

## Parliamentary Debate Rules

### **Round Definition**

1. A parliamentary debate team consists of two debaters. A parliamentary debate round consists of one Government team debating against one Opposition team.
2. The Government team proposes a case to uphold the resolution. The Opposition team opposes the Government team's case.

### **Resolutions**

1. Resolutions will be announced by the tournament at the start of preparation time.
2. A different resolution will be used each round.

### **Types of Resolutions**

- Value: Both sides push for their value in the topic as superior to the other team's value.
- Policy: Proposition shows there is a problem and offers a solution (plan) to the problem. Both sides debate the appropriateness and/or merits of the problem and solution asserted by the Proposition.
- Fact: Both teams debate the circumstances under which the topic would be called a true statement

### **Preparation Time**

1. Debaters shall have 20 minutes of preparation time between the time the resolution is announced and the time debaters report to their judge(s).

### **Round Rules**

1. There is no preparation time between speeches. The next speaker must begin their speech (or their roadmap) within 20 seconds following the preceding speech.

### **Round Format**

1. Prime Minister Constructive (PMC): 7 minutes, given by the first Government speaker
2. Leader of Opposition Constructive (LOC): 8 minutes, given by the first Opposition speaker
3. Member of Government Constructive (MGC): 8 minutes, given by the second Government speaker
4. Member of Opposition Constructive (MOC): 8 minutes, given by the second Opposition speaker
5. Leader of Opposition Rebuttal (LOR): Rebuttal 4 minutes, given by the first Opposition speaker
6. Prime Minister Rebuttal (PMR): 5 minutes, given by the first Government speaker [2.B.1.a]

### **Points of Information**

1. A Point of Information (POI) is a single short question or statement addressed by a member of the opposing team to the debater who has the floor.
2. The debater who has the floor may accept or decline each POI at their discretion. Follow-up POIs are only allowed if separately recognized by the debater who has the floor.
3. POIs come out of the speech time of the debater who has the floor, so time should not be stopped for a POI. Each POI may not exceed 15 seconds.
4. POIs are only allowed in constructive speeches. POIs are not allowed in the first or last minute of any speech.

### **Points of Order**

1. A debater may raise a Point of Order if they believe that the opposing team is bringing up a new argument in a rebuttal speech. Points of Order may not be used for any other purpose.
2. Points of Order are not allowed during constructive speeches but are allowed at any time during rebuttal speeches.
3. To raise a Point of Order, the debater shall state "Point of Order." Time should then be immediately stopped. The debater then has 15 seconds to explain why an argument made by the opposing team is new.
4. The opposing team then has 15 seconds to respond to the Point of Order. Once the response is finished, time should immediately resume.
5. Debaters should not use Points of Order as a tactic to disrupt their opponent's speech.

### **Speaker Points:**

- 30: Your performance in the round is likely to beat any debater in the field.
- 29: Your performance is substantially better than average - likely to beat most debaters
- 28: Your performance is above average - likely to beat the majority of debaters in the field.
- 27: Your performance is approximately average
- 26: Your performance is below average
- < 26: Rude or inappropriate behavior, total lack of preparation. Please note specifics on the ballot.