

**Clear Lake Falcon Forensics
Speech & Debate Team
Rules & Regulations
2011-2012**

General Information:

1. All students planning to attend and participate in a tournament must have a signed medical form/permission slip and acknowledgement of rules prior to attending any tournament. Mrs. Pierson, team coach (or Mrs. Glos, team sponsor) will keep a copy of forms with her at the tournament site and master copies will be left at the school. No student will be allowed to board the bus/and/or compete if providing own transportation without these forms being on file. Please plan ahead and do not attempt to email or fax this information to the school on the day of the competition. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
2. Tournament competition is **COSTLY!** Therefore we are requesting that each team member contribute **\$225.00** this semester to cover the cost of our club membership renewal fees in the Texas Forensic Association, National Forensic League, etc. This fee will also go towards the cost of tournament fees and transportation in and around the greater Houston area. **It WILL NOT cover fees, judging costs, hotel accommodations, transportation, etc. to out of town tournaments.** Those fees will be assessed per team member traveling to those competitions. After our TFA qualifying tournament in November we will look at the profits made and determine if fees need to be assessed next semester. We are requesting that you turn in the **\$225.00 prior to Friday, September 30th**, 2011 to Mrs. Pierson. **Checks or money orders are to be made out to Clear Lake Speech & Debate;** not to Mrs. Pierson or the Booster organization.
3. In line with keeping cost to a minimum it is necessary that all speech and debate team members work at any sponsored events (our tournament, fundraisers, etc.) The student must be present for the duration of the tournament and required workdays unless specifically informed by Mrs. Pierson of an alternative schedule. Sign-in and out sheets will be available. It is the student's responsibility to document their arrival and leave times. No one else is to sign them in or out. This is a condition of being a member of the squad and part of the team. If a student fails to work an event, he/she will be assessed a **fine of \$250** to compensate for tournament costs.
4. All Debate I – IV as well as Independent Study students are required to attend a set number of tournaments per semester. Failure to meet the requirement will result in a grade of “zero” for “tournament participation” for the 2nd and 4th 9 weeks' grading periods. Our schedule allows for plenty of opportunities for students to fulfill this requirement, but please plan ahead. Some

tournaments are limited entry and Mrs. Pierson is unable to travel with more than 40 students (this is dependent on transportation rules and having a coach/sponsor on the bus). Because all students have ample opportunity, preference is given to those who compete regularly, not to those who need to compete to meet course requirements because of poor planning. This is a co-curricular course requirement and is not negotiable. Students who belong to the club and who are not in a class must also follow all CCISD rules and regulations and are subject to the same sanctions as are students enrolled in one of the debate classes.

5. While student input is welcome, Mrs. Pierson will make final decisions in regards to squad matters. This includes, but is not limited to team partners, tournament schedules, tournament entries, proper dress and disciplinary matters.
6. Any problems encountered at tournaments should be brought to the attention of Mrs. Pierson immediately. Students are not to argue with tournament personnel, other coaches or judges about decisions made at a tournament. Mrs. Pierson will handle problems, not students. Students involved in altercations will be subject to suspension for tournament participation.
7. **DECISIONS MADE BY MRS. PIERSON ARE FINAL AND WILL NOT BE SUBJECT TO DEBATE!**

COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS:

8. It is assumed that when you signed up for a tournament you had planned your schedule to attend both Friday and Saturday. If you are no longer in competition on Saturday, there is much for you to learn from watching the advanced rounds. **Therefore, all students are expected to attend the tournament on Saturday and to stay though the Awards Ceremony. Parents: Please realize that Clear Lake Speech & Debate is a TEAM. While circumstances occasionally dictate an exception it is the expectation that your student stay through the awards.**
9. Students must be entered in one individual event and one team event or two individual events to be eligible to attend a tournament. There may be some exceptions if the host tournament has limited entries.
10. Any student who commits himself to competing in an upcoming competition is expected to uphold that commitment. Placing your name on the entry signifies that you are going to meet the responsibility of being prepared to compete. Please do not embarrass yourself or the Clear Lake Falcon Forensics Squad by using inappropriate language, bogus sources, spurious cases, materials from last year, etc., etc. Definitely you may get by with it

once or twice. However, it is not an honorable way to compete and will not be tolerated. Although Mrs. Pierson cannot be physically present in every round and listen to every case at any given tournament she is aware of what transpires in those rounds. While we are all about winning we are also all about this being an academically valuable and honorable activity. Do not risk being disqualified from tournament competition by your coach (Mrs. Pierson) or the team sponsor, Mrs. Glos.

11. If a student should decide to drop any or all events from a tournament, he or she will be responsible for the repayment of the entry and drop fees even when there is a valid reason. We are required to pay these fees regardless of the reason for the drop. Communication between parent and student is vital as well as coordinating calendars.
12. Students must meet minimum practice requirements to compete. Students who fail to meet the requirements will be dropped from that tournament and will be held responsible for total entry fees and drop fees (**drop fees will always be at least \$100**, the posted fee the tournament charges if greater and/or travel expenses if the tournament is scheduled out of town or a bus is being utilized).
13. Students may not substitute for another student at a tournament. You are expected to compete in your event. If you know prior to the tournament that you will be unable to attend, it is your responsibility to notify Mrs. Pierson. Many tournaments offer a reduced drop fee for early notification.
14. Students who drop repeatedly are subject to suspension from the tournament squad.
15. UIL **NO PASS/ NO PLAY** rules do apply to tournament competition. All students are required to inform Mrs. Pierson immediately of any difficulty in another class. Each student who expects to compete will be given a form for teachers to sign at progress report time. Should a student fail any class (some courses may be waived in regards to no pass/no play rules), he/she must notify Mrs. Pierson as soon as the information is available. ***If a student competes and is found to be ineligible, the entire team is subject to disqualification and may be suspended from further competition. Do not place your team mates at risk! If you compete while ineligible you face permanent suspension from the squad.***
16. Team members are required to report to their competition rooms on time and remain in the room until the last contestant has performed. This is common courtesy. **NEVER SAY that you are “cross entered” if you are not.** This information has an amazing way of making it back to your coach/sponsor. The single exception to this is if you are entered in 2 or 3 events in the same section. In this case, you are to go directly to your second and/or third event

after you have preformed. Speakers competing in Extemp are expected to report to the draw at the designated time regardless of speaker position.

17. Students who do not advance are **REQUIRED** to observe elimination rounds. Failure to observe elimination rounds will result in suspension from future tournaments.

TOURNAMENT BEHAVIOR:

18. All students of the CLHS NFL and Tournament Squad must remember at **all times** that they are attending the tournament not as individuals, but as representatives of other squad members, their coach as well as sponsor and Clear Lake High School. Therefore, **behavior will be exemplary**. The Clear Lake squad is establishing a reputation for being courteous, respectful and professional. Each team member is responsible for upholding this reputation.
19. There will be *absolutely no alcohol or drugs at tournaments. These items are illegal for all members of our team. Anyone found in possession or under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be immediately suspended from the squad and face disciplinary action from the school administration. If the student is involved in an out of town tournament the parents/guardian will be required to make immediate travel arrangements for the student to return home.*
20. There will be absolutely no smoking by CLHS students at tournaments. Possession and the use of tobacco by persons under 18 years of age are illegal. For those few students who are over 18, it is illegal to smoke on school campuses. The Clear Creek Student Code of Conduct prohibits students from smoking at any school-sponsored event regardless of age. Anyone found smoking (or chewing) will be immediately suspended from the squad and face disciplinary action from the school administration.
21. Students must remain on the host school campus **AT ALL TIMES!** Any student who leaves the campus without a CLHS coach or prior coach approved substitute (IE: a parent/guardian, coach from another CCISD school; absolutely no siblings or friends) will be suspended from tournaments for the remainder of the year.
22. The playing of loud music by CLHS team members will not be permitted at tournaments at any time. You may carry personal listening devices with ear buds or headphones only. All other items such as disc players and radios are to remain at home. You will **NEVER** listen to your personal devices during a round. Cell phones are always to be **OFF** during rounds. The use of the Internet during rounds is often cause for disqualification.

23. The purpose of a Speech & Debate tournament is competition. Therefore, there is no need for sports attire or equipment. These items are to be left at home.
24. Out of town tournaments are subject to additional rules.
 - a. Boys are not to be in girl's rooms at any time and vice versa.
 - b. Students from other schools are not permitted in the rooms. You are not permitted in the rooms of other schools.
 - c. There will be a curfew each night. Coaches and/or chaperones will verify that each student is in the proper room. Students are not allowed to leave the room for any reason, except if instructed to do so by hotel management or security, until the curfew is lifted in the morning.
 - d. Students are never to leave the hotel or tournament site without a CLHS coach or other adult designated by the CLHS coach.
 - e. All charges to the rooms will be the responsibility of the students in that room.
 - f. Violation of CLHS rules may result in the student being ineligible to compete the next day, removal from the tournament at the parent's expense, suspension from the squad, and school discipline.

TRANSPORTATION:

25. Transportation to and from tournaments is provided by the school district. Under no circumstances will a student be allowed to drive him or herself to a tournament unless an alternate transportation form is on file with Mrs. Pierson prior to the tournament. If you drive to a tournament alone without the appropriate forms on file, you will be instructed to leave the campus. This includes those who come to observe rounds. This rule is for your protection.
26. The single exception to this rule will be district tournaments where the school has allowed the students to provide their own transportation due to the variety of schedules in all areas of competition (such as UIL competitions). Students may ride or drive with other squad members **ONLY IF WRITTEN PERMISSION FROM THE PARENTS/GUARDIANS IS RECEIVED 24 HOURS PRIOR TO THE TOURNAMENT**. If a student is unable to provide their own transportation they must inform Mrs. Pierson at least 3 weeks in advance so that transportation arrangements may be made through the district. If the school administration revokes this opportunity for any reason, **ALL** students will use district transportation.
27. Tournaments generally run on time (or relatively close). Some events that are beyond the control of the CLHS squad or coach can cause tournaments to run later than expected. The squad will generally return to CLHS on Friday evening between 10:30 and midnight. The competition on Saturday usually

begins between 7:30 and 8:00 am. Dependent on the distance to the tournament we may depart between 5:30 – 7:00 am. **WE WILL LEAVE AT THE STATED TIME. MRS. PIERSON INSTRUCTS THE DRIVER TO LEAVE ONCE SHE HAS BOARDED THE BUS AND CALLS ROLL. THE BUS DOES NOT WAIT.** Saturday evening times may vary from 5:00pm to midnight. The better we do, the longer we stay. : >)

28. If a student misses the bus, her or her PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN (no older siblings or family friends) must bring the student to the tournament and physically check in with Mrs. Pierson or Mrs. Glos. Failure to do so will result in suspension from the squad. The student will be responsible for all entry and drop fees.
29. Students who are frequently late for the bus on Friday or Saturday are subject to suspension from the squad. It is unfair to others who are on time to wait plus our team is subject to disqualification from a tournament if we are late to the first event of the day.
30. Students must always call parents/guardians to let them know of arrival time at the CLHS campus. Every effort will be made to give you a precise time of return; however, **please be at CLHS at the earliest time your student tells you we will return.** While we realize that waiting for a bus at a late hour can be inconvenient it is also very frustrating for the student and coach when parents are late picking up their children. **COACHES ARE NOT ALLOWED TO TAKE STUDENTS HOME!** And coaches will not leave until all students have been picked up.
31. If there is a valid reason for a squad member to leave the tournament prior to bus departure, Mrs. Pierson must be notified in advance with parental consent giving that student permission to be picked up. Students who do not notify the coaches in advance are subject to suspension from competition or other disciplinary action. Only the student's parent or legal guardian will be allowed to pick up the student. The student and their parent/legal guardian must physically check out with Mrs. Pierson prior to leaving the tournament. If I have not met you before I may request identification. Failure to check out with the coach will result in immediate suspension from tournaments. Students who consistently leave tournaments early are subject to suspension from tournament competition. ***This is a team activity and we travel to and from tournaments as a team!***

TOURNAMENT ATTIRE:

32. **Gentlemen:**
 - a. Gentlemen are to wear suits, ties, dress socks and shoes or appropriate dress apparel as approved by the coaches. Khakis and a sports' coat

are acceptable for novices if a gentleman does not own a suit. **Varsity members are expected to wear suits.**

- b. Jeans/denim and cords are NOT acceptable attire.
- c. Ties must be appropriate and coordinate with the suit.
- d. Gentlemen will not wear earrings at any time. All earrings and other piercings must be removed prior to boarding the bus.
- e. All gentlemen are to be clean shaven.
- f. Gentlemen's hair is to be the appropriate length as approved by the coaches.

33. **Ladies:**

- a. Ladies are to wear dresses or suits (not pants) preferably with hose (no socks, no knee highs).
- b. Ladies are to wear closed toe conservative pumps with no higher than a mid-heel.
- c. Ladies are not to wear distracting jewelry.
- d. Multiple earrings are not allowed.
- e. No denim.
- f. Make-up and nail polish are to be conservative. Refrain from neons, dark blue, black and green.
- g. Colored hosiery is not permitted, only black (for ladies with darker complexions) or "nude."
- h. Low cut tops and short dresses are not permitted. The coaches will determine what is too low, too short or too tight.
- i. If in doubt ask if it is professional, conservative and in good taste.

34. **Ladies and Gentlemen:**

- a. Students are encouraged to wear "power colors." This includes black, navy blue, gray, pin stripes and some reds.
- b. Students will not wear loud and distracting colors.
- c. All students are to wear their hair away from the face.
- d. Hair must be a natural color. Students are expected to get sponsor approval before making ANY drastic changes to hair color.
- e. Hair should be styled conservatively. Students are expected to get sponsor approval before ANY drastic changes to hair style.
- f. Students will wear dress shoes. The coaches may determine at their discretion that particular shoes are inappropriate. Students ARE NEVER to compete barefoot or in house slippers.
- g. Students may not have any visible body piercings (except limited earrings for girls) or tattoos.
- h. Absolutely no hats will be worn at tournaments at any time.
- i. Clothes must fit. They are not to be too tight or too baggy.

35. If in doubt regarding any outfit or particular item of clothing, check with Mrs. Pierson **prior to the tournament**. Any student inappropriately dressed will not be allowed to board the bus.

36. Students must be dressed prior to boarding the bus. Students not dressed in tournament attire will not be allowed to board the bus. The student will be responsible for all entry and drop fees. This applies to both Friday and Saturday. The only exception is if a physical education classes immediately precedes our departure time.
37. **Students are encouraged to remain in dress attire for the duration of the tournament.** However, if a student is eliminated from competition, the student may change into more comfortable attire. This is limited to the team shirt and slacks or jeans. Slacks and jeans must fit and be free of tattered hems and holes. NO shorts! If a student has a possibility of receiving any award, the student must remain in dress attire.
38. **Students should remain completely dressed during competition.** Shoes must be on your feet while you are in a round. Gentlemen are to keep their ties on and shirts are to remain buttoned.
39. Any difficulty meeting the standards of tournament dress code should be discussed with Mrs. Pierson on an individual and confidential basis.

OUT OF TOWN TOURNAMENTS:

40. Out of town tournaments are generally limited to Varsity team members only.
41. Students will pay for lodging, transportation charges and tournament fees.
42. Students who drop from out of town tournaments, regardless of when they drop, will be responsible for entry fees and drop fees. **Additionally, the student will be responsible for hotel and transportation costs as these reservations must be made well ahead of the travel date.**
43. **The minimum requirements to attend out of town tournaments include:**
 - a. Student commitment and practice habits.
 - b. Student success at previous tournaments.
 - c. Student behavior at tournaments.
 - d. Student conforming to rules and regulations of the team.
 - e. Coach discretion.
44. Students who behave inappropriately at out of town tournaments will be permanently suspended from future tournament travel including TFA State, NFL District and Nationals, TOC's and UIL competition.

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