



Debate Society League 2016/17

Terms, Conditions and Rules

1. Each team shall be composed of three individual speakers. The three speakers will be referred to as Team Captain, First Speaker, and Second Speaker respectively.
2. For each debate topic, a Government and Opposition team will be assigned to debate said topic. The team in Government will be for the motion, whilst the Opposition will be against the motion.
3. A coin toss will be used to decide which team will be the Government and which team will be the Opposition.
4. The order of speakers in which the debate between the Government and Opposition teams will proceed is as follows:

Government Team Captain – 2 minutes
 Opposition Team Captain – 2 minutes
 Government First Speaker – 3 minutes
 Opposition First Speaker – 3 minutes
 Government Second Speaker – 3 minutes
 Opposition Second Speaker – 3 minutes
 Government Team Captain – 2 minutes
 Opposition Team Captain – 2 minutes

5. In between any two speakers, a team may call for a 60 second timeout. A timeout may be used only once per team per debate.
6. A timekeeper will be keeping track of the debate times. The timekeeper will make indications to the current speaker when 60 seconds, 30 seconds and 10 seconds remain. The timekeeper will also indicate when a speaker must end the turn.
7. If a position is taken, one cannot change opinion during the same debate.



8. He who asserts must prove. In order to establish an assertion, the team must support it with enough evidence and logic to convince a reasonable but previously uninformed person that it is more reasonable to believe the assertion than to disbelieve it. Facts must be accurate. Visual materials are permissible, and once introduced, they become available for the opponents' use if desired.
9. The opposing teams may pose a question directed at the current speaker only after the first 30 seconds of the current speaker's time. Questions may not be posed to the Team Captain.
10. To ask a question, a speaker is required to stand up and raise one's hand clearly or place one's hand over one's head. The one asking the question must wait for an indication by the current speaker for permission to ask the question. If permission is granted, the question must be delivered clearly and briefly. At no point should a question turn into a conversation. If the question is not accepted, the one wishing to ask the question must sit down.
11. No new arguments may be introduced in the final speech of the round by the Team Captain. The team must, if possible, reply to the major negative arguments before the last rebuttal.
12. The judge must base his/her decision entirely on the material presented, without regard for other material which he/she may happen to possess.
13. The use of electronic devices for research, communication purposes or otherwise (mobile phones, tablets, computers, etc.) during a debate is forbidden. External disruptions are also forbidden.
14. The organisers will attempt to provide microphones for the teams. In the event that microphones are either unavailable or out of order, debaters are expected to project their voice and proceed nevertheless.
15. If a team fails to attend a debate, the opponent team is awarded points based on an average calculation of all sessions at the end of the league.
16. Speakers or teams arriving late may be subject to a penalty, elimination, or otherwise at the organisers' and judges' discretion.



17. Teams may not substitute or amend team members mid-way through a session or throughout the entirety of the Debate Society League global event itself.
18. Participants must be currently enrolled students at the University of Malta. Participants who formed part of the winning team in the previous year are not eligible to participate.
19. In order to participate, participants are required to fill in an online application form and pay a €5 non-refundable fee as stipulated in the Facebook event details. Deadlines are also indicated on the event.
20. Participants are obliged to attend the training sessions which will be held throughout the year. Failure to do so results in a decision at the discretion of the organisers.
21. The organisers will attempt but are not obliged to accommodate participants' availabilities. Participants will be given the option to change the date of a debate only once. No absence will be excused unless due to instances where participants will be abroad. The organisers must be made aware of such instances from the beginning of the competition by a date as stipulated accordingly.
22. The organisers have the final decision on any ambiguous points in any material throughout the Debate Society League event.