



DUBLIN HIGH SCHOOL'S OFFICIAL

## SPEECH & DEBATE CLUB

### 2024-2025 Speech & Debate Club Contract

The Dublin High Speech and Debate club is dedicated to helping students develop public speaking, teamwork, research, and critical thinking skills with opportunities to represent Dublin High at competitive tournaments. Speech and Debate not only fosters skills that are applicable to every career path, but also opens avenues for growth and achievement for anyone up to the challenge. Our community of 50+ members include a wide range of skill levels - from novices to nationally ranked veterans, and all are welcome. It is imperative that all students and parents are aware of the responsibilities and time commitments involved. Please review all pages carefully and then electronically sign in the [Enrollment Form](#).

List of forms:

- Student Member Agreement
- Parent Conduct Agreement
- Club & Tournament Expectations Agreement
- Assumption of Risk Release



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## SPEECH & DEBATE CLUB

### Definitions

- (1) **Club** : The Dublin High School Speech & Debate Club (“DHS S&D Club” or “the Club”) is a Dublin High School Parent Faculty Student Organization (DHS PFSO) sponsored Club.
- (2) **Team** : The Dublin High School’s Speech/Debate Team (“Team”) is an extracurricular activity which participates in competitive speech/debate. The Team has practices, workshops, and other events to prepare members to successfully compete with the Team in local, regional, and national tournaments in various speech/debate events.
- (3) **Student** : Dublin High School students, in grades 9th through 12th, are eligible for membership on the Team (“Students”).
- (4) **Parent** : Dublin High School identifies student parents/legal guardians, and this contract simply accepts those identifications.
- (5) **Volunteers** : PFSO or the Club elected or appointed Parent Advisor(s), Parent Lead(s), Parent Treasurer(s) are Volunteers who help to manage and oversee the Club activities. Active participation from the parents of student members is expected and required for the functioning of the Club. All adult volunteers, assisting with Club activities, are “Volunteers”.
- (6) **Tournaments** : Tournaments include inter-school local, regional, and national competitions. The Team may also participate in other events like, mini-tournaments, practice sessions, workshops, etc. These may also be Tournaments for purposes of this contract.
- (7) **NSDA Membership** : For some formats, students are required to be active members in the National Speech and Debate Association. Students are automatically enrolled after they attend their first tournament in high school. Students are responsible to pay the NSDA membership fees (refer <https://www.speechanddebate.org> for details). The Club will facilitate and make payment on behalf of students, if required. Any such payment will be deducted from the student’s deposit maintained with the Club.
- (8) **Membership Fees** : For the school year 2024-25, the Club will have a membership fee of \$40 (Dollars Forty Only). These fees cover Club participation till the end of 2024-25 school year. These fees do not cover any event/tournament participation fees or NSDA membership fees listed above.
- (9) **Tournament Fees\*** : Tournament fees include (i) Team specific competition event fees (ii) Team’s share of school registration fees (iii) Any associated payment charges or check mailing charges, including but not limited to credit card fees, square site fees, paypal fees or similar. All students are required to deposit \$250 with the Club at the time of enrollment. The Club will deduct membership fees, NSDA Fees (if applicable), tournament fees and other fees/charges as determined per the Club Policy. Students and parents will be able to get details of their Club balances at any time. Any unused deposit amount will be refunded before the end of the school year.

\*In case of any financial hardships, please reach out to the Club Advisors and School Admin. Such situations will be reviewed with the PFSO Board on a case-by-case basis.



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### Student Member Agreement Form

\_\_\_\_\_ To be eligible to participate in the Dublin High School Speech & Debate Club (DHS S&D Club), I will maintain a GPA of 2.0 or better and have no more than one (1) "F" at the end of each grading period.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will abide by all school policies and rules while participating in the DHS S&D Club. If the school policy is not met, I understand that I may be removed from the Club or face other consequences.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will remain in "Good Standing" with school policies (maintaining a GPA above 2.0, avoiding any "F" grades, and having no attendance or behavioral issues) at all times while I am a member of the DHS S&D Club. Failure to do so will result in immediate removal from the club.

\_\_\_\_\_ I must maintain satisfactory citizenship and attendance, including tardiness. Attendance will be checked periodically. If either is reported to be unsatisfactory, I will be subject to disciplinary action and possible suspension from the club.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that the use of narcotics, stimulants and depressants, including alcohol and tobacco, is FORBIDDEN. Verification by school officials of any such incident will result in immediate disciplinary action. (Refer to the Code of Conduct)

\_\_\_\_\_ I give permission to use any pictures/videos taken at the Club events, meetings or other tournaments to be used in DHS S&D materials (slides, promotional flyers/posts, etc) whenever necessary.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am responsible for all class work missed while attending the Club events/tournaments and should get the assignments completed before leaving for the scheduled Club event.

\_\_\_\_\_ As a representative of Dublin High School, I will conduct myself in a manner that will not degrade myself or the school.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will not engage in the use of any social media outlet to harass, bully, or demean any club members, external participants, officials, or parents from Dublin High School or any other competing schools. I understand that I will be suspended or possibly removed from the club if such actions occur.

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_



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### Parent Conduct Agreement Form

The role of the parent in the education of a student is vital. The support shown in the home is often manifested in the ability of the student to accept the opportunities presented at school and in life.

There is a value system - established in the home, nurtured in the school - which young people are developing. Their involvement in the classroom and other activities contributes to that development. Trustworthiness, leadership, citizenship, caring, fairness, and respect are lifetime values taught through the Dublin High School Speech & Debate Club (DHS S&D Club). These are the principles of good sportsmanship and character. The spirit of competition thrives with them, fueled by honest rivalry, courteous relations, and graceful acceptance of the results.

As a parent of a HS S&D Club member at our school, your goals should include:

- i. Realize that the Speech & Debate activity relies heavily on active parent participation and support. Parent contribution in various roles, especially as parent judges and chaperones, is required and expected to make the Club successful.
- ii. Realize that the DHS S&D Club is part of the educational experience, and the benefits of involvement go beyond the final performance or demonstration.
- iii. Encourage our students to perform their best, just as we would urge them on with their classwork.
- iv. Understand how to judge fairly and effectively without preconceived notions or biases.
- v. Review various judge training resources available on [NSDA website](#), [GGSA website](#) and similar other forums.
- vi. Maintain a Tabroom.com Parent Judge account and link it with the school's account.
- vii. Attend judge training sessions to ensure a good understanding of Tabroom.com navigation and judge procedures at online and in-person tournaments.
- viii. Respect the task of our advisors and volunteers and support them as they strive to educate our youth; respect all the competitors and acknowledge them for striving to do their best; and develop a sense of dignity and civility under all circumstances.
- ix. Give objective feedback to the competitors after the event rounds.
- x. Fulfill all judging obligations and financial commitments as obligated by the Club.
- xi. You can have a major influence on your student's attitude about academics and debate. Your leadership role will help influence your child and our community for years to come.
- xii. Ensure your students have the necessary transportation to attend tournaments, arranging carpools when necessary.
- xiii. Understand that teams will be allowed to participate in a tournament only after the Club receives the requisite deposits from them. Once the deposits are received by the Club and participation is confirmed by the team and the parents, no refunds will be processed.



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xiv. If the parent(s) has committed to judge a tournament and cannot fulfill their obligation, it is the responsibility of the parent judge to inform the Club and find a suitable judge replacement. If a judge replacement is not found, the parent judge will be responsible for paying all additional fees or penalties charged to the school by the tournament. The Club shall deduct all additional fees and penalties from the student/team's deposits maintained with the Club.

### **I therefore agree that:**

\_\_\_ I will remember that students participate to have fun and that the club is for youth, not adults.

\_\_\_ I will familiarize myself with tournament policies, procedures, and expectations.

\_\_\_ I will get familiar with the judge's policies, procedures, and expectations.

\_\_\_ I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for my child, encouraging sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy and supporting all members and officers at every meeting or event.

\_\_\_ I give permission to use any pictures/videos taken at the Club events, meetings or other tournaments featuring my student, to be used in the Club materials (slides, promotional flyers/posts, etc) whenever necessary.

\_\_\_ I will not encourage any behaviors or meetings that would endanger the health and well-being of the members.

\_\_\_ I will demand that my child treat other debaters, judges, coaches, advisors, and parents with respect regardless of race, ethnicity, creed, sexuality, gender, or ability.

\_\_\_ I will encourage my child to compete fairly, put in their best effort, and make them feel valued for their effort.

\_\_\_ I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participants for making mistakes or losing a competition.

\_\_\_ I will promote the emotional and physical well-being of the members ahead of any personal desire I may have for my child to win.

\_\_\_ I will respect the tournament directors, coaches, judges, and their authority during events.

\_\_\_ I will not support the usage of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol, and I will report the usage of any of these illegal substances by the members.

\_\_\_ I will follow all tournament protocols and spectate rounds only if allowed.

\_\_\_ I will support the entire team, coaches, advisors, and other parents, for their efforts during the tournament.



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\_\_\_\_ I understand that any parent responsible for improper conduct at any tournament or meeting will be asked to leave the online meeting place, school grounds, tournament premises, and similar online/on-site places. The responsible parent may also be suspended from the following events and meetings.

\_\_\_\_ Repeated violations may result in a multiple-activity suspension or the season forfeiture of the privilege of attending all club events. You can have a significant influence on your student's attitude about academics and debate. The leadership role you take will help influence your child and our community for years to come.

The Club looks forward to serving you in the year ahead and appreciates your continued support.

**Parent Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_



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### Club & Tournament Expectations

As a member of the Dublin High Speech & Debate Club, I agree that:

- I will attend club-wide meetings per Club Calendar (shared after enrollment).
- I will maintain good behavior at all meetings.
- I will attend practice sessions for my competition events.
- I will complete all the formalities as needed by the Club for Tournament Participation.
- I will abide by all the Club, PFSO, school, and district policies and code of conduct.

At Speech & Debate Tournaments, I agree that:

- I will respect all participants, judges, coaches, and event staff and maintain professionalism in all interactions.
- I will be punctual and ensure timely arrival for all scheduled events, rounds, and activities.
- I will dress in appropriate, professional attire that reflects my seriousness and respect for the tournament.
- I will be thoroughly prepared for each round. This includes having all the necessary materials, understanding the rules, and being ready to debate rounds.
- I will follow all tournament rules and guidelines without exception. This includes rules regarding speaking times, speaker order, and conduct during rounds.
- I will always exhibit good sportsmanship and accept judges' decisions gracefully, whether I win or lose.
- I will be courteous to other teams and participants and avoid negative comments, arguments outside of rounds, or any behavior that could be seen as disrespectful.
- I will take responsibility for my belongings and personal items and ensure I have all the necessary materials for travel and tournaments.
- I will maintain the same level of respect and professionalism in virtual tournaments as in in-person events.
- I will never share, trade, or copy anyone else's debate preparation without their permission, especially to other schools and organizations.

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_



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### **Assumption of Risk and Release**

#### ***Introduction***

*The purpose of this notice is to aid you in making an informed decision as to whether you/your student should participate in speech & debate activities and, as a condition of such participation, sign this **Assumption of Risk and Release**. By signing this agreement, you recognize your (Student AND Parents) responsibility to be aware of the risks and activities of the Speech & Debate Club.*

#### **Agreement**

We understand that participating in this activity may include remote travel and other related activities and that there is a risk of injury. Participants in debate tournaments face travel risks, including potential accidents, delays, and transportation issues, which can cause stress and disrupt plans. Health risks are also a concern, particularly in large gatherings where participants may be exposed to illnesses or other health-related issues. The competitive nature of debate tournaments can lead to significant emotional and mental stress, affecting participants' well-being and performance.

We understand that there are inherent risks of serious bodily injury and property damage involved in this activity and that these risks cannot be entirely eliminated regardless of the care taken to avoid injury. My student and I voluntarily assume and accept the risks of personal injury and property damage arising from my student's attendance and participation in debate tournaments, related activities, and travel.

Furthermore, I agree to assume sole financial responsibility for emergency care and services for my student, including rescue and transportation services. I understand that by signing up for this activity, I acknowledge and accept these inherent risks and responsibilities.

Additionally, we acknowledge that all risks have been made clear to us and that no known conditions will increase the likelihood of experiencing injuries while engaging in these activities. By signing below, we forfeit all rights to bring any lawsuit against the S&D Club, Club members, advisors, volunteers or officers, Dublin High School Parent Faculty Student Organization, Dublin High School, and the Dublin Unified School District employees, agents, representatives, officers, and volunteers for any reason relating to participation in the Speech & Debate Club. Students additionally will make every effort to obey all safety precautions listed in writing and as explained verbally and ask for clarification when needed.

We agree to assume all risk of injury or death associated with the activities of the Speech & Debate Club; we further agree to release the Dublin High School Parent Faculty Student





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Organization, Dublin High School, and the Dublin Unified School District, its employees, agents, representatives, officers, and volunteers from any liability resulting from ordinary negligence that may arise in connection with these activities. We agree that the terms hereof shall serve as an assumption of risk and a release for all members of our family, for heirs, estate, executor, administrator, assignees, indemnitors, subrogees, or other releases. We further agree that if any part of the assumption of risk is held void, the remainder shall continue in full force and effect.

By signing this **Assumption of Risk and Release**, we acknowledge that we have read its contents and understand its contents and warnings, and that we agree to its terms.

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_