LTABU COLLEGE SLAM OFFICIAL RULES*
These are the official rules as of 12/3/19

PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS

- Unlike the HS LTAB festival, poets need not be enrolled in school, just 18-25 years of age at the time of the slam or enrolled in college if of an age outside of 18-25.

REGISTRATION

Early Registration 12/1-12/31 ($20)
Regular Registration 1/1-1/31 ($30)
Late Registration 2/1-2/15 ($40)

LTABU COMPETITION RULES

Poet Introductions
- **INDY REQUIREMENT** All poets are required to state the following before their poem is delivered:
  - Poet Name
  - Title of Poem -- if poem is untitled, then the poet must say: “This piece is untitled.”

- **OPTIONAL** To encourage community and positive energy in the space poets may engage with the audience in a brief call and response prior to beginning their piece

Indy Bout Structure
- Prelims - Poets will participate in a bout draw before the start of each bout to determine the order of the first round.
- In the Second Round the poet’s order will be determined by their scores, they will go in descending order (meaning whoever scored highest will go first)
- Prelims are accumulative
- Finals are not accumulative

Timekeeping
- Each poem must be under 3 minutes in length. Scores will be penalized for going over the time limit. Penalties will begin at 3:10, with a .5 point deduction for every ten seconds over time. (i.e. a 3:22 poem will receive a 1-point deduction, assuming no other deductions apply).
- Poets will be asked to leave the stage if they reach 5:00.
• Timing will begin at first utterance after the poet introduction is delivered
• Any dedications or prefaces to the poem will be included in the allotted time. If dedications or prefaces are made before the Poet Introduction is completed, the time will start.
  - **EXAMPLE**
    - My name is Jamila Woods
    - This poem is dedicated to my……….(THE POEM STARTED BEING TIMED DURING THIS LINE)
    - My poem is untitled.

• Dedications or prefaces to poems are not discouraged. If a dedication or preface is used, please make sure to give it after the poet introduction and know that it will be timed.

**Plagiarism & Authorship**
- Participants must perform their own original writing. Participants who plagiarize will be disqualified.
- Clearly quoting/sampling other works and utilizing literary allusions is not considered plagiarism. Determining plagiarism infractions is the responsibility of the bout managers and/or grand master slam.

**Props, Costumes, & Music**
- Props, costumes, and/or musical accompaniment may not be used in the slam. (i.e. performing a piece involving a hoodie and wearing a hoodie is allowed. Using a hoodie you’re wearing as a prop to emphasize your words is not. Dressing as a team in a way that illustrates the content of your piece is also grounds for deduction). Determining prop, costume and music infractions is the responsibility of the bout managers.

**Safe Space Rules**
- LTAB participants must abide by YCA’s safe space rules: No racist, sexist, homophobic, gender-biased, ableist, ageist, anti-religious, transphobic or otherwise derogatory speech that is degrading to any specific group of people. Failure to heed this can result in point deduction as determined by the bout manager. Violations will result in a .5 penalty for every infraction. Determining content infractions is the responsibility of the bout managers.
- Cursing is allowed as long as poet abide by the safe space rules.

**Judging**
- A panel of artists, educators, youth and audience members will judge each bout. Judges should in no way be affiliated with the poets who participate in LTAB.
- Challenges to the appointment of judges must be brought to the bout manager before the first poet takes the stage.

**Protesting Rule Infractions**
- All protests of possible rule infractions must be lodged with the bout manager prior to signing the score sheet at the end of each bout. The bout manager will review the complaint with the Grand Master Slam before making a decision regarding potential consequences. The decision will be presented to the affected individuals the next morning (or earlier if time-sensitive).
LTAB RECOMMENDATIONS

● LTAB is rooted in the craft of poetry. Although we encourage poets to hone their performances skills, writing and language are valued over any performance elements.
● We encourage you to memorize your poems, though it is not required.
● 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. A bout manager will be there to assist you with what you need.
● Be respectful of yourself, the youth writing community, and the group you represent.
● Bring people out to support you when you read.
● We advise poets to have as much fun as possible and be as prepared as they can be.
● Reminder: Louder Than A Bomb University is a poetry festival, where community-building and sharing of poetry is more important than winning. While LTABU is structured as a competition, please remember that the point is not the points, the point is the poetry!