

UDCA Code of Conduct

"Our tournament is committed to providing its students, judges, coaches, and staff (participants) the opportunity to pursue excellence in their endeavors. This opportunity can exist only when each member of our community is assured an atmosphere of civility, mutual respect, generosity, and kindness.

Our tournament prohibits all forms of harassment and discrimination, whether written, oral, or performative. Accordingly, all forms of harassment discrimination, including presenting or evaluating arguments in round, based on a participant's race, color, religion, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, citizenship, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected by any applicable federal, state, or local law are prohibited.

Participants may not engage in any sexually explicit or illegal behavior and should refrain from the use of profanity. Participants are also bound by the code of conduct and any institutional rules of their own schools and should conduct themselves as if they are in a classroom environment.

Individuals who are found to have violated this policy will be subject to the full range of sanctions, including the loss of a round, disqualification, and up to removal from the tournament premises."

This activity is about education and growth, and if we can accommodate that first, we will.

Coaches signing below acknowledge that they have reviewed individually, as well as with Students and Judges, their respective Code of Ethics and that their teams will adhere to them at all times.

Coach Signature: _____ Date _____

School: _____ Classification: _____

COACHES CODE OF ETHICS

“The function of a coach is to educate students through participation in speech and debate. Students should be treated with the utmost respect, and their welfare should be considered in decisions by coaches at all times.”

Coaches should be aware of all prepared materials being presented to an audience and have discussed with their students how to present/use their voice to reach an audience without offending: considering other positions, perspectives, and ideas that should be respected while differing or in contradiction to their own perspectives.

- Coaches shall be aware that they have a tremendous influence, for either good or ill, on the education of their students and, thus, shall never place the value of winning above the value of instilling the highest ideals of character.
- Coaches shall practice integrity by upholding the honor and dignity of our profession. In all personal contact with students, judges, tournament officials, activities directors, school administrators, other coaches, the media, and the public, coaches shall strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct.
- Coaches shall take an active role in the prevention of student drug, alcohol, and tobacco abuse. • Coaches shall be expected to uphold their school's policy in regards to drug, alcohol, and tobacco use when in contact with students.
- Coaches shall strive to understand the contest rules and to teach them to their students. Coaches shall not seek an advantage by circumvention of the spirit or letter of the rules.
- Coaches shall exert their influence to enhance sportsmanship and fair-play by competitors and other coaches.
- Coaches shall respect and support tournament officials. Coaches shall not indulge in conduct that would incite other coaches or students against tournament officials. Public criticism of tournament officials, other coaches, or students is unethical.
- Coaches shall set the correct tone for a tournament or competition

JUDGES CODE OF ETHICS

“The function of a judge is to assist in the education of students through participation in speech and debate, by giving constructive feedback and evaluation. Students should be treated with the utmost respect, and their welfare should be considered in decisions by judges at all times.”

We are all influenced by implicit bias, or the stereotypes that unconsciously affect our decisions. When judging, our implicit biases negatively impact students who are traditionally marginalized and disenfranchised. Before writing comments or making a decision, please take a moment to reflect on any biases that may impact your decision making process.

- Judges shall be aware that they have a tremendous influence, for either good or ill, on the education of these students and, thus, shall never allow their personal bias, opinions, or knowledge to interfere with the honest evaluation of the competitors' actual cases, presentation, positions.
- Judges shall practice integrity by upholding the honor and dignity of our profession. In all personal contact with students, coaches, tournament officials, activities directors, school administrators, other coaches, the media, and the public, judges shall strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct.
- Judges shall be expected to uphold school policies in regards to drug, alcohol, and tobacco use when in contact with students, or on school grounds.
- Judges shall strive to understand the contest rules and to apply them to evaluating students.
- Judges shall exert their influence to enhance sportsmanship and fair-play by competitors.
- Judges shall respect and support tournament officials. Judges shall not indulge in conduct that would incite other judges, coaches or students against tournament officials. Public criticism of tournament officials, other coaches, or students is unethical.

We are here to give feedback and rankings on skills and abilities, not on content or opinions. Unless there is something that is completely inappropriate for High School Content, or that a team is acting in a way that is harmful, then we should remember that the students in Debate must debate each side of the topic, no matter their personal opinions or beliefs. Speech topics are often personal to the students and their own experiences, and we are looking at the skills and presentation, not the content topic...you may give suggestions on maybe how to better present the topic to be more inviting to an audience, etc but not be critical of the topic itself, unless of course it is overtly/deliberately offensive and not appropriate for HS students to be presenting (rank based on skills and then let tabroom know). This is the beauty of this activity is that we can respect everyone's rights to believe and speak about what they want while still understanding and respecting that others' have the same rights and we don't have to agree on everything to appreciate each other as human beings....If a judge feels there may be an issue that they cannot address in a round, then please pause the round and contact tabroom...we can then figure out what, if anything, to do, or discuss a way in which to handle a situation.

Student Code of Honor

Students are encouraged to use their voices to bring awareness and advocate for change, etc. However, students should discuss with their coaches how to present/use their voice to reach an audience without offending: considering other positions, perspectives, and ideas that should be respected while differing or in contradiction to those. If others offer advice, critique or an opposite opinion after round to understand, discuss, etc. students should respect opposing opinions and either refrain from the discussion if they cannot or discuss with respect and openness to the diversity of thought. One does not have to agree with other individual's views to see the humanity and respect their rights to hold those opinions. That is the purpose of this activity to widen perspectives, increase awareness, and to teach and foster honest open civil discourse.

“As a student or coach member of the National Speech & Debate Association, I pledge to uphold the highest standards of humility, equity, integrity, respect, leadership, and service in pursuit of excellence.”

Humility: A member does not regard oneself more highly than others. Regardless of a person's level of success, an individual always looks beyond oneself to appreciate the inherent value of others.

Equity: A member respects individuals and their individual differences as well as fosters equity, diversity, and inclusion. A member promotes empowerment for people from all backgrounds, including race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, and ability.

Integrity: A member is honest, ethical, and adheres to the competition and conduct rules of the organization. A member follows the NSDA discrimination and harassment policy and abides by the rules of their schools, tournaments, and localities.

Respect: A member demonstrates civil discourse in their interactions with others. A member maintains and contributes to a safe space and welcoming environment for all.

Leadership: A member is aware their words and actions influence others. A member commits to thoughtful and meaningful words and actions that reflect NSDA core values.

Service: A member exercises their talents to provide service to peers, community, and the activity. At all times a member is prepared to work constructively to improve the lives of others.