



PRESENT



DEMO RULEBOOK

Following are the rules and regulations governing the debate:

An Overview of the Competition

The competition shall be conducted in two main phases: Phase 1, the '**Preliminary Rounds**' will incorporate **4 or 5 rounds**, while Phase 2, the '**Knock-out Rounds**,' shall have quarter-finals, semi-finals and the finals.

The draw for the first preliminary round will be randomly assigned. For subsequent match-ups in Phase 1, the ties will be '**power-matched**'. Therefore, following round 1, winning teams will meet other similarly placed winning teams. This means that the team ranked 1st will face the team ranked 2nd, and so on.

The quarter-finals and semi-finals are knock-out rounds with the winning team in each tie advancing to the next round. For the quarter-finals, the top-ranked team from Phase 1 will face the team ranked last in the set of breaking teams from Phase 1, the second-ranked team will face the team ranked second last and so on. This matching will then continue for subsequent matches of Phase 2. Points from Phase 1 will not be carried forward to Phase 2.

The final authority on all aspects relating to the debate vests with the Chief Adjudicators of the competition.

The Demo Round

Phase 1 will be prefaced by one 'demo round'. This demo round will consist of two volunteer teams, and its results will not affect the overall results of the preliminary rounds in any way, nor the draw for the first round of Phase 1 of the competition. All debaters and adjudicators shall attend the demo round, which will also serve as the initial basis for the **adjudicator selection** process.

SECTION 1 – THE FORMAT OF THE DEBATE

1.1 Teams

Each debating match will consist of two teams; one to propose the motion and one to oppose it. The team proposing may be known as 'The Proposition', 'The Affirmative' or 'The Government'. The team

opposing may be known as 'The Opposition' or 'The Negative'. Teams will be designated as the Proposition or the Opposition for each round of the competition.

1.2 Adjudicators

Each debate shall be adjudicated upon by a panel comprising of an odd number of adjudicators. One of these shall be designated as Chairperson. In exceptional situations, a debate may be adjudicated by a single experienced adjudicator.

1.3 Timekeeping

Each debate shall be timed by a timekeeper. In the absence of a timekeeper, the Chairperson will ensure that a member of the adjudication panel times the speeches.

1.4 Team members

Teams will comprise the following members.

1.4.1 AFFIRMATIVE / PROPOSITION

- a) Prime Minister or First Affirmative.
- b) Deputy Prime Minister or Second Affirmative.
- c) Government Whip or Third Affirmative

1.4.2 NEGATIVE / OPPOSITION

- a) Leader of the Opposition or First Negative.
- b) Deputy Leader of the Opposition or Second Negative.
- c) Opposition Whip or Third Negative

1.5 Speaking order

Debaters will speak in the following order:

- i) Prime Minister, or 1st Affirmative.
- ii) Leader of Opposition, or 1st Negative.

- iii) Deputy Prime Minister, or 2nd Affirmative.
- iv) Deputy Leader of Opposition, or 2nd Negative.
- v) Government Whip, or 3rd Affirmative.
- vi) Opposition Whip, or 3rd Negative.
- vii) Opposition Reply Speech, to be given by either the 1st or 2nd Negative speaker.
- viii) Government Reply Speech, to be given by either the 1st or 2nd Affirmative speaker.

1.6 Behaviour during the debate

All speakers are expected to maintain decorum during the debate. It is the duty of the Chairperson to ensure order in the house.

Speakers not 'holding the floor' may not rise during a speech unless it is to offer a 'Point of Information' (see Section 5 of this document). Speakers doing so, or considered to be heckling, barracking or whose behavior is interfering with the acceptable course of a debate will be declared 'out of order' or will be 'called to order' by the Chairperson. (also see section 5.6 for PoI Etiquette)

SECTION 2 – THE MOTIONS

2.1 Themes

The motions for each round will reflect a specific and well-known theme, and each round of the competition will comprise of three choices of motions.

2.2 Selecting the motion for a match-up

On release of the motions, both teams rank the 3 motions in order of preference. The most preferred motion for both teams is debated (the least preferred motion of both teams being struck off). In case of a tie, there will be a coin toss. It is the responsibility of the Chairperson to oversee the choice and selection of the motion.

SECTION 3 – PREPARATION FOR EACH MATCH-UP

3.1 Match-ups and Venues

Match-ups and venues will be announced before motions are revealed. The motions will be released at the same venue where the match-ups are announced. Any clarification should be made there and then with the Chief Adjudicators.

3.2 Procedure

Teams must immediately proceed to their venues, where the motion will be selected. From the time of selection of the motion, teams have **15 minutes** preparation time until the commencement of the debate in that round. Teams failing to arrive in time for their match-up within 20 min from the beginning of their preparation time will forfeit that particular round.

3.3 Place of preparation

The Affirmative have the right to prepare in chambers (venue).

3.4 Preparation

3.4.1 Printed and prepared materials may be used during the preparation period. No access to electronic media or electronic storage or retrieval devices is permitted after motions have been released. This includes but is not limited to, all kinds of computers, electronic databanks, cellular phones, etc. Printed and prepared materials may be accessed during a debate, but may not be used by a speaker holding the floor.

3.4.2 Teams must prepare alone. Once motions have been released, there must be no contact between debaters in a particular team and coaches, trainers, friends, observers or any other individual for the purposes of assistance in the context of the debate. Such contact and assistance is deemed as '**cheating**' and will be punished strictly.

SECTION 4 – SPEECH TIMING

4.1 Timekeeping

It is the duty of the timekeeper, or of a panel member or Chair (in absence of a timekeeper), to time all the speeches in each round.

4.2 Times for speeches

Constructive Speeches:

All Rounds: 6 + 1 minutes

Reply Speeches:

3 + 1 minutes in all rounds

4.3 Time indication

Time signals will be given in the following manner.

Constructive Speeches (All rounds):

End of first minute - single ring of the bell

End of fifth minute - single ring of the bell

End of sixth minute - double ring of the bell

Reply Speeches

End of third minute- single ring of the bell.

End of fourth minute- double ring of the bell.

4.4 Once the double ring of the bell has sounded, speakers have a 20-second 'grace period', during which they should conclude their speech. After this grace period has elapsed, there will be a continuous knocking of the gavel, and adjudicators must disregard the rest of that particular speech. Speakers continuing after the 'grace period' can also be penalized by the adjudicators in the Method category.

4.5 If the speaker concludes his/her speech before the second single ring of the bell, he or she should be penalized under Method and possibly also under Matter. The latter, assuming that less matter was advanced, or that it was clearly underdeveloped.

4.6 The Leader of Opposition will get a minute after the Prime Minister's speech to prepare his speech.

4.7 Both sides will be given a common minute to prepare their reply speeches.

SECTION 5 – POINTS OF INFORMATION (PoIs)

5.1 When PoIs may be offered

Points of Information or Pols may be offered during constructive speeches only, after the first single ring of the bell and up to the second single ring of the bell. Pols may not be offered during the first and last minutes of constructive speeches. If a Point of Information is offered in the first or the last minute of a constructive speech, it is the duty of the speaker holding the floor to reject the same as being out of order. Only if the speaker holding the floor fails to do the same, the chair of the adjudicator panel may very briefly intervene and call the house to order. Consecutive Pols must have at least 15 seconds between them.

5.2 Mode of offering

A Pol must be indicated by a member of an opposing team rising from his/her seat, optionally placing one hand on top of his/her head and extending the other towards the member holding the floor. A member offering a Pol may draw attention to the offer by saying “on that point Sir/Madam,” or by **short headlining tags**. The tag should not be more than 4 words long and should not be complete questions.

5.3 Responding to a Pol

A member holding the floor must respond to an opposing member, offering a Pol, in one of the following ways:

- (a) a clear gesture or hand signal rejecting the offer
- (b) a verbal rejection of the offer, or
- (c) a verbal acceptance of the offer.

5.4 How Pols are to be phrased

If a Pol is accepted, the point should be phrased as a question, or clarification, or comment, and ideally made in no more than 15 seconds. Points of Information should be such that they allow the member holding the floor some chance of responding. However, **Pols do not always have to be questions**. They can be comments, clarifications, etc.

5.5 Marking of Pols

Points of Information are marked for their strategic use under Method, and for their content under Matter. Speakers not taking any Pols can be marked down under Manner and Method.

5.6 Pol Etiquette

The following rules must be followed while asking Pols:

- (a) Consecutive Pols must have at least 15 seconds between them
- (b) A Pol tag cannot be more than 4 words long under any circumstance
- (c) Pols cannot be asked within the protected minutes (first and last minutes) or during reply speeches.

Any violation of these rules will be considered **heckling**. It is the duty of the **chair to intervene** and call the house to order in case of excessive heckling.

Heckling is strongly discouraged and adjudicators are supposed to penalize teams engaging in this unfair practice by adjusting Speaker Scores accordingly. **No change in the decision** should arise because of heckling.

SECTION 6 – ADJUDICATION

6.1 The panel

Debates are generally adjudicated by panels of three adjudicators, or, where this is not possible, by a single, senior adjudicator. Larger panels of an odd number of adjudicators will adjudicate the matches of Phase 2.

6.2 Procedure for Adjudicators

Adjudicators will arrive at their decisions on an individual basis, fill in the speed ballots, and pass them to the timekeeper. A majority decision will prevail for each round of the competition. Adjudicators **cannot confer** with each other before marking and handing over their speed ballots. They can, however, seek a clarification on something which was not properly heard.

6.3 Feedback

After filling the speed ballots within 15 minutes after the debate ends, the adjudicators must prepare their feedback within 10 minutes before announcing the results before the teams, in all open adjudication rounds of the first phase. In all of these rounds, there will be an open adjudication after the decision for each debate is announced, where adjudicators will give reasons for their decision. However, the adjudication sheets will not be shown to debaters or other participants. The speaker scores cannot be disclosed. They can, however, mention whether the debate was close, clear or thrashing, and who the Best Speaker was. The feedback time of any adjudicator should not exceed **10**

minutes. It is the duty of the Chairperson to ensure that adjudicators adhere to the mentioned time restrictions.

In closed adjudication rounds, if any, the adjudicators will not disclose the result or any aspect of it to the teams, under any circumstance. However, each **panelist will give a feedback to the Chair, which should not be disclosed to the other panelist**, who will stay out of the chamber during the feedback.

6.4 Procedure for Debaters

All the debaters must leave the chambers following the completion of all speeches. During the feedback, debaters should not indulge in, and adjudicators should not entertain, argumentation or unnecessary cross-questioning, at the time of the open adjudication. If there is a gross violation of general etiquette by a team, it will be **deregistered from the entire debate**.

SECTION 7 – DEFINING THE MOTION

7.1 The definition is the interpretation of the motion as put forward by the Prime Minister, or First Affirmative, in his opening remarks. The onus for establishing how the definition ties in with the given motion lies completely upon the Prime Minister. All subsequent speakers have a purely clarificatory role (if any) in this regard.

7.2 The definition should be reasonable.

7.3 The definition should state the issue or issues arising out of the motion to be debated, state the meanings of any terms in the motion requiring clarification and display clear and logical links to the wording and spirit of the motion.

7.4 The definition should not be:

7.4.1 A truism (a definition which is un-debatable).

7.4.2 A tautology (a definition which, in development, proves itself).

7.4.3 Place set (setting an unnaturally restrictive geographical or spatial location as its major parameter, thus gaining an unfair advantage over the opposition).

7.4.4 Time set (setting a time frame which is not in the present, as its major parameter).

7.4.5 A squirrel (displaying no clear or no logical links or displaying flawed or vague links to the motion).

7.4.6 Out of Theme (definition displaying no clear relation with the provided theme of the respective round)

7.5 The Negative may only challenge the definition advanced by the Affirmative on the basis of one of the above-mentioned conditions, and must clearly state **which individual condition** based upon which it is challenging the definition.

7.6 The Negative **may not challenge** a definition supplied by the Affirmative on the basis that:

7.6.1 Its own definition is more reasonable.

7.6.2 A better debate will result. The Negative cannot re-define terms or words contained in the motion so that a completely different debate is thereby set up. However, a Negative may contend with the specific or general approach to terminology supplied by the definition of the Affirmative.

7.7 Definitions should not require members of the house to have access to, or possess, specific or expert knowledge.

SECTION 8 – CHALLENGING THE DEFINITION

Use with extreme caution – in the rarest of rare cases!

8.1 The definitional challenge must be made in the speech of the Leader of the Opposition, following a clear statement that the definition is being rejected only under one ground from Section 7.4. The onus for establishing the definitional challenge lies completely upon the Leader of the Opposition. Subsequent speakers are strictly permitted a purely clarificatory role (if any) in this regard.

8.2 In the event of a challenge, the **Leader of the Opposition should do** the following -

8.2.1 He must **justify his rejection** by supplying the ground on which the original definition has been rejected.

8.2.2 Furthermore, a substitute definition must be supplied, which all the Opposition speakers must then go on **to negate**.

8.3 If the Leader of Opposition does not challenge the definition, no other speaker can.

8.4 The onus to prove that a definition is unreasonable is on the Opposition, and should not be presumed by the adjudicators.

8.5 There will be no whip speeches in the event of a Definition Challenge

8.6 Adjudicators should not indicate during the debate whether the definitional challenge has succeeded. They cannot indicate which definition they find to be (more) acceptable. The final decision as to whether a definitional challenge has succeeded must take into consideration all speeches in any debate, subject to conformity with 7.1 and 8.1.

8.7 Neither team should abandon either the definitions or the challenges of its opening speakers.

8.8 The **Government team should –**

8.8.1 Justify their Prime Minister and his/her original definition and must oppose the grounds of the challenge.

8.8.2 Put forward their substantive case on the original definition.

8.9 Consequences of a definition challenge – If the definition challenge is upheld, the team making the challenge (Opposition) automatically wins the debate. If however, the definition challenge fails, then the team defending the challenge (Proposition) wins. Adjudicators are expected to award points in a manner which depicts how convincing the definition challenge was.

SECTION 9 – ROLE OF SPEAKERS

The speakers must strive to fulfill the following roles in each of their speeches:

9.1 Prime Minister

- The Prime Minister (PM) must commence his debate by stating the motion put before the house and clearly introducing the proposition interpretation.
- He must then define the key words in the given motion as interpreted by the team.
- He must then put forth a **logical link** which clearly connects the motion and the proposed definition or the case statement.
- He must then give his team split, highlighting his main arguments and the main arguments of the Deputy Prime Minister.
- Since the PM has no rebuttals he would put forth the constructive points.
- He may also put forth a model. The model must be put forth in the PM's speech only. **No floating model is allowed.**

9.2 Leader of Opposition

- The Leader of Opposition (LO) may reiterate the motion and the case statement as put forth by the Prime Minister.
- He must then clearly state if he accepts or rejects the definition put forth by the proposition.
- He must clearly provide a **point of clash** that determined the basic negative case of the opposition.
- He may then give his team split, outlining his main arguments and the main arguments of the Deputy Leader of Opposition.
- He must then go on to rebut certain arguments made by the PM.
- He must then proceed with his constructive arguments.

- If an **alternative model** is to be provided by the opposition, it must be done in the LO's speech.

9.3 Deputy Prime Minister

- The Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) must highlight what his main constructive arguments are.
- He must then go on to rebut the LO's arguments.
- He must then proceed with his constructive arguments.

9.4 Deputy Leader of Opposition

- The Deputy Leader of Opposition (DLO) must highlight what his main constructive arguments are.
- He must then go on to rebut arguments that have come from the proposition.
- He may then proceed with his constructive arguments.

9.5 Proposition Whip

- The Proposition Whip must rebut all arguments made by the opposition and reiterate those made by the proposition. He may do so by using examples or reiterating arguments already made during the course of the debate. **He can bring in new matter** or a new constructive argument.
- The Proposition Whip must also identify what he believes to be the **'themes of debate'** and go on to prove the stance of the proposition as far as these themes are concerned.

9.6 Opposition Whip

- The Opposition Whip must rebut all arguments made by the proposition and reiterate those made by the opposition. He may do so by using examples or reiterating arguments already made during the course of the debate. **He may not, however, bring in any new matter**, a new constructive argument or a new line of thought.
- The Opposition Whip has the opportunity to rebut the proposition whip. He can give new themes of the debate which he feels more appropriate, or by using the same themes, only to prove the stance of the opposition.

9.7 Reply Speeches

Both sides of the house have a common one minute to prepare their respective reply speeches.

- The reply speeches should convey to the adjudicators why the particular side deserves to win the debate and provide a **biased adjudication** in favour of that side.
- Reply speeches from both sides of the house must be a short summary or conclusion of the debate. They should reiterate the constructive arguments made by that side of the house, and may once again reiterate the main themes of the debate. **They must not have any new matter.**

SOME TERMS

- **POINT(S) OF CLASH** – The main point(s) that the opposition realizes is/are debatable. Should be clarified very explicitly by the Leader of the Opposition. A point of clash determines the **basic negative case of the Opposition**, and is different from constructive arguments or rebuttals.
- **BURDEN OF PROOF** – The onus on either side of the house to prove logically and conclusively that the case statement stands/ falls, for the reasons they've given. It is not necessarily what the speaker says it is.
- **TEAM SPLIT** – Structure of the debate, breakup of each speaker's role in the debate, should be given by the respective leaders.
- **INSUFFICIENT WARNING** – If either the PM or the LO fail to flag new lines of thought/ argument in their succeeding speakers' speeches, it counts as insufficient warning to the other side as they have no time to rebut that point.
- **POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE** – May be raised
 - If a speaker feels he/ she has been deeply insulted on a personal level by another competitor.
 - In the case of a personal emergency.
 - Only after the completion of an ongoing speech.

Adjudicators are generally aware of un-parliamentary behavior during a debate and will mark down the respective speaker for any violation in conduct.

SECTION 10 – MARKING THE DEBATE

10.1 At the end of every debate, each adjudicator must complete their adjudication forms.

10.2 There are no draws in competitive debating!

10.3 Teams failing to turn up for the debate on time, and with no valid reason, will lose the debate by the widest possible margin.

10.4 For constructive speeches, marks shall be awarded to speakers on a scale of 25 which is based on the following:

Matter :	10
Manner :	10
Method :	5
Total :	25

10.4.1 An 'average' speech can thus be awarded 5, 5, and 3 in Matter, Manner and Method, respectively.

10.4.2 A speaker may not under any circumstance be awarded less than 1 in either of Matter, Manner or Method, respectively.

10.4.3 A speaker can be awarded 10, 10 and 5 in Matter, Manner and Method, respectively, but only in the most exceptional circumstance.

10.4.3 All marks will be given as integral numbers.

10.5 For reply speeches, marks shall be awarded to speakers on a scale of 10 which is based on manner and impact

Manner :	5
Impact :	5

10.5.1 An 'average' reply speech shall be awarded 3/5 on both Manner and Impact.

10.5.2 The worst reply speech ever will get 1/5 on both Manner and Impact.

10.4.3 The best can gather 5/5 on both Manner and Impact.

SECTION 11 – BASIS FOR RANKING OF TEAMS

The following criteria will be followed for ranking teams.

- A) Win versus Loss record
- B) Aggregate Speaker Points
- C) Head to Head
- D) Coin toss

SECTION 12 – CHANGE OF RULES

12.1 Any or all of the above rules, regulations, and guidelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Chief Adjudicator.

12.2 The rules are non-negotiable.

SECTION 13 – GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL

Any serious grievances during the course of the competition may be communicated in writing to the Chief Adjudicators.