**SIS Debating Championship**

# INFORMATION & RULES

The Debating competition is available to all member schools. SIS co-ordinators are invited to attend meetings to prepare for the championship. Adjudicators will be appointed from the Debaters Association of Victoria (DAV).

**TEAMS**

* Teams are called 1 & 2 (For example Junior J1, J2 – Intermediate I1, I2 – Senior S1, S2)
* Each team is made up of 3 speakers but schools may bring 4 students per team. Students may be interchanged for debates.
* **Each team must have two debates for both Round 1 and Round 2. First, a prepared debate and second, an unprepared/secret debate. Secret topics will be announced on the day.**
* The first named team on the fixture is the affirmative(please remember for all debates).
* Each school is entitled to enter a maximum of 4 teams across the sections (not more than 2 teams per section). Students may enter in a section above but not below. If there is an uneven fixture, the team will debate against the adjudicator.
* Notice of cancelled teams should be given with enough time to adjust the fixture and cancelling teams on the day of competition should be avoided at all times.

**TIMINGS**

* Schools must arrive at 9:00am sharp for a 9:30am start. The event finishes by 2:30pm.
* Students will have at least 1 hour to prepare their secret topics. Due to the scale of this event it has been decided by DAV that secret topics will be announced at the start of the day.
* Students will always debate the **prepared topic first** and then the **unprepared secret topic.**
* There will be no lunchtime break – debates will run straight through to the end of the day. A staff lunch is provided and students are required to bring their own lunch.

**DEBATE TIMES**

Debate times are per speaker as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **JUNIOR – Yr 7 & 8** | | **INTERMEDIATE – Yr 9 & 10** | | **SENIOR – Yr 11 & 12** | |
| **Unprepared** | **Prepared** | **Unprepared** | **Prepared** | **Unprepared** | **Prepared** |
| 3-4 mins Warn Bell at 3 min Final bell at 4 min | 4-5 mins Warn Bell at 4 min Final bell at 5 min | 4-5 mins Warn Bell at 4 min Final bell at 5 min | 5-6 mins Warn bell at 5 min Final bell at 6 min | 5-6 mins Warn Bell at 5 min Final bell at 6 min | 6-7 mins Warn bell at 6 min Final bell at 7 min |

**RULES**

* Teams are not permitted to watch over teams in the same section (i.e. Junior cannot watch Junior). There should be no movement during the debates.
* Strictly you may only video record your own students, with the permission from students & parents.

Computers & mobile phones are not to be used by students for timing or research. Phones should be handed to teachers before secret topics are provided. **If students are found to use a device to prepare for secret topics, SIS or DAV may decide to remove that team from the competition.**

* If a student filling in is from the same school, and from the same grade or lower (ie a junior in an inter debate) then we would count that as not a forfeit.
* If only two students are available at late notice and one student is required to speak twice, this is allowed.
* If a student is from a different school or from a higher grade (ie. a senior in an inter debate), this would be counted as a forfeit, but students are offered the option for a debate to give the students an opportunity to debate and receive feedback.
* A student from the winning team is required to bring a copy of the scoresheet to the SIS representative straight after the debate has taken place.

**SCORING**

* **Win = 2 points, Loss = 1 point, Forfeit = 0 points**
* Combined Round 1 & 2 results are combined, with the top 4 teams in each section qualifying to the semi-finals. Teams will be selected for finals based on criteria in the following order:

1. Number of wins
2. Margin (how much they won by)
3. Total speaker points

* Affirmative Teams to provide a Chairperson (only required for finals).
* A DAV adjudicator’s decision is final and if schools are unhappy with a result, they may complete a DAV feedback form.

**FINALS**

* Only Prepared debates take place in all Semi Finals and Finals (no Unprepared debates).

From the Round 1 and 2 results, the top 4 teams in each section will qualify to the semi-finals and one school is required to host.

* From the semi-final results, the top 2 teams in each section will qualify to the finals and one school is required to host.
* FORFEITS are not acceptable in the Semi-finals and Finals Rounds and every effort will be made to reschedule finals if required.
* During finals, spectators may be expected in the room from other levels or teams not debating the same topic.

**GENERAL**

* Students should be made aware that their behaviour is just as important as their debating skills. Please ensure students are respectful and adhere to the rules of the event at all times. Any negative feedback received from adjudicators or staff/students will be followed up by SIS.
* Schools must confirm that SIS dates do not clash with their school calendar. Every effort will be made to eliminate BYES.
* In the interest of the competition, all teams are asked to stay right up to the end of the last debate. Please express to the students that every effort will be made to keep to the timetable but please do not become ‘bus dependent’ and leave early.
* Schools are requested to assist with the setup and clean up of the venue at the end of the day.

**Further details are available in the SIS Handbook on the SIS website** <https://www.sis.org.au/home/sis/handbook>

Thank you for your participation in the SIS Debating Competition.