

Hamilton High School Speech and Debate Contract

2018 - 2019

Parents and students: Please read this document carefully and sign. **This contract** and the first **semester fee of \$250 are due September 12th**. The second semester fee of \$250 will be due December 12th. We do not want monetary issues to keep a student from participating. Please contact Mrs. Meade for monetary assistance. Team members, new and returning, will not be allowed to participate in practices or competitions until this contract is on file.

Mrs. Meade's contact information: 480-883-5104 or meade.gina@cusd80.com

The requirements to participate on the Hamilton High School Speech and Debate Team are as follows:

1. Follow the guidelines for conduct and behavior outlined in the student handbook and the guidelines set forth in the National Speech and Debate Association (NSDA) manual which can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/NSDA-Manual>
2. Pay the non-refundable participation fee of \$250 each semester on time and in full. These fees pay for NSDA membership fees, tournament fees, judging fees, and transportation to and from most tournaments. All outstanding fees and fines must be paid in order to compete.
3. Attend all required meetings, practices, and assigned coaching sessions. Four unexcused absences per semester will result in the forfeiture of tournament participation for the remainder of the semester. Pre-tournament week practices and tournament week practices are mandatory. All absence excuses must be emailed to Mrs. Meade, event sponsor, and captain. 24 hours prior to start of a missed meeting.
4. Meet specific deadlines in order to attend tournaments. Participation decisions are usually finalized the week before each tournament.
5. Be available to attend all tournaments. If selected to attend a tournament, team members are allowed to miss only two tournaments a year for other obligations. Absences for approved academic club competitions will be considered. If a team member drops after the given deadline, they will be required to reimburse the club with the \$40 drop fee. If a student does not show up for a tournament in which they were entered, they will pay \$60. For students selected to compete in a tournament, non-participation counts as an absence for that tournament.
6. Ride the activity bus to and from the tournament. If a team member is riding with his/her parent or the parent of another student, then he/she must submit a hard copy of a completed and signed Student Travel Consent form (can be found on hamiltonforensics.net) by 3:30 on the Wednesday the week before the tournament to Mrs. Meade. **Team members are expected to stay for the duration of each tournament unless there are extenuating circumstances.** Not traveling with the team to all tournaments is an exception to the general rules. Early dismissal from a tournament must be cleared through Mrs. Meade. A documented reason detailing the reason for absence signed by the parent/guardian must be provided to Mrs. Meade. If a student does not adhere to these rules, the student's priority in being allowed to attend tournaments will be diminished and will count as an unexcused absence.
7. Observe rounds of their event, or another event in which they might be interested, after they have been eliminated from the tournament.
8. Follow the proper chain of command for discussions, questions, and voting: captain, coach, officer board, sponsor.

9. Double-enter after the first year of participation on the team.
 - a. Students who double enter in at least 2 of the 3 first semester tournaments will receive a \$50 second semester fee reduction.
 - b. Each first-year debater must attend at least three speech rounds during the first semester with the event's respective captain.
 - c. Each first-year speech competitor must attend at least three debate rounds during the first semester with the event's respective captain.
10. Per AIA and extra-curricular participation rules, students must be present at school on Friday of tournament weeks to be eligible to compete on Friday and/or Saturday. (An excused absence does not restore eligibility.)

Team and parent information:

1. In cases where there are more potential qualified team members than there are available slots in a particular event at a tournament, the highest ranking individuals/teams will be offered those slots as long as they have met all requirements for participation. Attendance at practices, effort, preparedness, and the adherence to this contract will be factored into the decision of the coach as to which teams/individuals attend each tournament. Team members will pay extra fees for attending optional, out-of-state national tournaments.
2. Tax Credit can be used to pay for all fees. All tax credit forms should be submitted to the bookstore. Make checks payable to HHS Speech and Debate.
3. Parents must attend at least one mini-camp prior to judging at a tournament. For each tournament a parent judges at, their student will receive a \$50 club fee discount.
4. Student participation in tournaments is limited not only by the tournament, but also by the number of judges Hamilton can supply. The more volunteer / parent judges we can enter, the more students can compete. *An insufficiency of judges will result in competitors being dropped from tournaments.*

The following are all the dates of tournaments as we know them at this time and are subject to change:

2018-2019 Hamilton Speech and Debate Tournament Calendar

- Sept 22 – SWSDI Novice Tournament @ Hamilton
- Oct 12-13 – Prep Congress and Big Questions – Scottsdale Prep Academy
- Oct 26-27 – Jim Fountain Classic – McClintock HS
- Nov 9-10 – Toro Country Classic – Mt. View HS
- Nov 16-17 – Water Tower Invitational – Mesquite HS
- Nov 30 – Dec 1 – Winter Trophy – (Dec PF topic)
- Jan 4-6 – High Downs School of Human Communication Invitational – ASU
- Jan 11-12 – Prep School Classic – CPA
- Jan 25-26 – Bobcat Bonanza – Central
- Feb 15-16 – Scorpion Spectacular – Basis Peoria
- Feb 23 – NSDA Congress Qualifier
- March 1-2 – SWSDI – Horizon
- March 15-16 – State TBD
- March 28-30 – NSDA District Qualifier

Speech and Debate Contract 2018 – 2019

Student Name _____

By signing this form you are confirming that you understand and agree to the terms of the Hamilton High School Speech and Debate Contract above. This form and your bookstore receipt of payment must be returned by September 12th in order to participate in our first practice tournament on September 23rd.

Print Parent Name _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Email _____ Parent Phone _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Student Email _____

Student Phone _____