Madison Central High School

SPEECH & DEBATE

Team Constitution, Student Contract, and Parent Contract



*Originally Drafted July 2015*

*Based on the OG Warrior Speech and Debate Constitution, Student Contract and Parent Contract*

COACHING STAFF

Ms. Rachel Clapper

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***PREAMBLE***

*As a member of the Madison Central High School Speech & Debate Team I understand that it is my utmost responsibility to represent my team, my school, and ultimately, my own personal character. I understand that it is the responsibility of my parents and myself to read, acknowledge, and understand the rules set before us, and the consequences to any action that is deemed inappropriate by the terms of this contract.”*

***INTEGRITY - HUMILITY - RESPECT - LEADERSHIP - SERVICE***

**INTRODUCTION**

It is the duty of each team member and the parents and/or legal guardian to read this contract and return the two documents that must be in place before membership can be finalized. These documents include:

 1. CONTRACT AGREEMENT FORM – Parent and Student Signatures, **Notary Public Signature/Seal**

 2. MEDICAL RELEASE FORM – (a copy of your current insurance card must be attached)

ALL TOURNAMENTS WILL HAVE PERMISSION SLIPS THAT NEED TO BE TURNED IN THE MONDAY BEFORE THE TOURNAMENT.

It is also the understanding of all those involved that a copy of this contract will stay on file and any disciplinary action taken will be based on the rules and regulations in this document. Failure to abide by these rules will result in a series of actions that can lead to expulsion from the team

**I. TEAM DEFINITIONS**

 A. AUDITIONS

1. **New Member Auditions** – Potential new members to the team will audition by filling out an application provided by the coaching staff and prepare either a memorized monologue or brief speech to perform. Auditions will be in front of the coaching staff and the outgoing senior members of the team.

2. **Returning Member Auditions –** Potential returning members will be accepted based on the individual performance of that member in both competition success and team participation.

 B. OFFICERS

1. **Chapter President –** Must have completed two years with the team, have a minimum of 500 NSDA points, a competitive knowledge of speech, debate, and interpretation events, and the approval of all members of the coaching staff.

2. **Vice President –** Must have completed two years with the team, have a minimum of 500 NSDA points, a competitive knowledge of speech, debate, and interpretation events, and the approval of all members of the coaching staff. Chief responsibility is to assist in coaching varsity members during rehearsal time and at competition.

3. **Novice Captain -** Must have completed two years with the team, have a minimum of 500 NSDA points, a competitive knowledge of speech, debate, and interpretation events, and the approval of all members of the coaching staff. Chief responsibility is to assist in coaching novice members during rehearsal time and at competition.

4. **Speech Captain –** Must be a member in good standing with the coaching staff and have a minimum of 250 NSDA points.

5. **Interpretation Captain -** Must be a member in good standing with the coaching staff and have a minimum of 250 NSDA points.

6. **Debate Captain -** Must be a member in good standing with the coaching staff and have a minimum of 250 NSDA points..

7. **Sergeant-At-Arms –** This is an appointed position by the Coaching Staff. This person works with team members on any disciplinary issues pertaining to team membership.

8. **Tournament Director –** One director is chosen to run the Warrior Invitational and any other tournaments that might take place during the year on the Oak Grove Campus. This person will work directly with the coach to provide instruction to team members throughout the event.

C. NATIONAL SPEECH AND DEBATE ASSOCIATION DEGREE LEVELS

 1. **Degree of Merit** 1st Level 25 NSDA Points

 2. **Degree of Honor** 2nd Level 75 NSDA Points

 3. **Degree of Excellence** 3rd Level 150 NSDA Points

 4. **Degree of Distinction** 4th Level 250 NSDA Points

 5. **Degree of Special Distinction** 5th Level 500 NSDA Points

 6. **Degree of Superior Distinction** 6th Level 750 NSDA Points

 7. **Degree of Outstanding Distinction** 7th Level 1000 NSDA Points

 8. **Degree of Premier Distinction** 8th Level 1500 NSDA Points

 D. STUDENT OFFICER ELECTIONS

1. That National Office provides coaches with two options of how to choose student officers.

2. OPTION ONE – Students vote based on the degree level (Level 1 = 1 vote; Level 8 = 8 votes)

3. OPTION TWO – Students wishing to be officers may sign up based on requirements given by the team, and the coaching staff chooses from those eligible.

**II. COMPETITION EVENTS/NATIONAL TOURNAMENT QUALIFICATIONS**

A. EVENTS OF COMPETITION

 **1. DEBATE EVENTS**

a. Policy Debate (CX)

 b. Lincoln-Douglas Debate (LD)

 c. Public Forum Debate (PFD)

 d. Congressional Debate (CON)

 **2. FLIGHT A EVENTS**

 a. Prose Interpretation (PR)

 b. Dramatic Interpretation (DI)

 c. Original Oratory (OO)

 d. Impromptu Speaking (IMP)

 e. Storytelling (ST)

 f. Duet Acting (DUET)

 **3. FLIGHT B EVENTS**

 a. Poetry Interpretation (PO)

 b. Humorous Interpretation (HI)

 c. Expository Speaking (EXP)

 d. Extemporaneous Speaking (EXT)

 e. Declamation (DEC)

 f. Duo Interpretation (DUO)

 B. NSDA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

1. The number of entries given to each school at the NSDA Qualifying tournaments is based on the number of degrees held by the entire team.

2. The chart of determination is located in the NSDA District Tournament Manual at [www.speechanddebate.org](http://www.speechanddebate.org)

3. The events at this tournament are Senate (CON), House (CON), Policy, Lincoln-Douglas, Public Forum, International Extemp, United States Extemp, Original Oratory, Humorous Interpretation, Dramatic Interpretation, Duo Interpretation.

4. The number of students who qualify out of the Magnolia District to represent Mississippi in the National Championships is based on the number of students entering the event at the district tournament.

5. All Qualifiers will be chosen by the coach in a timely manner.

6. HOW QUALIFIERS ARE CHOSEN:

a. Two months before the competition, the coaching staff will hypothesize how many entries the school will have.

b. Any students currently on the team that have previously competed in the NSDA Tournament will be able to choose his/her entry to qualifiers first.

c. Next, the top two spots in each category will be chosen based on the selections in that event with the most competition wins (followed by 2nd places, 3rd places, etc.)

d. After determining the number of total entries, the remainder of those entries will be filled by numbering the eligible entries based on their competitive excellence score.

e. No more than four entries are allowed in any one event.

 C. NCFL NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

1. Madison Central is a member of the Jackson Diocese. This consists of schools north of Laurel.

2. The number of students who qualify for NCFL Nationals is determined by the number of schools that register as members of the Diocese (not how many compete in the tournament).

3. 2-6 students can qualify in each event.

4. Competition events at NCFL Nationals include CON, CX, LD, PFD, DEC, EXT, OI and Duo, OO, DP for anyone that does not qualify for NIETOC.

 a. OI = Oral Interpretation = both prose and poetry performed together.

b. DP = Dramatic Performance = (HI and DI competitors competing in the same category)

 5. A school may have up to 40 total entries, but no more than 6 in any one category.

 6. One student may enter 1-4 events in the tournament (1 debate, 1 congress, 2

individual events)

 7. Determining entries . . .

 a. Students qualifying for NIETOC will not go to NCFL.

 b. An entry that wins their event (or makes finals in debate) during the fall

semester will be offered a spot.

 c. An entry that places in semis or higher in an out-of-state national circuit

tournament will be offered a spot.

 d. An entry that places in the top 3 (top 4 in debate) twice will be offered a

spot.

e. An entry that places in the top 6 (or top 8 in debate) three times will be offered a spot.

f. If by two weeks prior to the NCFL tournament six entries in an event have not been given out, or the team has not reached its max of 40, those vacant entries will remain vacant for that year.

 D. NATIONAL INDIVIDUAL EVENT TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS

 1. Events include DI, HI, DUO, OO, and DUET.

 2. Qualifying tournaments are determined by the NIETOC National Committee.

 3. A determined number of bids is given out at each qualifying tournament based on

the number of entries.

 4. Qualification happens after an entry earns two bids.

 E. MHSAA SPEECH AND DEBATE STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

 1. Events offered at the State Championship include:

 a. Congress (offered on a separate weekend)

 b. DEBATE: CX, LD, PFD

 c. FLIGHT A: DI, PR, ST, IMP, OO, DUET

 d. FLIGHT B: HI, PO, EXP, EXT, DEC, DUO

2. **If a student qualifies for State Championships it is a REQUIREMENT to attend the state championship tournament. *The only acceptable reason for missing is a personal family emergency.*** Failure to attend state championships will eliminate you from continuing with the team the next year, eliminate you from any national competition you are qualified for, or eliminate you from senior privileges.

3. Qualification procedures:

 DEBATE: Finals once, semifinals once, quarterfinals twice.

 INDIVIDUAL EVENTS: FIRST PLACE once., 2nd – semifinals twice.

F. ALL OTHER NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS

The participation in other National Tournaments (Harvard, Emory, Berkeley, etc…) is done at the discretion and decision of the coach. All national tournament participants MUST be approved by the coach. If a student would like to attend a national with an approved guardian outside of their coach, this must also be approved by the coach.

**III. DISCIPLINE**

A. DISCIPLINE LADDER

1. The Madison Central High School Speech and Debate Team works on a twenty point discipline scale. Once a team member has added points to their discipline folder the points do not disappear until the end of the school year.

 a. **1-3 points =** Team member warnings.

 b. **4-6 points =** Team probation and proof of dedication *(assignment given to*

*complete in order to help the team. If the assignment is completed within two weeks, no suspension will occur. If it is not completed they automatically move to the third offense and a one tournament suspension.)*

c. **7-12 points =** One tournament suspension *(occurs for every infraction within this point bracket)*

d. **13-15 points =** Student will no longer be allowed to compete on the national circuit or in national qualifiers.

e. **16-19 points =** One month total suspension from the team.

f. **20 points =** Termination from the team

2. Each rule listed in this contract includes a point total in parenthesis. This number equals the number of discipline points each offense is worth.

3. The Discipline Ladder will be kept on the team’s yearly spreadsheet. **It is the responsibility of each team member to keep up with how many points they have.** If asked, the coaching staff will let the student know in a timely manner, but it will not be a priority to disclose the information that should be kept up with by the student.

Discipline Points=DP

 B. TOURNAMENT REHEARSAL RULES

1. When students are in class they are required to work on individual event selections and/or debate cases. Failure to comply with this rule negatively effects the grade of the student in the class (no discipline points – this is dealt with by decreasing classroom participation grade).

2. Any competition selection must be given approval for being performed in a competition. Performing a selection in competition without the coaching staff’s knowledge will not be accepted. (3 DP)

3. If a student is not a member Debate class, they must make an appointment to meet with Ms. Clapper after school one day a week or communicate via email all necessary information. This is a case-by-case scenario.

4. Performance pieces must be seen before every tournament you attend. The selection can be passed off to Ms. Clapper, Chapter President, Vice President, or Novice Captain by the Monday before each tournament. (1 DP)

5. Debate cases must be turned in on the Friday before a tournament if a debater/debate team plans to compete in the tournament. Copies must be sent to the coach and debate captain for varsity and coach and novice debate captain for novice competitors. (1 DP)

 C. TOURNAMENT DEPARTURE RULES

1. Appropriate dress upon departure is expected. You will be given one of three options of how to be dressed when the team leaves Madison Central:

 a. OPTION ONE – Fully dressed in competition suit.

 b. OPTION TWO – Khaki pants/shorts with team polo shirt.

c. OPTION THREE – Casual dress (this will only happen if we don’t compete the day of departure or if there is time at the hotel before.)

d. Failure to dress appropriately (2 DP)

2. Departure time will always be given for every location. The Bus/Parent Cars leave at that time. You should arrive at least five minutes earlier.

3. Being late for departure (2 DP)

4. Being late for departure from the hotel (1 DP).

` D. TRANSPORTATION RULES

1. If travel is by bus, you will regard the bus driver’s rules as if they are directly from the coaching staff. (1 DP)

2. The bus will be kept clean. At the end of the trip if the coach finds the bus dirty every member of the team riding the bus will receive discipline points. (2 DP)

3. If travel is by parent vehicle, you will be assigned a parent to ride with for the duration of the trip. No changes will be allowed unless approved by the coaching staff. (1 DP)

4. You will treat parents with respect and understand that any direction given by them is the same as the coaching staff. Any complaint about a student from a parent chaperone will result in a discipline point. (1 DP)

5. Disrespect of any kind will not be tolerated. (1 DP)

6. Feelings of mistreatment should be brought directly to the coaching staff, and not dealt with through other students, parents, and/or bus drivers. Failure to include the coaching staff will not be tolerated. (2 DP)

7. If travel by plane or train, specific instructions will be given for those trips and another travel agreement will be signed by the student and parent.

8. Any time a parent or guardian would like to take a student home from a tournament, the coach must SEE the parent before the student leaves. Students will not leave unless approved by the coach. (5 DP)

9. Permission Slips MUST be turned into the coach the Monday before the tournament. (2 DP)

 E. HOTEL RULES

1. You will be assigned to a room by the coaching staff. A student will be assigned as room captain and given authority over that room.

2. Anything deemed misconduct by parent or room captain will result in immediate disciplinary action by the coaching staff. (2 DP)

3. A curfew will be given each night of a hotel stay. Failure to comply with the curfew will result in disciplinary action:

a. To the student caught out after curfew or allowing another student into their room. (8 DP)

b. If roommates choose not to inform coach about missing teammate (5 DP)

 4. If a student leaves the hotel, for any reason, without permission:

a. The student(s) who commit this infraction will be immediately terminated from the team and sent home at their parent’s expense.

b. If roommates have knowledge of this infraction and choose not to tell the coaching staff they will also face disciplinary action (5 DP)

 F. TOURNAMENT LOCATION RULES

1. You must abide by the rules presented in the tournament handbook, which is given out at each tournament. (1 DP)

2. You are required to abide by all rules given to you by the Madison County School District and Madison Central High School. (Failure to do so will result in school disciplinary action)

3. No cell phone usage outside the student lounge at tournaments. Cell phones should not be on when in competition rounds. If caught on a cell phone outside of student lounge (2 DP) or it goes off in a competition round (5 DP), disciplinary points will be given. STUDENTS MAY USE THEM FOR TIME IF THE JUDGE ALLOWS.

4. When you are done performing you should stay and watch your competitors’ perform and be a good audience. There are a few exceptions:

a. If you are cross-entered, you should leave after finishing your first event, but after performing in your second event you should stay and watch the rest of the competition in that round. (1 DP)

b. You are not required to stay and watch in Extemporaneous Speaking.

5. Once a round is complete, you should report back to the student lounge and wait for postings for the next round. (1 DP)

6. The entire team is responsible for the Madison Central Section of the Student Lounge and Prep Room. It is your responsibility to clean up after yourselves. Complaints from the host school will result in disciplinary action for the entire team. (2 DP)

7. No Public Displays of Affection are permitted (4 DP)

8. No outside food will be allowed in student lounges unless you are given permission to do so before the tournament begins. (2 DP)

 G. AWARD CEREMONY RULES

 1. The team always sits together during awards ceremonies. No exceptions. (2 DP)

 2. No food or drinks allowed inside the awards ceremony spaces. (1 DP)

 3. Show respect for all awards recipients regardless of your personal opinions of them.

Observe the one clap rule for every placement except for first. Each winner is given a standing ovation. (2 DP)

4. The entire team will stand for the announcement of each team sweepstakes placement (2 DP)

5. There is no horseplay, loud talking or inappropriate noises during the ceremony. (1 DP)

6. After the ceremony is over you will remain seated until the coaching staff gives you directions. (1 DP)

 H. TRANSPORTATION HOME RULES

1. **THE WAL-MART RULE** – We do not speak about other competitors or express negative opinions about anything while attending a tournament. While traveling home the coach will give permission for the appropriate time to express those opinions. If you violate this rule you receive discipline points. (2 DP)

2. Parents will be provided with an approximate arrival time before the trip begins. You will receive an update via text or Remind 101 once the team leaves the tournament.

3. No one is allowed to leave until the Chapter President and coaching staff have checked the bus to make sure it is clean.

4. Discipline points will be assigned if a member of the coaching staff has to wait more than fifteen minutes for a student to be picked up by their parent/guardian. (2 DP)

5. During “in town” tournaments, students transportation to and from the tournament will be provided by parents/guardians. This includes any tournaments at Jackson Academy, St. Andrew’s, Ridgeland High School, Murrah High School and MILSAPS. Permission slips still need to be turned in.

 I. DRESS CODE

 1. Rules for both boys and girls

 a. Suits must be worn to every tournament. (4 DP)

 1. – If debating, the suit should be dark (black, brown, tan, gray, dark blue)

 2. – For individual events you may choose something with more color but it

must be professional.

b. Hair must be neat and tidy. HAIR SHOULD NEVER BE IN YOUR EYES. (2 DP)

d. Being partially dressed is not tolerated. (1 DP)

2. Rules for Female Team Members

a. Must wear appropriate makeup or no make-up. This is at the coach’s discretion. (1 DP)

b. Heels must be worn with your suit. They should be neutral tones and all shoes MUST be closed toe. Character/interview shoes are most appropriate. At certain tournaments you will be allowed to have a pair of flats for walking, but they may not be sneakers or slippers. You must have your heels on before entering any competition room. The coaching staff will inform you if flats are allowed for any given tournament. (1 DP)

c. Minimal jewelry: one set of earrings, one ring, and one necklace. A lapel pin may be worn on your suit. (1 DP)

d. Earrings should not be longer than one inch. (1 DP)

e. Hair must be pinned back and out of your eyes.

f. If you wear a skirt suit, you must wear pantyhose (always have extra with you). The color should be nude or nude equivalent. (1)

g. Skirts should always fall below the fingertip when arms are placed at your side. Ladies, please keep in mind that you SIT a lot at tournaments. Knee length is safest.

3. Rules for Male Team Members

a. Dark socks must be worn with your suit. **NO WHITE SOCKS EVER.** No ankle socks. (1)

b. Ties must be worn and they must match your suit. (1)

c. Hair must be trimmed and professional. It should never be in your eyes or unkempt. (1)

d. No earrings; no visible necklaces or bracelets; you may wear one ring; you may also wear a lapel pin on your suit.

e. Shoes should match your suit. Black or brown only. (1)

**IV. FUNDRAISING**

A. This team cannot survive without fundraising. If students do not participate in fundraising activities, they and their families are 100% responsible for paying for everything the student does.

B. Fees for a tournament must be paid two weeks before a tournament occurs (until our booster club is formed). If not paid, the student will be removed from the tournament.

C. The formation of the booster club will

**V. TEAM COSTS**

A. The following team fees are due by the end of August.

1. $300.00 **Team Dues**. Must be paid by the end of August. A payment plan is a

possibility if parents contact the coaching staff. These cover entry into the NSDA, JCFL, bus driver money, and the start for fundraising.

 2. $15.00 **Team Polo Shirt**

 3. $10.00 **Tournament T-shirt**

**B. If we do not fundraise**, the following amounts will be due two weeks before every tournament

**1. $10-50 Entry Fees.** Cover the cost of entering the tournament.

**2. $35 x nights away Hotel Fees.** This covers the cost of the hotel.

**3. $50 Judge Fee.** If a parent does not come to judge, a $50 judge bond must be paid to pay uncovered judge fees and the cost for the chaperones lodging who give up their time to help.

**National Tournaments**

1. The cost of going to a national tournament is determined by the length of stay, the distance from Madison Central, the number of students and parents attending, and the type of transportation to be taken.

2. The TENTATIVE 2015-2016 National Tournaments will be in:

* Glenbrooks Tournament- Chicago, IL
* George Mason University Tournament- Washington D.C.
* Emory Barkley Forum- Atlanta, GA
* Berkeley Tournament @ UC Berkeley- San Fransisco, CA
* Tournament of Champions @ Univ of Kentucky- Lexington, KY
* NIETOC National Tournament- Denver, CO
* NCFL Grand National Tournament- Sacramento, CA
* NSDA National Championship- Salt Lake City, UT

**VI. STUDENT EXPECTATIONS AND DISCIPLINE**

A. Each team member must compete in at least four tournaments during the year. Failure to do so will eliminate you from senior privileges or the ability to audition for the team for the next year.

B. Team members are allowed only one unexcused absence from team meetings during the entire year, but you are only required to attend meetings for the tournaments you attend.

 Team meetings are held the first Monday we are at school of each month in Room 201. If you are attending a tournament that month, you must attend. Otherwise, you must set up an appointment to meet with Ms. Clapper when it is convenient for her.

C. Attendance is mandatory for all tournaments hosted by the Madison Central High School Team. (10 DP)

D. Attendance to team showcases is mandatory. We will hold at least one.

E. Attendance at state championships is required if you qualify for any events into the tournament.

F. Each student and his/her parent must sign and return the contract form and the medical release form. The **Contract Agreement Form** must be signed by a notary.

G. All Members of the MCHS Speech & Debate Team represent the Madison County School District and Madison Central High School and must follow all rules mandated in the Madison County Schools Student Handbook.

**VII. All final decisions about the Madison Central High School Speech and Debate Team are left to the discretion of the Coach (Ms. Rachel Clapper).**