

SYDNEY BOYS HIGH SCHOOL- DEBATING CODE OF CONDUCT

IN COACHING

Debating is a privilege not a right at SBHS.

Coaches are to be accorded the same respect and courtesy as any other teacher at SBHS. They have the same ability to remove students from coaching and discipline students accordingly.

This year there are over one hundred in debating and rather than simply limiting the numbers of boys allowed to join, we are providing coaching and creating opportunities for the boys to debate.

With the large number of debaters, I have no time, or patience for those who wish to be a disruption to coaching. **Boys who create disruptions, by calling out, being disrespectful to their coach or to others in the session etc will be asked to leave the training session.** "Repeat offenders" may be suspended from Debating coaching or not allowed to continue with debating.

Students who are in selected into teams (GPS or otherwise) are not immune to this code of conduct and I have no issue with removing boys from the group regardless of how talented they are at debating.

Debating is not just a process of talking, but listening and learning. When students continue behave in an attention seeking and uncontrollable manner, they will not become debaters- only arrogant talking heads.

The boys know exactly what behaviour is and is not acceptable at this school. Common sense dictates what level of behaviour is required, not just in debating but all school activities.

Each boy **MUST** take responsibility for THEIR OWN actions, and follow instructions and directions accordingly.

Actions that are **not acceptable** include cajoling, interrupting, disputing and backchatting, moving around the room and **swinging on chairs.**

BEFORE HOME DEBATES

There is no supervision provided between the end of school at 3.20pm and the start of debating at 6pm (most year levels will have debating coaching from 3.20pm until between 4.30 and 5pm).

Boys are allowed to remain in the school, although for safety and security are only allowed in the vicinity of the Teachers Common Room and at the "office boys" desk outside it.

Passive activities are encouraged, reading, studying, talking, debating prep etc. They are also reminded that they are to set up their debating rooms during this time.

NO BALL GAMES OR OTHER ACTIVITIES ARE ALLOWED. This is for safety reasons- I cannot be in two places at once to supervise the boys and prepare for the nights debate in my staffroom.

IN DEBATES

Students attending debates, either as debaters, chair people or as audience members are to **wear full school uniform** (preferably with Blazer if possible)

Again, normal school conduct and expectations are in place- **shirts tucked in, ties done up and top button closed, clean shoes, and neat hair.**

The school and students are on display to our GPS counterparts and a high standard of dress and behaviour is expected.

Any issues with adjudication, coaching, topics etc should **be brought to the attention of the MIC in the first instance**, so that further action can be taken accordingly.

In addition, Debaters, parents and coaches should be aware of the following- **an excerpt from the GPS Guidelines 2006.**

Conduct

- *Conversations while debaters are speaking should be kept to a minimum, both in frequency and volume. Passing notes is preferable.*
- The following Code of Etiquette was authorised by the GPS Headmasters in March 2002:

Note: The purpose of this code of etiquette is to remind all involved in GPS Debates of some important points. These points are part of the normal practice in GPS Debating. The minority of occasions on which they are not observed can, however, have a damaging effect.

1. *Boys, coaches and adjudicators should be **dressed neatly and appropriately**. Boys wear **correct winter uniform** for their school, and coaches, organising masters and adjudicators dress to a level consistent with this formality.*
2. *Coaches and adjudicators are **not to criticise other adults** involved to boys. This does not prevent fair and measured comment on the proceedings in the proper circumstances for the purposes of guidance of the boys.*
3. ***Coaches or parents are not to dispute the result**. This does not prevent them from putting questions to the adjudicator in a reasonable way or having a reasonable discussion. Nor does it prevent them from lodging a formal complaint in writing later to the committee about an adjudicator. Any such complaints will be dealt with not as potential grounds for reversing a decision but as a potential basis for discussion with the adjudicator about future occasions and, where necessary, for the issuing of guidelines.*
4. Adjudicators and coaches are to **encourage courtesy among the boys**, and to provide an example of courtesy themselves. They are also to remember that the manner of presentation of an argument is important and in their adjudications and coaching encourage an effective and appropriate presentation. **This includes discouraging any remarks which could be offensive to schools, such as any offensive references to religion, and any excessively sharp or personal attacks on the other side in a debate.**

Ms J Brewer
MIC DEBATING
11/06/06

Detach and return the below

I have read and understood the **Code of Conduct for Debating** at Sydney Boys High School.

I agree to abide by this code of conduct and accept that a breach of this code may result in me being removed from Debating.

NAME _____ SIGNED _____

PARENTS
NAME _____ SIGNED _____

DATE _____