

A Jason Taylor Foundation Joint

It's **BACK!**



# LOUDER THAN A BOMB

*Florida!*

*Get Ready!*

**April 5-16, 2016**



**#LTABFLA**

Jason Taylor  
Foundation  
BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE



## YOUTH POET

LTAB Florida competitors must attend the high school of the team they represent. They will write and perform original poems individually and as a member of a four-part collaborative team.

## COACH

Schools should designate a coach to serve as mentor as well as to organize and facilitate practices.

Coaches are responsible for the following:

- Registering teams (including completing and submitting forms and paying registration fee)
- Coordinating rehearsals
- Preparing poets for bouts
- Procuring transportation
- Encouraging the mission of the Omari Hardwick bluapple Poetry Network and LTABFLA.

## REQUIREMENTS

- A minimum of four (4) and a maximum of ten (10) poets; One (1) coach
- Individual poems for four (4) rounds
- Four-person group piece for the final round
- Payment of \$200 registration fee per team (\$25 for individual poets) by January 11, 2016.

## TIMELINE

Monday, Oct. 19, 2015	bluapple Poetry Network Teaching Artists begin in-school residency
Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2015	LTABFLA Coaches Training
Monday, Jan. 11, 2016	Deadline for completed registration forms and fee
Saturday, Feb. 13, 2016	Poetry & Leadership Conference “Crossing the Street”
April 5-16, 2016	2016 Louder Than A Bomb Florida Festival

## ELIGIBILITY

- Participants must be enrolled in designated high school, center, or approved institution/organization.
- Teams must be sponsored by their school’s coach/sponsor. Individual poets must be sponsored by an adult mentor/coach who works with a school.
- In cases where a school cannot meet the minimum requirement of four (4) poets to field a team, a poet or poets may register as an individual poet. Schools may **NOT** register both a team **AND** an individual poet.
- Participants **MUST** attend the Poetry & Leadership Conference “Crossing the Street” on **Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at Broward College** (A. Hugh Adams Central Campus in Davie). Failure of a poet to attend without prior approval from Darius Daughtry may result in his or her disqualification.



## RULES

- **NO PROFANITY ALLOWED.** If a poet uses a word other than "damn" or "hell", that is cause for disqualification of that poem. That poem would receive a score of "ZERO" and the poet will be asked to leave the stage.
- Content matter may not exceed a rating of PG-13 (avoid excessive violence, sexually explicit content, and/or language that degrades any group of people). **No RACIST, HOMOPHOBIC, or GENDER DEGRADING language will be tolerated.** Violations will result in a 1.0-point deduction for each infraction. If violations are extreme, the poet(s) will be asked to leave the stage and the poem will receive a score of "ZERO".
- The time limit for poems is three (3) minutes. Scores will be penalized starting at 3:10 (a .5 deduction for every ten seconds over 3:10). Poets will be asked to leave the stage at 4:00.
- All poets performing in the Louder Than A Bomb Florida festival **MUST** be listed on the team's registration form submitted by January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016.
- **NO VERBAL ASSISTANCE FROM TEAM.** If a poet is fed a word, line, or phrase from his/her team during their poem, the poet(s) receiving assistance will receive a **15-point deduction** from the poem's final score. For example, if the poem receives a score of **27.8**, the penalty will reduce the score to **12.8**.
- **NO AUDIBLE TIME CUES.** If a teammate verbally announces the amount of time elapsed or time remaining to a poet, that performing poet receives a **5-point deduction** from their final score. For example, if the poem receives a score of **27.8**, the penalty will reduce the score to **22.8**.
- **TIMING BEGINS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE "SHOUT OUT".** Poets **MUST** announce their **NAME** and **SCHOOL**. It not mandatory but they have the option to give a "shout out" or recognition to their school, poetry club, or group. The timekeeper begins the stopwatch with **THE FIRST SOUND AFTER THE "SHOUT OUT"**. If there is no "shout out", timing begins with the first utterance after their initial introduction. For example, if a poet steps to the microphone, states his name and the name of his school but continues to state the name of his poem, that continuation would start the timer and will count against the poet's time. Likewise, if a poet dedicates the poem to her grandmother, that would designate the start of her poem and the clock would start immediately at the beginning of the dedication.
- Memorization of poems is **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED**. This is one of the principles of spoken word poetry and makes for a better performance; however, **READING A POEM FROM A SHEET OF PAPER OR NOTEBOOK IS NOT AGAINST THE RULES. READING FROM AN ELECTRONIC DEVICE IS NOT ALLOWED.** All judges are made aware of this, but ultimately, judging for a poetry slam is very subjective and a judge may score more harshly when scoring a non-memorized performance.
- Participants must perform poems of their original writing. Plagiarism will result in the performer's **DISQUALIFICATION**. Quoting other works and literary allusion are permitted.
- Props, costumes, and/or musical accompaniment are prohibited.



## RULES (cont'd)

- Please make sure the **judges and audience can hear** each poet's entire poem. Exuberance and excitement may take over your team, and this could end up adversely affecting the score of a poet on your team or another team.
- As a program of the Omari Hardwick blueapple Poetry Network, Louder Than A Bomb Florida is a safe-space for all involved. Negative communication about or towards any participant or school during any of the festival's activities is not permitted and may result in removal from the venue.

**\*\*\*Rules violations are at the final discretion of the Bout Manager.\*\*\***

## SCORING & BOUT FORMAT

### Scoring

- Each poem (individual and group) is judged by five (5) judges on a scale of 0.0 to 10.0.
- The highest score and the lowest score are dropped and the median (three middle) scores are totaled. For example:

Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 3	Judge 4	Judge 5	<b>Total</b>
9.3	<del>8.7</del>	9.6	10.0	<del>10.0</del>	= <b>28.9</b>

- The highest point total any poem can receive is 30.0.

### Bout Format

- Each bout consists of four (4) schools competing against each other in five (5) equally weighted rounds – four (4) rounds of individual poems and one (1) round of group poems.
- Each school must send a different poet for each of the four (4) individual rounds.
- At the end of the fourth individual round, the four scores for each school are totaled.
- Each team is ranked in order of their total score, highest to lowest.
- The schools will perform in reverse order by rank in the group round. For example, the team with the lowest total score will perform first; the team with the highest score will perform last.

	Round 1 Scores	Round 2 Scores	Round 3 Scores	Round 4 Scores	Total	5 <sup>th</sup> Round Order
Team A	28.2	30.0	26.8	28.9	113.9	4th
Team B	28.8	27.3	25.3	30.0	111.4	1st
Team C	28.9	28.2	29.9	26.8	113.8	3rd
Team D	27.7	30.0	25.6	29.0	112.3	2nd

## Advancing

- Each team will compete in **TWO** preliminary bouts.
- At the conclusion of each preliminary bout, each team is assigned a bout rank of 1 through 4. A bout rank of 1 is assigned to the team that finishes with the highest cumulative point total; a bout rank of 2 is assigned to the team that finishes with the 2nd highest cumulative point total and so on.
- After the completion of all preliminary bouts, each team's bout ranks are added together.
- The top 16 teams with the lowest combined bout ranks will advance to one of four SEMIFINAL bouts.
- The winner of each semifinal bout will advance to FINALS.

## Indy Poets

- During the preliminary bouts, the scores for all individual poets are tallied.
- After the completion of all preliminary bouts, each individual poet's scores are totaled.
- The top 12 poets with the highest combined score from the preliminary bouts will advance to the INDIVIDUAL FINALS.
- An individual poet DOES NOT have to perform in both preliminary bouts. However, since the poets with the highest COMBINED scores advance to the INDIVIDUAL FINALS, it would be difficult for a poet that only performs once to advance.
- The INDIVIDUAL FINALS consist of three (3) rounds.
  - Round One: all poets perform
  - Round Two: top eight (8) poets perform
  - Round Three: top five (5) poets perform

**\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\* Any questions, concerns, or disputes during bouts should be brought directly to the Bout Manager ONLY and only by the team's designated coach.**

