

## **LTAB ELIGIBILITY ENTRY**

- Participants must be enrolled in a designated high school (or have completed school during the same academic year of the LTAB festival).
- High school individual poets must be sponsored by an adult mentor/coach who works with a school. Teams must be sponsored by their school mentor/coach.
- If students sign up and find out later that they will not be able to participate, please notify the LTAB-organizer ASAP so that an alternate performer can have the chance to participate in the slam.
- Participants must attend “Crossing the Street” daytime workshop in its entirety. Non-attendance may result in disqualification. Notify LTAB organizers as soon as possible about participant absence.

## **COMPETITION**

- Participants must be physically present and checked in at least 30 minutes before the slam begins. Lateness to a scheduled bout time may result in disqualification for the participant.
- Each poem must be under three (3) minutes in length. Scores will be penalized for going over the time limit. Penalties will begin at 3:10 (a .5 point deduction for every ten seconds overtime). Poets will be asked to leave the stage if the time reaches 4:10.
- Participants must perform a piece of their own original writing. Participants who plagiarize will be disqualified. Quoting other works and utilizing literary allusion are not plagiarism.
- Props, costumes, and/or musical accompaniment may not be used in the slam.
- Content matter may not exceed a PG-13 rating (avoid excessive violence, sexually explicit content and/or language that is degrading to any group of people). Failure to heed the PG-13 rating will result in a .5 deduction from the poet’s score for each infraction.
- Profanity and discriminatory language are prohibited. Violations will result in a .5 penalty for every infraction. What constitutes a content infraction is up to the discretion of the individual bout manager.
- A mixed panel of artists, educators, youth and community members will be pre-chosen to judge each bout. Judges will not be affiliated with the school teams who participate in LTAB (and teams can challenge a judge to the bout manager if they anticipate unfairness).
- All protests of possible rule infractions must be lodged with the bout manager before the end of the day on which the possible infraction occurred. The bout manager will review the complaint with the rest of the tournament staff before making a decision regarding potential consequences. The decision will be presented to the affected individuals the next morning (or earlier if time-sensitive).

## **YOUTH POET**

LTAB competitors must be a student in your high school and must be 19 years old or under. They will be expected to write and perform original work individually, and in a group of four young poets performing a team poem together. (Note: the four-person group poem designation is an intentional artistic choice by the chief organizers of LTAB as a way to encourage the community building mission that is essential to Louder Than a Bomb).

## **COACH**

Schools should designate a coach as both a mentor and one who is responsible for organizing practices. If a coach is unable to commit to effectively mentoring their home school's team, a guest educator may step in as a de-facto coach, and that educator will be recognized accordingly. It is important that everyone know the realistic commitment they are making. Students in a team are required to write a performance poem (1 solo poem and they may later contribute to the four-person group poem) that are all 3 minutes long or less, and they must attend the "Crossing the Street" Workshop on (date/time) and the Final Slam on (date/time). Coaches must remain in contact with (Organizer Name) before and during all of these events.

## **NEEDS**

One coach and a minimum of four to max of six youth poets. Up to SIX poets maximum will be on your school's team. You may elect to compete with poets A, B, C, and D for the individual rounds and then take out C and D and add E and F into the group poem. However, any of the six poets may be chosen for the four-person group piece round.

## **TIMELINE**

Coaches and teams can expect to begin preparations for the festival through team practices, "Crossing the Street" workshop, and participation in the slam. Coaches are also tasked with attending the mandatory coaches meeting. Preparation and participation will last from (Date of Coaches meeting) through (Date of Festival).

## **IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS**

Make a list of date, times, and location of any and all of the activities teams will need to participate in that lead up the festival. For example:

**Thursday Feb 9, 2012 – CROSSING THE STREET Workshop with Kevin Coval and Nate Marshall. (Time TBD)** *All four (4) teams (plus Holland Hall) are invited to attend this daytime workshop to be held at OU-Tulsa. Attendance is only mandatory for the four (4) Teams Competing in the Finals, and the remaining five (5) high scoring individuals that will also be competing in the individual slam during the Finals.*

## **TEAM INFORMATION AND SLAM LOGISTICS**

There will be four students maximum and two alternates competing per school. Four students perform individual poems and four will perform in the group poem.

All students write one three (3) minute piece. Coaches must select FOUR students for a 3 min individual poem in the finals and may then choose to mix in the additional two poets on the team for their 3 min, 4-person group poem to perform at the slam. Highest scoring team overall wins. Highest scoring individual overall wins. Individuals may repeat their individual team competition poem or perform a new one for the individual slam.

The individual bouts will be the first four rounds and the fifth bout is a group round.

1. Individual Slam: ONE round of 4 individual poems. Individual round will follow the team competition.
2. Five Judges per bout.
3. Each poem will be scored on a scale of 0.0 to 10.0, using one decimal place to avoid ties. Highest and lowest scores are crossed out and the remaining three are tallied for each performance.
4. To determine the winning team individual and team scores will be added. The highest score wins.
5. Special individual recognitions (certificates) for all teams will also be ceremonially awarded.
6. Each school must have a minimum of four and a maximum of six poets on their team competing at final slam. Four poets will compete individually, and four poets will compete in a group poem. If at least a four-poet team from your school will not be present for the Final Slam, please notify the organizers immediately to devise an alternate plan.
7. Only one team per school/organization is allowed at the LTAB Slam (e.g., one high school may not send four teams to slam). LTAB Poets should be affiliated with the organization they represent or the school they attend.
8. Teams should send the same poets whose names are on the entry form, unless the LTAB organizers are otherwise notified before the bouts. After that, only registered team members may compete. If a registered team member cannot compete after the competition has started please contact (name of organizers and contact information) ASAP.
9. Teams can repeat the poems they perform from previous bouts – teams must prepare at least one individual poem per team member and one four-person group poem.
10. No poet may compete with more than one individual poem (and/or one group poem in the Final) round in a single bout.
11. While the entire team may contribute to the writing of a group piece, only four team members may perform the group piece, and all group piece performers must have been involved in the writing of that piece.

## ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. We encourage you to memorize the poems you will perform in competition with, though it is not required.
2. Alternate team members are encouraged, especially if full team members need to drop out of the competition.
3. Don't start your poem until you are ready. Make sure the mics are well placed and that the audience and judges can hear you. Once you begin, your time begins, so be sure you are utilizing all your available resources on stage. A bout manager will be there to assist you with what you need.
4. Rehearse! Be certain that each team member is audible and understandable (and performing the greatest poem ever written).
5. Be respectful of yourself, the youth writing community, and the group you represent.
6. Bring people out to support you when you read.
7. The slam is at the mercy of the judges, who may give you lower scores for various reasons, including their mood on that day, their personal tastes or other factors. *If you feel you may be particularly sensitive to this, then we encourage you to assess whether slamming is right for you.*
8. We advise teams to *have as much fun as possible* and be as prepared as they can be and the competitive ends usually take care of themselves.
9. PLEASE remember the LTAB-T Mantra, "The Point is not the Points, the Point is the Poetry" and try to uphold the spirit of community and an awareness of subjectivity and objectivity that is part of the slam convention.