

Judging Debate

There are TWO types of debate offered at the tournament: IPDA (International Public Debate Association format) and BP (British Parliamentary Debate). Each format has different topics for every round of competition, and most of the topics will focus on current events/news issues.

Pre-Round Information:

There are two speakers (IPDA) or four two-person teams (BP) in each round, and two sides are presented on each issue under consideration: the Affirmative (sometimes called "Government" or "Pro") and the Negative (sometimes called "Opposition" or "Con"). The Affirmative side must affirm the resolution by presenting and defending a sufficient case for that resolution. The Negative side must oppose the resolution and/or the Affirmative team's case. In a round of IPDA debate if, at the end of the debate, you believe that the Affirmative side has supported and successfully defended the resolution, they should be declared the winner, otherwise the Negative side should be declared the winner. In BP debate, the four teams are ranked at the end of the round, and it is possible for the top two teams in the round to be on different sides of the issue.

In IPDA debate, judges should go to their assigned rooms at the scheduled round start time and wait for both debaters. Note that the round will start precisely 30 minutes after the topic draw/selection (which is done in a central location in Riley and supervised by the tabulation staff, so judges do NOT have to go to the room to supervise the draw). Most IPDA rounds will be "double-flighted," meaning that you will judge two debates during each scheduled round (the second set of debaters will arrive approximately 30 minutes after your first group).

In BP debate, judges should go to the BP topic announce area (Graf 111-115) at the scheduled "roll call" or round start time to hear the topic announcement with the debaters. Preparation time begins after the topic has been announced.

During the Round:

1) *Your role in the Round* – Once the preparation time has elapsed, participants are ready to debate. Once all competitors are present in your competition room, you should call on the first speaker to begin the debate. After each speaker finishes, thank them, etc. and call upon the next speaker.

2) *Timing* – Debaters will often time themselves, but if they do not have a timer you might have to provide hand signals. Example: 3 minutes has passed for the Leader of opposition's 7-minute speech. You would hold up 4 fingers to indicate that they have 4 minutes remaining. In BP debate, the chair is also responsible for knocking on the table when one minute has passed and one minute is left in the speech (to indicate the "protected time"). Time is important to speakers, and they appreciate efforts made to keep track of time. NOTE: Even when debaters chose to time themselves, you should still time the students to ensure that they are following the appropriate time limits.

3) *Questions* - IPDA debate includes dedicated time for cross examination questions, so questions are NOT allowed in the middle of the speeches. In BP debate (throughout the round) teams may pose questions (called "points of information") in the middle of the other team's speeches and must be recognized/accepted by the speaker who has the floor. If a BP speaker accepts a point of information, the questioner has 15 seconds to pose a question or make a point (normally the chair of the round will time these and call out "order" for any questions/points that go beyond 15 seconds). Questions CANNOT be asked during the first and last minute of each of the speeches in a BP debate round (the first and last minute are considered "protected time").

After the Round:

Dismiss the teams, complete the ballot, and submit the results. Please be sure to fill out your ballot completely. You need to vote for one speaker in IPDA or rank the teams 1-4 in BP. You also need to explain the reason for your decision. Remember there is no “right” answer, just reasons for making a decision. In addition to voting on a side/ranking the teams, you need to assign speaker points to each speaker (with the BEST speaker in the round receiving the highest number of points). Whichever side/team won the debate should have the highest combined total of points (in very rare cases, “low-point” wins are permitted in IPDA, but they are not allowed in BP). Finally, please return ballots quickly.

After returning your ballot, in IPDA you should refrain from revealing round results or giving the debaters feedback about the round. In BP Debate, decisions are always revealed by the judges and the chair of the round will offer brief (10 minutes max) oral feedback to the four teams. BP judges should always return ballots **before** starting the feedback.

TIME LIMITS & RULES SPECIFIC TO EACH DEBATE FORMAT**IPDA DEBATE**

The IPDA divisions will use the rules as presented in the IPDA constitution with 30 minutes of pre-round preparation. Debaters will be presented with 5 motions focusing on recent news and current events, and each side will have two strikes. IPDA debaters are allowed to consult coaches, other teammates, make use of the internet and other electronic and print resources during the preparation period.

IPDA Debate time limits (two speakers total; one on each side)

- 5 - first affirmative*
- 2 - negative cross-x*
- 6 - first negative*
- 2 - affirmative cross-x*
- 3 - affirmative rebuttal*
- 5 - negative rebuttal*
- 3 - affirmative rebuttal*

BP (British-Parliamentary) DEBATE

The BP division will use the WUDC rules with 15 minutes to prepare. The topics/motions will be centrally announced, and they will vary per round. Teams may prepare using only written materials that they have produced in advance and should NOT consult coaches or other team members during preparation time. Students are allowed to bring any written materials into the round and consult these materials at any time. There will be at least TWO judges for every round of BP debate (a “chair” and at least one “panelist”). Consensus judging will be used at this tournament (no split decisions) with the chair making the final call if the adjudicators are not in agreement.

BP Debate time limits (eight speakers total; two on each team)

- 7 - Opening Government, Speaker A (Prime Minister)*
- 7 - Opening Opposition, Speaker A (Opposition Leader)*
- 7 - Opening Government, Speaker B (Deputy Prime Minister)*
- 7 - Opening Opposition, Speaker B (Deputy Opposition Leader)*
- 7 - Closing Government, Speaker A (Member of Government)*
- 7 - Closing Opposition, Speaker A (Member of Opposition)*
- 7 - Closing Government, Speaker B (Government Whip)*
- 7 - Closing Opposition, Speaker B (Opposition Whip)*