a slide show of the pieces.
3. The Essay event will still feature three prompts from which students can choose. The prompts now may focus on art, economics, language and literature, music, science, or social science.
4. There is a possibility of having at least three students in the speech room at the same time. This is in line with the National Forensics League. This will allow students to see other student speeches. Obviously we will need more impromptu topics to be available. Any coaches' comments pro or con are welcome. This is not a done deal but may be in the works.

These changes, and others, will be finalized at the USAD® Board meeting in September. I will forward the results as soon as I get them.

School Registration: You should have received an initial voucher for school registration costs (\$225) and the ME School registration for. **Please let me know by email about any corrections on your registration form. Also let me know if the form is correct as printed.** You do not have to return the form to me, only corrections. As I indicated in your email, this is to facilitate site planning, ordering costs for scoring etc. This initial team registration is due November 6, 2015. **If you have a person (and email) in your central office, I can send the voucher to them directly.**

Registration Dates:

November 6th : School registration form with payment (check or P.O. for \$225)
December 18th: Team/Alternate registration (12 members)
12 Student Releases/Codes of Conduct Forms
12 GPA Forms (transcripts)
Extras' Registration/Releases
Student Release/Code of Conduct Forms for each extra
\$25.00 for each extra over nine. (Vouchers for extras can be sent if needed)
T-shirt order (\$9 per shirt for participants.).

A reminder that legally, student release/code of conduct forms must be in before you can forward transcripts and/or grades.

Competition Dates and Sites

October TBA WSC Maine competition to identify teams that qualify for Yale.*

November 13-16 WSC Championships at Yale University.*

November 21, 2015 Preliminary Competitions (contact indicated coach for information)

January 23, 2016 Regional Competitions (contact indicated coach for information)

January 26, 2016 Essay Portion of the Competition At your high school

Week of February 1st - Essay Scoring

State Competition – Scarborough High School, February 27, 2016.

***These events are possibly going to happen. Will email as I get info about them.**

Web Site – The site includes all forms necessary for registration. I will also continue to email any needed information and forms. As corrections come in from USAD[®], I will forward them to you. These corrections can also be found on the USAD[®] web site in the coaches' area. Login with your name and password to see all the curriculum updates.

Please let me know of any other schools that might be interested. New schools can get the materials for free and the school registration will be waived. Registration materials will be emailed on October 1st. This year registration is \$225.00 per team (9 members) and \$25.00 per extra. \$9 per t-shirt ordered for participants. Coaches and volunteers receive t-shirts at no cost. Vouchers have been sent.

I am looking forward to my thirty-first year with Decathlon and eleventh as State Director. Feel free to contact me with any questions or suggestions you may have.

David Heckman
State Director
Maine Academic Decathlon