



RULES OF THE HEART OF EUROPE DEBATING TOURNAMENT

Adapted from World Schools Debating Championships (www.schoolsdebate.com).

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DEBATING AND ADJUDICATING

1. FORMAT

1.1.

1.1.1. The format for debates in the Heart of Europe Debating Tournament is three speakers a side with only two teams in each debate.

1.1.2. After all speakers have spoken once, the first or second speaker for each side gives a reply speech, with the opposition reply going first and the proposition second.

1.2.

1.2.1. Speaking time for speeches is 8 minutes, and for reply speeches 4 minutes.

1.2.2. The method of signalling timing for speakers is at the discretion of the time keeper.



1.2.3. In addition to time signals referred to in rule 1.2.2, team members or the Team Coach may give time signals to a speaker provided that the signals are discreet and unobtrusive.

1.3.

1.3.1. 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.

1.3.2. 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.

1.3.3. 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 1.2.3..

1.3.4. Notwithstanding rule 1.3.2., if, during a debate, 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.

1.3.5. If a substitute speech is given in accordance with rule 1.3.4., Adjudicators shall award that speech the lowest possible score within the Range of Marks, regardless of the quality of the speech. (If such a situation occurs, the marks for this speech shall not be used in the calculation for any individual speaker rankings or awards.)

1.3.6. Rule 1.3.5. shall not apply in the case of reply speeches provided that, in accordance with rule 1.1.2., the reply speech is delivered by either the first or second speaker on the team.

2. ELIGIBILITY

2.1. The number of teams per nation may be given by the Chief Organiser of Heart of Europe Debate Tournament.

2.2. A member of a team must:

2.2.1. have been a full-time student at secondary or high school within 3 months of the start of tournament; and

2.2.2. have reached their 11th birthday by the start of the Heart of Europe Debate Tournament;

2.2.3. not have reached their 21st birthday by the start of the Heart of Europe Debate Tournament; and

2.2.4. not be enrolled primarily in a tertiary or post-secondary educational institution on or before the opening day of the Tournament.

2.3. The selection and composition of a team is a matter for the debating organisation of that nation.

2.4. A team may have up to five members.

2.5. For the purposes of rule 2.2.1., where a student is between school and post secondary study, the period of 3 months is calculated from the end of the student's final school term.

2.6. Definition of institutions:

2.6.1. Students completing an extra year of schooling beyond normal requirements at an institution that is plainly a secondary school only, but which gives no tertiary credits, are eligible providing they meet the age criteria.

2.6.2. Students completing an extra year of schooling beyond normal requirements at an institution that is plainly a secondary school only, but who may be given credits at some subsequent tertiary institution, are eligible providing they meet the age criteria.

2.6.3. Students completing at least one year or more, at an institution that spans both secondary and tertiary levels, but who may be given credits at the tertiary level, are eligible providing they meet the age criteria and are not clearly completing the first year at a tertiary level.



2.6.4. Students completing at least one year or more, at an institution that gives credits at the tertiary levels for entry into another tertiary institution at the third year or above, are ineligible even if they meet the age criteria.

2.7.

2.7.1. Every team at the tournament must be accompanied by a team Coach, which can also participate in position of a Adjudicator or a Team Manager.

2.7.2. All team Coaches or Team Managers must be aged 18 or above.

2.7.3. Each organisation which sends a team to the tournament shall appoint a Coach, Adjudicator or registered observer from that country to serve as their Team Manager, who shall be responsible for looking after the welfare of their team members and ensuring their compliance with the Code of Ethics.

2.7.4. All Team Managers must be aged 18 or older and must have reached majority in the nation the team represents.

3. THE DRAW

3.1.

3.1.1. If the total number of teams at the Heart of Europe Tournament is ten or less, every team shall debate every other team in the preliminary rounds.

3.1.2. If the total number of teams at the tournament is more than ten, every team shall debate eight other teams in the preliminary rounds. The draw for the preliminary debates is to be conducted by the Chief Adjudicator using a system to achieve fair sets of opponents for all teams.

3.1.3. As far as possible, each team shall have the same number of debates on any day as any other teams. A team may not debate more than three times in a day in the preliminary rounds unless the team agrees prior to the start of the Tournament.

3.2.

3.2.1. At the end of the preliminary rounds, teams shall be ranked according to the number of wins. If teams are tied on the same number of wins, they shall be separated on the following priority:

3.2.1.1. number of adjudications in favour of the team; then

3.2.1.2. average Adjudicators' scores for each team; then

3.2.1.3. total score

3.2.2. If the total number of teams is twelve or less, the top four teams shall debate in Semi-Finals, with the top team against the fourth and the second team against the third. The winners of the Semi-Finals compete in the Grand Final.

3.2.3.

3.2.3.1. If the total number of teams is more than twelve, the top eight teams shall debate in Quarter-Finals as follows:

○ Quarter-Final A - Team 1 and Team 8

○ Quarter-Final B - Team 2 and Team 7

○ Quarter-Final C - Team 3 and Team 6

○ Quarter-Final D - Team 4 and Team 5

3.2.3.2. The winners of the Quarter-Finals debate in Semi-Finals with the winner of Quarter-Final A against the winner of Quarter-Final D and the winner of Quarter-Final B against the winner of Quarter-Final C.

3.2.3.3. If the total number of teams is more than 24, the top 16 teams shall debate in Octo- Finals as follows:

○ Octo-Final A - Team 1 and Team 16

○ Octo-Final B - Team 2 and Team 15



- Octo-Final C - Team 3 and Team 14
- Octo-Final D - Team 4 and Team 13
- Octo-Final E - Team 5 and Team 12
- Octo-Final F - Team 6 and Team 11
- Octo-Final G - Team 7 and Team 10
- Octo-Final H - Team 8 and Team 9

3.2.3.4. The winners of the Octo-Finals debate in the Quarter-Finals as follows:

- Quarter-Final A - Winner of Octo-Final A and winner of Octo-Final H
- Quarter-Final B - Winner of Octo-Final B and winner of Octo-Final G
- Quarter-Final C - Winner of Octo-Final C and winner of Octo-Final F
- Quarter-Final D - Winner of Octo-Final D and winner of Octo-Final E

3.2.3.5. The winners of the Quarter-Finals debate in Semi-Finals with the winner of Quarter-Final A against the winner of Quarter-Final D, and the winner of Quarter-Final B against the winner of Quarter-Final C. The winners of the Semi-Finals compete in the Grand Final.

3.3. At the end of the tournament, teams' final rankings shall be determined as follows:

- 3.3.1. the winners and runners-up shall be ranked 1 and 2 respectively;
- 3.3.2. all other teams shall be ranked according the round of the tournament the team reached and, where equal, their preliminary round ranking (in accordance with rule 3.2.1.);

3.4.

3.4.1. Octo-Finals, Quarter-Finals and Semi-Finals shall be Impromptu Debates.

3.4.2. The Grand Final shall be on a topic announced at the same time as the topics for the prepared debates in the preliminary rounds. At the end of the second Semi-Final, the two teams in the Grand Final shall toss to decide which team shall take the affirmative.

3.5.

3.5.1. If a team withdraws after the draw has been sent to the teams, the Chief Organiser may make a new draw only if:

- 3.5.1.1. to do so would not alter the sides nor topics for any team, or
- 3.5.1.2. all teams affected by the new draw agree.

3.5.2. Where a new draw has not been made, all teams who would have debated against the team that has withdrawn are taken to have won the debate by forfeit if they win at least a majority of their other debates, but are otherwise taken to have lost the debate by forfeit.

3.6. Where a team has either won or lost a debate by forfeit, the team will be taken to have received the following number of Adjudicators in its favour for that debate:

- 3.6.1. if the average number of Adjudicators in its favour in its other debates is higher than 2.5, it receives 3 Adjudicators for that debate;
- 3.6.2. if the average number of Adjudicators in its favour in its other debates is higher than 1.5 but less than or equal to 2.5, it receives 2 Adjudicators for that debate.
- 3.6.3. if the average number of Adjudicators in its favour in its other debates is higher than 0.5 but less than or equal to 1.5, it receives 1 Adjudicator for that debate;
- 3.6.4. if the average number of Adjudicators in its favour in its other debates is less than or equal to 0.5, it receives no Adjudicators for that debate.

4. ADJUDICATORS

4.1. All tournament debates shall be adjudicated by an odd-numbered panel of at least three Adjudicators.



- 4.1.1. In case, that Chief Organiser was not able to arrange odd numbered panel of Adjudicators, debate can be adjudicated by 2 Adjudicators
- 4.1.1.1. The more experienced one has 2 votes. The number of points which should be given by the third Adjudicator is an average of points of the 2 Adjudicators, adjudicating the debate.
- 4.1.1.1.1. The Adjudicator with 2 votes is delegated by the Chief Adjudicator.
- 4.2. Adjudicators shall not adjudicate the team from their own nation.
- 4.3. A team Coach can adjudicate a debate but not his delegates or delegates from the same country.
- 4.4. An independent Adjudicator shall not assist in the coaching of a team at the tournament.
- 4.5. An Adjudicator may adjudicate the same team more than once, provided that the Adjudicator does not adjudicate that team a disproportionate number of times.
- 4.6. A debate is won by the team which has a majority of the votes of the Adjudicators.
- 4.6.1. The cumulative Adjudicators' marks or winning margins of teams are not used to determine which team wins a debate.
- 4.7. The Range of Marks, Rules of Debate, and principles of adjudication, are set out in the Adjudication Manual which is an annex to these rules.
- 4.7.1. The Adjudication Manual is a part of these rules and may be amended in the same way that the rules may be amended.
- 4.7.2. The Chief Organiser in cooperation with Chief Adjudicator may authorise guidelines and instructional material for Adjudicators, consistent with the Adjudication Manual and the rules.
- 4.7.3. The Chief Organiser shall ensure that Adjudicators are familiar with the Adjudication Manual and any guidelines and instructional material authorised by Chief Organiser and Chief Adjudicator.
- 4.7.4. All Adjudicators shall adjudicate in accordance with the Adjudication Manual and any guidelines and instructional material authorised by Chief Organiser and Chief Adjudicator.
- 4.8. To be eligible to adjudicate at Heart of Europe ("an eligible Adjudicator") a person must:
- 4.8.1. be nominated by the organisation or team of that person's nation or should apply to the Registration Officer
- 4.8.2. not be a debater at the tournament.
- 4.8.3. Be 18 years old or elder.
- 4.9. The Chief Adjudicator may accept a person to be an eligible Adjudicator at tournament who meets the requirements of rule 4.7.3. but who does not meet the requirements of the rest of rule 4.7. or point 4.8.3. if:
- 4.9.1. in the opinion of the Chief Adjudicator, the person is sufficiently experienced and competent to be an eligible Adjudicator.
- 4.10. Adjudicators for all tournament debates, including the Grand Final, are to be selected for their ability to adjudicate, not because they hold any particular office or occupation.
- 4.11. The Chief Adjudicator may assess an eligible Adjudicator at any time before or during a Tournament to determine that Adjudicator's:
- 4.11.1. competence to adjudicate, and
- 4.11.2. understanding of the Rules, the Adjudication Manual, and any guidelines and instructional material authorised by the Chief Organiser and Chief Adjudicator.
- 4.12. The Chief Adjudicator may at any time, as a result of an assessment in accordance with Rule 4.11., decide that that Adjudicator should not adjudicate any debates, or should not adjudicate any further debates without a further assessment if the Chief Adjudicator is satisfied that there is sufficient doubt about that Adjudicator's ability to adjudicate competently or impartially.
- 4.13. In undertaking an assessment in accordance with rule 4.11. the Chief Adjudicator may take into consideration:



- 4.13.1. whether the Adjudicator has been able or unable to give sufficient reasons for awarding the debate to one team as against another;
- 4.13.2. whether the Adjudicator has misdirected himself or herself as to some or more of the rules of debate to a significant extent;
- 4.13.3. whether the Adjudicator has made remarks to a team or other participant at the Tournament in a way that casts significant doubt as to the Adjudicator's competence or impartiality;
- 4.13.4. whether as a result of excessive consumption of alcohol or other substances or tiredness or sickness or other such factors, the ability or perceived ability of the Adjudicator to adjudicate competently is seriously in question;
- 4.13.5. whether a complaint has been upheld against the Adjudicator pursuant to rule 5.4.;
- 4.13.6. any representations made by the Adjudicator in question; or
- 4.13.7. any other matter the Chief Adjudicator considers relevant.
- 4.14. Before deciding whether a Adjudicator should not adjudicate a further debate or debates, the Chief Adjudicator in conjunction with the Chief Organiser shall determine whether the matter could be more appropriately resolved by counselling or other appropriate procedure.
- 4.15. In undertaking an assessment provided for in 4.11. the Chief Adjudicator shall:
 - 4.15.1. inform himself or herself of evidence and facts as he or she deems fit; and
 - 4.15.2. consult with the Chief Organiser
- 4.16. Notwithstanding rule 4.11. – 4.15., no result of any debate shall be overturned.

5. CHIEF ADJUDICATOR AND THE COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

- 5.1.1. There shall be a Chief Adjudicator for each tournament
 - 5.1.1.1. The Chief Organiser shall nominate the Chief Adjudicator
- 5.1.2. In accordance with the Rules, the Chief Adjudicator is responsible for:
 - 5.1.2.1. determining the eligibility of Adjudicators,
 - 5.1.2.2. training Adjudicators prior to the start of the Tournament,
 - 5.1.2.3. assessing whether eligible Adjudicators are competent to adjudicate debates,
 - 5.1.2.4. assigning Adjudicators to debates,
 - 5.1.2.5. recording results of debates in cooperation with Tabulation Officer,
 - 5.1.2.6. determining the team rankings at the end of the preliminary rounds in cooperation with Tabulation Officer,
 - 5.1.2.7. determining the draw for the Octo-Finals, Quarter-Finals, Semi -Finals and Grand Final, and
 - 5.1.2.8. any other matter connected with the adjudication of debates at the tournament.
- 5.2. Prior to the start of a tournament the Chief Adjudicator may nominate a panel of senior and experienced Adjudicators from different nations to assist the Chief Adjudicator in his or her responsibilities.
- 5.3. A member of the Chief Adjudicators' panel may advise and assist the Chief Adjudicator, but may not independently carry out any of the Chief Adjudicator's responsibilities or exercise the Chief Adjudicator's powers.
- 5.4. Any complaint about a Adjudicator in a particular debate shall be made to the Chief Adjudicator:
 - 5.4.1. within 24 hours of the alleged incident giving rise to the complaint, by:
 - 5.4.1.1. an Adjudicator or Adjudicators accredited by the Chief Adjudicator for the tournament and who were on a panel of Adjudicators with the Adjudicator who is the subject of the complaint; or
 - 5.4.1.2. the official and registered Coach or Team Manager of a team participating in the tournament who shall make the complaint in writing.



- 5.5. Complaints shall include but are not necessarily restricted to one or more of the following:
- 5.5.1. the Adjudicator has misdirected him/herself as to one or more of the rules of debate to a significant extent;
 - 5.5.2. the Adjudicator has made remarks prior to, during or after a debate in a way that raises significant doubt as to his or her impartiality for that debate.
- 5.6. Upon receipt of a complaint pursuant to rule 5.4., the Chief Adjudicator shall determine:
- 5.6.1. whether the complaint can be resolved without further investigation; or
 - 5.6.2. whether the complaint requires further investigation in which case the Chief Adjudicator shall undertake such further investigation including but not limited to talking to:
 - 5.6.2.1. the Adjudicator who is the subject of the complaint; and
 - 5.6.2.2. other Adjudicators on the panel with that Adjudicator; and/or
 - 5.6.2.3. Coaches present at the debate; and/or
 - 5.6.2.4. such other persons as the Chief Adjudicator shall deem appropriate.
- 5.7. In conjunction with the Chief Adjudicator's panel, the Chief Adjudicator shall determine the complaint by:
- 5.7.1. dismissing the complaint; or
 - 5.7.2. upholding the complaint and:
 - 5.7.2.1. taking no further action; or
 - 5.7.2.2. counselling the Adjudicator; or
 - 5.7.2.3. directing that the Adjudicator undergo further training prior to acting further as a Adjudicator at the tournament; or
 - 5.7.2.4. standing the Adjudicator down for such portion of the tournament as the Chief Adjudicator shall deem appropriate; or
 - 5.7.2.5. referring the matter to the Complaints Officer.
- 5.8. No determination pursuant to rule 5.7.2. shall be made without the further investigation to which rule 5.6.1. refers and in particular, without first speaking to the Adjudicator who is the subject of the complaint.
- 5.9. Where a complaint has been determined according to rule 5.7.1., the Chief Adjudicator shall advise the following people:
- 5.9.1. the person or persons who made the complaint, either in writing if the complaint was in writing or verbally if the complaint was made verbally.
 - 5.9.2. Where the determination according to rule 5.7.1. is the result of the further investigation to which rule 15.6.1. refers, the Adjudicator who was the subject of the complaint shall be advised in writing.
- 5.10. Where any complaint has been determined pursuant to rule 15.7.2., the Chief Adjudicator shall advise the following people in writing:
- 5.10.1. the person or persons who made the complaint;
 - 5.10.2. the Adjudicator who was the subject of the complaint;
 - 5.10.3. the Chief Adjudicator of the immediate following tournament.
- 5.11. Notwithstanding rules 15.4. – 15.10., no result of any debate shall be overturned.

6. MOTIONS

- 6.1. There shall be a Motions Committee for a tournament.
- 6.1.2. The Motions Committee shall consist of:
 - 6.1.2.1. two members nominated by the Organising Committee, and
 - 6.1.2.2. Chief Adjudicator
- 6.2. A Coach of a team at a tournament is not eligible to be a member of the Motions Committee for that tournament.
- 6.3. The Motions Committee shall select all motions for debate at the tournament



- 6.4. . At least eight weeks prior to the start of the tournament, the Motions Committee shall forward to the Chief Organiser the list of motions it has selected for prepared debates including the Grand Final.
- 6.5. The Chief Organiser in cooperation with Registration Officer shall forthwith notify all teams of the prepared motions for debate.
- 6.6. At least one day before the start of a Tournament the Motions Committee shall give to the Chief Organiser a set of motions for the impromptu preliminary rounds.
- 6.7. That set of motions shall include at least one more motion than is required for the preliminary rounds.
- 6.8. At least one day before the announcement of the draw for the Octo-Finals, Quarter-Finals and Semi-Finals, the Motions Committee shall give to the Chief Organiser a set of motions for those debates.

7. LANGUAGE

- 7.1. All tournament debates shall be in English.
- 7.2. Special awards shall be given to:
 - 7.2.1. the highest-ranked English-as-a-foreign-language (EFL) team, and
- 7.3. Individual team members shall be classified as follows:
 - 7.3.1. as an EFL speaker if:
 - 7.3.1.1. they do not come from a first-language English-speaking family, and
 - 7.3.1.2. they attend a school where English is not used as the main medium of instruction.
- 7.4. Teams shall be classified as follows:
 - 7.4.1. As an EFL team if:
 - 7.4.1.1. English is not an official language of the country, and
 - 7.4.1.2. All or all-but-one of the team members meet the criteria for being classified as an EFL speaker in accordance with rule 7.3.1..
- 7.5. If a team wishes to be eligible for the EFL award (in accordance with rule 7.2.), the Coach must submit a form to the Chief Organiser via Registration Officer prior the start of the Tournaments outlining the family and educational linguistic backgrounds of each of the debaters on the team.
- 7.6. Based on the information in the forms submitted in accordance with rule 7.5. and any other information available, the Chief Adjudicator shall determine which teams participating in the tournament are to be classified as EFL teams in accordance with rule 7.4.. The Chief Adjudicator shall publish a list of the teams eligible for the EFL awards ("the published list") no later than the end of the first day of debates during the tournament.
- 7.7. Any team may appeal against the inclusion or exclusion from the published list of any team, including their own.
- 7.8. the appeal shall be in written form and submitted by the Coach to the Chief Adjudicator. The Chief Adjudicator shall convey any written appeals to the members of the Organising Committee.
- 7.9. The Organising Committee shall consider any appeal prior to the announcement of the winners of the EFL awards. If the Committee feels there is sufficient justification (in accordance with these Rules) it may amend the published list by a simple majority vote.
- 7.10. A team that reaches the Grand Final of the Tournament shall be eligible for the EFL and ESL awards.
- 7.11. In addition to the special awards given to the highest-ranked EFL team, special awards shall also be given to all teams having reached the Semi-Finals or Grand Final of the Tournaments.



8. IMPROMPTU DEBATES

- 8.1. At the discretion of the Chief Organiser, up to one-half of the debates for any team in the preliminary rounds may be impromptu debates, provided that every team has as close as possible to the same number of impromptu debates as every other team in the preliminary rounds.
- 8.2. The preparation time and procedure for impromptu debates are in the discretion of the Chief Organiser, provided that:
 - 8.2.1. both teams in an impromptu debate receive the topic (or choice of topics) at the same time,
 - 8.2.2. both teams in an impromptu debate are give similar preparation rooms and conditions.
- 8.3. Where the preparation time allowed for an impromptu debate is longer than half an hour, only the members of the team may take part in the preparation.
- 8.4. Teams may not bring any handwritten, printed or published materials with them into their preparation room for impromptu debates, with the exception of an English Language dictionary, a bilingual dictionary, and a single-volume encyclopaedia or almanac per team.
- 8.5. person taking part in the preparation of an impromptu debate may not use during the preparation a telephone, computer or any other device capable of communicating or accessing information outside the preparation room.

9. DATES AND VENUES OF FORTHCOMING TOURNAMENT

- 9.1. Tournaments should be held annually where possible and should be held either wholly within the period 1 July to 31 August.