

The Great Public Schools Association of Queensland

RULES OF COMPETITION

DEBATING

Last Reviewed: October 2020

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1. ADOPTED RULES

GPS Debating competitions are conducted in accordance with the rules as recognised by the Queensland Debating Union (QDU), except where these differ from the GPS competition Rules; in which case the latter shall take precedence. Reference should also be made to all GPS By-laws, Policies and Procedures. These rules are to be read in conjunction with information available on GPS Net.

2. ELIGIBILITY

To compete in a GPS competition, students must meet the eligibility criteria stated in the GPS Eligibility Bylaw.

- 2.1 Students enrolled in Years 5 to 12 of a GPS member school are eligible to participate in the competition.
- 2.2 Students enrolled in Years 8 to 12 are eligible to compete in the Senior A division. Senior A debaters must first be registered with the GPS Office.
- 2.3 No student may debate in more than one division in the same fixture.
 - a. Exception: A substitute in the Senior A division may debate in more than one division in a fixture.

3. BEHAVIOUR

All misconduct by participants or other personnel that occurs during the normal proceedings of a Sport or Activity will be actioned as according to the Governing body and the GPS Code of Conduct.

- 3.1 If a student breaches the GPS Code of Conduct, the student will be suspended from GPS Debating competitions for one (1) round. The round in which the suspension is applied must be the next scheduled fixture in the same season (as per the draw) and cannot be a bye.

4. STRUCTURE

GPS competitions must have a minimum number of five (5) teams from five (5) member schools competing in a division.

- 4.1 The competition will follow the schedule as set by the GPS Calendar and the Competition Draw.
- 4.2 The competition is comprised of a Senior A division and multiple year level divisions from Years 5 to Year 12.

5. OFFICIALS

- 5.1 The GPS Association, with the assistance of QDU, will appoint adjudicators to each debate for Years 7 to 12.
- 5.2 A panel of three (3) adjudicators will form an adjudication panel for Senior A debates.
- 5.3 Each team will provide a Chairperson or Timekeeper for each debate.

6. ADDITIONAL RULES

- 6.1 Uniforms of competitors and personnel must comply with the GPS Uniform Policy.
- 6.2 Substitution is permitted in the Senior A division in circumstances of injury or illness.
- 6.3 Teams must contain a minimum of three (3) members. Teams may not contain more than five (5) members.
 - a. Exception: Senior A team must have four (4) nominated debaters.
- 6.4 The recording of any part of a debate is prohibited unless permission is granted by the Headmasters of both schools. Recording of adjudicators is not permitted.
- 6.5 In the Senior A Division and Division 1 of each Year level, the host school will be the Affirmative team. The allocation of affirmative and negative will then alternate for each division within each year level.
 - a. Exception: In Division 12.1, the host school will be the Negative team. The allocation of affirmative and negative will then alternate for each division in Year 12.

Year Level	Odd or Even Numbered Division	Host School	Visitor School
Senior A		Affirmative	Negative
Years 5 to 11	Odd (e.g. 11.1, 11.3...)		
Year 12	Even (e.g. 12.2, 12.4...)		
Years 5 to 11	Even (e.g. 11.2, 11.4...)	Negative	Affirmative
Year 12	Odd (e.g. 12.1, 12.3...)		

7. RESULTS

- 7.1 Points, Premierships and Championships will be awarded in accordance with the GPS Championships & Premierships Policy.
- 7.2 Reviews & Protests of results will be conducted in accordance with the GPS Reviews & Protest Policy.
- 7.3 Senior A Points will be awarded as follows:

Result	Points
Win or Win on Forfeit	2 points
Draw	1 point
Loss/Bye or Forfeit	0 points

8. CANCELLATIONS

When required, cancellations will be conducted in accordance with the Abandonment of GPS Competitions and Activities Policy.

9. AMENDMENTS

No amendment to these Rules of Competition is authorised unless such amendment is issued by the Executive Officer of the GPS.