

Overview: We have had a code of conduct in our handbook for many years. After recent issues and the increase in the interconnectedness of our association, there appears to be a need for more clear language for conduct of non-student attendees of tournaments.

Rationale: Many associations, including WISDAA, WIAA, NSDA, and many others include a code of conduct for not only students and coaches, but all attendees and participants of their events. This code of conduct is meant to serve as a reminder of appropriate behavior, but also a clear “line in the sand” about when and where the association intends to intervene in conduct.

Point “7” under Judge/Coach

Proposal:

See updates to the [handbook code of conduct \(page 5\)](#):

Under “~~Judge/Coach~~ **Judge, Coach, and non-competitor Conduct:**” (Note the changes highlighted below- **Green** for additions, **red** for edits/deletions)

1. Business casual is the expected dress for coaches and judges.
2. Follow all instructions and requests of the tournament host and adhere to the tournament schedule.
3. Do not give oral critique to competitors, but provide constructive written comments for all competitors. **A reason for ranking is not required, but highly encouraged on all ballots.**
4. WFCAs time limits should be strictly enforced (allowing a 15-second grace period). Entries exceeding the grace period may not be ranked first in a round. A contestant going overtime does not warrant disqualification. All judges should have a ~~stopwatch~~ **device** for the timing of performances.
5. There shall be no distracting noises or devices, activated cell phones or ~~pages~~ **announcements** in hallways, contest rooms, or preparation rooms. The common courtesy of quiet behavior **before, during, and after** ~~during rounds~~ competition **in hallways and near competition rooms** is expected.
6. Small children are not to be allowed in the coaches’/judges’ rooms during festivals and tournaments sanctioned by the WFCAs.
7. **Attendees are expected to avoid any discussion of competitive consideration during the day of competition with students from schools other than those they represent. This includes positive or negative comments, feedback or commentary concerning competition. Tournament-hired judges would be expected to refrain from such discussion with all students.**

Under “Violations:” (Note the changes highlighted below- **Green** for additions, **red** for edits)

1. On the spot: The Tournament Director will talk with parties involved with infraction of rules or ~~unethical conduct~~ **disallowed conduct outlined in the code of conduct above.** Should circumstances warrant, the chairperson of the Tournament Practices & Procedures (TPP) Committee should follow up the incident with a telephone call **to all involved parties’ head coach.**
2. TPP Committee: If unethical behavior continues, a referral to the TPP Committee will occur. The committee will send a letter to the **head** coach, **as well as the Activities director of the school outlining the situation.**
3. Executive Committee: If the matter is still not resolved or if the matter is deemed severe and in need of immediate attention, the Executive Committee will send a letter to the coach, **activities director, and**

principal and offending person (if she/he is not the head coach). If necessary, the executive committee may choose to remove this person from the judging pool

4. Probation: Schools and/or coaches placed on probation by the Executive Committee will be excluded from WFCA participation for one forensic season.(Adopted September 21, 2002 in Bylaws, Article III)

5. Any violations or issues that arise at a tournament should be reported to the TPP director (including any outcomes) to keep a clear database of concerns.