



Law Centre II, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi

1st NATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE 2014

The Moot Court and Debating Society of Law Centre- II, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi in collaboration with UKCA Law Chambers takes immense pleasure in inviting you to its Parliamentary Debate:

“1st National Parliamentary Debate 2014”

Important Dates:

Date of event: 27th and 28th March, 2014

Last date for Registration and payment of Online Registration Fee: 21st March, 2014

Please fill the form attached herewith and send the duly filled registration form with the signature of the head of the institution and send the scanned copy to debatingsociety@lc2.in

Team Cap 16

Asian Style Debate ‘3’ on ‘3’

Registration fees Rs. 600 to be paid through online transfer or cash deposit in the account of the college (the information of the account shall be provided once the teams register).

So hurry up and register soon for exciting cash prizes and a thrilling debating experience!!

Regards,

Prof. Kiran Gupta (Convener)

Contact:

Convener

Radhika Seth : 9560094836 President (Student's Union)

Co- Conveners

Piyush Agarwal- 9999151917

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For queries Email at

debatingsociety@lc2.in



Law Centre-II, University of Delhi

REGISTRATION FORM: 1st NATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE 2014

Name:

Participant 1: Mr./Ms. _____

Participant 2: Mr./Ms. _____

Participant 3: Mr./Ms. _____

Adjudicator: Mr./Ms. _____

Name of the Institution: _____

Course & year: _____

Contact No(s): At least 2 _____

E-mail id:

Participant 1:

Participant 2:

Participant 3:

Adjudicator

Authorization of the College/University

Signatures of the participants



Law Centre II, Faculty of Law University of Delhi

RULES

A. THE FORMAT OF THE DEBATE

I. The debate will consist of two teams of three persons each (persons will be known as "members"), a chairperson (known as the "Speaker of the House" or "Mister/Madame Speaker") and an adjudicator or panel of adjudicators.

One of the teams will propose the motion (called the 'Government') and the other will oppose the motion (called the 'Opposition'). Each team will be designated the position of the Government or the Opposition by way of draw of lots.

II. The *Members* of the *government* side are the following:

1. *Prime minister (PM):*

Opens the debate, defines the motion and advances arguments

2. *Deputy Prime Minister (DPM):*

Refute at first instance the case of the opposition, reestablish the government's claim, and advances arguments.

3. *Government Whip (GW):*

Makes an issue-based rebuttal of the opposition's case and summarizes the case of the government

The *Members* of the *Opposition* side are the following:

1. *Leader of the Opposition (LO):*

Responds directly to the case of the government by giving a direct clash, and advances arguments. He/ She may challenge the motion if the definition is challengeable.

2. *Deputy Leader of the Opposition (DPL):*

Refutes the case of the DPM, reestablishes the case of the opposition, and advances an argument.

3. *Opposition Whip (OW):*

Makes an issues-based rebuttal of the government's and summarizes the case of the opposition.

III. Members will deliver substantive speeches in the following order:

- 1) Prime Minister;
- 2) Opposition Leader;
- 3) Deputy Prime Minister;
- 4) Deputy Opposition Leader;
- 5) Member for the Government;
- 6) Member for the Opposition;
- 7) Government Whip;
- 8) Opposition Whip.

IV. Members will deliver a substantive speech of seven minutes duration and should offer points of information while members of the opposing teams are speaking.

B. THE MOTION

I. The motion should be unambiguously worded.

II. The motion should reflect the standard rules of the Asian Style Parliamentary Debates.

III. The members should debate the motion in the spirit of the motion and the tournament.

C. PREPARATION

I. Members are permitted to use only written material during the preparation and during the debate. The use of electronic equipment is prohibited during preparation and in the debate.

II. Points of Order and Points of Personal Privilege are not permitted.

D. TIMING OF THE SPEECHES

I. Following are the time limits for each speaker (in order)

- a) 1st Government Speaker (Prime Minister): 7 minutes
- b) 1st Opposition Speaker (Leader of Opposition): 7 minutes
- c) Government 2nd Speaker (DPM): 7 minutes
- d) Opposition 2nd Speaker (DPL): 7 minutes
- e) Government Whip Speaker (GW): 7 minutes
- f) Opposition Whip Speaker (OW): 7 minutes
- g) Reply speech of Government: 4 minutes
- h) Reply speech of Opposition: 4 minutes

Reply speeches can be given only by the 1st or the 2nd speaker of either side.

E. POINTS OF INFORMATION

I. Points of Information (questions directed to the member speaking) may be asked between first minute mark and the 6-minute mark of the members' speeches (speeches are of seven minutes duration).

II. To ask a Point of Information, a member should stand and extend one hand towards the member speaking. The member may announce that they would like to ask a "Point of Information" or use other words to this effect. The member who is speaking may accept or decline to answer the Point of Information.

III. Points of Information should not exceed 15 seconds in length.

IV. Members should attempt to answer at least two Points of Information during their speech. However, it is not mandatory to answer the point of information. Members should also offer Points of Information.

F. THE ADJUDICATION

I. A panel of 3 adjudicators would adjudicate the debate, wherever possible subject to the availability of adjudicators.

II. One adjudicator per team is necessary. In case more than 1 team per institution apply, we would give preference to the team which would get an A-level adjudicator. In order to decide that, we would call for the debating credentials of the team members and the adjudicators. An A-level adjudicator would be deemed to be one who has considerable experience in Parliamentary debating. Thereby, only one team per institution is allowed.

III. At the conclusion of the debate, the adjudicators should confer and rank the teams.

G. Team Selection

I. We have a team cap of 16 teams which is subject to extension upon the discretion of the organizers.

II. The Organizers will largely follow a first cum first serve basis for selection of the teams. However, the organizers reserve the right of selection of the teams.

III. In case of more than one entry from the same institution, the organizers would ask for the debating credentials of the team members. The selection would then be made by the organizers depending upon the debating experience of the speakers.

IV. An A-level Adjudicator would go a long way to ensure the team an entry to the competition

2. DEFINITIONS

G. THE DEFINITION

I. The definition should state the issue (or issues) for debate arising out of the motion and state the meaning of any terms in the motion that require interpretation.

II. The Prime Minister should provide the definition at the beginning of his or her speech.

III. The definition must:

- i. Have a clear and logical link to the motion - this means that an average reasonable person would accept the link made by the member between the motion and the definition (where there is no such link the definition is sometimes referred to as a "squirrel")
- ii. Not be self-proving - a definition is self-proving when the case is that something should or should not be done and there is no reasonable rebuttal. A definition is may also be self-proving when the case is that a certain state of affairs exists or does not exist and there is no reasonable rebuttal (these definitions are sometimes referred to as "truisms").
- iii. Not be time set - this means that the debate must take place in the present and that the definition cannot set the debate in the past or the future.
- iv. Not be place set unfairly - this means that the definition cannot restrict the debate so narrowly to a particular geographical or political location that a participant of the tournament could not reasonably be expected to have knowledge of the place.

H. CHALLENGING THE DEFINITION

I. The Leader of the Opposition may challenge the definition if it violates the definition clause of these rules. The Leader of the Opposition should clearly state that he or she is challenging the definition.

II. The Leader of the Opposition should substitute an alternative definition after challenging the definition of the Prime Minister.

I. ASSESSING THE DEFINITIONAL CHALLENGE

I. The adjudicator should determine the definition to be 'unreasonable' where it violates the definition clause of these rules.

II. The onus to establish that the definition is unreasonable is on the members asserting that the definition is unreasonable.

III. Where the definition is unreasonable, the opposition should substitute an alternative definition that should be accepted by the adjudicator provided it is not unreasonable.

IV. Where the definition of the Opening Government is unreasonable and the Opening Opposition substitutes it with an alternative definition, the Closing Government may introduce matter, which is inconsistent with the matter presented by the Opening Government and consistent with the definition of the Opening Opposition.

V. If the Opening Opposition has substituted a definition that is also unreasonable, the Closing Government may challenge the definition of the opening Opposition and substitute an alternative definition.

VI. If the Closing Government has substituted a definition that is also unreasonable (in addition to the unreasonable definitions of the Opening Government and Opening Opposition), the Closing Opposition may challenge the definition of the Closing Government and substitute an alternative definition.

3. MATTER

J. THE DEFINITION OF MATTER

I. Matter is the content of the speech. It is the arguments a debater uses to further his or her case and persuade the audience.

II. Matter includes arguments and reasoning, examples, case studies, facts and any other material that attempts to further the case.

III. Matter includes positive (or substantive) material and rebuttal (arguments specifically aimed to refute the arguments of the opposing team(s)). Matter includes Points of Information.

K. THE ELEMENTS OF MATTER

I. Matter should be relevant, logical and consistent.

II. Matter should be relevant. It should relate to the issues of the debate: positive material should support the case being presented and rebuttal should refute the material being presented by the opposing team(s). The members should appropriately prioritize and apportion time to the dynamic issues of the debate.

III. Matter should be logical. Arguments should be developed logically in order to be clear and well reasoned and therefore plausible. The conclusion of all arguments should support the member's case.

IV. Matter should be consistent. Members should ensure that the matter they present is consistent within their speech, their team and the remainder of the members on their side of the debate.

V. All Members should present positive matter (except the final two members in the debate) and all members should present rebuttal (except the first member in the debate). The Government Whip may choose to present positive matter.

VI. All Members should attempt to answer at least two points of information during their own speech and offer points of information during opposing speeches.

L. ASSESSING MATTER

I. The matter presented should be persuasive. 'The elements of matter' should assist an adjudicator to assess the persuasiveness and credibility of the matter presented.

II. Matter should be assessed from the viewpoint of the average reasonable person. Adjudicators should analyze the matter presented and assess its persuasiveness, while disregarding any specialist knowledge they may have on the issue of the debate.

III. Adjudicators should not allow bias to influence their assessment. Debaters should not be discriminated against on the basis of religion, sex, race, color, nationality, sexual preference, age, social status or disability.

IV. Points of information should be assessed according to the effect they have on the persuasiveness of the cases of both the member answering the point of information and the member offering the point of information.

4. MANNER

M. THE DEFINITION OF MANNER

I. Manner is the presentation of the speech. It is the style and structure a member uses to further his or her case and persuade the audience.

II. Manner is comprised of many separate elements. Some, but not all, of these elements are listed below.

N. THE ELEMENTS OF STYLE

I. The elements of style include eye contact, voice modulation, hand gestures, language, the use of notes and any other element, which may affect the effectiveness of the presentation of the member.

II. Eye contact will generally assist a member to persuade an audience as it allows the member to appear more sincere.

III. Voice modulation will generally assist a member to persuade an audience as the debater may emphasize important arguments and keep the attention of the audience. This includes the pitch, tone, and volume of the member's voice and the use of pauses.

IV. Hand gestures will generally assist a member to emphasize important arguments.

Excessive hand movements may however be distracting and reduce the attentiveness of the audience to the arguments.

V. Language should be clear and simple. Members who use language, which is too verbose or confusing, may detract from the argument if they lose the attention of the audience.

VI. The use of notes is permitted, but members should be careful that they do not rely on their notes too much and detract from the other elements of manner.

O. THE ELEMENTS OF STRUCTURE

I. The elements of structure include the structure of the speech of the member and the structure of the speech of the team.

II. The matter of the speech of each member must be structured. The member should organize his or her matter to improve the effectiveness of their presentation.

III. The matter of the team must be structured. The team should organize their matter to improve the effectiveness of their presentation. The team should:

- i. Contain a consistent approach to the issues being debated; and
- ii. Allocate positive matter to each member where both members of the team are introducing positive matter; and
- iii. Include: an introduction, conclusion and a series of arguments;
- iv. Be well timed in accordance with the time limitations and the need to prioritize and apportion time to matter.

P. ASSESSING MANNER

I. Adjudicators should assess the elements of manner together in order to determine the overall effectiveness of the member's presentation. Adjudicators should assess whether the member's presentation is assisted or diminished by their manner.

II. Adjudicators should be aware that at a World Championship, there are many styles which are appropriate, and that they should not discriminate against a member simply because the manner would be deemed 'inappropriate Parliamentary debating' in their own country.

III. Adjudicators should not allow bias to influence their assessment. Members should not be discriminated against on the basis of religion, sex, race, color, nationality, language, sexual preference, age, social status or disability.

5. THE ADJUDICATION

- I.** The adjudicators will announce the decision of the debate at the debate venue.
- II.** The decision of the judges will be final and cannot be challenged.
- III.** Marks will not be disclosed.

VERBAL ADJUDICATIONS

- I.** The members may approach an adjudicator for further clarification following the adjudication; these inquiries must at all times be polite and non-confrontational.
 - i. Identify the order in which the teams were ranked
 - ii. Explain the reasons for the rankings of team, ensuring that each team is referred to in this explanation; and
 - iii. Provide constructive comments to individual members where the adjudication panel believes this is necessary.
- II.** The verbal adjudication should not exceed 10 minutes.
- III.** The members must not harass the adjudicators following the verbal adjudication.
- IV.** The members may approach an adjudicator for further clarification following the verbal adjudication; these inquiries must at all times be polite and non-confrontational.

OTHER RULES:

1. The participants must fill in the registration form and submit it before the last date of registration i.e. 21st March 2014.
2. The dress code for the debate shall be Western formals for men and Western/Indian formals for women.

3. The registration fees of Rs.600/- shall be payable through online transfer or cash deposit in the account of the college (the details would be sent to you upon registration).
 4. The number of rounds and the manner of selection of teams would be explained on the day of the competition.
 5. No accommodation would be provided to the students. However, we would arrange accommodation at hostels, which are nearby the college premises, which would be paid for by the participants.
 6. The schedule for the event as well as the details regarding the prizes shall be revealed soon.
 7. All the participants *must* carry their college/university identity cards with them at all times during the course of the competition.
 8. The participant teams are required to send through mail, the debating credentials of their respective adjudicators.
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For Any Inquiries, Contact:

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- Neha Mehta, **Co-convener: 09810298282**
- Piyush Agarwal, **Co-convener: 09999151917**
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