

## CDA CODE OF CONDUCT

**INTRODUCTION:** The purpose of the Connecticut Debate Association (CDA) is to provide an educational, competitive experience that will benefit its debaters by developing skills that transfer positively into school, career and personal life.

### **COVERAGE AND APPLICATION**

The CDA is an approved activity under the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS). Schools that attend CDA events agree to abide by CAS rules and requirements, as well as the CDA Code of Conduct and the individual school's own code of conduct.

The Coach or authorized adult in charge of the team is responsible for any individual attending with the school's debate team, including both students and any Judges, observers or parents. The Coach is responsible that all attendees are aware of the Code and that attendees understand that by attending they agree to the Code's terms.

### **PROPER CHAPERONING**

CDA reminds all Coaches that State law, CAS rules and/or individual school rules require all students to be properly chaperoned at CDA events by an adult authorized by their school. That adult must be in possession of signed permission slips and emergency contact information for each student attending. Neither the CDA nor the host school are or can be responsible for students attending CDA events.

### **CDA PARTICIPANT RESPONSIBILITIES:**

1. Debaters, coaches, league officials, judges, and all attendees at CDA events shall conform to all rules and regulations set forth by the CDA, CAS and the school district to which they belong when they are at a CDA event or when they are representing CDA. While at the tournament they will follow the direction of the Tab Director or other personnel running the event.
2. All participants and attendees at CDA events are expected to conduct themselves during events with the highest level of behavior, decorum, and integrity. This includes sportsmanship within their own team and towards other teams, parents, coaches, judges, observers, league and tournament officials, and host school members.
3. All participants and attendees at CDA events will treat all facilities, school property and the property of others with the proper care and respect.
4. CDA debaters will understand their role as positive and constructive members of the Connecticut Debate Association, and when they are representing CDA, they will conduct themselves in an exemplary manner whether in school, the community, online, or elsewhere.
5. All participants and attendees at CDA events may not possess or use prohibited substances including but not limited to alcohol, drugs, tobacco, illegal performance enhancing drugs, and any other illicit substances such as prescription drugs not prescribed to them.
6. CDA debaters, coaches and judges are prohibited from participating in any type of hazing, bullying, taunting, harassing, or other inappropriate behaviors, including inappropriate use of social media, that target CDA participants or others.

### **EDUCATION REQUIREMENT**

At the start of each school year (or when a school joins CDA during the year), the CDA will send each Coach a copy of this Code of Conduct. As a condition to participation the Coach must acknowledge receipt of the Code and agree on behalf of their school, students, judges and other attendees to abide by its terms. Coaches are to understand they are responsible for educating their students, judges and other attendees regarding the Code.

### **REPORTING AND REMEDIES:**

1. Any adult observing a violation of the Code of Conduct at a CDA event should report the matter to the Tab Director at the tournament. Students should first speak to their Coach who should then bring the issue to Tab.
2. Coaches, judges, students and other attendees should not confront attendees from another school regarding conduct or any other complaint. These matters should be brought to the Tab Director.
3. The Tab Director is responsible for reviewing any incident that occurs at a tournament and, while they may consult with parties of their choosing, the Tab Director has sole discretion in deciding and applying remedies. **The Tab Director is responsible for the efficient and timely running of the tournament, and their decision may not be challenged at the event.** Aggrieved parties may bring the matter to the Executive Director after the tournament is over for further consideration.
4. The CDA reserves the right at its sole discretion:
  - to assign a bye, declare a forfeit or otherwise decide the result of any round of debate;
  - to stop scheduling any team or judge in any round of debate or for the remainder of the tournament;
  - to prevent teams or schools from meeting in rounds, or prevent a judge from judging certain teams or schools during the competition;
  - to ask any student, team, judge, attendee or entire school contingent to leave the tournament, or refuse to permit them to attend a tournament;
  - to report behavior at a tournament to a school Coach or to the school's administration;
  - to call emergency services or law enforcement if the seriousness of the matter warrants.
5. Tab Directors should report any incidents and/or remedies to the Executive Director after the tournament is over. Any attendee may also bring issues to the attention of the Executive Director. The Executive Director may investigate further, bring the matter to the Board of Directors, or take additional actions as appropriate.
6. Any action by the CDA may be taken to the Connecticut Association of Schools for review and remedies according to CAS' then current procedures.

### **BEHAVIOR DURING A DEBATE**

Debate is an intellectual contact sport where students confront each other directly with words. In the heat of argument students may get excited, choose their words poorly, or simply be unaware of the impact of their words, gestures and other behavior. ***It is not intended that these be considered as violations of the CDA Code of Conduct.*** Rather Judges should consider these when deciding the round and assigning ranks and points, noting the issues in writing on the ballot so the debater and the debater's Coach will be aware. Judges may also gently caution debaters during the round to keep behavior in bounds.

In the case of egregious behavior a Judge may:

- award a loss on the basis of bad behavior to a team that has otherwise won the round;
- stop the round mid-stream, dismiss the debaters, and return a ballot with a summary decision.

In these cases—and in any case where there is doubt—the Judge should report the matter to the Tab Director who may choose to take further action. Under no circumstances should a Judge confront the students, students' Coach or any attendee from another school outside of the round itself.