



# LOUDER THAN A BOMB FLORIDA: TOURNAMENT RULES & GUIDELINES

## TEAM REQUIREMENTS

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- A minimum of four and a maximum of ten middle or high school poets actively enrolled at the registering school
- One coach/club sponsor
- Minimum of four original individual poems
- One four-person original group piece
- Payment of \$200 registration fee per team due February 2
- Attendance and participation in the Poetry & Leadership Conference on February 24

## INDY REQUIREMENTS

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In cases where a school cannot meet the minimum requirement to field a team, a poet or poets may register as an individual poet. **Schools may NOT register both a team AND individual poet(s).**

- One coach/sponsor or an adult mentor who works with a school
- One original poem; if poet advances to Finals, a minimum of three original poems are required
- Payment of \$25 registration fee per individual due February 2
- Attendance and participation in the Poetry & Leadership Conference on February 24

## COACH RESPONSIBILITIES

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- Registering teams (includes completing and submitting forms and paying registration fee)
- Coordinating and moderating practices
- Preparing poets for bouts
- Procuring transportation for participating poets and entourage
- Encouraging the mission of the Omari Hardwick bluepple Poetry Network and LTABFLA



## TIMELINE & FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

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October 25	LTABFLA Davie Coaches Training
November 1	Registration opens
November 3	LTABFLA Jacksonville Coaches Training
February 2	Registration closes; all forms and fee due
February 24	Poetry & Leadership Conference “Crossing the Street”
Week of March 26	North and Central Florida Prelim Bouts
Week of April 2	South Florida Preliminary Bouts
April 7 – 8	Quarter Finals (if necessary)
April 13	Firecracker & Dynamite Slam
April 14	Semi Finals
April 15	Block Party presented by Hoffman’s Chocolates/LIME Fresh Mexican Grill
April 20	Individual Finals presented by Ultimate Software
April 21	Team Finals presented by StevenDouglas

## BOUT FORMAT

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- Each bout consists of **four schools** competing against each other in five equally weighted rounds: four rounds of individual poems, followed by one round of group poems.
- Each school must send **a different poet** for each of the four 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.
- In the fifth and final round, the schools will perform their group pieces 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. See the following chart for an example:

	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



## SCORING

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- Each poem (including group pieces) is **judged by five 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. Due to this, the highest point total any poem can receive is 30.0. For example:

JUDGE 1	JUDGE 2	JUDGE 3	JUDGE 4	JUDGE 5	TOTAL
9.3	8.7	9.6	10.0	<del>10.0</del>	28.9

## TOURNAMENT RULES

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- All poets performing in the Louder Than A Bomb Florida festival **MUST** be listed on the team's registration form submitted by **February 2nd, 2018**.
- In preliminaries, quarter finals, and semi finals, **sacrificial poets may be chosen from one of the participating schools ONLY if the poet is not performing** in ANY of the rounds (individual and group) at that current bout. If the sacrificial poet performs during any of the five rounds of that bout, their team will receive a zero for that round.
- **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, XENOPHOBIC, 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 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 5:00.**
- **NO VERBAL ASSISTANCE FROM TEAM.** If a poet is fed a word, line, or phrase 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 reduces 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**.
- **CLOCK BEGINS AFTER INTRODUCTION.** Poets **MUST** announce their **NAME** and **SCHOOL**. It is 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, the timekeeper would start the clock immediately at the beginning of the dedication.
- Participants must perform poems of their original writing. Plagiarism will result in the performer's **DISQUALIFICATION**. Quoting other works and literary allusion are permitted.
- Memorization of poems is strongly encouraged. This is one of the principles of spoken word poetry and makes for a better performance; nevertheless, **READING A POEM FROM A SHEET OF PAPER OR NOTEBOOK IS PERMITTED. HOWEVER, READING FROM AN ELECTRONIC DEVICE IS PROHIBITED.** 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.
- Props, costumes, and/or musical accompaniment are prohibited.
- Please **RESPECT THE MIC** so that the **judges and audience can hear** each poet's entire poem.
- As a program of the Omari Hardwick bluapple 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.

**\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE: Rule violations are at the final discretion of the bout manager.\*\*\***



## COMPETING POETS ARRIVAL TIME & PENALTIES

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### PRELIMINARIES:

Competing teams must attempt to arrive at least a half-hour before the bout start time. If the team is not present when their performer is called up, that team will take a ZERO for that round. Pending time constraints, efforts will be made to provide opportunity for all late poets to perform.

### SEMIFINALS (April 14):

Competing teams must arrive **30 minutes prior to the bout start time**. If the team is not present at the beginning of the bout, they will receive a 1-point deduction to their overall score. If the team is not present when their first round performer is called up, that team will be disqualified.

### INDIVIDUAL FINALS (April 20):

Competing poets must arrive **60 minutes prior to the bout start time**. If they are not present for the bout draw (which will occur 30 minutes before start time) they will receive a 0.5-point deduction to their overall score. If the poet is not present at the beginning of the bout, they will receive an additional 0.5-point deduction to their overall score. If the poet is not present when they are called up to perform, that poet will be disqualified.

### TEAM FINALS (April 21):

Competing teams must arrive **90 minutes prior to the bout start time**. If they are not present for the bout draw (which will occur 60 minutes before start time) they will receive a 1-point deduction to their overall score. If the team is not present at the beginning of the bout, they will receive an additional 1-point deduction to their overall score. If the team is not present when their first round performer is called up, that team will be disqualified.

**\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE: Should Quarterfinals take place, poet arrival time and late penalties will align with those of the Semifinals bouts.\*\*\***

## TEAM ADVANCING

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- Each team will compete in **TWO** preliminary bouts.
- At the conclusion of each preliminary bout, each team is assigned a **rank of 1—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 LOUDE THAN A BOMB TEAM FINALS.

**\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE: If between 35-55 schools register for the festival tournament, Semifinals will be expanded to include 20 teams over four bouts. If more than 55 schools register, a Quarterfinals round will be added the weekend of April 7-8 with the top 16 teams advancing to Semifinals.\*\*\***

## INDY ADVANCING

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- After the completion of all preliminary bouts, each individual poet's scores are totaled.
- The top 24 poets with the highest combined score from the preliminary bouts will advance to the **Indy Semifinals**. Note: if the poet's team also advances to Semifinals, then their solo performance within their team's semifinals bout will count towards their total INDIVIDUAL score. If a poet finishes in the top 24 but is on a team that is not participating in Semifinals, then that poet will be assigned the opportunity to perform during one of the four semifinals bouts.
- Scores from the Semifinals bout will be added to the preliminary scores for a cumulative total. The top 12 poets with the highest individual score will advance to the LOUDER THAN A BOMB FLORIDA 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

**\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE: If Quarterfinals is necessary for the festival tournament, then the top 36 poets with the highest individual combined score will advance to individual quarterfinals, with the top 24 poets advancing to Semifinals.\*\*\***





# LOUDER THAN A BOMB FLORIDA: DYNAMITE SLAM GUIDELINES

## TEAM REQUIREMENTS

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- A minimum of four middle school poets actively enrolled at the registering school
- One coach/club sponsor
- Minimum of four original poems (individual or group)
- Submit registration by February 2
- Attendance and participation in the Poetry & Leadership Conference on February 24

Please note: 6-12 schools are eligible to register **separate teams** in both the LTABFLA festival tournament, as well as the Dynamite Slam. However, no high school poets are allowed to participate in the dynamite slam.

Furthermore, any middle school poet who is participating in the LTABFLA festival tournament is also ineligible for the Dynamite Slam. Traditional 6-8 middle schools may only participate in one competition: either the Dynamite Slam or the LTABFLA festival tournament.

Bout format will be determined according to the number of teams registered by February 2nd. Scoring will follow the traditional LTABFLA festival tournament.

