

Tournament Code of Conduct

1. Respect shall be shown to all persons and property, including host school facilities.
2. The Head Coach, Assistant Coach, and/or the person designated by the principal to function as supervising adult at a tournament shall be responsible for the conduct of her/his students, judges, and observers affiliated with the school. This person must be on campus at all times during the tournament and available to answer questions from the tournament staff. Only these persons may speak on behalf of a school, either to raise questions/concerns or to file/answer protests.
3. Coaches not staffing the tournament must remain in the Judges' Lounge at all times except lunch. All coaches must be reachable by text message at all times during the tournament.
4. No coach may refuse (or reassign) a ballot without SPECIFIC TAB ROOM APPROVAL. Coaches are not registered in standard judging divisions so that they can be used as needed throughout a tournament.
5. No student shall enter or remain in a competition or preparation room without an adult present, **except** for entries in Student Congress with respect to their chambers.
6. No person shall capture audio, video, or photos of any round or performance.
7. No coach or judge shall ask a student to reveal her/his school affiliation during a tournament round. During a round, a student should not reveal her/his name or school affiliation to anyone except a tournament official, **except** to verify information furnished to judges by the Tab Room (e.g., codes in Debate and Congress).
8. All questions or concerns should be brought to the Tab Room by a coach and presented to the League officers.
9. Formal protests must be submitted in writing and presented to the League officers. An officer will then discuss the issue with the coach of the school in question. Proof of publication, evidence, sources, electronic devices, and other items may be required for presentation.
10. Requests that a judge divulge her/his decision/ranking/scores in a round, the questioning of a judge's decision, and harassment of a judge are unacceptable behaviors. All competitors and observers, including coaches, must exit the competition room immediately after the round is over and may not speak to or wait for the judge. No coach, observer, or judge may speak to other judges or competitors during or after a round until the ballot has been submitted to the Tab Room.
11. The Tab Room is open to tournament officials only and no ballot reading or disclosures are allowed. No person with access to information about tournament results shall divulge those results during the tournament.
12. The use of language or behavior by any person present at a tournament (including students, adults, and coaches) that is abusive, threatening, obscene, or slanderous, including using profanities, insults, or other disparaging remarks or gestures will not be tolerated.
13. No person shall provide coaching assistance to contestants, and no contestant shall accept coaching assistance from any person, from the time that a round begins to the time it ends, including the periods of prep time in rounds and recesses in Congress.
14. No coach may watch rounds of any event until the final round, and then only with the permission of ALL ROUND PARTICIPANTS AND THEIR COACHES. Coaches may not give ballots away in order to watch rounds.
15. Attire for all involved in a tournament, including students and adults, should be appropriate and professional. Clothing should fit properly and meet standards for acceptable appearance at public events.
16. The [NSDA Code of Honor](#) and [NSDA Coaches Code of Ethics](#) are incorporated herein by reference.

COACHES: Please be sure that you, your students and adults understand the expectations for all tournaments. Coaches will be held accountable for the behavior and the behavior of their teams. Please remember that this is an educational activity and coaches are expected to be role models for all students. Failure to adhere to the above tournament expectations may result in tournament disqualification and/or suspension from future competition.