

TJHSST Policy Debate Constitution

1- Name

1.1- The name of this club shall be Thomas Jefferson Policy Debate (TJPD)

2-Objectives and Activities

2.1- General objectives of this club shall be:

- Attend both local and away tournaments (Section 9)
- Fundraising to cover judging and registration fees (Section 8.1)
- Other, per discretion of Co-Captains and/or Sponsor

2.2- The activities of the club shall be in accord with its objectives.

3- Officers

3.1- The Officers shall be Co-Captains (2), Co-Teaching Coordinators (2), Treasurer (1), Publicist (1)

3.2- The duties of the officers are as follows:

3.2.1- Co-Captains

- 3.2.1-1. Coordinate efforts between the other officers
- 3.2.1-2. In charge of the team email account (tj-policy-debate@googlegroups.com)
- 3.2.1-3. Keep track of registration for tournaments, including judging, sponsorship, and hotels for away tournaments
- 3.2.1-4. Arrange for the accumulation of evidence from summer debate camps, and trade for other camps
- 3.2.1-5. Moderate elections at the end of the year
- 3.2.1-6. Coordinate communication with club sponsor
- 3.2.1-6. Other, as to be clarified in subsequent sections
- 3.2.1-7. Must attend at least 4 tournaments in order to be eligible for running for office that year

3.2.2- Co-Teaching Coordinators

- 3.2.2-1. Arrange weekly lesson plans for novice debaters, to be approved by Co-Captains
- 3.2.2-2. Per discretion of Co-Captains and/or Co-Teaching Coordinators, arrange for any extra lectures by any member for the team such as extra theory, topic analysis, argument explanations, etc.
- 3.2.2-3. Arrange evidence packets for novices
- 3.2.2-4. Must attend summer debate camp the summer before officership

3.2.3- Treasurer

- 3.2.3-1. Take care of the finance account
- 3.2.3-2. Keep track of outstanding fees to be paid by members for tournaments (hotel costs, judging fees, etc.)
- 3.2.3-3. Ask sponsor to cut checks from the account for tournaments
- 3.2.3-4. Presence required at all fundraising activities, or required to have appropriate substitute.

3.2.4- Publicist

- 3.2.4-1. Coordinate recruitment efforts
- 3.2.4-2. Maintain Policy Debate bulletin board with schedule of tournaments, team successes, and other announcements

- 3.3. Each officer shall serve for one year until the end of the school year and may be re-elected
4. Elections
 - 4.1 Officers shall be elected each spring at a regular meeting announced by the Co-Captains 2 weeks in advance of election
 - 4.2 Each candidate will have a minute to give a speech
 - 4.3 Voting shall be restricted to members who have debated that school year only.
 - 4.4 Elections shall be moderated by the Co-Captains
- 5 Meetings
 - 5.1 The club shall hold 2 to 3 8th period meetings a week at such time and place as shall be determined by the club officers and sponsor
- 6 Ratification and Amendments
 - 6.1 This constitution must be ratified by 2/3 of the club membership.
 - 6.2 Amendments may be made to this constitution with a 2/3 vote of the club membership or by the sponsor's discretion
- 7 Membership
 - 7.1 "Members" shall be defined as those who have attended at least 1 debate tournament.
 - 7.1.1 Attendance at a debate tournament shall be considered the induction process of new members
 - 7.2 "Debaters" shall be defined as those who have shown interest in debating but are not necessarily members
 - 7.3 Responsibilities of members
 - 7.3.1 Assist in fundraising activities
 - 7.3.2 Aid in pre-tournament research he or she attends, per discretion of Co-Captains and/or Co-Teaching Coordinators
 - 7.3.3 Pay any outstanding fees for a tournament (or fines incurred at tournaments) before the next tournament
 - 7.3.4 Failure to assume responsibilities can be punishable by restricted ability to attend further debate tournaments until any debts to the club are repaid or obligations have been fulfilled at the discretion of the co-captains. Restricted ability is defined as lower preference to attend tournaments or no ability at all if the behavior is repeated.
- 8 Club responsibilities
 - 8.1 Fundraising activities- To be responsibility of Co-Captains and Treasurer
 - 8.1.1 Pizza sales- To be held on a regular biweekly basis or at least as often as possible
 - 8.1.2 J-Day activity- Ice Cream Sundae sales or alternative per discretion of officers
 - 8.1.3 Other- at the discretion of officers
- 9 Tournaments
 - 9.1 Local tournaments
 - 9.1.1 No restrictions, except logistical (9.2.5, 9.3) and punitive (7.3.4), shall be placed on the attendance of these tournaments
 - 9.1.2 Washington Arlington Catholic Forensics League (WACFL): 5 a year, culminating in qualification to Metrofinals.
 - 9.1.3 Virginia High School League (VHSL)
 - 9.1.4 Others per discretion of sponsor or co-captains

9.2 Away Tournaments

- 9.2.1 The attendance at any of these tournaments shall be at the discretion of the Co-Captains/sponsor
- 9.2.2 Wake Forest Earlybird Invitational
- 9.2.3 The Harvard Debate Tournament
- 9.2.4 National Catholic Forensics League Nationals (NCFL Nats)
 - 9.2.4.1 Attendance through qualification of WACFL Metrofinals (9.1.2)
- 9.2.5 Others per discretion of sponsor or co-captains
- 9.2.6 Logistical information
 - 9.2.6.1 The team finance account shall help cover a portion of judging and registration fees. The total hotel fees (for sponsor, judges, parents, debaters) shall be split among the debaters attending. Each debater is responsible for transportation to and from the event.

9.3 Team Selection for Tournaments

- 9.3.1 Process: Co-Captains shall be responsible for announcing a deadline which debaters must show interest by in order to be considered for the tournament.
 - 9.3.1.1 In the event that the team size must be cut down for a tournament due to judging or other restrictions, debaters will be cut first through the procedure outlined in section 7.3.4
 - 9.3.1.1.1 For away tournaments, prior experience will be a priority for team selection although team selection will ultimately be up to the discretion of the Co-Captains
 - 9.3.1.1.2 For local tournaments, with the exception of VHSL (to follow the procedure in 9.3.1.1.1), team selection will be randomized
- 9.3.2 Attendees are expected to conform to tournament rules and general system of ethics befitting students of TJHSST, as well as remember they represent TJPD

Sponsor Signature: _____



Date: _____

