**Debate Disclosure**

“Being a member of the National Speech and Debate Association shaped my communication skills and gave me the confidence to believe in myself. Whether I’m on a movie set, a Broadway stage or reading to my kids, I use my speech and debate skills, like literally every day.”

Josh Gad, Actor

**Overview**

I am excited to welcome you to the Providence Hall Debate Team. We are a newish team, but we have a lot of potential and have seen great growth and success over the past few years.

Our overall goal is to learn and have fun. At every tournament, I want each student to to follow these 3 rules:

1. Have fun
2. Get through your first speech
3. Learn something after each round

Debate is a lot of fun and can help give us a lot of skills. It can teach us to communicate effectively, think critically and act responsibly. Colleges love debate when looking at applications. Businesses love debaters because they are looking for people who can communicate effectively with other employees and customers.

**Behavior**

I expect our team members to have excellent behavior in the classroom and at tournaments. I expect members of the team to properly represent our school to others in the community. This means that there will be ABSOLUTELY NO drug use, harassment of any kind, bullying, hazing, racially or religiously insensitive comments, physical intimidation or fighting or anything else that would reflect poorly on you, your team, and your school. Profanity is never appropriate and will never be used in round.

If you act in a way that violates our behavior policy, I will notify your parents, you will forfeit the rest of your rounds, you will stay with me for the rest of the tournament, and you will have to earn my trust back before I take you to another tournament.

**Tournaments**

We will be attending several tournaments a year. The state of Utah allows us to attend 10 tournaments annually. Tournaments teach us more than a month of practices. You will not be required to go to every tournament, but you will be encouraged to go to as many as possible. Region and state are the most important tournaments of the year. When you get those dates, prepare to take them off so that you can attend.

If you sign up for a tournament, make sure you can attend. If you do not want to go, do not sign up. If you no show, the team is fined by the tournament. That fine will be passed on to the no show. If an emergency comes up, please contact either coach or post it to the group chat as soon as possible.

It is important for you to be on time when you go to the tournament. You need to be on time to the be on the bus and be on time to each and every round. If you are late to the tournament and miss the bus, you will be fined as a no show. If you miss a round, you will forfeit the round. Those cannot be made up.

**Dress Code**

Students attending a tournament needs to dress appropriately. Each student should be dressed modestly. The ideal is to look like a young lawyer or Congress member.

For young men: You are to wear a shirt and tie although a suit is preferable. Your suit and slacks need to be conservative in color and design.

For young women: You are to wear a dress, skirt, or pants suit.

**Parent Expectations**

Parents, we need you. We need your help in supporting your student in practice and helping them get to tournaments on time. Also, we need your help as judges. We rely on parents to judge all of our tournaments. Please help as much as you can!

We are excited for this upcoming year. We are excited to get to you know and your parents during our season. IF you have any questions, please contact me or my assistant coach:

Steve Porter 801-865-3022 [sporter@providencehall.com](mailto:sporter@providencehall.com)

Isabella Cauley 385-252-0144 [isabellacauley@gmail.com](mailto:isabellacauley@gmail.com)

If you are student, please use the chat line or email.

I have looked over the Debate disclosure. I understand the rules and expectations. If I have any questions or concerns, I will talk to the coaches. I also understand that the coaches have the final decision in determining tournament participation and in resolving problems.

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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