

Westfield High School
Speech & Debate Team Information and Contract
2013-2014

As a member of the Westfield High School Speech and Debate Team, I pledge to abide by the following expectations:

Rules and Behavior:

- Fellow teammates and the coach as well as other teams, coaches, competitors, judges and school facilities are to be treated with respect.
- Students should demonstrate a positive attitude and pride in our team at all times.
- Students must use appropriate language and behavior.
- Students are expected to stay for the duration of a tournament. If a student does not advance, he/she should observe the semifinals and/or finals of the events to evaluate other performances to learn and improve.
- If for a valid reason the student needs to leave when they are finished, a parent must sign the student out with the coach.
- Unless double-entered, students are expected to remain in the performance room until all competitors have performed.
- When the team arrives at the tournament facilities, students are not to leave those facilities again unless under the direct supervision of the coach.
- Students need to demonstrate exemplary etiquette as audience members during rounds.
- Students should be energetic yet polite during awards ceremonies.
- Missing rounds are not allowed and will have consequences.
- All appropriate school rules, including a ban on weapons, alcohol, tobacco, or other drug possession/use remain in effect for the duration of the trip. Any violation will be immediately reported to school administration and appropriate law enforcement authorities.
- Breaking rules will result in school discipline and consequences may also involve not being allowed to travel to tournaments or being removed from the team.
- I understand that non-team related punishments could cause me to lose my eligibility for speech and debate trips.
- I acknowledge that additional rules beyond those here exist that are consistent with common sense expectations of behavior. I will follow those rules and all other reasonable requests of the coach and chaperones when traveling.

Appearance/ Dress:

- Professional dress is required at tournaments. Males should wear a long sleeve, button-up dress shirt and tie (suit jacket preferred) with dress pants, dress socks and dress shoes. Females should wear suits with skirts (knee length or longer) or slacks. Other options include dress pants or skirt and a dress shirt and closed toe dress shoes. No flip-flop type shoes or slippers are permitted during competition.
- Clothing should fit appropriately, not be revealing and should be neatly pressed. Avoid denim, tennis shoes, sweatshirts, etc. Hair, nails and makeup should be kept simple, conservative and overall be well-groomed. Plan on staying in dress clothes for the duration of the tournament, even after your events are finished.

Binders:

Students entered in interpretation events (poetry and prose) need a small (7x9 inch) black binder to hold their script. Students are to purchase a binder (which cost about \$5). The team coach will order binders a couple of times throughout the season. Ask the coach if you wish to order yours via the team's resource.

Money/ Fees:

- The school debate account pays the majority of fees for tournament entries and transportation. Students will be responsible for yearly club dues of \$30 to help defray the cost of competitions and transportation. This includes the one-time lifetime NFL membership fee of \$15 (see details below).
- Students should bring money for food and/or snacks to tournaments.
- Students must attend tournaments they have signed up for. If a family emergency arises, the student must inform the coach ASAP. Students who cancel events after the designated drop deadline or do not show up for a tournament or event must pay the costs associated with dropping (drop fees).
- Some tournaments charge a fee to compete. Students will be required to pay these additional fees if they attend these meets. This includes District and State finals.

Transportation:

- Students must utilize district transportation to and from tournaments when utilized by the team; driving personal vehicles is not permitted. The team will either take a bus driven by a district bus driver or a van driven by the coach. We will leave at the designated time. Students must be on time or will be left behind and face consequences.
- On the occasion in which transportation is not provided by the team, it is the responsibility of the participant to arrive at the meet location at least 15 minutes before the start of the event. Once arrived, they are to find the team coaches and check in.
- It is important to follow directions while traveling including remaining seated and avoiding noise levels that could distract the driver. Before exiting the vehicle for the final time please remove all garbage.

Lettering:

Students must meet the following criteria to letter in speech & debate:

- NFL member (\$15 lifetime dues) with minimum 100 points
- Must be in at least 2nd year of team participation
- Automatically letter if qualify for IHSFA state or NFL Nationals

Tournament Eligibility:

- Students must meet eligibility requirements to participate in tournaments.
 - Must maintain a GPA of 2.0 or higher
 - Must not have any F's on the current grade card
- Events need to be practiced in advance of competition. The coach must see each event performed prior to competition with enough time to give tips and feedback.

NFL:

The National Forensic League is a highly recognized debate honor society. Students may become members after receiving 25 points (participation in tournaments and public speaking) and paying a one-time membership fee of \$15. Your team dues will pay for this one-time membership fee.

I agree to all the provisions of the Westfield High School Speech and Debate Team contract I understand that breaking this contract may result in disciplinary action and/or removal from the class/ team.

STUDENT SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE:** _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE:** _____

This form and an emergency form must be signed and returned before a student can travel with the team in 2013-2014.