

Expectations, Rules, and Policies of the Wayne State University Debate and Individual Events Teams

Your invitation to participate on the debate or individual events teams at Wayne State University is at the discretion of the Director of Forensics. You, the student, agree to abide by these minimal expectations of behavior at competitive tournaments and any Wayne State University speech/debate-related events:

1. Expectations:

- a. Treatment of teammates, competitors, coaches, and judges:
 - i. Do not talk badly about teammates, coaches, or the program to other competitors, judges or coaches.
 - ii. Treat all teammates with respect as colleagues. Occasional joking is fine, and you don't have to like everyone on the team; however, you are expected to work productively and professionally with your teammates. This includes: (1) sharing evidence and materials with all teammates and (2) treating other teammates and their work with respect.
 - iii. Students are expected to treat speech/debate faculty, staff, and teammates in a manner consistent with the policies outlined in the Wayne State student code of conduct <https://doso.wayne.edu/pdf/student-code-of-conduct.pdf>, which Code applies to all University-sponsored event and all University program, whether on or off campus.
- b. Clothing and appearance: Your clothing choices impact competitor and judges' impressions of you, your team, and university. You are expected to dress professionally for all competition and program-sponsored events.
- c. Smoking and vaping: Competition sites have specific rules about appropriate locations for smoking or vaping. You are expected to follow our hosts' policies on this.
- d. Deodorant: Cleanliness is vital; we spend too much time together in confined spaces. You are expected to take showers daily while at tournaments and use appropriate deodorants.
- e. Leaving tournament hotels or tournament sites: Students are not to depart from a tournament hotel or tournament-related facilities without the express permission of the coaching staff.
- f. Intra- and inter-squad romantic relationships:
 - i. Couples are not permitted to spend the night together on trips.
 - ii. Couples are not to be alone together in the hotel rooms on trips.
 - iii. Public displays of affection should be kept to an appropriate level; as to not make your team members, coaches, and/or other participants uncomfortable on debate trips.
 - iv. Trips are not the time or place to resolve relationship conflicts; therefore, such communications should be resolved prior to or upon returning from a trip.

2. Behavioral Rules:**a. Decorum and harassment:**

- i. Never talk badly about judges, other teams' competitors, or teammates; any comments about an event should be withheld until we have left the tournament and are safely in the van.
- ii. You will not commit or condone sexual harassment or any form of discrimination. Our activity is governed by Title IX, which is a federal law that prohibits discrimination based on sex in all educational programs or activities operated by Wayne State. Sexual harassment, sexual assault, relationship or intimate partner violence, stalking and retaliation for having filed a complaint are all forms of sex discrimination prohibited by Title IX. If you learn of an incident of sexual misconduct of any type, please immediately report it to your coach, who will then report it to the Title IX Director. If you choose to report it directly to the Title IX Director, she can be reached at 313-577-9999 or titleix@wayne.edu.
- iii. You will not treat Wayne State University Forensic Union- and team-sponsored events such as the Detroit Urban Debate League debates, the summer institute, and the high school and college tournaments, as trivial events. You are expected to be sober and behave professionally at these events. When you are helping with these events, you will not hold up rounds or delay a task asked of you to go smoke, talk to friends, go home, etc. Your attendance at these events is mandatory unless an absence is otherwise approved by the Director of Forensics.

b. Drinking and Drugs:

- i. Consumption of alcohol or controlled substances forbidden by federal or state law or university policy is forbidden on trips, at team events, or in any context directly associated with team activities. You are expected to avoid consuming controlled substances and alcohol in excessive amounts prior to a trip or event in ways that will hamper your performance in competition or prevent you from attending classes, meetings, etc.

c. Academic Performance:

- i. *Minimum requirements:* To compete in the activity, the American Forensic Association, Cross Examination Debate Association, National Debate Tournament, National Forensic Association and other similar organizations have established minimal Grade Point Average and course enrollment requirements, which include maintaining at 2.0 GPA and at least 12 credit hours a semester course load (the exception is if you are graduating senior – we can ask for an exemption for the full-time enrollment requirement). If a student fails to maintain either of these requirements, they are ineligible for competition and may become ineligible for awards and scholarships.

As a result, Wayne State University forensics students must maintain at least a 2.5 GPA and be enrolled in 12 or more credits during a semester (meaning that dropping courses midway through the semester will harm your full-time student status).

- ii. *Academic ineligibility suspensions:* If a student's GPA drops below a 2.5 GPA, they will receive a warning from the Directors that they are in jeopardy of losing their scholarship and participation on the team. If a student's GPA falls below a 2.0, s/he will be suspended from the program at least one semester until her/his GPA returns to above a 2.5 level. The Director of Forensics may request students attend workshops or programs sponsored by the Student Success Center or similar organizations to assist student success.

3. Penalties and removal process:

- a. Penalties for rules violations: Any potential violation of the Student Code of Conduct (which is linked above – see Section 4.0 for Prohibited Conduct) will be handled pursuant to the SCOC procedures, by the initiation of a charge with the Student Conduct Officer. All other violations of the above expectation and rules set forth herein will result in one or more of the following: verbal warning, restricted travel, loss of scholarship, or expulsion from the team. All decisions on punishment will be decided by the Director of Forensics, with an appeal process outlined below.
- b. Suspicion of alcohol or drug use at a tournament: This will result in an immediate suspension from the competition, written warning from the Director, possible referral to alcohol or substance abuse treatment, and possible suspension from the team for repeat offenses.
- c. Suspicion of Title IX violations: All allegations of discrimination based on sex, sexual harassment, sexual assault, relationship or intimate partner violence, stalking and retaliation for having filed a complaint will immediately be referred to the Title IX Director for handling pursuant to University policies and procedures and pursuant to the choice of the complainant, who may or may not wish to file a Title IX Complaint. The Director of Forensics reserved the right to suspend any student from the team where there are credible allegations of sexual misconduct until an investigation can be completed by the Title IX Office. Where the Title IX Office recommends the case proceed under the SCOC, the suspended student will remain on suspension until a resolution of the Title IX complaint.
- d. Disciplinary Process:
 - i. With first violation of team expectations and policy, students will receive a written warning from the Director of Forensics. Students will have an opportunity to meet with the Director to discuss the infraction.

- ii. Second or subsequent violations can lead to restricted team travel, loss of scholarship, or removal from the team, depending on the nature of the violation. The only exception to this policy is if the students' behavior poses a risk to the safety of students and/or staff (in which case the Dean of Students will be consulted on the possibility of an Interim Suspension pursuant to Section 7.0 of the SCOC) or potentially violates Title IX, which will be handled as indicated in Section 3.c. above. In those instances, students may be asked to not participate in team activities until an investigation into the student's behavior can be completed.
- iii. Students will be removed from the team only in a case with cause. The Director of Forensics will utilize a "preponderance of the evidence" standard, which means it is more likely than not that the violation occurred, with an appeal of the case first to the Director and then to the Chair of the Department of Communication.
- iv. If a student is asked to leave the team, they will continue to receive any scholarship from the team for the remainder of the academic semester or year, with termination of such awards and scholarships at the end of the academic semester or year.

Your participation on the team is an acknowledgement of the team's expectations and rules, which are part of the academic requirements of the Program, and failure to follow these rules may lead to limitations placed on your participation on the team or expulsion from the team and possible forfeiture of scholarship money after appropriate notice and warning.

I have read, understand and acknowledge that I will comply with the expectations, rules and policies set forth herein.

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Student Signature

Date

Last updated: April 23, 2019