

Blue State, Red State, Strategies to Dominate!

Help your players get into a position to be successful.

Create your program so that it provides all who participate a positive, educational, and fun filled experience.

1. Before the season begins:

- Create your schedule to insure that your players play a lot, play in different formats, and against different levels of competition.
- Place your schedule on the school calendar
- Reserve transportation, and facilities
- Order all your question sets
- Order all your practice materials

2. The start of the season:

- Have a parent informational meeting
- Allow students to come out for the team without any commitment
- Encourage the young students to join, allow 5th and 6th graders
- With your team, set Team goals
- Players set individual goals
- Create a theme for the season
- Let players know that only the top 15 among them will be able to participate post season, in the IESA State Tournament Series.

3. In Season:

- Offer three practices a week, two after school, and one before school.
- Require your players to attend at least one practice a week.
- Schedule many dual matches during the week with different schools. We have 12 and never play the same team twice.
- Require your players to attend as many matches as they can.
- Schedule many Saturday tournaments. We have 8.
- Require your players to attend as many tournaments as they can.
- Host your own tournament. Metcalf Sweetheart Tournament.

4. Make It Fun:

- Provide snacks at every practice
- Provide hospitality at every home match
- Play everybody a lot.

- Play other schools by grade level
- Have practices with various activities, games, speakers, and simulate matches
- The program buys them a t-shirt being sold at one of the tournaments they participate in.
- Go out to dinner as a team after matches and tournaments
- Have an end of the year party where students play a match against their parents. Winning team gets their name on a trophy.
- Have alumni students come back and moderate matches.

5. Frequent Positive Recognition:

- Use the school web site or newspaper to promote your team and players.
- Give players stickers for matches attended and toss-ups won on player nameplates.
- Update and display player and team statistics on team web site.
- Have a school assembly to introduce the team and show everyone what scholastic bowl is all about.
- Have a banner made that identifies the scholastic bowl team and its accomplishments and display it in school.
- Players receive a MVP award at tournaments, team trophies.
- End of the year party to recognize player and team accomplishments
- Give each student that completes the year a season recap booklet that contains pictures and stats.
- Send your top students to the (end of the season) All Star Tournament at Northlawn school in Streator.

6. Opportunities To Learn:

- Have players attend workshops. Northlawn in Streator.
- Have your players observe high school matches
- Invite guest speakers to share with students.
- Provide books, questions, games that they may take home.
- Create a Team Web Site and use it to provide study guides, questions, links.
- Require players to become experts in certain subject areas.
- Students create and share blogs containing information in all areas.
- Players are assigned certain presidents and amendments to know.
- Require students to practice on their own at home.
- Have practices with various learning activities and strategies

- Coaches share teaching responsibilities with students.
- Players play a lot

7. Don't Do It Alone:

- Have an assistant or co coach. So much more can be done with two coaches: supervision, coaching, have 2 teams in one tournament or place a team into two different tournaments on the same day.
- Have parents help: transportation, moderate matches, run tournaments, run hospitality
- Encourage your administration support your program by providing transportation, a sub when you are at a workshop or must leave early for a match, hand out awards at a tournament.
- Former students come back to moderate matches and help run tournaments.
- Team members help set up and take down for matches and help coach younger players.

7. Know Your Players:

- Know the strengths and weaknesses of your players
- Make sure each player knows the strengths of his or her teammates.
- Make sure all or most of the content areas are covered by the players at the table.
- Give more play time to the more productive members.
- Emphasize working as a team.
- Practice winning strategies.
- Communicate often with your players so they know you care about their progress.

8. Student Responses:

- I think that the biggest thing about our team that makes it successful is that we have a very diverse group of players with so many different specialties. nobody can know every question, that is why five people play at once. our wide combination of specialties makes the team successful.

- Letting certain people answer certain questions based on their strengths and weaknesses, working together to answer some bonus questions, communicating well to each other.
- I think one of the main reasons that we as a team, do well, is because we don't make it an individual competition(to see who is the smartest/best player) but we understand that it's a TEAM effort, and that everybody has their strengths and weaknesses. We also aren't afraid to help each other out when studying or preparing for a match or tournament. Another reason, is that for the most part, all of us on the Metcalf team, are just positive about learning, and being apart of Scholastic Bowl. A great team, is also one with great coaches. Who are making sure that we are working hard and having fun while apart of the team. You and Ms. Kane are both very good at helping us to become better players and students. We as a team are all students who love learning (and showing off I might add to the rest of the school).

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