Rules and Regulations

PART ONE - THE FORMAT OF DEBATE

1.1 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 Government’. The team opposing may be known as ‘The Opposition’. Teams will be designated as the Proposition or the Opposition for each round of the competition.

1.2 Each debate shall be adjudicated by a panel comprising of an odd number of adjudicators. One of these shall be designated as Chairperson. In exceptional situations, and only in Phase 1, a debate may be adjudicated by a single experienced adjudicator.

1.3 Each debate shall be timed by a timekeeper.

1.4 Teams will comprise the following members.

1.4.1 GOVERNMENT.

a) Prime Minister

b) Deputy 1

c) Deputy 2

1.4.2 OPPOSITION.

a) Leader of the Opposition

b) Deputy 1

c) Deputy 2

1.5 Debators will speak in the following order:

i) Prime Minister

ii) Leader of Opposition

iii) Deputy 1-Government

iv) Deputy 1-Opposition

v) Deputy 2-Government

vi) Deputy 2-Opposition

vii) Opposition Reply Speech, to be given by either the 1st or 2nd speaker.

viii) Government Reply Speech, to be given by either the 1st or 2nd Affirmative speaker.

1.6 Two speakers shall be ‘holding the floor’ and shall be the only once speaking. Any one of the remaining four, rising, speaking without the permission shall be liable for negative marking.

PART TWO - MOTIONS

2.1 The motions for each round will reflect a specific theme, and each round of the competition

Will comprise of three motions.

2.2 The topic selection would be through a ‘chit’ system, being drawn by a representative of each of the participating team.

PART THREE - PREPARATIONS

3.1 Match-ups and venues will be announced before motions are revealed.

3.2 Once the motions are released, teams must immediately proceed to their venues, where the motion is decided upon. From the time of selection of the motion, teams have 20 minutes preparation time until the commencement of the debate in that round.

3.3 Printed and prepared materials may be used during the preparation period. No electronic gadgets can be accessed in the chambers.

3.4 Teams must prepare on their own. Once motions have been released, there must be no contact between debators 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 shall attract negative marks.

3.5 Teams failing to arrive in time for the debate will forfeit that particular round. Failure to turn up for two rounds will lead to the team being disqualified.

PART FOUR - TIMING

4.1 It is the duty of the timekeeper, or of a panelist or Chair (in absence of a timekeeper), to time all the

Speeches in each round.

4.2 The timing of each speech starts at the moment that the member begins speaking.

4.3 Times for speeches:

Substantive Speeches

Preliminary Rounds and Quarter-finals: 5 + 1 minutes.

Semi-finals: 7 + 1 minutes.

Grand-finals: 9 + 1 minutes.

Reply Speeches: 4 minutes in all Rounds, and 5 minutes in the Grand finals.

4.4 Time signals will be given in the following manner,

Preliminary Rounds and Quarter-finals:

End of fifth minute - single knock of the gavel.

End of sixth minute - double knock of the gavel.

Semi-finals and Grand Final

End of seventh minute - single knock of the gavel.

End of eighth minute - double knock of the gavel.

Grand Finals:

End of ninth minute - single knock of the gavel.

End of tenth minute - double knock of the gavel.

Reply Speeches:

End of third minute - single knock of the gavel.

End of fourth minute - Double knock of the gavel.

Reply Speeches in the Grand Finals:

End of fourth minute - single knock of the gavel.

End of fifth minute - Double knock of the gavel.

4.5 an extra grace period of 30 seconds, if necessary may be granted at the discretion of the adjudicators.

PART FIVE – POINTS OF INFORMATION

5.1 A member holding the floor must respond to an opposing member, in one of

The following ways.

5.1.1 A verbal rejection/acceptance of the offer in YES or NO (such rejection/acceptance has to be limited to 2 times.

5.2 If a POI 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.

5.3 If need, the team may submit their clarifications to the adjudicators on a particular motion on a sheet of paper, with the prior permission of adjudicators.

PART SIX - ADJUDICATION

6.1 Debates are generally adjudicated by panels of three adjudicators, or, where this is not possible, by a

Single, adjudicator. Larger panels will adjudicate the semi-finals and the finals. The ‘Best Speaker’ of

The competition shall be determined on the basis of overall individual points in Preliminarystage only.

6.2 Debators shall not have access to the adjudicators post the rounds of debating.

PART SEVEN - DEFINITIONS

7.1 The definition (opening sentence)is the interpretation of the motion as put forward by the Prime Minister, or Deputy 1 in his opening remarks. There must exist a clear and logical link between the definition and the wording and spirit of the motion. 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 and state the meanings of any terms in the motion requiring clarification.

7.4 The definition should not be:

7.4.1 A truism (a matter stated as fact).

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).

7.4.4 Time set (setting an unnaturally restrictive chronological duration as its main parameter).

7.4.5 Wholly unreasonable (displaying no clear or logical links to the motion).

7.5 The Opposition can challenge the definition advanced by the Government only on the basis of one or more of the above-mentioned conditions. It must clearly state the individual condition(s) based upon which it is challenging the definition. If there are more than one conditions of challenge, the individual conditions of challenge shall be adjudicated upon independent of each other.

The may not challenge a definition supplied by the on the basis that:

7.5.1 The definition does not adhere to the theme provided for the round

7.5.2 Its own definition is MORE reasonable.

7.5.3 A better debate will result. Nor may the Negative 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.

PART EIGHT- CHALLENGING THE DEFINITION

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. 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 must do all of the following -

8.2.1 He must justify his/her rejection by supplying the ground(s) on which the original definition has been rejected.

8.2.2 He must supply a substitute definition.

8.2.3 The Opposition must then go on to negate the substitute definition.

If the Opposition does not do all of the above it automatically loses the debate.

8.3 If the Leader of the Opposition does not challenge the definition, no other speaker may do so.

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 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 8 speeches in any debate, subject to conformity with 7.1 and 8.1.

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

PART NINE: QUALIFYING CRITERIA FOR ROUNDS

9.1 The sole qualifying criteria for each round will be on the ‘knock-out’ basis, to be decided on the basis of marked scores.

PART TEN: MARKING CRITERIA

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. The other team will then face-off against a stand-by swing team [non-competitive for

the purposes of the competition] constituted by the host University.

10.4 For constructive speeches, marks shall be awarded to speakers based on the following

10.4.1 An ‘average’ speech shall be awarded

Matter: 30/40

Manner: 30/40

Method: 15/20

Total: 75/100

PART ELEVEN: CHANGE OF RULES

11.1 Any or all of the above rules, regulations, and guidelines are subject to change at the discretion of the organizers.

PART TWELEVE: GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL

12.1 Any serious grievances during the course of the competition may be communicated in writing to the organizers.

**GENERAL RULES**

1. Each team representing a particular college/ institution shall comprise of ONLY 3participants. Any person(s) accompanying the team shall NOT be entertained within the Lloyd college premises.
2. All participants are required to be dressed in white and black formals.

MALES: White shirt + black trousers+ black coat and formal shoes.

FEMALES: Indian formals-white and black salwar suit + black coat

Western formals-white shirt+ black trouser + black coat and formal shoes.

1. Any team(s) consisting of any participant who is physically challenged, shall inform the organizers in advance, so that the necessary arrangements can be made.
2. Envelopes must be super scribedas PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE 2016.