

RULES OF CONDUCT FOR LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL FORENSICS AND DEBATE SQUAD

BEFORE THE TOURNAMENT:

- All appropriate paperwork must be on file with coaches.
- Sign up for a minimum of two tournaments per semester during the regular season (October through February) to meet the class requirements. Signing up for a tournament, but failing to compete, will result in a 2 tournament suspension and possible class consequences. If you sign up for a tournament and cannot compete, you may be charged the cost of your entry fees.
- Homework should be submitted to teachers in advance if missing class for a tournament.
- Make arrangements for transportation to and from the high school. The coach is not responsible for your transportation to and from your home. For junior high students who leave from school, plan for your parents to pick you up at the high school.
- **BE ON TIME** for the bus. Competitors may be forced to forfeit a round or lose team points if we are late for the tournament. **The bus will leave without you.**
- Your general grooming should be of high quality. Dress should always be business professional, not preppy, punk, or other current fads. Suits and ties for males, and dresses, pant or dress suits for females. Avoid excessive jewelry, dangling earrings, body piercings and tattoos in places that show. Both males and females should keep hair out of the face. Hair must be a natural hair color (not necessarily your natural color). No face piercings allowed. Students displaying inappropriate dress may be kept out of competition at the coaches' discretion.
- Be prepared. You may sign up for a tournament, but a coach will only let you travel to compete if you are ready for competition. Work diligently to succeed.
- Make sure your parents have the tournament schedule handed out at the beginning of the year, and also available through the debate blackboard site. Tournaments may be added to this schedule to give students more opportunities to travel if needed.
- Students must maintain eligibility to travel. MSHSAA requires that you are currently enrolled in, and passing, six of your classes. This also carries through with you to the next semester. (i.e. if a student does not meet the requirement first semester, he will be ineligible for travel second semester). Students in Competitive Theatre and Debate courses **MUST** earn a "B" in each respective course **AND** receive coach approval to return the following year(s).

RULES OF CONDUCT WHILE ON THE BUS:

- Keep conversation quiet out of respect for the bus driver and your own safety.
- No playing music loud (I-pods and other portable devices with headphones are allowed). No singing.
- No standing or moving from seat to seat while bus is moving.
- Public displays of affection will not be tolerated. Males and females will not be allowed to sit in the same seats after dark.
- If the temperature on the bus is not comfortable, tell the coach quietly and the coach will politely request that the temperature be adjusted.
- Should you need to drive separately to the tournament, you must secure written approval from the principal and a guardian prior to the leave time for the tournament.
- Should you wish to be picked up early from a tournament, **ONLY** a parent and/or guardian may do so. Your parent or guardian must check in with the coach before leaving.

DURING THE TOURNAMENT:

- Check posted schedules and arrive to rounds 10-15 minutes early.
- Be wary of what you say—people can hear you. Be kind and courteous to all peers, coaches, and judges. You never know who will be judging your next round.
- Personally insulting or bullying an opponent or teammate will not be tolerated.
- Coaches from other schools and host tournament sites are to be treated with reverence and respect.
- You must stay ON tournament grounds at all times.
- Parents may supply snacks for a tournament, but students should plan on bringing money for concessions at the tournament.
- Please contact parents to pick you up BEFORE we arrive back at the high school (the coach should let you know when we are 20 miles away). **Upon return to LHS, a parent has 10 minutes from the time quoted on the bust to pick up their student. If the same student is waiting longer than 10 minutes to be picked up three times in the season, then the student will not be permitted to travel with the team or other arrangements will be made so that the student is transported home on time.**

DISCIPLINARY ACTION:

Curfews for overnight tournaments will be announced and strictly enforced; students are reminded that any curfew violation is considered a serious infraction. If curfew is broken students will receive a 2-tournament suspension and will be banned from all future overnight tournaments.

Use or possession of tobacco, alcohol or drugs during a tournament weekend will result in consequences from the student handbook and removal from the team.

Destruction of any property during a tournament weekend will result in consequences from the student handbook and banned from over night travel.

Depending upon the seriousness of the offense, disciplinary action will consist of:

- a. Immediate removal from the tournament by parent.
- b. Suspension from a minimum of 2 tournaments.
- c. No travel to overnight tournaments
- d. School disciplinary action.
- e. All of the above.

Use or possession of alcohol or drugs during the tournament season outside of school will result in the following disciplinary action:

- a. Suspension from a minimum of 2 tournaments, first offense.
- b. Removal from the team, repeat offense.

Good sportsmanship is required at all times. This means showing respect to peers, coaches, and other teams. Violations of good sportsmanship will result in a 2-tournament (minimum) suspension from the team at the discretion of any traveling coach. Good sportsmanship includes all forms of communication both face-to-face and in writing (ex: online communication). Respect is expected with peers, coaches, and judges affiliated with Liberty and all other participating teams.

Tim Baldwin and Mick Turpin, Head Debate and Forensics Coaches
Don Johnson, Assistant Coach
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