BLOOMSBURG UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
FORENSICS RULES

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING RULES & EXPECTATIONS:

1. Dr. Strine is the Director of Forensics. His office is 215 B Bakeless and can be contacted at 570-389-4252 or at hstrin2@bloomu.edu.

2. **ALL** tournament invitations will be posted on the Bloomsburg University Forensics Facebook page [https://www.facebook.com/groups/484503594901710/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/484503594901710/) and at [http://www.bloomu.edu/forensics](http://www.bloomu.edu/forensics).

3. Dr. Strine and the student coaches will be available on an appointment-only basis.

4. **TEAM MEETINGS**
   We will hold a team meeting every Monday at 9 PM in Bakeless, Room #202. These meetings will be used as informational sessions as well as practice sessions. You should **always** bring your speech materials with you to the meeting. Students are expected to attend all general team meetings and specific event meetings to work on your pieces/speeches.

5. **TOURNAMENTS**
   A. **APPROVAL**
      Students must receive the approval of a student coach, the Director of Forensics, or a person designated by the Director of Forensics in order to participate in a speech and debate tournament. This approval must be secured **no later than** the deadline indicated by the Director of Forensics. Approval means that you have made the appropriate changes in your speech/piece as per the suggestions of the coach/director and prior tournament ballots **SINCE** your most recent tournament. Approval also means that you have presented your speech/piece in its entirety before a student coach/director or at the team meeting **PRIOR** to the tournament sign-up deadline. Students who fail to sign-up for a tournament by the deadline and/or fail to get approval **WILL NOT** be permitted to participate in a forensics tournament.

   B. **PARTICIPATION**
      Students enrolled in the Forensics Practicum (Intstudy 108) must compete in at least 3 events per tournament for 3 tournaments each semester. Students **not** enrolled in the Forensics Practicum must compete in at least one (1) prepared event **plus** impromptu speaking or another limited preparation event at your first tournament. You must compete in at least two (2) events at your second tournament; and you must compete in at least three (3) events at every tournament that follows.
      1. Two (2) Duos count as only one event and,
2. All students with who have competed in at least one semester of Forensics must compete in at least three (3) events at all future tournaments.

C. TOURNAMENT NO-SHOWS
If you drop from a tournament for other than an emergency reason, you will be responsible for any drop fees that our team might incur because of your action. You will be unable to compete in any future tournaments until your assessment has been paid in full. You are responsible for all drop fees if you withdraw from the tournament after the tournament deadline or if you fail to show up for departure to the tournament. **Students may not participate in any forensics tournaments if you owe money to the forensics team.**

D. QUALIFICATION FOR NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS
In order to qualify for any national tournament, it is necessary for a student to have qualified in at least two (2) events. One qualifies by placing as a finalist in a particular event at a tournament that meets National Forensic Association qualifying standards. Placing as a finalist in dramatic duo with two different partners and two different cuttings will count as two (2) events. However, it is necessary for your duo partners to have also met this two-event rule.

E. TOURNAMENT FUNDING
The budget we receive from the Bloomsburg University Community Government Association covers most of the tournament entry fees, transportation, housing, and meal expenses for the BU Forensics Team. However, students may be required to pay for their own meals and/or contribute towards housing and transportation costs at tournaments if we are close to exhausting the funds from CGA. Students are usually required to make a donation to the team and/or pay for their own meals at the CFA Winter Tournament and at national tournaments. We try to minimize costs all year round by eating at fast food restaurants.

F. TOURNAMENT DRESS - All student competitors must be in business-professional dress during the speech and debate tournament. This means that men should wear a button-up shirt, tie, sport coat, dress pants, and dress shoes. Women should wear nice slacks, a skirt, or suit. You should dress as though you are going to a formal job interview.

6. TEAM PHILOSOPHY/ACADEMICS
The goal of the Bloomsburg University Forensics Team is to provide all students with the opportunity to become better communicators through intercollegiate speech and debate competitions. Students must make an effort to improve their speaking/debate skills from previous tournaments through careful review of judges’ comments and constructive criticism from the Director of Forensics and team coaches. While it is great to win speaking awards, our focus is on the educational component of forensics activity. Finally, academics must always come first. All students who participate on
the forensics team must complete coursework for any classes missed while attending a speech and debate tournament. Please remember to get tournament excuse forms from me to give to your professors so they know why you will be absent from class.

7. **FORENSIC CREDIT**

If you have signed-up to earn the Forensic credit, you must participate in at least three (3) speech/debate events at a minimum of three (3) tournaments per semester. You must sign up for Intstudy-108-01. Students are not required to sign up for the forensics credit. Students not participating in the forensics practicum must follow the participation requirements outlined above in section 5B.

8. **STUDENT CONDUCT AT TOURNAMENTS**

Students are expected to observe all university rules and regulations as they pertain to student conduct at all times traveling to, from, and during Forensics Competitions. The Director of Forensics will notify the Bloomsburg University Director of Student Standards and/or BU Police for any student violating university rules while participating in a Forensics sponsored activity. Only State University employees may operate state vehicles and only students approved by CGA may operate CGA vehicles during tournaments. The Director of Forensics or his designee is not responsible for students who are detained for unlawful conduct or for transportation back to campus for students who are detained for unlawful conduct.

*Students are expected to act in a professional manner at all times during a tournament. You are expected to (1) compete in all rounds of all events you are entered into. Students who “blow off” a round by not showing up will not be permitted to attend any future tournaments. (2) you are expected to be ON TIME for departing from the hotel or from the tournament location. You are expected to act in a professional manner which means that students **DO NOT** show up intoxicated to a tournament or destroy property. Any student found to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol at a tournament will immediately be reported to the Bloomsburg University Dean of Students and be banned from all future forensic competitions.*

There may be occasions when the Director of Forensics may be unable to travel with the Forensics Team to tournaments. During these occasions, the Director of Forensics will designate a university affiliated individual to be responsible for the welfare of the team. All other students must obey and respect the decisions of the Director’s designee at all times during the entirety of the Forensics activity/trip. The Director’s designee will be responsible for (1) registering the team and paying fees at the tournament, (2) checking the team into the tournament hotel, (3) getting the team to the tournament on time, (4) driving the university/CGA vehicle, and (5) keeping track of all Forensics monies while on the trip.