

Speech & Debate Contract 2014 - 2015

Just like in any other club or organization, Speech & Debate has certain rules and regulations that must be honored to be on the team. Below is a contract explaining these rules. Please read it carefully and then sign the attached Signature Form. Signature Forms are due in room 404 by Sept. 10, 2014 to our secretary, Madison Kalvert.

CONDUCT

At Tournaments:

- You are expected to stay on campus during the *entire* duration of the tournament unless you notify Mr. Barasch beforehand about leaving
- Always respect the campus that is hosting the tournament; vandalism is unlawful and will result in expulsion from the team (and further action if necessary)
- Always respect your fellow competitors; treating other competitors poorly is a reflection of our school as well as you
- Always be supportive of fellow teammates; remember, we are *not* "competing" against one another
- When in your rounds, always be a good audience; any behavior that serves as a distraction to the speaker will be noted by the judge
- Always dress properly at a tournament - no tennis shoes, jeans, t-shirts, baggy pants, short skirts, etc. Males usually wear a suit or slacks and a nice button-down shirt or sweater; females usually wear dresses, pants suits, or nice skirts; a competitor wearing provocative clothing is not taken seriously
- Drug and/or alcohol use or possession at tournaments is prohibited; any violation of this will result in expulsion from the team *as well as* necessary school consequences (i.e. suspension)

At Hotels (Away Tournaments):

- Always respect the hotel where the team is staying; once again, vandalism is prohibited
- Respect hotel personnel, and if they tell you to desist from doing something, then please listen to them
- Respect the other hotel guests; do not make loud, disturbing noises, do not knock on guests' doors that you do not know, do not run down the halls, and do not play music and/or the television loudly
- Curfew at away tournaments is 11:00 p.m.; any violation of the curfew will result in a student's prohibition from participating in future away tournaments
- If you are assigned to a particular hotel room, you must stay in that room all night; no room-swapping or the like
- At away tournaments, there are always wake-up calls from Mr. Barasch; the time of the call will be given to you in advance, and you are responsible to wake up, if you are not already awake, at that time
- Once again, drug and/or alcohol use or possession is prohibited and will result in severe punishment

**Breaches of the above rules will result in serious consequences not only by the Speech & Debate team but also by the school. All violations will be reported to Mrs. Agular.*

FUNDRAISING COMMITMENTS

As a member of the Speech & Debate team, you are responsible for helping the team accrue wealth. These funds are then used to pay for entrance fees so students can participate at tournaments. Thus, the money goes back to *you*. Some other Speech & Debate teams require their members to pay *all entrance fees* out of their own pockets. This costs the student a hefty sum of money. We try to make it easy for you – you do not need to pay entrance fees *as long as you help in our fundraisers!*

To enforce this idea, *all members of the Speech & Debate team* (Novice, Junior Varsity, and Varsity) are *required* to participate in *at least 2* fundraising events. This means helping run a shift or participate in any of the fundraising activities that are hosted during the school year. Team members who *do not* meet their fundraising requirement will be prohibited from participating in future tournaments.

DUES

It is appropriate after fundraising to discuss annual dues. Unlike other clubs or organizations, the Speech team puts forth hundreds of dollars to pay for your entrance fees. This money comes from fundraising events and dues. Unfortunately, there are just not enough fundraising events to accrue enough to pay *all* entrance fees. Thus, we ask all team members to pay annual dues. This money is collected every fall. Each team member is required to pay \$65.00. This may sound like a lot of money, but remember, *we're paying for you to compete!* These dues should be paid to our Treasurer, Arthur Krut, by September 10, 2014. We accept cash or check. All checks should be made payable to SOCES Speech & Debate. The checks are tax-deductible.

If you are unable to pay this fee due to financial hardships, please see Mr. Barasch as soon as possible and discuss your situation with him *privately*. Nobody will be banished from the team just because he/she cannot afford to pay dues.

JUDGING

As well as paying the entrance fees, all schools must contribute a certain number of judges for each tournament. In past years, we have had difficulty meeting our judging requirements. We have relied on the same parents over and over again to judge, and this is unfair. Thus, it is *mandatory* for *all team members* to contribute *at least 2* judges *per semester* for a tournament during the season. This judge does not need to be a parent – it can be a friend, teacher, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, etc., as long as he/she is at least in college. Judges come to the tournaments and are provided with free food (lunch, dinner, and snacks). Also, if the judge is not a parent, he/she may receive a small monetary compensation.

Students who do not meet their judging requirement will not be allowed to participate in certain tournaments.

PRACTICES

All team members are required to meet with Mr. Barasch *weekly* to practice their pieces. Mr. Barasch makes himself available after school once a week (Wednesday). These after-school practices run from 3:15 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. If you are unable to come to the after-school practices, then you can make an appointment with Mr. Barasch to meet with him at nutrition or lunch during the week. *If you do not practice for Mr. Barasch every week, you will not be able to compete.*

CONSEQUENCES

Consequences have been mentioned thus far when they apply. However, to summarize, it is important that *all* of the above rules are understood and abided. If a rule is not honored, it is considered an infringement of this Constitution and the Speech & Debate team. The school must legally be informed of all misdemeanors, so any serious breach of Speech loyalty is a school offense.

CONTRACT: SIGNATURE FORM

Now that you have read the Speech & Debate Contract, please fill out this form stating that you agree to take responsibility for your actions and follow the guidelines put forth by this Contract.

Student's Name: _____ Grade: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Homeroom: _____

Home Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Parent E-mail Address: _____

“I have read and understand the above Speech & Debate contract. I understand that I am responsible for my own actions and that any misdemeanor will result in serious consequences, such as expulsion from the team.”

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____