

BRECKSVILLE-BROADVIEW HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL & MIDDLE SCHOOL  
SPEECH AND DEBATE TEAM

**CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICS**

Membership on the Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School and Middle School Speech and Debate Team can be the springboard to many future successes and accomplishments. The skills you develop and the friends you make will last a lifetime. The following guidelines have been implemented to supplement existing school policy and to ensure a positive experience for all. Failure to adhere to these guidelines at any time while participating in a team activity will result in parental notification, disciplinary action, and/or possible suspension or dismissal from the team.

**1. TREAT ALL OTHERS WITH RESPECT**

This means coaches, teammates, judges, competitors, chaperones and audiences. There will be disappointments and disagreements. They are a part of life. However, it is expected that team members be mature enough to pick the right time, place and communication method to enhance interpersonal relationships or express dissatisfaction. This means that we are also gracious winners and good losers. Negative talk about fellow teammates, coaches, chaperones, competitors from other schools, or their coaches will not be permitted. This is enforced both in and out of the Speech and Debate setting; disrespect that takes place during school or online will also not be tolerated.

**2. DEMONSTRATE THE HIGHEST ETHICAL STANDARD**

This means never lie in competition. Your coaches and your teammates appreciate honesty in all dealings. There are a variety of behaviors that pertain to this activity: no plagiarism, no distortion of research content or citation, and no fabrication. Competitors should make every effort to adhere to the National Speech and Debate Association honor code in following all instructions of the coaches and participating as a member of the team. Fabrication of evidence, sources, or other material will result in dismissal from the team.

**3. NO DISCRIMINATION OR HARASSMENT**

The Brecksville-Broadview Heights City School District policy prohibits any form of discrimination or harassment. Reports of such activity shall immediately be reported to school administrators for full investigation.

**4. STAY CURRENT IN ALL CLASSES**

As a student/competitor, it is important to understand that **classes and grades have priority over competition**. This means that if you want to do both, you must manage your time well. No competitor should allow their cumulative GPA to fall below 2.0 or receive an "F" grade in any class. Students not meeting this expectation may be subject to suspension from the team or probationary status. It will be up to the student and parent to advise the Head Coach if the cumulative GPA falls below 2.0 or a grade of "F" has been received in a class.

Note: The Counselors will contact the Head Coach if a student is failing a class or has a GPA below 2.0. It is in the best interest of the student to ask for help before grades are posted each quarter! Our team has a lot of students who are often happy to help their teammates with difficult classes.

**5. ADHERE TO THE DISTRICT'S DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY**

This policy is strictly enforced! No drug or alcohol usage will be tolerated by any student at any practices, tournaments, or team activities. Violations of this policy will result in immediate expulsion from the team for the remainder of the year regardless of consequences the school may impose. Medications prescribed by

a physician are exempted.

## **6. ATTEND TEAM MEETINGS**

Team meetings will be held on a periodic basis. Students may miss the meeting if they have a personal or school conflict. They should make every effort to review the information presented with the coach or the student officers.

## **7. HONOR PRACTICE AND COACHING COMMITMENTS**

Students are expected to sign up for coaching sessions and tournaments. When making the commitment, it is the student's responsibility to make the time available to keep the commitment. Be punctual for practices, meetings, and tournament departures. Do not stand up coaches. It is also expected that students will be tournament ready when competing. This means that the material presented has been practiced and a BBHHS or BBHMS coach has heard the student and has approved the event as competitive. **The Head Coach has the authority to deny participation in any tournament if it is deemed that you are not adequately prepared or have been negligent in practice policies.**

Debaters who are not adequately prepared with cases may be moved into an Extemp category for a tournament if the Debate coach is not satisfied with their preparation in the days leading up to competition. If they compete in PF, then their partner will either be assigned a new partner for that tournament or also moved to Extemp.

## **8. FOLLOW HOTEL POLICIES FOR ANY OUT OF TOWN TOURNAMENT**

Noise in hallways is to be kept to a minimum. Curfew will be determined by the coach in charge at each tournament depending on start times for competition.. Students must be in their own rooms with their assigned roommates after curfew and may not leave the rooms at any time prior to 6 AM. Students may not change rooms without coach consent. Rooms must be left in reasonable condition upon checkout and students should be in the lobby ready to check out at the time designated by the coaches.

## **9. RESPECT PARENTS AND CHAPERONES**

Be respectful toward parents and chaperones. ***Follow their directives*** the same way you would follow the directives of a coach.

## **10. PROFESSIONAL ATTIRE AND DECORUM**

To compete at tournaments, competitors must wear tournament-dress attire. Such professional standards will be disclosed in greater detail at practices. However, this typically involves at minimum a dress shirt, tie and dress pants for men and a dress shirt and dress pants or skirt and blouse for women. Suits are common but not strictly required. Jeans, sweatpants, or t-shirts are not appropriate dress for competition or awards at any time. Students are expected to remain dressed in their professional attire for awards, although changing into reasonable street clothes is permitted **after** awards are over. At no time should any clothing violate The Brecksville-Broadview Heights City School District dress code. While at the awards ceremony, students should applaud every award winner, regardless of placement or team. Additionally, students should give a standing ovation to any award winner from Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School as well as every first place winner, regardless of school. Chants or any outbursts beyond reasonable applause are prohibited. Students should accept awards on stage with dignity and not use the occasion to "show off." Students are expected to remain at tournaments through the end of awards, even if they themselves have already been eliminated from the tournament; it is important to support our teammates and our competitors alike in this activity.

## **11. FOLLOW ALL SCHOOL RULES**

All Ohio Speech and Debate Association (OSDA) rules apply as well as the rules of the host school when you are competing at a tournament. Appropriate penalties apply. (For example, you may receive a loss in a debate if your phone rings during a round.) This includes all Covid-19 protocols. Even though BBH

Schools may not have a mask mandate, other schools we visit may require them. Following the Covid policies of other schools and the OSDA is EXTREMELY IMPORTANT, because if we do not get in the habit of following these procedures, schools will likely move to an online format rather than risk their rules not being enforced. **Students, coaches, and judges who refuse to follow a facility's mask guidance may be removed from the tournament depending on the tournament's rules and enforcement. Any fees incurred due to a student or judge not following Covid regulations will be the responsibility of the student or judge; this includes the \$20 student drop fee or the \$50 judge drop fee.**

**12. ACKNOWLEDGE THAT EVERYTHING IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

Due to Covid-19, tournament and practice plans are subject to change at any time due to ever-changing rules, laws, and guidelines. There will be no refund of membership fees if our season moves online or has some cancellations to tournaments. **It is the current goal of the Ohio Speech and Debate Association and the BBH Speech and Debate Team to have a fully in-person season, including practices, tournaments, and post-season events.** The Head Coach will keep the team updated of any and all changes to the schedule or policies, including mask guidance, online practices/tournaments, etc. The Head Coach will communicate these changes via the email listed on the registration form.

**I have read, understand and agree to abide by the Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School/Middle School Speech and Debate Code of Conduct and Ethics. I realize that violation of this code will receive at minimum a parental notification on first offense and could result in stronger action ranging from a school disciplinary referral to dismissal from the team. I also understand that photography is an integral part of the promotion and legacy of the team. *Unless the parent/guardian signs in the addendum below, I agree to the use of my student's picture in promotional, social media or other school or team related publications.***

Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**I DO NOT CONSENT TO THE USE OF MY STUDENT'S PICTURE IN PROMOTIONAL, SOCIAL MEDIA OR OTHER SCHOOL OR TEAM RELATED PUBLICATIONS.**

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_