

VanSlam Poet's Contract

For the Vancouver Poetry Slam Team 200 _ (date)

I, _____, the undersigned, (hereforth known as "Poet") before entering the Vancouver Slam SemiFinal Playoffs to qualify for a position on the Vancouver SLAM TEAM for this year, understand and honor the following: If I qualify for the Vancouver Team, I will be part of a long, esteemed (and at times notorious) tradition of excellent poetry and revelry. I also understand that in many people's minds I will be representing all the diversity of Vancouver --poetic, cultural, sexual, genderful, racial, ageful, and political-- and will conduct myself in a manner that is not only personally satisfying, but respects the dignity of the voices that speak through this Team. I understand that every member of this Team has earned their right to be on it, and promise to respect and honor them for the duration, regardless of their identity, personality, or stinky armpits.

----"VanSlam" is defined as the official PSI registered venue who act as organizers, promoters, volunteers, and sponsors of The Vancouver Slam Team competitions, performances, fundraisers, and events.

----"SlamMaster" is defined as the registered slam master of record with PSI (Poetry Slam Incorporated). Duties are to liaise with PSI on all official paperwork and meetings and other related duties, to ensure that Vancouver continues to have the right to attend PSI tournaments and events and to represent Van Slams interests within PSI

----"Coach" is the decade long tradition of the VanSlam team is to work as an ensemble where each member contributes and submits to the coaching and strategy decided on by consensus, leading up to and during competition: the team may self-coach, or seek out an external coach as they so decide

----"Playoffs" is defined as the yearly VanSlam Semis and Finals, to be held for the purposes of selecting The Team.

----"Nationals" is defined as the 2007 National Poetry Slam, "CFSW" is defined as The Canadian Festival of Spoken Word, and "WIN2" is defined as the PSI sanctioned process of qualifying VanSlam to send a Team to next year's Nationals

----"Team" is defined as the four(in the event that a member or members of the team must be replaced temporarily or permanently it will be done in order from 5th on down) top ranked Poets from the Playoffs who agree to the terms and conditions of this contract for the purpose of competing as a member of the Vancouver Slam Team at the National Poetry Slam and any other associated competitions and fundraisers-including the "win two" bout/s to be held after NPS to ensure eligibility for the following years team.

----"Expenses" is defined as the cost of organizing The Playoffs, Fundraisers, The Team's membership to Poetry Slam, Inc, Registration for Austin, Airfare to Austin, and Lodging. The terms, conditions, and timing of delivery of The Team's Expenses are the sole discretion of the Vancouver Slam. (i.e. members of The Team may not select separate Airfare or Lodging except at their own expense. If separate flight is necessary, Poet may be reimbursed for an amount equal only to that of other Poets on the Team at the discretion of VanSlam.)

----"Alternate" is defined as a Poet who fills in for any Poet absent from The Team in competitions, fundraisers, or events. An Alternate may be accepted into The Team, but must be the 5th highest ranked Poet from the VanSlam Poetry Slam Finals, or the next lowest ranked Poet who can fulfill the position's obligations.

1. Inability to perform in all or part of the Playoffs, CFSW, NPS, or WIN2 will immediately disqualify Poet from membership on the Team.
2. Poet must have (or quickly obtain) a valid Passport, and must have the personal and work-related ability to travel that is demanded by membership on the Team.
3. Van Slam will, in good faith, support and promote the Team in all performances, competitions, fundraisers, and rehearsals. However, The Team may be withdrawn from said performances, fundraisers, and competitions at the discretion of the Slammaster and the Team members
- 4.) Van Slam will, in good faith, schedule the Team in competitions and organize fundraisers to help offset costs of the Team, in all ways as it travels for CFSW, NPS, & WIN2. Van Slam will donate all profits from all fundraisers and the Van Slam Finals toward the Team's Expenses. Van Slam guarantees to pay the Team's Expenses.
- 5.) Van Slam is not responsible at any time for the safety, well-being, or property of any poet competing in the Van Slam Playoffs, or on any other occasion where the Poet is acting as member of the Team,. It is understood that Poetry Slams and travel are inherently dangerous and the organizers are not in any way bound to mitigate those dangers. It is understood that emotions run high during these events and Van Slam is in no way responsible for the behavior of participants or bystanders.
- 6.) All members of the team and the SlamMaster will sign this Contract, The PSI membership form and the PSI Code of Honour-The PSI Code of Honour was conceived and written by Van Slam founders. Therefore we recognize a special duty to sign it and abide by it as an example to others at home and abroad.

7.) Poet will, in good faith, perform to the best of their ability in the Playoffs and any other venues where they are representing VanSlam. Poet will, in good faith, attend, perform and support, to the best of their ability, all Rehearsals, Fundraisers, Performances, and Competitions scheduled for the purposes of raising money for Expenses. Inability to perform at these functions will be considered on a case-by-case basis, with (in extreme circumstances) dismissal from the Team subject to the discretion of the Slammaster and the Team by a majority vote.

8.) Poet must immediately inform the Slammaster if, for any reason, said Poet cannot compete in full or part of the Playoffs, Nationals, CFSW or any Fundraisers, Performances, or Competitions (including the "win 2" bout/s essential to continuing teams from van slam) scheduled by VanSlam. Inability to perform at these functions will be considered on a case-by-case basis, with dismissal from the Team subject to the discretion of the Slammaster and the Team. Poet must immediately inform the Slammaster of any conflicts of interest, associations with rival Teams, or other circumstances which could be construed as an influence on their performance as a member of the Team

9.) Poet will not physically threaten, in word or deed, any Poet, member of The Team, Coach, Alternate, Van Slam, members of other Teams, or organizers of the Nationals, or in any other way violate The code of Honour. Such threats will be considered grounds for immediate dismissal from The Team or any other associated position such as Coach and Alternate and halt further access to the Expenses, by the Slammaster and a majority vote of the Team.

10.) All winnings will be divided up evenly among members of The Team following Nationals CFSW, or any event the Team participates in. If Poet is dismissed from the team by violating any of the terms listed in this contract, they have no further claim to any part of winnings, surplus funds, or proceeds from Team merchandise.

Signed, _____, Poet.