

Martin County High School
Debate and Forensics
Team Contract

As a nationally competitive forensics team, certain standards and regulations must be followed in order to ensure continued success. Each member of the team has an obligation to adhere to all stipulated guidelines. It is the responsibility of each individual member, as well as coaches, officers, and parents to understand and uphold these provisions in order to ensure a positive learning environment where everyone is safe, responsible, and successful. The goal of the Debate and Forensics Team is to provide all active members an opportunity to succeed; this can only be accomplished if everyone acts in the best interest of the team. The following guidelines have been considered with respect to specific league bylaws, to which we owe prior obligation.

TEAM POLICY

1. All members must complete all necessary papers in a timely manner in order to participate. Forms include but are not limited to the following: medical release, permission to travel, signed contract, student enrollment forms, PBCFL Guidelines of Behavior, PBCFL Guidelines for Competition Attire, and payment of enrollment fee (dues).
2. Students are responsible for being informed about all team activities including tournament dates, meetings, practices, and fundraisers. It is recommended for students to attend scheduled meetings.
3. Team members participating in the Debate class in the fall semester are required to attend a minimum of three district tournaments. Each tournament counts as a project/test grade. Failure to attend the tournament requirement will result in a zero project grade for each tournament left unfulfilled. Once the competition requirement is fulfilled, students may observe an event of their choosing. If a student completes his or her tournament requirement but attends subsequent tournaments, he or she will be awarded an extra project grade. It should be noted that observing will not constitute any extra-credit. *Due to unforeseen circumstances, students will only be able to attend 4 tournaments that are paid for with annual dues. If a student wishes to attend more than the 4 tournaments it will cost an additional \$15 per addition tournament.*
4. In order to keep competitions running smoothly, all team members are expected to provide judges for tournaments. Except in times of need and extenuating circumstances as determined by coaches and officers, each student must provide one judge per year. Judges may be parents, older siblings over 18 years old, adult friends of the family, etc. In accordance to the PBCFL policy, new judges must go through training before judging a tournament. New judges will have the opportunity to be trained on the MCHS campus or at one of the first two PBCFL tournaments. Failure to provide a judge may result in a student being dropped from competition and subsequent fees being paid at the expense of the student. If a student can absolutely not provide a judge, he or she is responsible for paying a \$15 judging fee to MCHS Debate.
5. Debate and Forensics are expensive activities; therefore, each student is required to pay an enrollment fee. Dues are \$90 and payment is required by date set forth by the coach and officers. Families that have difficulty meeting this sum are encouraged to speak to the coach to set up a payment plan.
6. **ALL MCHS SCHOOL RULES APPLY TO ANY/ALL DEBATE ACTIVITY.**

DUES PAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

National Forensics League Membership
Palm Beach Catholic Forensic League Membership
Florida Forensics League Membership
Registration for THREE tournaments
Bus Fee for THREE tournaments
Debate T-shirt

FUNDRAISING

1. Funds will be used to subsidize travel and tournament costs, purchase necessary materials for the team, and pay any expenses that may be incurred throughout the year.
2. Fundraising requirements will be per semester and based off of the amount of tournaments during that semester.
 - a. All students participating in the club and class will be required to participate in the various fundraising activities that the team sets up.
 - b. Fund raisers will be held throughout the year. Specific fundraisers may include the following:
 - i. Candy sales
 - ii. Take on a Tiger
 - iii. Car Washes

iv. Dessert Theatre/ Spaghetti Dinner

DISTRICT TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES

1. All students must be in accordance with all rules stipulated on the **PBCFL GUIDELINES FOR BEHAVIOR** and the **PBCFL GUIDELINES FOR COMPETITION ATTIRE**.
 - a. Any student who is determined to be in violation of the dress code will not be permitted onto the bus and will be responsible for any resulting fees.
2. Our team will maintain the highest standard of professionalism possible **without regard to the appearance of the other teams**.
3. A school bus will be the method of transportation to every local and some instate tournaments. Every student must ride the bus, unless prior arrangements have made with permission of the coach to ride with a judge the student has provided.
4. Every competitor must be prepared to compete in any tournament that he or she has registered to attend. If it is deemed that the individual is not prepared, then he or she will be dropped from competition. Credit will not be given for a tournament from which a student is dropped, and a drop fee must be paid.
5. Inability to attend a tournament a student has registered for should be brought to the attention of the officers or coaches as soon as possible. The latest time to drop without incurring a drop fee is the Monday before the scheduled tournament. If no notice is given prior to the time of departure for the competition, the student will be dropped automatically.
6. Students that compete in any qualifying tournament must be certain they will attend the district, state, or national tournament if he or she qualifies. If ability to attend a tournament is uncertain, the student should not compete in the qualifying tournament.

NATIONAL TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES

1. MCHS Debate encourages every student to compete in every tournament he or she is invited to attend. In order to represent the MCHS team, the coach and student officers will notify students by letter of their invitation to participate in national tournaments. Attendance to national tournaments is by invitation only. Qualifications for National Tournaments are as follows:
 - a. Placed in an event (1st-3rd suggested; 4th-6th at the discretion of the coach)
 - b. Participated in at least 2 PBCFL district tournaments prior to national tournament
 - c. Demonstrated superlative behavior in any and all such school eventsWhen appropriate, coach may override qualifications for national tournaments selection.
2. Students are responsible for whatever costs remain for transportation, lodging, judges, etc. The 'per student' amount will be listed with an invitation to participate in the tournament.
3. Students should not commit to attending the tournament if they are not serious about attending; costs are dependant upon the amount of students attending.
4. All students in attendance should conduct themselves respectfully and responsibly.
5. Professional attire is required for all competitions. At times when professional attire is *not* required, we will follow the MCHS dress code. **Team members must appear in a manner that conveys that they respect themselves.**
6. It is the responsibility of each student to be sure that his or her parents or guardians are notified of departure and arrival times, location of the tournament, itinerary information, etc.
7. All students will be assigned to hotel rooms by the coach. Any concerns about room assignments should be discussed with the coach.
8. Students must adhere to the curfew imposed by the coach or other supervising adult(s). Any violation thereof will be dealt with at the discretion of the coach. Punishment may include but is not limited to suspension of travel privileges and a written referral to the administration upon return to school. **Curfew means you are in your own designated hotel room.**
9. Whenever there are boys and girls in the same hotel room, the door should remain open at all times.
10. Students are responsible for all fees charged by the hotel to their room.
11. Students should have a reasonable amount of money for meals and incidentals. Meals not provided at the tournament will be arranged by the coaches and officers.
12. **ALL SCHOOL RULES MUST BE ADHERED TO**

Officer information will be provided later in the year to those who are interested and who are qualified to be considered.