

# Cypress Woods Debate Constitution

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#### I Mission Statement and Establishment Clause

- A. The Cypress Woods Speech and Debate club, hereto referred as CWSDC, is hereby established at Cypress Woods High School in Cypress, Texas as a part of the Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District.
- B. It is the mission of the CWSDC to educate its members in the art of literary forensics in order to enhance their education, promote leadership, and change the world to benefit its citizens

#### II Rules, Regulations, and Expectations

- A. Any student who is currently enrolled at Cypress Woods high school may petition the sponsor to be a member of the club.
- B. Enrollment in the forensics class is preferred, but not mandatory to be a member of the CWSDC.
- C. Students in the club will be required to pay a fee for competition. These fees are set by the sponsor and may be paid through the school cash, or through the sponsor by money order or cashier's check made out to: Cypress Woods High School Speech and Debate Club. Alternative arrangements may be discussed with the sponsor.
- D. Payment of fees does not guarantee enrollment into tournaments. Students must attend practice and show a level of proficiency to the coach before competing.
- E. Some tournaments have limited space as determined by that tournament director and/or the sponsor. The sponsor reserves the right to select students for certain tournament based on availability, proficiency and commitment.
- F. Dress code: professional dress at all time. Boys are expected to include ties, belt, and dress shoes with professional dress. Ladies are expected to wear hosiery with professional dress. Matching with partner is preferred, but not required. Students who are competing or observing are expected to abide by this guideline.
- G. Students should expect to provide for their own food at tournaments. Occasionally the Booster Club will provide food, but they are not required to. The recommendation is a minimum of \$10 for Fridays and \$20 for Saturdays. Out of town trips will vary.
- H. All in-state out of town trips will cost an additional \$50 (except for TFA State and UIL State which will be at no cost to the student including meals) per competitor. Out of state trips (except for NSDA Nationals which will be at no cost to the student including meals) will vary depending upon arrangements made with the Booster Club.
- I. Students are expected to maintain at least an 80 in all classes. Exceptions will be made for AP classes, but any student not meeting this requirement may not attend practice and are subject

to not competing. Any student who fails consecutive marking periods are subject to academic probation or dismissal from the club without a refund.

- J. Students are expected to conduct themselves accordingly in all capacities (in and out of school) while a member of the club. Any violations of school rules, team rules, district rules, or towing the line may result in dismissal from the club without refund.
- K. Students are expected to be timely. The bus will leave anyone who is not on time and the student may be subject to paying drop fees (some times as much as three times the cost of entry) and not allowed to compete.
- L. Parents, please be on time dropping off and picking up kids. Students will contact you at least within 15 minutes from the campus. Students who are routinely late may be restricted from competing.
- M. Students who compete in speaking or acting competitions must have a copy of their piece available at all times. Students who compete in debating competition should have a laptop. If a student doesn't have a laptop for any reason, they may borrow one from my classroom. Students will be held liable for using the school computer. The school is not liable for the students' computer.
- N. Students are expected to work the high school and middle school tournament held on the campus of Cypress Woods. Please make arrangements to have your child available for the duration of the tournament.
- O. Students are not allowed to leave tournaments early unless prior arrangements have been made or in cases of emergency. Please encourage your child to stay and observe even if they are finished competing.
- P. Students may not observe a tournament more than once.
- Q. If any conflicts arise, please contact the sponsor ahead of time so arrangements may be made.
- R. Juniors are expected to research colleges. Seniors are expected to apply for colleges.
- S. Varsity members are expected to attend all practices unless arrangements have been made. Novices must attend practice at least twice a month.
- T. Only varsity members may travel. Exceptions will be made for first year students if they show a high level of proficiency.
- U. Letterman jackets are earned after the student has earned 100 NSDA points as a novice or 200 NSDA points at the Varsity level.
- V. To be recommended for Varsity, students must audition with the EC and sponsor. Student must also provide two letters of recommendation: one from an adult within the school and one from and adult outside of the school.
- W. Students may not disclose their cases unless specifically directed by the tournament. Any student who discloses their case without a directive from the tournament will be dismissed from the team.

### III National Honor Society and State Organization

- A. All members of the CWSDC are expected to be inducted into the National Speech and Debate Association honor society. This is accomplished by acquiring 25 NSDA points. This membership lets colleges know that the student has competed.
- B. All members of the CWSDC are expected to be a member of the Texas Forensics Association. This is accomplished through competing on the Varsity level in a state qualifying event. All

novices are expected to be promoted to varsity. This is accomplished through making it to finals once in an event or semi-finals twice. Students who don't accomplish this their first year will be promoted to junior varsity the following year. They can be promoted to Varsity by acquiring a minimum of 5 TFA state points.

#### IV Executive Council

- A. All members of the EC must have at least one year of competition experience before running.
- B. Students elected to the EC must make the CWSPC their primary extra-curricular obligation. Students found to be in violation of this rule may have their position vacated.
- C. The positions will be President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Parliamentarian, Historian, and Social Captain.
- D. EC members must attend a debate camp at least once during a summer of their high school career. It may be an away camp or an online camp.
- E. EC members must attend each practice.
- F. EC members must hold an EC meeting at least once a month.
- G. Graduating seniors may not vote for EC members.

Any rule, expectation, or anything that is missing from this constitution may be retrieved from the sponsor. This constitution is not expected to be a complete list of all rules and regulations. Specific circumstances may arise that requires a unique resolution.

The CWSPC does hereby adopt this constitution as a set of guiding principles for operating on the CWSPC.