

Bobcats Speech and Debate



**Handbook for
Students and Parents
2020 – 2021**

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Team Logistics

FINE PRINT:

1. All students must adhere to the School Board of Broward County policies. If an infraction happens during a time where the student is under the responsibility of the West Broward Speech and Debate Team, the coach 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. This includes social media.
4. No student will attend any tournament unaffiliated with West Broward Speech and Debate or affiliated with West Broward Speech and Debate 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 Mrs. Harrison 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. Exceptions to this rule are round robins, which still require approval from Mrs. Harrison.

PRACTICE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Any student joining the Team and competing at tournaments should be enrolled in one of Mrs. Harrison's Debate classes. **If you are enrolled, you are "on the Team"**.
2. Students are expected to attend the weekly practices for their event. Excused absences for other West Broward responsibilities are allowed without penalty. Once a team member has 3 non-West Broward related absences, she/he will be put on probation and unable to attend any tournaments until the practices have been made-up. For ALL absences, you MUST notify your event captain at least 24 hours in advance. Failure to report an excused absence will result in said excused absence being unexcused. Novice requirement- 4 per quarter, varsity requirement- 2 per quarter. Any above required will be deemed as extra credit.
3. 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 pay for entry fees for 8 local (non-national qualifying) tournaments, t-shirts, supplies, league memberships, external coaching, judge meals, and other team expenditures. **Returning members have the opportunity this year to pay \$100 in dues if they agree to judge at a minimum of 1 EAST or MAST per quarter.** All new competitors will be required to pay \$100 dues. This includes the one-time fee of \$25 for National Speech and Debate Association membership (100% of which goes directly to the NSDA). **Financial accommodations are being made this year so dues for first year students will only be \$40 to cover NSDA membership and team t-shirt.** If there is a financial hardship, please contact Mrs. Harrison to discuss fundraising or payment plan options. Dues should be paid online at the Broward E-Store (accessible on the WBHS) by October 4th, 2020. All financial obligations must be paid prior to attending any tournament.

2. All students will be required to demonstrate proficiency in their event and pay a non-refundable \$50 deposit per travel tournament within a given timeframe at two anchor dates throughout the year. All deposits for travel tournaments that take place September through December must be paid by September 11. All deposits for travel tournaments that take place January/February must be paid by December 1. For example, if a student plans to attend Blue Key, AppleValley, and NY Bronx, a non-refundable deposit of \$150 would be required by September 11. The remaining balance will be due 2-4 weeks before the tournament takes place. This will allow all parties involved the ability to make travel plans earlier, and most importantly, keep costs lower. Note: If a student is no longer permitted/able to attend a tournament after paying the deposit, the \$50 may be rolled over as credit for another tournament. However, if AIRFARE 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 fundraising opportunities throughout the year. The team fundraisers will include events such as dinner at Chipotle, car washes, Candle sales, or hosting the CFL, FFL and EAST Tournaments. EVERY team member will be required to participate in a team fundraiser each semester. All fundraising obligations must be resolved prior to any travel tournaments.

4. Like in previous years, all travel tournaments will not exceed the \$650 cap (most will be lower). If travel expenses are above \$650, the team will subsidize costs.

5. Should a member exceed their respective dues, they will be required to deposit additional funds before attending any West Broward High School Speech and Debate functions.

LOCAL TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES:

1. Registration for local tournaments in the tri-county area will ONLY take place through the Google Form linked to that tournament in Canvas. Sign-ups will take place approximately two weeks prior to the tournament date, and students who sign-up must be fully prepared for their event, have attended required squad practices and will be obligated for the appropriate fee. Students should obtain parental permission before signing-up and paying for local tournaments.

2. A “trip sheet” for each travel tournament will be available on the website approximately one week before departure. Local trip sheets will be posted on the BobcatDebate.com tournament page. 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 (field trip form) is also required for students to attend ANY tournament. These will be available on the BobcatDebate.com website or in Mrs. Harrison’s room the Monday before a local tournament, and must be submitted at least 24 hours before the tournament begins. For example, if a tournament begins on Saturday morning, Mrs. Harrison must have all permission slips in hand by Friday morning.

4. Students/Parents are responsible for transporting students 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.

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

6. NO ONE will be permitted to leave a tournament until after the conclusion of his or her final round (on preliminary days) or awards (on the last day). If there is an extenuating circumstance, prior approval has been obtained directly from the coaches in charge.

7. Wear proper competition attire. For ladies, this means a suit or nice slacks/skirt and a blouse, shirt, or camisole with a sweater/blazer. Dress shoes are required and should be professional and wearable. Jewelry should be kept to a minimum. 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 both genders, hair must be out of your face/eyes so facial expressions can be seen. If you are unclear about what appropriate attire is just ask Mrs. Harrison or one of your captains.

8. All tournament host rules must be followed. Specifically, if a student fails to show-up to a tournament in which they registered, she/he is responsible for any fees associated with “drop.”

NATIONAL TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES:

1. Sign-ups for national tournaments must be done on the National Tournament Request Form. As stipulated on the Tournament Request Form, a non-refundable \$50 deposit must be submitted via the Broward

E-Store (accessible on WBHS websites) or check made-payable to WBHS no less than one month before the tournament (at a date stipulated by Mrs. Harrison). After all deposits are paid the team will pay for all necessary travel expenses, and you will be notified of the remaining total (which will not exceed \$400 without notification re-approval).

2. A “trip sheet” for each national tournament will be sent home with students the Monday prior to departure.

3. A SBBC Permission Slip (field trip form) is also required for students to attend ANY tournament. These will be available on the Tournament Team board in Mrs. Harrison’s room the Monday before a local tournament, and must be submitted at least 24 hours before departure. Failure to return SBBC Permission Slip on time or without proper information will result in removal from the event and the student will be responsible for all expenses attributed to it.

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 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.

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.) Students’ tardiness jeopardizes other members of the team.

6. Wear proper competition attire. For ladies, this means a suit or nice slacks/skirt and a blouse, shirt, or camisole with a sweater/blazer. Dress shoes are required and should be professional and wearable. Jewelry should be kept to a minimum. 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 both genders, hair must be out of your face/eyes so facial expressions can be seen. If you are unclear about what appropriate attire is just ask Mrs. Harrison or one of your captains.

7. Students are to be on their best behavior in the hotel room. After curfew, students are not allowed out of their room (not 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 of the team.

8. 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.

9. All tournament host rules must be followed.

10. 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 non-refundable \$50 deposit and more travel expenses have been incurred, he or she is responsible for paying all costs associated with that drop, including any forfeited entry fees, penalties or for late charges. This includes anyone who drops out due to unforeseen circumstances, or the coach’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 his or her partner dropping from the tournament.

** Please note that the coach ultimately decides who will and who will not attend a given tournament. While tournament attendance is encouraged, the coach always has the final word about whether a student will attend and compete.*

JUDGING REQUIREMENTS:

1. The West Broward Speech and Debate Team can not compete without judges. As such, students are required to provide ONE judge for every TWO local tournaments he/she attends. This can be a parent, older sibling (with a high school diploma), relative, family friend, retiree, etc. For example, if Student A is planning to attend two local tournaments in September, they must provide a judge for one of those two. Failure to abide by this policy will result in a \$100 fine, which will be used for paying judging fees.

2. Students will fill out the Google Form, where they will list their preference for local tournaments they can attend. A free Online Judge Training will be provided by the district to assist with understanding and expectations of judging. This MUST be completed prior to serving as a judge.

3. If there is a judge shortage at a specific tournament, Mrs. Harrison 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.

4. Parents who are interested in chaperoning national tournaments should let Mrs. Harrison know as soon as possible. Level 2 clearance is required, so if you are interested please address this immediately. Attempts will be made to cover the chaperone's expenses, but there is no guarantee it will be paid for by the West Broward Speech and Debate Team.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES:

1. All West Broward Speech and Debate Team members are required to stay on top of their required school work. If a student is not passing any classes, they will not be able to compete at any tournaments until the grade is passing. The teachers will receive a letter in September that indicates which tournaments their students will be absent. If there are ANY problems with a specific teacher, it is the student's responsibility to notify Mrs. Harrison immediately. Parents will be contacted if intervention is suggested.

2. All West Broward Speech and Debate Team members and parents are expected to assist with any tournaments the team hosts. More information will be dispersed before the tournament, but these fundraisers cannot function without full support.

3. All Students qualifying for NSDA Nationals must compete at NSDA Nationals barring extreme circumstances. All Students who accept invitations to national round robins, etc. must compete at these tournaments barring extreme circumstances.

4. If any additional questions arise, please contact any of the coaches at any time and we will be happy to answer your question.

NSDA EVENT DESCRIPTIONS

DEBATE EVENTS:

Lincoln Douglas Debate (LD): This event consists of a one-on-one debate in which the resolution to be debated will be a proposition of value rather than policy (determined every two months by the NFL). Thus, the debaters are encouraged to develop arguments on the conflicting underlying principles of the issue and to support their positions with sound and ethical uses of persuasion. The judge's decision should be based on: clear use of values, argumentation, direct clash with the opponent, validity of logic, and effectiveness of delivery.

Public Forum Debate (PF/PFD): This is the newest of the debate events. This event considers questions dealing with current political events "ripped" from newspaper headlines. Public Forum was created as a lay-person counterpart to LD and Policy so it is naturally a slower form of debate. A team shall consist of two students prepared to debate both PRO and CON on a given topic (determined monthly by the NFL). No debater will falsify evidence. A judge's decision should be based upon argumentation, clash, persuasion, and delivery.

Congressional Debate (Congress/SC): This event is a mixture of debate and speech. It requires teamwork and a great deal of political savvy. Functioning like a mock-Congress, congressional debaters may write pieces of legislation, and within their competitive "chambers," try to successfully "pass" (or fail) pieces of legislation that either they or a competitor have written. Sessions of Congressional Debate last anywhere from 1-6 hours, and the individual speeches average three minutes in length. Notes are permitted while speaking.

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS:

Original Oratory (OO): This event consists of a memorized speech composed by the contestant and delivered in an 8 to 10 minute time period (30 second grace period). The contestant may walk around in front of the room and gesture, although no props, notes, or visual aids are to be used. No more than 150 words of the oration may be a direct quotation from another person, speech, quote, or other form of writing. It must be typed and all quotations identified for the district and national tournaments. The student is judged on creativity, organization, topic, and balanced delivery.

Extemporaneous Speaking (IX/FX or USX/DX): This event is divided into two categories: foreign extemporaneous and domestic extemporaneous. Students draw topics based on current events. After the contestant has selected a topic from three questions drawn at random, he or she has thirty minutes to prepare a 5 to 7 minute (30 second grace period) speech based on magazine, newspaper, and news information. The student may use the Internet in the round, and may walk around and use gestures. The student must answer the question and must have a solid overall delivery. No student may falsify any information.

Dramatic Interpretation (DI): Selections used in this contest are cuttings from published novels, short stories, plays, or movies. The contestant shall interpret the characters and mood of a piece by using voice inflection, facial expression, and upper body gestures. The contestant may not use props or any costumes. The presentation shall be from memory and should be 8 to 10 minutes (30 second grace period). Subject matter may be very important to judges. Monologues may be used.

Humorous Interpretation (HI): All of the rules for D.I apply to H.I. However, in this event the contestant will usually be more animated and exaggerated. The piece is much more light-hearted in order to create comedy.

Oral Interpretation (OI or Prose/Poetry): Each contestant will prepare a Prose (short story or cutting from any of the materials used in DI/HI) and Poetry (singular or collection of poems). The selections must be taken from published materials. The manuscript must be held by the contestant during the performance in a small black binder (or “book”). This selection is to appear un-memorized with the exception of introductory or transitional material. This is a reading event with a time limit of 8 to 10 minutes (30 second grace period).

Program Oral Interpretation (POI): This event relies on the performer’s ability to portray a wide range of characters and literature all held together under a common theme. Each program must contain at least two of the three genres and students are encouraged to include all three. There is a set time limit of ten minutes, with a thirty second grace period. Students who choose to compete in POI should focus on making an interesting argument that is supported in different ways by each piece of literature they select. This is a reading event with a time limit of 8 to 10 minutes (30 second grace period).

Duo Interpretation (DUO): This is an interpretation event. Students may not use props. The two contestants will stand side by side and use focal points. The contestants can only look at each other during the introduction or transitional periods. The time limit is 8 to 10 minutes (30 second grace period).

Informative Speaking (INFO): Students deliver a self-written, ten-minute speech on a topic of their choosing. Limited in their ability to quote words directly, Informative Speaking competitors craft a speech using evidence, logic, and optional visual aids. All topics must be informative in nature; the goal is to educate, not to advocate. The speech is delivered from memory. The time limit is 8 to 10 minutes (30 second grace period).

TOURNAMENT CIRCUITS

National Speech and Debate Association

The National Speech and Debate Association was founded in 1925. NSDA offers a system of incentives for students to participate in debate and forensics. Students may earn points in accordance with their success at tournaments. After a student earns over 25 points he/she is eligible for lifetime membership in the NSDA. The points are cumulative for the students' career. Only NSDA members are allowed to compete in NSDA District tournaments (which qualify for the National Speech & Debate tournament). Prominent NSDA alumni include President Lyndon Johnson, Vice President Hubert Humphrey, Academy Award winner Don Ameche, Emmy Award winner Daniel J. Travanti, actress Shelly Long, television host Oprah Winfrey, news anchor Jane Pauley, Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer and thousands of other leaders in politics, business, education, law and public service. Since its founding in 1925, NSDA has enrolled over 1.2 million members in all fifty states, U.S. possessions and several foreign countries. Currently over 95,000 high school students and over 3,000 high school teachers are active members.

Florida Forensic League

The "FFL" is our state league. The mission of the Florida Forensic League is to provide students in secondary schools with opportunities to develop their communication, argumentation, and leadership skills through their participation in curricular and co-curricular educational and competitive events. Central to the accomplishment of this mission is the provision of instructional and organizational support for coaches and other adults who teach these skills to students through speech and debate programs in schools. The FFL sponsors regional and state tournaments that take place late in the spring.

Tournament of Champions

The Tournament of Champions was founded in 1972. All teams attending must earn the right to compete based on bids earned at select events throughout the country. At the TOC, Lincoln Douglas, Policy, Public Forum and Congressional Debaters compete for the right to be called the TOC Champion.

After School Tournaments (AST's)

The After-School Tournaments take place monthly at Flanagan High School. This is solely a league for first-year competitors, and is governed under the Broward County School District Debate Initiative. Students will be transported via school bus from West Broward High to Flanagan High for 2 rounds of competition, and parents are asked to pick up their student at Flanagan after the 2nd round.

Catholic Forensic League

The National Catholic Forensic League was founded in 1951. Based upon the ideal of open membership, the NCFL welcomes membership to all schools public and private in the United States and Canada. Each school year 4-5 local tournaments are held in the tri-county area with the opportunity to attend Grand Finals and Nationals.