



TASMANIAN DEBATING UNION

Member of the Australian Debating Federation

Schools Competition Rules 2009

1 STYLE OF DEBATE

- 1.1 Unless specifically altered in these Rules, debates will be conducted in accordance with chapters 1-9 of the Australia-Asia Debating Guide (“the Guide”).
- 1.2 A team must field 3 eligible speakers and a “fourth person” throughout the debate and no speaker may deliver more than one substantive (i.e. not a reply) speech

2 COMPETITION STRUCTURE

Class Groups

- 2.1 The competition will be divided into 6 Class Groups:
 - 2.1.1 Novice - for students in year 8 and below who have not debated before. A team may however include one student with previous debating experience.
 - 2.1.2 Class 8 - for students in year 8 and below.
 - 2.1.3 Class 9 - for students in year 9 and below.
 - 2.1.4 Class 10 - for students in year 10 and below.
 - 2.1.5 Class 11 - for students in year 11 and below.
 - 2.1.6 Class 12 - for students in year 12 and below.
- 2.2 The Roster Coordinator may amalgamate one or more Class Groups as required

Four Divisions

- 2.3 Each Class Group will be divided into up to four Divisions. Teams will be allocated to a Division by the Roster Coordinator.

Entries

- 2.4 Unless directed by the Roster Coordinator, before or after entries close, there is no set limit on the number of teams a school may enter in any Class Group.

Chairing and Timekeeping

- 2.5 The “fourth person” for the affirmative team will chair the debate and the “fourth person” for the negative team will be the timekeeper.

Schools Competition Rules 2008

Adjudicators

- 2.6 One adjudicator only will adjudicate debates in preliminary rounds of the competition.
- 2.7 Where possible, a panel of three adjudicators will adjudicate debates in final rounds of the competition.

Eligible Speakers

- 2.8 An eligible speaker for a team is a student:
- 2.8.1 studying at the year level appropriate for the team as specified in rule 2.1; and
 - 2.8.2 enrolled at the school or college for whom the team is competing; or
 - 2.8.3 enrolled at another school or college that does not then have a team competing at the year level in which that student is studying.

3 DEFINITIONS

- 3.1 The affirmative may define the topic in any way provided that the definition:
- 3.1.1 is reasonably close to the plain meaning of the topic;
 - 3.1.2 allows the negative team reasonable room to debate;
 - 3.1.3 is not tautological or truistic; and
 - 3.1.4 is otherwise a reasonable definition.
- 3.2 Squirreling, placesetting and timesetting are not permitted.
- 3.2.1 Squirreling is the distortion of the definition to enable a team to argue a pre-prepared argument that it wishes to debate regardless of the topic actually set;
 - 3.2.2 Placesetting is the setting of a debate of general application in a particular place.
 - 3.2.3 Timesetting is the setting of a debate of general application in a particular time, past or future.
- 3.3 The role of the first speaker of the negative is to challenge the definition if necessary, and present an alternative definition if the definition is challenged.
- 3.4 The first negative may challenge the definition only if it does not conform to 3.1 or 3.2. If he or she challenges the definition, the first negative must propose a new definition that conforms to 3.1 and 3.2.
- 3.5 If the first negative does not challenge the definition, the negative is taken to have accepted the definition and the negative may not challenge the definition in any other speech unless the affirmative significantly alters the definition in their subsequent speeches.

4 SPEAKING TIMES

	Warning Bell/ POI Start (mins)	Warning Bell/ POI End (mins)	Total Speech (mins)
	1 bell	1 bell	2 bells
4.1 Novice		2	3
4.2 Class 8		3	4
4.3 Class 9		5	6
4.4 Class 10	1	5	6
4.5 Class 11	1	7	8
4.6 Class 12	1	7	8

- 4.7 The speech time for Reply speeches are half the above with a warning bell 1 minute before the end of the speech time.

5 THE PERMANENT MEMBERSHIP RULE

- 5.1 Once a student has debated for a particular team on three occasions that student will be regarded as a permanent member of that team.
- 5.2 A permanent team member is not allowed to compete for another team in competition in any Division at the same or a lower Class Group, unless he or she changes schools during the course of the competition

6 POINTS OF INFORMATION AND REPLY SPEECHES (CLASS 10, CLASS 11 AND CLASS 12 ONLY)

- 6.1 Apart from Points of Information in Class 10, Class 11 and Class 12 debates, interjections are not permitted in any debate.
- 6.2 Reply speeches are allowed in Class 10, Class 11 and Class 12 Debates only.

7 RESULTS

- 7.1 Team Points will be awarded as follows:
- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Win | 3 points |
| Win by forfeit | 3 points |
| Loss | 1 point |
| Forfeit before 12 noon on the day of the debate | 0 point |
| Forfeit (or postponement) after 12 noon on the day of debate | -1 point |
| Disqualification | -1 point |
- 7.2 Where a team is otherwise ready and willing to debate at the rostered or postponed time and place, but is prevented by an event that appears to the adjudicator to be a last minute event apparently outside the control of the team (including but not limited to illness, accidental preparation of the wrong topic or the wrong side of a topic, or the unexpected failure of a team member to arrive at the venue) that team will be regarded as having forfeited the debate and will be awarded zero Team Points for the debate.
- 7.3 Speaker Rankings will be awarded by the adjudicator in addition to the individual speaker's marks scored out of 100, as follows:
- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Best Speaker | 1 st rank |
| Next Best Speaker | 2 nd rank etc |
- Two speakers can both be given the same mark out of 100. Two speakers cannot both be given the same Ranking.
- 7.4 Draws are not allowed to be awarded in the competition.
- 7.5 Where a team has a BYE or a win or loss by forfeit, that team will receive its average Speaker Ranking (calculated from all its other competition debates) for that debate, and in the case of a BYE, its average Team Points from all other debates.
- 7.6 Where a team withdraws from competition, and the roster for the remaining teams is not redrawn, all rostered debates for the withdrawn team after the date of withdrawal will be treated as a win by forfeit for the opposing teams.
- 7.7 Where a team withdraws from competition, and the roster for the remaining teams is redrawn, all rostered debates for the withdrawn team prior to the date of withdrawal will retrospectively be treated as a bye the opposing teams, irrespective of the actual result of those debates.

Points of Information (Class 10 - optional, Class 11 and Class 12 Only)

- 7.8 Participation in offering points of information, and the quality of the points made, will be marked in a separate column as an adjustment (between -2 to +2) of the overall mark for each speaker.
- 7.9 Performance by a speaker accepting points is marked in his or her own speech.

Ranking

- 7.10 Teams will be ranked by their total Team Points; then total Speaker Ranking. Teams with equal Team Points and equal Speaker Ranking will then, if those teams have debated each other during the competition (including debates decided by forfeit), be ranked according to the overall outcome of such debates.

Finals

- 7.11 At the conclusion of the preliminary rounds, there will be finals for each Class Group as follows:
- 7.11.1 Where there is one Division, the top four teams will proceed to Semi Finals and the winners of the Semi Finals will compete in a Grand Final provided that if there are three or less teams in competition, the top two teams only will proceed to a Grand Final and no Semi Finals will be held.
- 7.11.2 Where there are two Divisions;
- 7.11.2.1 in any Division where there are four or more teams in competition, the top four teams in that Division will proceed to Quarter Finals (amongst the themselves or with the top four teams from the other Division as the case may be) and the winners of those Quarter Finals will proceed to Semi Finals and the winner of the Semi Finals will proceed to a Grand Final; provided that
- 7.11.2.2 in any Division where there are three or less teams in competition, the teams in that Division will not participate in Quarter Finals but the top two teams in that Division will proceed to Semi Finals with the top two teams from the other Division and the winners of the Semi Finals will proceed to a Grand Final;
- 7.11.3 If there are three Divisions in competition, the top two teams in each Division will proceed to Finals known as Quarter Finals (even though there will only be three such finals) and the three winners of those Quarter Finals and the highest ranked losing team from the Quarter Finals, with the ranking determined as follows:
- 7.11.3.1 Firstly, teams that lose by a split decision will be ranked above teams that lose unanimously;
- 7.11.3.2 Secondly, teams will be ranked by their total speaker points in their respective Quarter Final; and
- 7.11.3.3 Thirdly, teams that lose by a small margin in the aggregated total marks awarded by the panel of adjudicators will be ranked above teams that lost by a larger margin; and proceeding to Semi Finals and the winners of the Semi Finals competing in a Grand Final;
- 7.11.4 If there are four Divisions in competition, the top two teams in each Division will proceed to Quarter Finals with the winners of those Quarter Finals proceeding to Semi Finals and the winner of the Semi Finals competing in a Grand Final.

8 TOPICS

8.1 The first team named in the roster will always be the affirmative.

Short Preparation

8.2 The Competition Coordinator will issue the topic at the venue of the debate one hour prior to the scheduled starting time for the debate.

8.3 Only one topic will be issued.

8.4 Once a debater has received the topic for his or her short preparation debate he or she cannot speak or communicate with any person apart from:

8.4.1 another member of their team;

8.4.2 the Competition Coordinator or other TDU Official; or

8.4.3 **during the preparation time only**, the fourth member of the team (where the fourth member is eligible to debate for that team).

8.5 The only reference material that can be used in preparation for a Short Preparation debate is an unannotated printed (not electronic) dictionary.

9 FORFEITS / POSTPONEMENTS

Forfeits

9.1 If a team is not ready to debate within 5 minutes of the scheduled starting time for the debate and has not arranged for the debate to be postponed, that team will be deemed to have forfeited.

Postponed Debates

9.2 A team unable to debate at the scheduled time can, at any time at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled time, postpone that debate.

9.3 It is the responsibility of the team that postpones a debate to:

9.3.1 make all arrangements for the holding of the postponed debate;

9.3.2 advise the Competition Coordinator of arrangements made for the postponed debate at least 48 hours before the debate is to be held; and

9.3.3 pay the TDU Adjudication Postponement Fee.

9.4 Where a debate is postponed, the team that was ready and able to debate at the scheduled time can, subject to the Competition Coordinator's ultimate control, impose any reasonable requirement about the time and venue for the postponed debate.

9.5 Once notified of the date, time and venue for the postponed debate, the Competition Coordinator will arrange an adjudicator to adjudicate the postponed debate.

9.6 A debate in the last preliminary round cannot be postponed, and all postponed debates must be held on or before the last preliminary round.

10 ROSTER ALTERATIONS

10.1 The Roster can only be altered in writing, and all schools will be deemed to have notice of any alteration two clear school days after the day on which the notice was transmitted by facsimile or email.