**2014-2015 SandHoke Debate Team Rules and Norms**

**The Team Rules**:

1. We follow all school rules at all times. Even while off-campus, all students are expected to adhere to the code of student conduct as if they were in the classroom.
2. Only students in good standing may travel with the team. The coaches may at any time remove a student from a travel list for reasons of concern involving behavior, attitude, classroom issues within debate or in other classes, and grade related concerns. Parents may also withhold travel from students for similarly related concerns. Travelling on behalf of the School is to be considered and honor and privilege and by no means is it a right.
3. Consequences for breaking rules are dealt with by either tournament suspension and probation periods or by school administration or both. The number of tournament suspension and probation period varies by degree of misconduct but is at the discretion of the coaching staff. Permanent removal from the team is an option in very serious cases of miss-conduct including but not limited to any acts of academic dishonesty.
4. I understand that any student who does not conduct himself/herself properly may be (a) sent home at the parent’s expense; (b) prohibited from participating in future activities of this organization; and/or, (c) subject to other appropriate disciplinary action.

**Tournament Norms**:

1. The team dresses formally for all tournaments. Males should wear conservative ties and prefer formal attire with sport coats or suit coats at all times. Females should prefer professional looking shoes – think comfort because you will be on your feet all day. Be conservative and prefer solid colors.
2. All team members attending a tournament should stay until the end of awards/pictures. Our team members should remain in formal attire at tournaments – no one should have shirts un-tucked or ties off until after awards. Keep all jackets on for receiving awards.
3. Jackets and suits may be cumbersome when travelling by plane or long distances. For men, we recommend sweater vests and ties with slacks instead of suits. For women, we recommend vest outfits also over formal attire which requires larger baggage and pressing.
4. Most tournaments have rules regarding outside food and drinks. Pay careful attention to all tournament rules regarding this issue.
5. All team members should check-in at our team area before and after each round of the tournament and especially before leaving any event. Notify the coaches when you arrive and when you leave in person or by a cell phone call. You must speak with a coach before leaving even when your parents have arrived!
6. Our tournaments are very busy. We try to work with students between rounds and in the evenings. While family members are always welcome to come watch students at the tournament and during rounds, there is never a good time to take a student out to eat or to visit with family. To this end, all students travelling with the team should remain with the team and follow the team schedule. After the tournament is over or prior to a tournament, parents may discuss with the coaches taking their students on other travel related visits. Students must remain with the team and watch elimination rounds when we travel to tournaments unless the coach states otherwise.
7. All travel is handled through the coaching staff. We send and hand out emails/announcements. The first asks for preliminary interest in an event and is generally sent out a month to three weeks ahead. The second suggests a price range and asks for a formal commitment by a specified date to attend at that price range. The final sends out the actual costs and details regarding the event. A fourth email is sent to the group attending the week of the event regarding the travel itinerary and all relevant travel details. We send these emails to the students directly as well as announce them at school during the related time period.
8. Long travel tournaments often involve situations where a majority of our team is eliminated while only a few continue to compete. **Our policy is for all students to remain scouting and assisting one another until the final team member has been eliminated.** We make exceptions to this rule when we are able to send a partial group home early from a long tournament without increasing the cost of their trip. Thus, many times our travel is set to come home before the tournament may end, yet if a student does well, we intend to remain and adjust our travel plans accordingly for these students.
9. At no time should a student who is disgruntled over a decision in round speak about the issue with the judge or debaters from another team. Find the coach first and discuss these issues privately.
10. Finally, parents are welcome as chaperones whenever they would like to come at their own expense and can arrange travel without taking a spot from a student.
11. We need parent volunteers with a willingness to judge. If this describes you or your parent, please contact the coaching staff or a parent leader about tournaments on our schedule you have an interest in attending. The team usually covers all fees for judges.

**Costs:**

1. The cost of tournaments is contingent on budget and sponsorship funds received.
2. The cost of any tournament is simply the total cost of all expenses related to the event minus any allocated budget funds divided by the number of students attending.
3. Typical related costs include the following: ground transportation, airfare, hotel, judge/consultant fees, sub fees and per diems, parking and tolls, and tournament registration fees.
4. Costs vary greatly depending on travel accommodations. The average cost of airfare related events may be close to $400 while the average cost of in-city tournaments is $20.
5. Our team raises some funds with our annual SandHoke tournament. If you would like to assist the team with raising funds, please contact our parent leaders or the coaching staff.
6. Our team can assist financially on occasion through the help of donations made to our team from sponsors and alumni. If you would like to request financial assistance for tournament attendance contact the coaching staff.
7. Any competitor who commits to and is registered for a tournament is liable for all registration and drop fees charged to the team.
8. Any competitor who drops for any reason (illness, missed bus, etc.) is liable for all registration and drop fees charged to the team.
9. If a competitor does not show up for a tournament and does not directly call the coach by 8:15 on a tournament date, he/she will be suspended from the team and will be liable for all incurred registration and drop fees.

**Tournament and Practice Requirements**:

1. Our team asks that all team members attend our tournament in full. Please plan work and travel schedules accordingly to be in attendance at our tournament each year. Beyond that single event, students may attend whichever of the events they choose so long as room on the squad exists. Do keep in mind that when space and funds are limited, NFL Points and participation are factors in considering who will compete at select tournaments.
2. Our team arranges practices with students individually and by event. Normally students will practice twice prior to each tournament after school with the coaches. Students may arrange to work with the coaches after school anytime they like, and some students work on their cases daily without any team required mandates.
3. In order to remain a member in good standing, it is necessary to attend two tournaments per semester (not counting our tournament).
4. Camps are not required but we strongly recommend all of our team members attend camps for debate in the summer.

**Where to find team information**:

1. The first place to check is our team Google site page- <http://sandhokedebate.weebly.com/information.html>
2. Coach email- mlong@hcs.k12.nc.us- or telephone (910) 308-9807. It is the best way to contact the coach, especially while traveling to tournaments.
3. The event captains will also offer contact information and practice schedules.

**Other Team Events and Awards**:

1. The debaters who attend tournaments regularly earn National Forensic League (NFL) points. The NFL is an honor society and all team members who graduate from the team with 150 or more points and continuous team membership are awarded honor cords to wear at graduation.
2. The top 25 students for our district are listed amongst the NFL District All-Americans, the top 150 point earners in the country each year are listed as NFL All-Americans, and students in either of these two categories may apply to be NFL Academic All-Americans.
3. Other team honors include The Most Valuable Debater Award (coach nominated by NFL Points) and awards for NFL points are given at the end of the year banquet. Moreover, debaters who are still team members their senior year, will have an honor cord bestowed on them at Senior Awards. The cord should be worn at graduation.
4. Our team hosts a pre-season mini-camp in July of each year. Primarily the camp is to serve new team members, but all who can attend summer camps are welcome to attend.
5. There is a mandatory parent meeting that parents must attend before students can compete.
6. The Captains arrange team social events usually once or twice a year but these do not take place at school and are not attended by coaching staff.

**Special Travel Related Rules for Team members**:

1. When at the hotels, students must arrange privately with the front desk for all room-related charges. The long distance phone-use and pay-per-views will all be turned off. Students will pay for any charges to their rooms.
2. After 10 pm in the hotels, students should remember to remain quite in the halls for other guests. Moreover, no student may leave their floor without first notifying the coaching staff of where they are headed, with whom, and they must again notify the coaching staff when they return. It is never allowed that a student may leave the hotel without a member of the coaching staff. After midnight or otherwise stated time, all students should be in their rooms for bed-check unless meeting with the coaching staff. No students may leave their rooms after midnight (or specified curfew) without first calling the coaching staff. And, *never* open the door for anyone you do not see and know through the peep hole at a hotel! Call the coach’s room if someone is knocking at the door.
3. All students must be present and on time for the morning departure. Being late for the bus in the morning can cost a tournament suspension or worse if it is a repeat offense.
4. Again, all school rules are in effect while travelling.
5. No female students should be in male rooms or vice versa unless approved and chaperoned by the coach for a team function (**never alone**). You may work in the meeting areas or common spaces at the hotels or in groups with the coaching staff but never alone with each other in rooms. Students often think this rule does not apply when they order food or are partnered with a team member of the opposite gender, but it still applies! Do not go into anyone else’s room but your own. Tape may be placed on the outside of the hotel door to ensure that the room is not left without approval. Leaving a hotel room after curfew can result in a tournament suspension or worse if it is a repeat offense. See the coaches if you have questions or have a special situation for consideration.
6. It is the responsibility of the parent and student to be sure that any student with asthma, allergies, or special needs has his/her medications and necessary treatments with him/her when traveling. It is not the coach’s responsibility to carry such items. At some tournaments, the coaches and students are separated by miles, and parents should carefully consider traveling with any students who require special assistance.

**Tournament Day and Day after Norms**:

1. When we leave as a group and travel by bus or rental car from the school, the students are dismissed without need of checkout at the designated times.
2. When we leave from the airport, students may need to be checked out of school by their parents and will meet at the check-in counter of the designated airline and will be picked up from the baggage claim area unless other plans are verified by the coach. A coach will remain at the airport until all students have been picked up from the baggage area.
3. When we attend local events and students drive themselves to the event, parents must check out their students from the school.
4. All tournaments attended with a coach are considered school excused absences and do not count against attendance. Nonetheless, no student is excused from the work related to his/her classes. Our team travels more than all other school related teams combined. To earn this privilege, we must set the bar for being diligent with our work. Thus, we have the following expectations:
	1. Students should be in close contact with all their teachers over a week prior to tournament day regarding the missed work.
	2. If at all possible, students should arrange to do all work missed ahead of time – there is very little time on a travel tournament for school work and students do need to focus on their debates and their cases rather than to be focused on studies while at tournaments.
	3. If not possible to make up work prior, students should use travel time for studying and homework and turn in all assignments the day we return.
	4. Only when a student pre-arranges extra time for an assignment with a teacher is it excusable to turn in the work later than the day we return.
5. No students should miss school the day we return from a trip or the day we leave for a trip unless it is a special circumstance such as returning from Blue Key at 5:00 a.m.. If you are sick, you need to get a doctor’s excuse. If you are fatigued you need not travel with the team. We do keep difficult hours, and we do work very hard on our travel events, but when students return sick or tired, it is often because they have ignored their own health and the rules regarding lights out. The coaching staff will strictly enforce tournament suspensions for all students who cannot act responsibly, and we encourage parents to do the same.
6. All competitors are responsible for being on time and prepared (cases in hand) for all tournaments.

If you have questions regarding anything or perhaps something about what is not listed above please feel free to email the coaching staff.

Head Coach Marcia Long, mlong@hcs.k12.nc.us, (910) 308-9807

Asst. Coach Michael Vernon, mvernon@hcs.k12.nc.us

Asst. Coach Amelia Philbrook, aphilbrook@hcs.k12.nc.us

Asst. Coach Lauren Cuff, lcuff@hcs.k12.nc.us

I have read and understand the SandHoke Debate Team Rules and Norms.

Parent Name (printed)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Parent Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Name (Printed)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Student Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_