

Not Up for Debayte

Rules/Procedures

2017-2018

FINE PRINT:

1. All students must adhere to School Board of Broward County policies. If an infraction happens during a time when the student is under the responsibility of the Cypress Bay Debate Team, the coaches will handle violation of any policies with appropriate school (district) officials/law enforcement officials. Any policy violation may result in immediate probation/suspension or removal from the team in addition to normal disciplinary procedures.

2. Per SBBC policy, activities, including but not limited to, the use of tobacco and alcohol, gambling, harassment of another individual for any reason, theft, or acts of vandalism will not be permitted. Violation of these rules will result in suspension/removal from the team and/or discipline by the administration.

3. Respect for coaches and team members will be maintained at all times. Any activities that might create or contribute to a hostile or uncomfortable environment will not be tolerated.

4. No student will attend any tournament unaffiliated with Cypress DeBAYte or affiliated with Cypress DeBAYte to a tournament that is not present on the team schedule. A tournament may be added or subtracted from the team schedule, but this is at the discretion of the coaching staff. Students are also unable to make their own travel reservations to a team tournament without prior approval from the coaching staff due to an extenuating circumstance (i.e. college visit). This is due to SBBC Policy, travel logistics, finances, and, most importantly, team reputation and unity.

5. At all times, students are considered to be representatives of the Cypress Debayte team. This means they must conduct themselves in the best manner possible both in-person as well as digitally (e-mail, text message and social media). Good behavior is expected at all times, whether or not a coach is present. Any inappropriate behavior will be addressed at the discretion of the coaching staff.

PRACTICE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Students are expected to attend all practices. Being a member of a nationally ranked debate team is a privilege. If a team member accumulates more than 3 absences within a quarter, they will be put on probation for the following quarter. If a student is placed on probation they must maintain good attendance to move off of probation the following quarter. If you are more than 30 minutes late to any meeting it will be considered an absence. For ALL absences, team members MUST notify their event captain(s) at least 24 hours in advance. You may make up practices to avoid probation at

the discretion of your event captain.

2. All team members are required to come to practice prepared, and be respectful to their teammates and coaches during practice.

FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS:

1. All returning members will be required to pay \$200 dues. These dues will be used to purchase t-shirts, supplies, league memberships, external coaching, and other team expenditures. All novice competitors will be required to pay \$100 dues. Once new competitors become NSDA members, they will also be required to pay an additional one-time fee of \$25 for the National Speech and Debate Association's Honor Society membership (100% of which goes directly to the NSDA). Dues should be paid by no later than Friday, September 7th. *Students with demonstrated financial need should talk to the coaching staff about ways to offset the costs of dues.*

2. After the completion and approval of their 2017-2018 Payment Agreement Form, the students and parents are then bound by (but not limited to) that agreement. If a special circumstance arises please contact the director immediately. This will allow all parties involved the ability to make travel plans earlier, and most importantly, keep costs lower. If a student is no longer permitted/able to attend a tournament after paying, the deposit can either be refunded or rolled over as credit for another tournament. However, if AIRFARE/TRAVEL has already been purchased, the student is solely responsible for the ENTIRE cost of the ticket in addition to any tournament drop fees.

3. There will be many fundraising opportunities throughout the year. We will have MANDATORY team fundraisers (The Tradition Tournament on October 7-9, a team-wide fundraiser, FFL Regionals Feb. 2-3, and Novice States April 22 & 23). All team members must participate in the **entirety** of these fundraisers. Additionally, no fewer than two additional individual fundraisers will be provided (one in November and one in January) for students to raise their own funds.

4. All travel tournaments in the first semester will not exceed the cap indicated on the travel agreement form. If travel expenses are above \$650, the team will subsidize costs. Berkeley/Harvard, TOC, and NSDA Nationals will be kept as low as possible, but cannot be guaranteed due to the nature/high cost of the tournaments.

LOCAL TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES:

1. Sign-ups for local and national tournaments will ONLY take place online through the Debyte website. Sign-ups for After School tournaments will ONLY take place in Room 432 on the Novice DeBAYte board. Sign-ups will take place approximately 3-4 weeks prior to the tournament date, and students who sign-up will be obligated for the appropriate fee. Students should obtain parental permission before signing-up and paying for local tournaments. Coaches will not communicate with parents about these sign-ups.

2. A "trip sheet" for each tournament will be available on the team's website,

www.cypressdebayte.com, approximately one week in advance. Trip sheets will be also be posted for students on Facebook. It is the STUDENT'S obligation to provide this information to the parents. Trip sheets will NOT be sent home with students or electronically.

3. A SBBC Permission Slip is also required for students to attend ANY tournament. A master Permission Slip for ALL local tournaments will be distributed at the September 1 team meeting. National tournament Permission Slips will be handed-out the Monday or Tuesday of a national tournament, and must be returned to the coaching staff on/before the last day we are present at school.

4. Students/Parents are responsible for transportation to and from tournaments in the tri-county area. Students should take responsibility to call parents before the beginning of awards or their last round to allow appropriate drive time to the competition to attempt to minimize delays in pickup. Students who are picked-up more than 15 minutes late from the conclusion of awards will be prohibited from attending the next local tournament. Additionally, students may not leave early from tournaments without prior approval by the coach in charge.

5. Promptness is key. Plan to arrive 15 minutes before scheduled time at any meeting place. Tardiness jeopardizes other members of the team.

6. NO ONE will be permitted to leave a tournament until after the conclusion of their final round (on preliminary days) or awards (on the last day). If there is an extenuating circumstance, prior approval must be obtained directly from the coaches in charge. Parents are ALWAYS welcomed to join us for awards!

7. All tournament host rules must be followed. Specifically, if students fail to show-up to a tournament for which they registered, they are responsible for any associated "drop fee." These fees can range from \$25-\$200. Extenuating circumstances (sickness, accident, etc.) are frequently not taken into consideration by tournament hosts.

NATIONAL TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES:

1. Sign-ups for national tournaments must be done via the aforementioned travel intent form and online through the website. A failure to pay on time will result in a "drop" from the tournament. It is paramount that all fees are paid on time, or arrangements are made in advance. This is vital to the team's overall ability to function.

2. A "trip sheet" for each tournament will be available on the team's website, www.cypressdebayte.com, approximately one week beforehand. Trip sheets will be also be posted for students on Facebook. It is the STUDENT'S obligation to provide this information to the parents. Trip sheets will NOT be sent home with students or electronically.

3. A SBBC Permission Slip is also required for students to attend ANY tournament. A

master Permission Slip for ALL local tournaments will be distributed at the September 7 team meeting. National tournament Permission Slips will be handed-out the Monday or Tuesday of a national tournament, and must be returned to the coaching staff on/before the last day we are present at school.

4. Students/Parents are responsible for transporting students to and from the airport. We always meet at the ticket counter of the airline we are flying. No one will check in or go through security until everyone is accounted for or a member of the coaching staff approves for a group to proceed to the gate. For pick-up, please meet students at Baggage Claim. Parents are expected to arrive early, as the coaches are not required (per SBBC policy) to stay with students.

5. Like at local tournaments, promptness is key. Plan to arrive 15 minutes before scheduled time at any meeting place (airport, hotel lobby, campus location, etc.) Tardiness jeopardizes other members of the team.

6. Students are to be on their best behavior in the hotel rooms. After curfew, students are not allowed out of their room (even to get ice) until they leave to meet in the lobby the following morning. There are no exceptions to this rule. Failure to abide by this rule could result in suspension/removal from the team.

7. Some national tournaments provide meals, but many do not. Some national tournaments are all in one building, but many are not. If students travel anywhere outside of the central campus, building, etc., they MUST notify the coach/chaperone to whom they are assigned where they are going. In short, communication is key to safety, and anything less than the utmost concern about both is unacceptable.

8. All tournament host rules must be followed. Any additional tournament-specific rules will be stipulated on the Trip Sheet.

9. Like at local tournaments, if a student or team drops out of the tournament after the deadline, the school is assessed a fee for dropping the entry. If a student drops-out from a tournament after paying the deposit and more travel expenses have been incurred, the student is responsible for paying all costs associated with that drop, including any forfeited entry fees, penalties or late charges. This includes anyone who drops out due to unforeseen circumstances, or a coaching staff member's decision. If a student who competes in a partnered event drops from a tournament, he or she will also be responsible for paying the drop fees associated with their partner dropping from the tournament.

10. Finally, the coaches ultimately decide who will and who will not attend a given tournament. While tournament attendance is encouraged, the coaches always have the final word about whether a particular student will attend and compete. There are a few mandatory tournaments indicated on the pay agreement. If you are invited to attend those tournaments you must compete unless you notify the director in writing 2 months prior to the tournament. These include: Regionals, District, State, Nationals, The Tradition, and Novice States.

TOURNAMENT ATTIRE:

1. Team members will wear proper competition attire at all times. For ladies, this means a suit or nice slacks/skirt and a blouse, shirt, or camisole with a sweater/blazer. Heels are required, but they should be professional and wearable (Dark-colored flats or TOMS are acceptable alternatives to wear in between rounds if you wish to take off your heels. No sandals or tennis shoes are allowed). Pantyhose/stockings/tights must be worn at all times, and jewelry should be kept to a minimum. Make-up (at least blush and mascara) is also required. For gentlemen, this means full suit and tie or at least slacks, button-down, and a tie. Dress shoes, dress socks, and a belt are required, and all shirts must be tucked-in. For all genders, hair must be “fixed” and out of your face/eyes. If you are unclear about what constitutes as appropriate attire, meet with a member of the coaching staff. Policy/LD debaters will follow the Policy Debate/LD Dress Code addendum for national tournaments.

2. For travel tournaments, students are required to wear Cypress Debyte tracksuits and any Cypress Debyte t-shirt on all outbound flights. In lieu of the track pants, team members may opt to wear black leggings (NOT tights), black athletic shorts, or jeans. Students may wear whatever they choose on the inbound flight, but are prohibited from wearing anything even closely resembling pajamas or sweatpants. Debyte attire is of course encouraged on both legs of the trip.

JUDGING REQUIREMENTS:

1. The Cypress Debyte Team may not compete without judges. As such, students are required to provide ONE judge for at least every THREE local tournaments s/he attends. This can be a parent, older sibling (with a high school diploma), relative, family friend, etc. They may volunteer additional judges to decrease cost of local tournaments as per the pay agreement. For example, if Student A is planning to attend three local tournaments in September, they must provide a judge for one of those three. Failure to abide by this policy will result in a \$100 fine, which will be used for paying judging fees.

2. Parents will provide contact information at the Fall Meeting on September 7, during which they will list their preference for local tournaments they can attend.

3. If there is a judge shortage at a specific tournament, a member of our coaching staff will notify the parents of the students attending to see if anyone is available to judge. If a parent is able to fill this spot, they will receive credit for one of their judging requirements, much appreciation from the coaches/competitors, and good luck for the remainder of the year. If no one is able to fill the spot, we will drop children from the tournament in the order in which they signed up.

4. Parents who are interested in chaperoning travel tournaments should let the coaches know as soon as possible. Due to the number of CBHS and external coaches, parents are generally not needed for travel tournaments; however, there are some exceptions to this norm. If a parent fills a required judge/chaperone spot, the team will cover her/his transportation and lodging costs. However, if a parent just wants to attend (or wants a private room), s/he will be expected to pay those expenses.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES:

1. All team members are required to stay on top of their required schoolwork. If, at any point, students are FAILING any class, they are not allowed to represent the team at any tournaments until that grade has improved to passing. Students are also expected to maintain the county-required 2.5 GPA in order to attend any travel tournaments. Similarly, if there are any problems with a specific teacher, it is the student's responsibility to notify a member of the coaching staff immediately. Parents will be contacted if intervention is suggested.

2. All students are expected to be available for NSDA District, TOC, and Nationals (on the master schedule). NSDA Nationals is the ONLY tournament where we are recognized as a team for our nationally competitive success, and it is necessary for the continued growth and success of the program. Like all travel tournaments, scholarships will be available for attendance.

3. If a student is placed on probation, they will have 1 quarter to move off of probation. The actions or activities required to move off of probation will be discussed between the student and the coaching staff. When a student is on probation they will not be given travel priority for tournaments that are capped.

4. If any other questions exist, please contact any of the coaches if you have concerns or questions.