

Format of Debates

5.1 Teams in a Debate

- (a) In a debate there are two teams.
- (b) One team proposes the motion for debate, the other team opposes it.

5.2 Speakers in a Team

- (a) In a team in a debate, there are three speakers.
- (b) Before a debate begins, each team must inform the chairperson of the names of their three speakers and the order they will be speaking in.
- (c) The only persons who may speak in a debate are the three speakers for each team announced by the chairperson at the start of that debate.
- (d) Each speaker speaks only once.
- (e) After each speaker has spoken, the first or second speaker for each team gives a reply speech, with the opposition reply going first and the proposition reply second.

5.3 Substitute Speeches

- (a) During a debate, if a speaker declares that they are unable to make their speech, another speaker from that team who was announced by the chairperson as speaking in that debate may give a speech in substitution.
- (b) If a substitute speech is given in accordance with this rule, judges shall award that speech the lowest possible score within the Marking Standard in the Judging Schedule, regardless of the quality of the speech.
- (c) The marks for a substitute speech shall not be used in the calculation for any individual speaker rankings or awards.
- (d) However, paragraphs (b) and (c) do not apply if a substitute reply speech is given by the first or second speaker of the team, and judges shall award that speech the appropriate score in accordance with the Judging Schedule.

5.4 Timing of Speeches

- (a) The speaking time for substantive speeches is 6 minutes, and for reply speeches 3 minutes.
- (b) The Host shall provide time signals for each speech.
- (c) In addition to the time signals provided by the host, team members or the team coach may give time signals to a speaker provided that the signals are discreet and unobtrusive.

5.5 Communication

During a debate speakers may not communicate with their coach, other team members who are not speaking in that debate, or any person in the audience, except to receive time signals in accordance with rule 5.4