

Debating Rules for HPDU Competition 2021

As of 2021/03/14

A. Eligibility

1. Debaters must be a student at a senior high school at the time of the competition.
2. Each debating team is comprised of three debaters.
3. Each team must be comprised of debaters from the same senior high school.
4. Notwithstanding rule A.3, upon request, the tournament director may authorize any team whose debaters are not from the same institution only when it is not possible to find three debaters from the same high school.

B. Tournament Rules

1. Speakers in a Team

- [a] In a team in a debate, there are three speakers.
- [b] The composition of the team is stable for the duration of the tournament.
- [c] Before a debate begins, each team must inform the chairperson of the names of their three speakers and the order in which they will be speaking.
- [d] Teams must prepare on their own. Once motions have been released, there must be no contact between debaters in a particular team and their coaches, trainers, observers, or any other individuals for the purpose of assistance in the context of the debate. Such contact and assistance are “cheating” and will be punished by the disqualification of the teams in question.

2. Use of printed and prepared materials

- [a] Printed and prepared materials may be used during the preparation period.
- [b] No access to electronic media, electronic storage or retrieval devices is permitted after motions have been released, except electronic dictionaries.
- [c] Printed and prepared materials may be accessed during a debate, but MAY NOT be used during a speech.

3. Chairpersons and Adjudicators

- [a] A debate shall be run under the auspices of a “Speaker” who shall be referred to as “The Speaker of the House”.
- [b] A debate shall be adjudicated by a panel comprising an odd number of adjudicators. One of the adjudicators shall be designated as Chairperson, by the organizing committee.
- [c] A debate shall be timed by a timekeeper. In the event that none has been nominated in a particular room, the function of the timekeeper is to be taken over by one of the panel of adjudicators.

4. Preliminary Rounds

- [a] There are four preliminary rounds.
- [b] The match-ups for the first preliminary round are randomly arranged by the organizing committee.
- [c] The match-ups for the second and later debating rounds will be determined by power-pairing by the organizing committee.

5. The Break

- [a] At the end of the preliminary rounds, teams shall be ranked according to the number of wins and speakers’ scores.
- [b] The top 8 teams ranked according to rule 1.5[a] shall debate in Quarterfinals as follows:
 - Quarterfinal A – Team 1 against Team 8
 - Quarterfinal B – Team 2 against Team 7
 - Quarterfinal C – Team 3 against Team 6
 - Quarterfinal D – Team 4 against Team 5
- [c] The winning teams in the quarterfinals shall debate in semifinals as follows:
 - Semifinal A – Winner Quarterfinal A against Winner Quarterfinal D
 - Semifinal B – Winner Quarterfinal B against Winner Quarterfinal C

C. Format of Rounds

1. In the preliminary rounds, debaters will have 20 minutes preparation prior to debate. In the breaking rounds, debaters will have 25 minutes for the preparation time.
2. The affirmative teams have the right to prepare in the room of the match.
3. The order of the debate will be as follows: first affirmative speaker (Prime Minister), first negative speaker (Leader of the Opposition), second affirmative speaker (Member of the Government), second negative speaker (Member of the Opposition), third affirmative speaker (Government Whip), third negative speaker (Opposition Whip), negative reply speaker, and affirmative reply speaker.
4. Substantive Speeches
 - [a] Each speaker speaks only once during substantive speeches.
 - [b] Substantive speeches (the first six speeches) will be five minutes in duration. (Only in the Grand Final debate, substantive speeches will be seven minutes in duration.)
 - [c] During a speaker's substantive speech, members of the other team may offer points of information. However, they cannot do so for the first thirty seconds and the last thirty seconds of a speaker's substantive speech.
 - [e] In the Grand Final, between the first and six minutes of a speaker's substantive speech, points of information may be offered by the opposing team.
5. Reply Speeches
 - [a] The reply speeches will be four minutes in duration.
 - [b] The reply speeches must not be given by the third speaker.

D. Adjudication

1. The roles of an Adjudicator

- [a] Judges should mark independently, and should sit apart from each other during the debate so that they cannot see each other's mark-sheets.
- [b] At the end of the debate, the judges must fill in their mark-sheets independently, and hand them to the person chairing the debate or the helpers.
- [c] The oral adjudication should be short, and should explain the result to the debaters and audience. In particular, it should set out the key reasons why the winning team won, and comment on significant matters of debate style or technique that were displayed in the debate. There will be no oral adjudication in the break rounds.

2. Marking Standard

- [a] Each speaker's substantive speech is marked out of 100, with 40 for content, 40 for style and 20 for strategy.
- [b] The reply speech is marked out of 50, with 20 for content, 20 for style and 10 for strategy. Decimal numbers can be used in reply speeches.
- [c] In order to encourage consistency of marks, speeches should be marked within the designated marking range and judges are asked not go outside that range. (See The Marking Standard below)
- [d] Judges must award the winning team cumulatively higher speaker points than the losing team.

3. Marking Categories

- [a] Content (matter) is the logic and relevance to the motion, divorced from the speaking style.
 - (1) If an argument is weak, it should be marked accordingly, even when the other team does not expose its weakness.
 - (2) In deciding the strength or weakness of an argument, judges should not be influenced by their own personal beliefs or specialized knowledge.
- [b] Style (manner) is the way speakers speak and it includes the use of body language and vocal style.
 - (1) Judges should make allowance for different accents, speaking styles and debating terminology.
 - (2) Speakers should not read their speeches, but may use notes that they refer to only occasionally.
- [c] Strategy is the structure and organization of the speech. It has two components:
 - (1) Whether the speaker understands what the issues of the debate are,
 - (2) The structure and timing of the speaker's speech,
 - (3) The structure of the team as a whole.

E. Roles of the Speakers

1. First Speaker of the Proposition (Prime Minister)

- [a] The role of the first speaker of the proposition is , if necessary, to define the topic, establish the issues for the debate, outline the proposition case, announce the case division between the speakers, and present his or her part of the proposition case.
- [b] The proposition may define the topic in any way, provided that the definition -
 - (1) is reasonably close to the plain meaning of the topic,
 - (2) allows the opposition team reasonable room to debate,
 - (3) is not tautological or truistic, and
 - (4) is otherwise a reasonable definition.
- [c] Squirreling, place-setting and time-setting are not permitted
 - (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 motion actually set,
 - (2) Place-setting is the setting of a debate of general application in a particular place,
 - (3) Time-setting is the setting of a debate of general application in a particular time, past or future.

2. First Speaker of the Opposition (Leader of the Opposition)

- [a] In this competition, definition challenge and counter plans are not allowed. Still, if the first speaker of the opposition finds the definition presented by the affirmative side unreasonably, or violating the rules [1.b] or [1.c], he or she should point this out in their speech.
- [b] In responding to the proposition case, the opposition team should produce a positive case of its own, and not concentrate solely on attacking the case presented by the proposition.

3. Second Speakers

- [a] The role of the second speaker of the opposition is to deal with the definition if it is still in issue, respond to the proposition case, and continue with the opposition case as outlined by the first speaker.

4. Third Speakers

- [a] The role of both third speakers (whip speakers) is to deal with the definition if it is still in issue, and respond to the other team's case, dealing with clash points/issues
- [b] The third speakers should not produce new arguments as the third speaker's primary role is to respond to what has gone before in the debate.
- [c] The third speakers may offer new examples, new analyses, or new logics to support or respond to previous speakers' arguments.

5. Proportion of Arguments and Responses

- [a] The more the debate progresses, the more each speaker must spend time dealing with what has been said by previous speakers.
- [b] Hence the more the debate progresses, the less time will be spent by each speaker in presenting a new part of the team case and the more time will be spent responding to the other team's arguments.

6. Reply Speakers

- [a] The role of the reply speeches is to sum up the debate from the team's viewpoint, including a response to the other team's overall case and a summary of the speaker's own team's case.
- [b] The reply speaker may be either the first or second speaker of the team, but not the third.
- [c] The reply speakers are in reverse order, with the opposition reply first and the proposition reply last.
- [d] Neither reply speaker may introduce a new part of the team case.
- [e] A reply speaker may respond to an existing argument by raising a new example that illustrates that argument, but may not otherwise introduce a new argument.

F. Points of Information

1. Rules on Point of Information

- [a] During a speaker's substantive speech, members of the other team may offer points of information. However, they cannot do so for the first thirty seconds and the last thirty seconds of a speaker's substantive speech.
- [b] The purpose of a point of information is to make a short point or ask a short question of the speaker.
- [c] Points of information need not be addressed through the person chairing the debate, and may be in the form of a question.
- [d] A point of information should be brief, and no longer than 15 seconds.
- [e] The speaker has the absolute right to refuse to accept a point of information, or to accept it only at the end of the next sentence. However, a speaker is obliged to accept some points of information, provided that they have been offered at reasonable times in the speaker's speech.

2. Guideline on Offering and Accepting POI.

- [a] As a general rule, a speaker should accept at least 2 points of information in his or her speech. But a speaker who accepts a significantly greater number of points of information risks losing control of his or her speech.
- [b] Members of the opposing team should not offer an excessive number of points of information to the point that they are barracking.
- [c] As a general rule each team member should offer between 2 and 4 points of information per speech, and should not offer them within a short time of a previous point of information having been offered
- [d] The response by the speaker to a point of information should be included in the mark for that speaker's speech.
- [e] The offering of points of information should be included in the mark for the speaker points.

Annex - The Marking Standard

1. Substantive Speeches (out of 100)

Standard	Overall (/100)
Excellent	82-83
Good	79-81
Above Average	76-78
Average	75
Below Average	72-74
Poor	69-71
Extremely Poor	67-68

2. Reply Speeches (out of 50)

Standard	Overall (/50)
Excellent	41 – 41.5
Good	39.5 – 40.5
Above Average	38 – 39
Average	37.5
Below Average	36 – 37
Poor	34.5 – 35.5
Extremely Poor	33.5 – 34