

## **Tournament Guidelines**

*The following guidelines apply to all tournaments for Debate AND Forensics*

### **What To Bring To A Tournament**

- Any tournament materials (script, research, etc)
  - NOTHING NEEDED FOR 9/17
- Pen/Pencils
- Water Bottle
- Lunch Money or Sack Lunch
  - Lunch will be available for purchase. Lunch usually runs around \$5-\$7. We do not always know what lunch is ahead of time so bringing a bagged lunch is a good idea if you have a picky eater.
- Snack

### **What Not To Bring To A Tournament**

- Devices (if a student brings a phone it must be turned off during rounds - it is preferred that it is not used between rounds, either)
- Toys/Games
- Sugary Drinks (water only is preferred)

### **Spectators**

Spectators are welcome and encouraged at tournaments. However, please keep the following spectator guidelines in mind.

- Students are “judged” from the moment they walk in the room. They are also held accountable for the behavior of their audience members.
- NO DEVICES may be used. Cell phones should not be on. Vibrate is unacceptable.
- NO RECORDING of any type is allowed. This should be reserved for the showcase.
- Spectators need to be prepared to stay for the entire round - which is approximately one hour. They are expected to watch all performers, not just their own.
- No eating. Only water is permitted.
- No talking during and often in between performers.
- No prompting or assistance is allowed from spectators to students. Spectators can not prompt lines, offer suggestions, assist, or remind competitors of anything. They are on their own!
- Keep in mind that content of performances and subject matter is for middle school students. Therefore, we can not guarantee appropriateness for younger audience members.
- In regards to younger spectators, you may want to consider their ability to remain quiet and their attention span for an entire round.
- Spectators are expected to refrain from any commentary about any performances, positive or negative, at any point during the tournament (even outside of the round).



- Spectators should not ask the judge questions unless absolutely necessary and should not challenge anything the judge says. Any issues should be brought to the attention of a BCS coach and NOT dealt with by a spectator.

If any of these guidelines pose an issue to a potential spectator, you may want to consider waiting for the showcase.

### **Team Tournament Policies**

- Students are expected to be ON TIME and dressed in tournament attire upon arrival.
- Students are expected to stay for the ENTIRE tournament (all the way through awards) regardless of how far they make it. This is a TEAM activity and students are expected to support their team.
- Students are not permitted to leave the tournament location during the day (even with a parent). This includes lunch. There are often situations in which a student might be needed to deal with an issue or question from a round and they must be on the grounds.
- If a student is not performing during a round for some reason (it is an off round or they did not advance) they are expected to watch a round.
- No “tacky talk” - no talking about other competitors during the tournament. Students should be focused on their own performances. Any issues, concerns, or commentary regarding others’ performances should be saved for back at BCS on Monday!
- Devices should not be on or seen during rounds or during the awards ceremony.
- All BCS school rules and regulations are in effect during tournaments.
- Any questions, concerns, challenges should be brought ONLY to a BCS coach and not to other tournament personnel.
- All schedule exceptions (late arrivals, leaving early) should be arranged with a coach in advance and noted on the event permission slip.

### **Parent Supervision**

Due to the size of our team and the nature of this activity, transportation to and from the tournament should be arranged by the parents.

Parents are not required to stay for the entire tournament. However, a permission slip must be submitted with each tournament that outlines the expected parent supervision at each tournament. This will be used by the coaching staff so that we are aware which students have parents present and which ones do not. Students are expected to stay for the entire tournament and check in with a coach at the end of the day in order to turn in their folder from the tournament and “check-out.”

