

2025-26 IN Middle School World Schools Guidelines

Topic

Change topic each month (state will have December topic)

Technology Use

No electronic devices are allowed for research or information retrieval in a round, including cell phones, laptops, tablets, etc. Use of such devices may result in forfeiture of the round and/or disqualification from the tournament. The use of hand-held cellular phones is permitted as a timing device only. The cellular phone must be kept in airplane mode during the debate.

Round Format

World Schools teams will be comprised of 3-4 debaters. During preparation for Prepared Debates, any materials may be used that are conducive to the team's education and preparation. During the debate, students may bring prepared, printed notes with them into the round. For rounds involving impromptu motions, teams may use a MAXIMUM of two physical references. These sources should be of a reference nature: Black's Law Dictionary, Webster's Dictionary, almanac, textbook, etc. There is no internet use during Impromptu prep. During the debate they may bring their written notes from prep and their two resources.

During preliminary rounds, sides will be set by the tournament program. Before the round begins, each team must declare to the judge the order of speakers, including the reply speech. Only one speaker is allowed to present in each section of the debate. Not every member of the team is required to speak.

1st Proposition Substantive Speech 5 minutes (Must present 1st and 2nd main arguments)

1st Opposition Substantive Speech 5 minutes (Must present 1st and 2nd main arguments)

2nd Proposition Substantive Speech 5 minutes (Must present 3rd main argument)

2nd Opposition Substantive Speech 5 minutes (Must present 3rd main argument)

Opposition Reply Speech 3 minutes

Proposition Reply Speech 3 minutes

[There is no prep. time during the round.]

During each substantive speech, the opposing team is permitted to request Points of Information (POI's) of the speaker during the middle 3 minutes of the speech. (The first and last minute of each speech is protected time). A POI is an opportunity for the opposing team to ask a question of the speaker or to make a statement in opposition. A POI can be asked by any speaking member of the opposing team. The POI can be accepted or denied by the speaker with a simple "No, thank you" or hand motion. It is considered bad form to harass the opposing team with POIs occurring too frequently while convention also suggests that a speaker take 1 POI during their speech at their discretion.

No POI can be requested during Reply Speeches.

Round 1: Prepared Motion (Con/Pro)

Round 2: Prepared Motion (Pro/Con)

Round 3: Impromptu Prep Time (no internet)

Round 4: Impromptu Motion