

Squad Objective Guidelines

Preface

Participating on a Chicago Debate League debate team is a privilege, not a right. CDL debaters receive special resources allocated by their school, CPS, and the Chicago Debate Commission. They also benefit from a significant investment of instructional effort and time. And they are also members of a team. Like other team sports, debaters rely on their teammates to fulfill the responsibilities to the team, which they have voluntarily taken on.

Participating on a Chicago Debate League debate team has significant social and academic benefits; it can have a substantial impact on a student's academic status, college choices, and future professional life. And as should be expected, responsibility comes with the privilege to debate and experience these very positive outcomes. These Guidelines detail this responsibility.

Team Officers

The CDL debate team will elect a President, Vice-President, and Team Manager by the end of October. The President will be the Team's official leader and spokesperson, and with the assistance of the Vice-President, will lead projects intended to help the team to achieve its season objectives and to increase support for the debate team. The Team Manager will be the team's chief record-keeper, and will also maintain the Team File. Only the Team Manager or a coach can make photocopies from the Team File.

Season Objectives for the Team

The CDL debate team has established the following set of season objectives.

Participation

1. The CDL debate team will meet the CDL Participation Standard (of 8 or more debaters per tournament) at 5 of the 6 regular CDL tournaments
2. The CDL debate team will increase its overall tournament participation by 15% or more over last year
3. The CDL debate team will participate at one additional CDL event and one additional non-CDL event (e.g., Chicago suburban tournament) this season

Competitiveness

4. The CDL debate team will finish the season in the top half of the Medal Count.
5. The CDL debate team will have at least two teams reach the elimination rounds in the JV and at least one team reach the elimination rounds in the Varsity.
6. The CDL debate team will have an overall .500 or greater win-loss percentage in the prelims of all CDL tournaments.

All debaters on this debate team will be expected to make their best effort, all season, to help the team achieve its season objectives.

Regular Meetings

The CDL debate team will meet twice a week on most weeks – usually Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:15pm – 5:00pm. Debaters should try to attend every regular debate meeting. **Debaters must attend at least one regular meeting per week.** Debaters must come prepared to start the meetings on time, and must focus on debate during the duration of the meeting.

Special Meetings

The CDL debate team will occasionally call a special meeting – on a Saturday to meet at the library, for example, or on each day of the week before a tournament. Debaters should attend these meetings unless they have a legitimate and unavoidable scheduling conflict that they discuss with a coach.

Practice Rounds

Practice rounds are a key means for the CDL debate team to improve its skills and prepare for tournament competition. When the CDL debate team posts a practice round schedule, debaters must fully participate and prepare for the rounds.

Tournament Participation

Debaters must debate in at least three tournaments throughout the Season. The CDL debate team is more interested in having higher participation numbers than it is in competitive success, though it is also interested in that. We intend to be both strong participants and strong competitors.

Cancellation

Once registered to debate at a Tournament, debaters must confirm their participation four days prior to the Tournament. **Cancellation within 72 hours of the tournament is not**

allowed. Dropping out or not returning to a Tournament once it has begun is strictly prohibited. Violations may result in suspension from the CDL debate team.

Forfeiting

Forfeiting a debate round for any reason – other than a health or personal emergency – **is strictly prohibited.** Forfeiting is uneducational and unsportsmanlike.

Dress Code

The Debate Team does not have a regular dress code to tournaments. However, there will be occasions on which the CDL debate team will all be wearing the same or similar item of clothing – e.g., debate polo shirt, vest, etc. – and all debaters are required to adhere to these ad hoc dress requirements.

Reading Requirement

In order to become familiar with the literature from which the evidence in our files comes, the CDL debate team will make regular reading assignments of key articles, chapters, etc. These must be completed on-time.

Research Requirement

Debaters will periodically be given research and argument –writing assignments. These are intended to help prepare the team against new arguments from other schools, or to generate new positions against familiar cases or off-case arguments. Debaters are expected to produce these assignments, as required and in time.

Evidence Sharing

The CDL debate team will maintain a Team File which all debaters will have access to – though only the Secretary or a coach can actually make copies for debaters from the Team File. One copy of every argument in the debaters' files must be put in the Team File.

Mentoring

Varsity debaters will each be assigned 2 – 3 first-year debaters to mentor during the season. Varsity debaters will be expected to help support and teach these younger debaters, before and during tournaments.

Additional Opportunities

The Debate Team will likely have 2 - 3 opportunities for additional competition – e.g., RCC tournaments, CDL special events, and suburban tournaments. Teams will be selected by the

coaches for these opportunities based on three criteria: 1) participation, 2) competitive record, and 3) leadership and teamwork skills demonstrated throughout the season.

Implications

These Guidelines are intended to produce a cohesive, productive, and successful CDL debate team. Failure to respect a Guideline has to result in an enforcement implication for the good of the CDL debate team. This implication will be determined by the coaches, on a case-by-case basis, and will always begin with a conference with the debater. Rewards and additional incentives will result from sustained respect for the Guidelines. They are designed for the good of the CDL debate team.