RIVER VALLEY
SPEECH & DEBATE LEAGUE
THINK • SPEAK • BELONG

Tournament of Thankfulness

Tournament Etiquette & Rules

1 Do Not Disturb Tabroom Staff

Do not bother tabroom staff unless there is a tournament emergency.



2 Do Not Disturb IPDA or Extemp Draw Staff

Do not bother tournament staff running IPDA or Extemporaneous Speaking draw. They have a specific job to do, and that job does not include handling matters outside of their assigned responsibilities.



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3 Hallway Manners Are Library Manners

No talking. No screaming. No running.

Be on your best behavior and remember that performances and debates are taking place behind classroom doors.



4 What to Do If Your Judge Is Missing

A missing judge is a tournament emergency, but before reporting it:

- Go to the assigned room.
- Knock on the door.
- Ask loudly, "Is there a judge present?"
- Check carefully before assuming the room is without a judge.
- If no judge responds, contact the tabroom.



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5 Leave It Better Than You Found It

We are guests in someone else's school. Act like it!

- Clean up your team's area.
- Pick up all trash and wipe up spills.
- Return furniture to its place.
- Leave classrooms clean, lights off, and doors open.



6 Be Where You Are Supposed to Be, When You Are Supposed to Be There

- Check Tabroom regularly for updates.
- Know your room assignments.
- Report on time.
- Do not wander the building.
- If you have a conflict, notify your coach.



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7 Respect Classrooms and Off-Limits Areas



- Only enter areas designated for tournament use.
- Do not enter offices, storage rooms, or restricted areas.
- Do not open cabinets, drawers, or closets.
- Do not use equipment without permission.
- Respect all signs indicating closed or off-limits areas.

8 Show Respect to Judges and Fellow Competitors



- Treat judges, opponents, coaches, and volunteers with courtesy.
- Do not argue about decisions or ballots.
- Do not interrupt another student's performance.
- Do not make fun of or belittle another competitor.
- Win with humility and lose with dignity.
- Follow your event's rules and tournament instructions.

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9 Coaches Are Responsible for Their Students



- Teach students how to use Tabroom.
- Make sure students know where to report.
- Review tournament rules and expectations.
- Monitor student behavior.
- Ensure your team's area is cleaned before departure.
- Serve as the first point of contact for questions or concerns.

10 Remember That We Are Guests



The host school and its staff have made this tournament possible.

- Show them the respect they deserve.
- Follow instructions and be courteous.
- Take responsibility for yourself and your team.
- Thank the people who make the tournament possible.