
Bylaws of the 21st Century Debate Association of Wisconsin

Mission

Debate should be about students: Student-centered and student-driven. As educators, the founders believe that the core value of debate should be education. Coaches are to be guides and facilitators of student learning and student growth. It is in this spirit of education that cases presented in a round are written by students. Moreover, the 21st Century Debate Association of Wisconsin strives to emphasize community spirit above competition. *Competitors in the round, friends outside the round.*

Vision

The 21st Century Debate Association of Wisconsin is a student-initiated debate league founded on the following principle: students control their debate experience by taking responsibility for their own research, behaving courteously in rounds, and forming friendships across school boundaries. The motto of the 21st Century Debate Association of Wisconsin is “*Veritas!*”, or “truth”, not trophies.

Bylaws

Our league would like to extend a warm welcome to all schools that want to join the 21st Century Debate Association of Wisconsin. To make debate an educational and positive experience for all, coaches are asked to abide by and enforce the following rules:

General League Behavior and Expectations

1. League/school bashing and negative comparisons between leagues/schools is unbecoming and not acceptable in any fashion.
2. Bullying and intimidation – whether initiated by a student, coach, judge, or an affiliated observer or assistant – is not tolerated regardless of intention and motivation. This behavior will be met with swift action and can result in the permanent removal of the offending student, coach, judge, observer and/or school from the league.
3. Debaters are to abide by the Public Forum debate standards of civility, logic, and personal decorum as these ideals are held in the highest regard.

The goal of Public Forum debate is to learn the ability to debate in a way that extends into the real world. The skills learned in Public Forum are ones that kids can use in the classroom and work.

The league does not practice or advocate Policy style debate. Policy debate strategies and practices apply almost solely to the debate round; additionally, Policy Debate violates the expectations of Public Forum and deprives one’s opponents of educational competition.

Students who violate Public Forum standards will be warned of their behavior, reinstructed on the proper conduct in Public Forum, and provided another opportunity to meet these standards. Students may be asked to refrain from attending league tournaments if violations continue; however, further action is at the discretion of the founders.

Coach Behavior and Expectations

4. Coaches do not judge rounds,* nor are they allowed to confer with their teams/students about the debate topic, student progress, and/or strategy in between rounds.

It is the responsibility of each coach to be present in the tab room to help run the tournament or learn how to run a Public Forum tournament as it is a league duty to host at least one tournament during the season.

Coaches who do not abide by the league expectations will be warned of their behavior and provided another opportunity to meet these standards. If a coach still cannot, or will not, abide by these expectations that coach will be asked to leave the league.

*An exception to this rule can be made if there is a shortage of judges (and/or clean judges). The tab room can appoint a coach as a judge by mutual agreement among coaches in the tabroom. Care should be taken to appoint a non-partisan judge in order to maintain the educational value for all participants.

5. Coaches are obligated to bring **1 judge** for every **2 teams**. Judges should be lay or Public Forum, but not Policy.
6. Because the league's focus is on positive student competition and collaboration, not a coach's or team's win/loss record or reputation, the responsibility of abiding by and enforcing league bylaws and conditions falls solely on the coach.

It is each coach's responsibility to educate their debaters and judges, and it is each coach's responsibility to reinforce these bylaws and conditions with their own team. If a coach cannot abide by and enforce league conditions that coach will be asked to leave the league.

Students who respect the conditions of the league will always be welcome to participate in competition even if their respective coach/coaches cannot.

Judge Behavior and Expectations

7. All rounds are to be judged by the standards of Public Forum. Judges who do not abide by Public Forum standards are no longer welcome to judge tournaments and will be removed from tournament rosters.
8. All judges are to refrain from providing oral critiques unless specifically approved by the tournament director for the purposes of education and instruction (such as during a pre-season workshop).

Founders Jurisdiction

9. The league founders reserve the right to mete out disciplinary action or amend bylaws and conditions at any time as the need arises.

Coach Signature _____ Date _____

Founders, 21st Century Debate Association of Wisconsin

Kristi Compton, Hortonville
Kari Strebbig, Merrill
Neil Young, Waupaca