

ETHICS STATEMENT - CODE OF CONDUCT

Judges, coaches and directors have a great influence on individual debaters, programs and the overall debate community. We recognize that students rely on judges for guidance and instruction to better themselves. In acknowledging this role, judges must follow a code of ethics governing decorum and etiquette. The criteria below outlines our communal expectations for the Metro League Debate Leagues.

I. PERSONAL INTEGRITY

Judges shall promote the integrity of debate. Judges should strive to be honest, fair, and respectful of others. Regardless of personal beliefs, judges will strive to base their decisions on the content and conduct of each debate round and what is best for inclusion. Overall, judges will act with personal integrity and model behavior advancing respect for students, their schools, and their colleagues. Judges will positively act to ensure the debate space is safe for all students.

II. PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND EXCELLENCE

Acknowledging our ethical responsibilities to the community, judges must uphold professional standards of conduct through appropriate use of language and behavior toward students and colleagues. Judges should actively seek opportunities for professional development to keep current on the debate topic and practices. Moreover, judges will comply with school regulations and state law. Judges are urged to develop policies and practices that serve the overall interest of the students in debate. Specific behaviors include:

- Appropriate language (no swearing) and appropriate behavior (constructive kindness)
- Provide appropriate, thorough, and educational written feedback on the ballot
- Judges are expected to give a brief, helpful oral critique and may disclose their decision
- No intimidation through harassment, bullying, or other demeaning conduct
- Appropriate communication. No electronic communication during debate speeches (about the debates). If phones are being used for timing, please indicate out loud at the beginning of the round.
- Acknowledge that the reading/sharing of evidence by all participants helps learning. Judges have an *affirmative obligation* to ensure students share and read each other evidence during the debate round if requested.
- *Paperless debate* is permitted. Judges must ensure that debaters are able to share evidence electronically (viewing computer provided by paperless team. If a viewing computer is not available, then the debaters must give their computer for viewing). Paperless evidence should be shared on a flashdrive ("flashed"), an email chain, or a pocketbox should be created prior to the speech/round. Flashing of evidence may occur without prep time as long as no student preps during that time. Please communicate your preferences to all debaters in your round in advance. Should technology issues arise, please treat any issues as you would if there was paper involved (dropped tub, papers out of order, etc.). This may or may not come out of prep time. Judges have discretion should this time become excessive.
- Judges should be aware of changing norms regarding speaker points. Please see tab prior to debates to review current norms in the community. **Half points are expected.** General range is 26-29; 30 only if perfect. (No tenths yet).

III. RESPECT FOR PARTICIPANTS

Judges should respect the fundamental rights, dignity and worth of all participants. Judges should be aware of individual differences including those based on age, gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, culture, religion, sexual orientation, ability, language, and socio-economic status and shall act with respect towards all individuals. *In their actions, judges should consider the welfare and rights of all participants.* Judges should be sensitive to differences in power between themselves and others and shall neither exploit nor mislead other people in the debate community. Behavior that harasses or intentionally intimidates participants in any fashion including sexual harassment or otherwise demeaning behavior/language is unacceptable. When conflicts occur among students, coaches or judges, judges will attempt to responsibly resolve these conflicts productively.

I recognize that debate is an educational activity and will act to further the intellectual and personal development of all debaters. I recognize, understand and agree that my behavior models that of a classroom teacher. Any behavior that would be inappropriate in a school environment is equally inappropriate in debate. I agree to abide by the above statements in my practices as a judge, coach, and/or director of debate at debate events. I agree that if my behavior should not conform to such standards, my actions may be brought to the attention of the director(s). Financial penalties (including nonpayment for rounds) and/or legal/institutional action are likely if my behavior is found not to serve the interest of the debate community. Thank you for your commitment to each student and the activity.

Signed _____

Date _____

Printed Name _____

Affiliation (if) and/or Preclusions _____

Email _____

Cell Phone _____