

## QDU Rules (2016 Revision)

This Rule Book contains the Official Rules relating to the administration of the Queensland Debating Union Schools Competition and Queensland Debating Union Junior Round Robin Competition.

This Handbook does not contain advice pertaining to debating technique. Advice on general debating practice and technique can be found in the QDU Official Handbook.

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### Contents

#### Contents

1	Definitions.....	3
	<b>Exceptional Circumstances .....</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>Compulsory School Events .....</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>Fees Schedule.....</b>	<b>3</b>
2	General.....	3
3	Correspondence.....	4
4	Team Nominations .....	4
6	Age Requirements .....	4
6	Year Level Requirements .....	5
7	Team Responsibilities.....	5
8	Team Membership.....	5
9	Variation of team membership .....	6
10	Substitution of Team Members .....	6
11	Permanent replacement of Team Members.....	7
12	Postponements .....	7
13	Forfeits .....	7
14	Adjudication.....	8
15	Absence of an Adjudicator .....	9
16	Result Reports .....	9
17	Misreading the Draw .....	9
18	Duties of the Chairperson .....	10
19	Duties of the Timekeeper.....	11
20	Timing.....	11
21	Dictation of Debaters' Speeches.....	11
22	Communication with Debaters During the Debate .....	11
23	Language .....	11
24	Unsportsmanlike Behaviour .....	12
25	Electronic Recording of Debates .....	12
26	Junior Round Robin Competition .....	13
27	General Rules.....	13
28	Final Series.....	13
29	Short Preparation (Secret Subject) Debates.....	13
	2016 Fees Schedule .....	17
	<b>Fines and Penalties – All Competitions .....</b>	<b>17</b>
	<b>Withdrawal Fees .....</b>	<b>17</b>



<i>Forfeit Fines</i> .....	17
<i>Postponement Penalties</i> .....	17
<i>Notes:</i> .....	17

## 1 Definitions

- 1.1. Words appearing in the substance of these Rules and appearing in this section have the following meaning:

### Exceptional Circumstances

Include, but are not limited to,:

- a student ceasing to attend a school
- the school being permanently or temporarily shut down.

Behaviour amounting to an Exceptional Circumstance includes extreme harassment or verbal abuse of an adjudicator.

### Compulsory School Events

Include, but are not limited to, mandatory school examinations.

The meaning of "Compulsory School Events" excludes school and inter-school sporting events and music concerts, regardless of school policy on attendance.

"Compulsory School Events" only refers to events taking place at the same time as the scheduled debate. It does not include events taking place the morning after the scheduled debate.

### Fees Schedule

The schedule of fees as attached to these Rules.

## 2 General

- 2.1. Teams participating in the Schools Competition must adhere to the Competition Rules.
- 2.2. The Schools' Vice-President in consultation with the QDU Executive will make the determination of any matter not covered by these rules, including the application of these rules in Exceptional Circumstances.
- 2.3. The Schools' Vice-President may credit a team with a win if they consider that the circumstances demand it. This need not affect any other team.
- 2.4. The decision of the Schools' Vice-President shall be final. An appeal may only be brought to the QDU Executive from a decision which is manifestly unfair. The onus is on the complainant to demonstrate why the decision should be considered manifestly unfair.
- 2.5. Any reference in these rules (except for Rules 2.5 and 2.6) to the Schools' Vice President shall be read as meaning:
  - a. The President in person;
  - b. The Schools' Vice President in person;
  - c. A Delegate, as designated by Schools' Vice President or the Management Committee from time to time.

- 2.6. The Schools' Vice-President may reverse any determination or decision made by a Delegate.

### **3 Correspondence**

- 3.1. All formal communications issued by the Schools' Vice-President will be made or confirmed in writing. Persons following directives not confirmed in writing do so at their own risk and any consequent breach of any rule specified below will be treated accordingly.
- 3.2. All formal communications to QDU must be made or confirmed in writing and directed to the administrator of the QDU. Where these rules require notification of the Schools' Vice-President of any matter, correspondence relating to such a matter must be forwarded to the QDU within seven days of the matter arising.
- 3.3. Only correspondence forwarded in writing within the time specified in Rule 3.2 will be considered.
- 3.4. Correspondence seeking to invoke the application of any rule specified below must state the following:
- a. The date, topic and grade of the debate;
  - b. The teams debating;
  - c. The name of the adjudicator (posted outside the door of the room in which the debate is held);
  - d. The basis of the application; and
  - e. The name, telephone number or other details of the applicant.
  - f. Proposed resolution to the conflict.

### **4 Team Nominations**

- 5.1. Team nominations for the Schools Competition will not be accepted unless the School Debating Coordinator undertakes on behalf of the teams nominated to comply with the Competition Rules by signing the undertaking to this effect provided in the nomination form.

### **6 Age Requirements**

- 5.1. Age limits for participation in the Schools Competition apply as follows:

Grade 5	Under 12 Years
Grade 6	Under 13 Years
Grade 7	Under 14 Years
Grade 8	Under 15 Years
Grade 9	Under 16 Years
Grade 10	Under 17 Years
Grade 11	Under 18 Years
Grade 12	Under 20 Years
Senior A	Under 20 Years

- 5.2. The age rules are to apply as at the end of the year for which registration is sought.

- 5.3. If age limit requirements are breached, the team in breach will be deemed ineligible for the Finals Series. Teams having debated against a team in breach of the age limit requirements will be automatically accredited a win.
- 5.4. If requested, the ages of debaters nominated to participate in the Schools Competition must be completed in a space provided on the nomination form.

## **6 Year Level Requirements**

- 6.1. Year level requirements for participation in the Schools Competition apply as follows:

Grade 5	Year 5 or below
Grade 6	Year 6 or below
Grade 7	Year 7 or below
Grade 8	Year 8 or below
Grade 9	Year 9 or below
Grade 10	Year 10 or below
Grade 11	Year 11 or below
Grade 12	Year 12 or below
Senior A	Year 12 or below
- 6.2. Year levels are to apply as at the end of the year for which registration is sought.
- 6.3. If year level requirements are breached, the team in breach will be deemed ineligible for the Finals Series. Teams having debated against a team in breach of the year level requirements will be accredited a win.
- 6.4. If requested, the year level of debaters nominated to participate in the Schools Competition must be completed in the space provided in the nomination form.

## **7 Team Responsibilities**

- 7.1. Affirmative teams must provide a Chairperson and a whiteboard marker.
- 7.2. Negative teams must provide a Timekeeper and a bell.
- 7.3. It is the responsibility of each team to read the Draw correctly.

## **8 Team Membership**

- 8.1. Teams must contain a minimum of four members. Teams may not contain more than five members.
- 8.2. The Schools' Vice-President may authorise teams of three members at their discretion.
- 8.3. No debater may debate more than once in the same grade and in the same round.
  - a. This means that a debater who debates for a team at 6.15pm is prohibited from debating for a different team at 7.00pm or 8.15pm. Similarly, a debater who debate for a team at 7.00pm is prohibited from debating for a different team at 8.15pm.
  - b. Further, this rules preclude a debater from speaking twice in the same debate in the same round. If a team only has two debaters available, the debate may proceed with only two debaters but rule 8.3(c) will apply regardless of the outcome of the debate.
  - c. If a debater breaches this rule, the team that the debater debates for the second time will be deemed to have forfeited that debate.

- 8.4. Teams that do not have three debaters present for a debate will be deemed to have forfeited that debate. Debates may proceed if the teams wish to proceed with fewer than three debaters on a team, but the result will be disregarded and the team with fewer than three debaters will be deemed to have forfeited the debate. For the sake of clarity, the QDU will allow debates to proceed with fewer than three debaters so that the preparation of the debaters in attendance get the opportunity to speak to the topic they have prepared and receive feedback on their debating.
- 8.5. Any team debating a team in breach of rules 8.3 or 8.4 will be accredited a win.

## **9 Variation of team membership**

- 9.1. Team membership may be varied for debates occurring on the first and second preliminary rounds of that team's year level. For example, a debater allocated to a different team in the same grade (or an unregistered debater), may represent that team in the Round 2 debate in the place of a debater who represented that team in Round 1.
- 9.2. The use of unregistered debaters as substitute debaters is subject to Rules 5 and 6 regarding year level and age requirements.
- 9.3. Team membership as of the commencement of that team's Round 3 debate must consist only of debaters who had previously represented that team in either Round 1 or Round 2. For the avoidance of doubt, a team cannot introduce a member in Round 3 who was not a part of that team in either Round 1 or Round 2, but its membership can be constituted of any combination of debaters who represented that team in either Round 1 or Round 2.
- 9.4. Final team membership must be confirmed with the QDU before the commencement of that team's Round 3 debate. Once confirmed, team membership is fixed and may not be changed.
- 9.5. Teams changing members in breach of Rules 9.3 or 9.4 will be deemed to have forfeited the debate. The team debating the team in breach will be accredited a win.
- 9.6. If a team is requested by the QDU to confirm final team membership, and fails to do so before the commencement of that team's Round 3 debate, that team may be deemed ineligible for the Finals Series pending confirmation of their membership.

## **10 Substitution of Team Members**

- 10.1. When required, a maximum of two substitute debaters may be used per debate
- 10.2. Substitute debaters may be:
- a. Registered debaters taken from a lower grade in the Schools Competition; or
  - b. Unregistered debaters meeting the age and year level requirements noted in Rules 5.1 and 6.1
- 10.3. For the purposes of 10.2:
- a. Senior A is a higher grade than Year 12.
  - b. Substitute debaters may not be used to replace a non-speaking team member who enters the preparation room for the purposes of a secret subject debate.
- 10.4. Any one debater may act as a substitute debater up to a total of two times in one season across all teams in all grades.
- 10.5. Debaters not meeting any of these qualifications may not be used.
- 10.6. Where this rule is breached, the team in breach will be deemed to have forfeited the

debate. The team debating against a team in breach of this rule will be accredited a win.

- 10.7. Where a team believes this rule has been breached, a representative of that team must notify the Schools' Vice-President in writing of its belief.
- 10.8. The Schools' Vice-President will determine whether or not a team is held to have breached this rule. This specifically includes determining whether given circumstances constitute a legitimate requirement for a substitute, within the meaning of Rule 10. Any determination may be made prior to the debate if the Schools' Vice-President considers this appropriate.
- 10.9. Substitutions may not take place after the Chairman has opened the debate. If a debater becomes unable to present a speech after that time, the debater's team will be deemed to have lost the debate. The team debating against such a team will be accredited a win.

## **11 Permanent replacement of Team Members**

- 11.1. After the completion of the second round, a team member may only be replaced with the approval of the Schools' Vice-President and only if there are Exceptional Circumstances.

*NB: This rule relates to the permanent replacement of a debater as a member of a team. It does not relate to the substitution of a debater for reasons of temporary unavailability to debate.*

## **12 Postponements**

- 12.1. Applications for postponements must be made to the Schools' Vice-President.
- 12.2. Applications for postponements should be made as soon as possible and must be made a minimum of two weeks in advance of the date scheduled for the debate. Applications made for postponements after this deadline will be refused.
- 12.3. Postponements will incur a charge in accordance with the Fees Schedule.
- 12.4. The approval of applications for postponements is at the discretion of the Schools' Vice-President.
- 12.5. The Schools' Vice President will only grant a postponement on the following grounds:
  - a. Compulsory School Events
  - b. Otherwise extraordinary circumstances
- 12.6. Where an application for a postponement is granted, the teams participating in the postponed debate must, in consultation with the QDU Administrator, determine a time and venue for the postponed debate. Schools must act reasonably when approached to make arrangements for the postponement of a debate.
- 12.7. Where an application for a postponement is granted but the team against whom the postponement is sought is unable to debate at a later time, the team having been granted a postponement will be deemed to have lost the debate. Forfeit rules will not apply.
- 12.8. Applications for postponements for the fourth round will not be granted. Applications to bring debates in the fourth round forward may be granted. Ordinary postponement rules apply.

## **13 Forfeits**

- 13.1. Teams must ordinarily seek a postponement.
- 13.2. Teams forfeiting a debate or deemed to have forfeited a debate will be ineligible for the Finals Series.
- 13.3. Teams forfeiting a debate will incur a charge in accordance with the Fees Schedule.
- 13.4. A forfeiting team may apply to the Schools' Vice President to have Rules 13.2 and/or Rule 13.3 waived in Exceptional Circumstances.
- 13.5. Teams or schools forfeiting on a regular basis whether with or without notice will incur a warning. Failure to act in accordance with this warning will be penalised at the discretion of the Schools' Vice-President. Penalties may include, but are not limited to, excluding the school from registering teams in the QDU competition in the following year.

## **14 Adjudication**

- 14.1. A representative of a team dissatisfied with an adjudication may request the name of the adjudicator and seek further justification of the decision given.
- 14.2. The abuse of adjudicators will not be tolerated.
  - a. Abuse of an adjudicator will be penalised at the discretion of the Schools' Vice-President.
  - b. An initial instance of abuse will ordinarily incur only a warning. However, an initial instance of abuse may incur a more serious penalty in Extraordinary Circumstances. This will be determined at the discretion of the Schools' Vice-President.
- 14.3. Complaints regarding adjudication must be forwarded to the Adjudicators' Vice-President and meet the following requirements:
  - a. be sent from the school's debating coordinator;
  - b. be in writing; and
  - c. be submitted within seven days of the making of the decision to which the complaint relates.
- 14.4. Complaints must state the following:
  - a. The date, topic and grade of the debate;
  - b. The teams debating;
  - c. The name of the adjudicator;  
*NB: Adjudicator names are posted outside the door of the room in which the debate is held.*
  - d. The adjudicatorial basis of the complaint; and
  - e. The name and telephone number of the complainant.
- 14.5. Only complaints in compliance with Rules 14.3 and 14.4 will be investigated. All other complaints will be returned, unanswered, to the complainant for rectification.
- 14.6. Discretion to review an adjudicator's decision lies with the Adjudicators' Vice-President.
- 14.7. Complaints lacking sufficient detail may be rejected at the discretion of the Adjudicators' Vice-President.



- 14.8. Teams or schools regularly submitting complaints that are not upheld will incur a warning. Further submission of unsubstantiated complaints will be dealt with at the Adjudicators' Vice-President's discretion. This may involve a decision to cease investigating complaints made by that team or school.

## **15 Absence of an Adjudicator**

- 15.1. If no adjudicator is present at the time scheduled for the commencement of a debate, the teams involved in the debate must contact the QDU Administrator or the venue coordinator (who will contact the QDU Administrator).
- 15.2. The QDU may allocate a substitute adjudicator in the place of the original allocated adjudicator. Where this occurs, the debate will proceed as scheduled, subject to the provisions below.
- 15.3. If no adjudicator is present within 30 minutes of the time scheduled for the commencement of the debate, both teams will be accredited a win.
- 15.4. In the case of a dispute over the time of the adjudicator's arrival, the Adjudicators' Vice-President will determine the outcome.
- 15.5. If no adjudicator is present within 30 minutes of the time scheduled for the commencement of the debate, the teams may debate nonetheless. If somebody adjudicates that debate (including the original adjudicator, having arrived later than 30 minutes after the scheduled time), Rule 15.3 will nonetheless apply.
- 15.6. In the case of a debate in the Finals Series, Rule 28.5 and not 15.3 will apply.
- 15.7. For the purposes of this Rule 15, the Adjudicators' Vice-President may rule that an adjudicator not adequately accredited for the grade of debate is 'no adjudicator'.

## **16 Result Reports**

- 16.1. Schools are required to submit Result Reports in accordance with directions given by the QDU Administrator.
- 16.2. Teams failing to comply with Rule 16.1 may be deemed ineligible for the Finals Series by the Schools' Vice-President.

## **17 Misreading the Draw**

- 17.1. It is the duty of teams to correctly interpret the draw.
- 17.2. Where changes have been made to the draw:
- a. The school's debating coordinator will be notified by the QDU Administrator
  - b. The changed draw, as notified, will be the correct draw and will override any other draw. This includes the draw on the QDU website.
  - c. Once a notification has been validly sent to a school's debating coordinator, that notification is deemed to have been received by the debating coordinator.
  - d. It is the duty of debating coordinators to inform all relevant parties of the change to the draw, including coaches, debaters and parents. The failure of a debating coordinator to inform relevant parties of the change to the draw will not exempt a team from the application of Rule 17.
- 17.3. Where a team is not present within 15 minutes of the commencement of the debate, the team present will be accredited a win. The team not present will be deemed to have forfeited the debate without notice.

- 17.4. For the purposes of a 'secret subject debate', a team that is not present within 30 minutes of the commencement of the set hour long preparation, shall be deemed to have forfeited the debate without notice -i.e. the 30 minutes begins when the topic is handed out, not from when the debate is due to commence.
- 17.5. A team that arrives late for a 'secret subject' debate will not be granted any extra preparation time.
- 17.6. Where a team prepares the wrong side of a debate the debate may be postponed for 15 minutes in which time the team in error may prepare the correct side of the topic.
- 17.7. Where there is disagreement as to whether or not a team has misread the Draw, the teams in disagreement should contact the QDU Administrator from the venue. In such a situation the determination of the Administrator as to the correct reading of the Draw is final.

## **18 Duties of the Chairperson**

- 18.1. It is the responsibility of the chairperson to chair the debate. The duties of the chairperson in chairing the debate are as follows:
  - a. Declare the debate open and acknowledge any sponsor(s) of the Schools Competition;
  - b. State the topic being debated;
  - c. State the names of the teams debating and the names of their speakers in speaking order;
  - d. State the grade of the debate;
  - e. State the speaking time and the fact that a warning bells will be rung at certain intervals, a bell will be rung (two rings) at the end of the speaker's allocated time; and final bells (three rings) will be rung 30 seconds after the end of the speaker's allocated time;
  - f. State the name of the adjudicator;
  - g. Call upon each speaker to speak in turn; speakers should only be called upon to speak after the adjudicator has signalled to the chairperson that he or she is ready for the next speaker;
  - h. Call upon the adjudicator to give his or her adjudication; the chairperson should only call upon the adjudicator to give his or her adjudication after the adjudicator has signalled to the chairperson that he or she is ready to give his or her adjudication;
  - i. Call upon a member of the losing team to propose a vote of thanks to the adjudicator; NB: The team should be addressed as the Affirmative Team or the Negative Team, not as the losing team.
  - j. Call upon a member of the winning team to second the vote of thanks to the adjudicator; and  
*NB: The teams should be addressed as the Affirmative Team or the Negative Team, not as the winning or losing teams.*
  - k. Declare the debate closed.

- 18.2. A chairperson must not sit next to a team from their own school. They should sit to the side that places a timekeeper between themselves and a team from their school.

## 19 Duties of the Timekeeper

- 19.1. It is the responsibility of the Timekeeper to time and record the duration of the speeches constituting the debate.
- 19 The Timekeeper must ring bells in accordance with the rules as to timing specified in Rule 20.

## 20 Timing

- 20.1. Warning bells are to be rung once.
- 20.2. Final bells are to be rung twice.
- 20.3. 30 second overtime bells are to be rung 3 times.
- 20.4. Bells are to be rung as follows:

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Warning Bell</b>	<b>Final Bell</b>	<b>Overtime Bell</b>
Grade 5	3 minutes	4 minutes	4 minutes 30 seconds
Grade 6	3 minutes	4 minutes	4 minutes 30 seconds
Grade 7	3 minutes	4 minutes	4 minutes 30 seconds
Grade 8	4 minutes	5 minutes	5 minutes 30 seconds
Grade 9	5 minutes	6 minutes	6 minutes 30 seconds
Grade 10	6 minutes	7 minutes	7 minutes 30 seconds
Grade 11	1 and 7 minutes	8 minutes	8 minutes 30 seconds
Grade 12	1 and 7 minutes	8 minutes	8 minutes 30 seconds
Senior A	1 and 7 minutes	8 minutes	8 minutes 30 seconds
Replies	3 minutes	4 minutes	4 minutes 30 seconds

- 20.5. Bells are to be rung audibly. All bells are to be rung with equal intensity and for an equal duration.
- 20.6. Breach of this rule (e.g. the ringing of bells in a manner so as deliberately to advantage one team over another) will incur a warning. Subsequent breach will be penalised at the discretion of the Schools' Vice-President. The maximum penalty will result in the team in breach being deemed to have forfeited the debate.
- 20.7. Where a team suspects that this rule has been breached, it is the responsibility of the team alleging the breach to notify the Schools' Vice President.
- 20.8. No discussion is to be entered into with the adjudicator as to whether or not this rule has been breached. However, it is the duty of the adjudicator to correct any breaches they are aware of. Any team seeking to invoke the application of this rule must make an application to that effect in writing to the Schools' Vice-President.
- 20.9. The Schools' Vice-President will determine whether or not a team is held to have breached this rule.

## 21 Dictation of Debaters' Speeches

- 21.1. Coaches and parents must not write, prepare or dictate their students' speeches.
- 21.2. Breach of this rule may be penalised at the discretion of the Schools' Vice-President.
- 21.3. Where a team believes this rule has been breached that team must notify the Schools' Vice-President in writing of its belief.

- 21.4. The Schools' Vice-President will determine whether or not a team is held to have breached this rule.

## **22 Communication with Debaters During the Debate**

- 22.1. Neither the chairperson, the timekeeper nor the audience is permitted to communicate with any team during the debate. Conversely, teams are not permitted to communicate with the timekeeper, chairperson or audience during the debate.
- 22.2. Communication includes verbal and written communication.
- 22.3. This rule is subject to the exception that team members speaking in the debate may speak with the chairperson *inter alia*:
- a. To inquire as to the correctness of the timing of the debate; or
  - b. Request that the chairperson make a direction as to the running of the debate. This may include:
    - A direction that bells be rung more loudly; or
    - A direction that members of the audience acting in any manner intended to disturb a speaker cease to act in such a manner or leave the room
    - The examples given under Rules 22.1 (a) and (b) are not exhaustive BUT team members should only speak with the chairperson about matters relating to the formal administration of the debate.
- 22.4. Team members invoking Rule 22.3 must speak to the chairperson at a volume able to be heard by the entire room.
- 22.5. Where a team suspects that any provision in this Rule 21 has been breached, that team must inform the adjudicator immediately after the conclusion of the debate. No discussion with the adjudicator is to be entered into during the debate.
- 22.6. After complying with Rule 22.5, a team may choose to notify the Schools' Vice-President in writing of the alleged breach.
- 22.7. If any provisions in this Rule 22 are breached, the Schools' Vice President may deem the team in breach to have forfeited the debate and accredit a win to the team debating against the team in breach.

## **23 Language**

- 23.1. Debaters must not use language that is offensive, derogatory or hateful. This includes, but is not limited to, racial slurs, gendered slurs and swearing.
- 23.2. Breaches of this rule will be penalised at the discretion of the Schools' Vice-President.
- 23.3. Where a team believes that this rule has been breached, a representative of that team must notify the QDU in writing of its belief.
- 23.4. Adjudicators may also report teams believed to be in breach of rule 23.1
- 23.5. The Schools' Vice-President will determine whether or not a team is held to have breached this rule.

## **24 Unsportsmanlike Behaviour**

- 24.1. Debaters must behave in an appropriate manner at all times.
- 24.2. Debaters must not attend earlier debates:
- a. Debaters must not attend earlier debates in the same grade and in the same round.
  - b. For the purposes of Rule 24.2(a), this includes team members who are not speaking in that round.
  - c. Where a team believes that this rule has been breached, a representative of that team must notify the QDU in writing of its belief.
  - d. The Schools' Vice-President will determine whether or not a team is held to have breached this rule.
  - e. Breach of this will be penalised at the discretion of the Schools' Vice-President.
- 24.3. Disturbing speakers during a debate
- a. Members of the audience are not permitted to act in any manner intended to disturb a speaker during the debate.
  - b. Breach of this rule will be penalised at the discretion of the Schools' Vice-President. This may include deeming that the team affiliated with the audience member has forfeited the debate.:
  - c. Where a team suspects that this rule has been breached, it is the responsibility of the team alleging the breach to notify the Schools' Vice-President.
  - d. No discussion is to be entered into with the adjudicator as to whether or not this Rule 24.3 has been breached. The debate and adjudication will continue as normal. However, it is the duty of the adjudicator to call audience and team members to order as they deem necessary.
  - e. Any team seeking to invoke the application of this Rule 24.3 must make an application to that effect in writing to the Schools' Vice-President.
  - f. The Schools' Vice-President will determine whether or not a team is held to have breached this rule.
- 24.4. Debaters are not permitted under any circumstances to use electronic devices during debates. This includes, but is not limited to, tablets, computers and mobile phones. Teams found to be in breach of this rule by the Schools' Vice-President will be deemed to have forfeited the debate without notice.

## **25 Electronic Recording of Debates**

- 25.1. No recording of any description of debates will be allowed by schools, parents, teachers, coaches or any member of the general public.
- 25.2. QDU may record debates to comply with Australian Debating Federation regulation and requirements. The QDU may also record debates as and when necessary for training purposes or to compile training materials.
- 25.3. Breach of this rule will disqualify a school and/or team from the competition.

- 25.4. Where a team believes that this rule has been breached, a representative of that team must notify the Schools' Vice-President in writing of its belief.
- 25.5. The Schools' Vice-President will determine whether or not a team is held to have breached this rule.

## **26 Junior Round Robin Competition**

- 26.1. Unless otherwise stated, all rules listed above also apply to the Junior Round Robin Competition.
- 26.2. No Finals Series will be held for the Junior Round Robin Competition.
- 26.3. Schools are not required to return completed Results Report forms for Junior Round Robin debates.

## **27 General Rules**

- 27.1. The adjudicator may give general directions as to the conduct of the debate (e.g. ringing of bells, seating, names on blackboards and so forth).
- 27.2. Adjudicators may refer any suspected breach of these rules to the Schools' Vice-President.
- 27.3. An adjudicator must not make decisions as to breaches of these rules unless they have been expressly empowered to make such decisions under these rules or in writing from the Schools' Vice President.
- 27.4. The Schools' Vice-President may make such enquiries as are necessary to investigate complaints or breaches of these rules. Schools must comply with any reasonable request of the Schools' Vice-President in this regard.

## **28 Final Series**

- 28.1. The Schools' Vice President shall determine teams to be invited to take part in the finals series of the Queensland Schools' Competition.
- 28.2. The Schools Vice President may have regard to results, breaches of these rules, postponements, forfeits, outstanding monies owing, other complaints or any other matter in determining if a team may be invited to take part in the finals.
- 28.3. The Schools' Vice President may make any such conditions as they see fit to Schools or teams taking part in the Final Series.
- 28.4. There will be no postponements in the finals series.
- 28.5. Where an adjudicator is not present within 30 minutes of the time scheduled for the debate, Rule 15.3 will not apply. Instead, the QDU will make alternative arrangements for the holding of that debate.

## **29 Short Preparation (Secret Subject) Debates**

- 29.1. It is the responsibility of teams to be present at the venue to receive the secret topic 60 minutes prior to the commencement of the debate. A team that arrives after the release of the topics shall be entitled to receive only the remainder of the preparation time, not the full 60 minutes.

- 29.2. Teams must not attempt to receive prior notification of content of the secret topic. Any attempt to do so may, subject to the discretion of the School's Vice President, result in that team being deemed to have forfeited the debate.
- 29.3. Teams may have a maximum of 4 students in each preparation room.
- 29.4. Teams must not look at their topics until they have entered their allotted preparation rooms.
- 29.5. From the release of the topic until the debate is declared open by the chairperson, no communication may be conducted between the four team members and parents, coaches or other persons who are not one of the four team members entering the preparation room. For the purpose of this section, "communication" includes but is not limited, to electronic, verbal, non-verbal and written communication.
- 29.6. Team members are permitted to leave the preparation room to attend a restroom, but must remain compliant with Rule 29.5 at all times.
- 29.7. Subject to Rule 29.6 any student who intends to participate in the preparation of the debate must be present with the rest of their team when the topic is released, and enter the preparation room with their team.
- 29.8. Subject to Rules 29.9 and 29.10, any student who arrives after their team has entered the preparation room shall not be permitted to enter.
- 29.9. If only two team members are present at the time of topic release:
  - a. Those two team members are permitted to wait up to 30 minutes for a third member of their team to arrive. The team is not permitted to enter the preparation room until the third team member has arrived.
  - b. If there are not at least three members of a team present within 30 minutes of topic release, that team will be deemed to have forfeited the debate without notice.
  - c. If a third member arrives within thirty minutes, the team will have the option to elect to begin preparation or wait for the fourth member of their team to arrive.
  - d. If the team elects to enter the preparation room upon the arrival of the third team member, the fourth team member will not be allowed to enter the preparation room.
  - e. If the fourth team member is excluded from the preparation room under d) above, they are still permitted to act as the timekeeper or chairperson for their team during the debate.
- 29.10. If there are three team members presents at the time of topic release, those team members can elect to either:
  - a. Enter the preparation room without the fourth team member. The fourth member will not be allowed to enter the room upon their arrival if the team chooses this option; or
  - b. Wait up to fifteen minutes for the fourth member to arrive. If they elect to wait, they are not allowed to open the topic or begin preparation. If the fourth team member has not arrived within 15 minutes, the team will be directed to enter the preparation room with only three members. The fourth team member will not be allowed to enter the preparation room regardless of when they arrive if their

team has entered the preparation room. The fourth team member will still be permitted to act as chairperson or time keeper during the debate.

- 29.11. Items and materials that are permitted in the room are limited to:
- a. Writing materials (Pens, pencils, highlighters, rulers, whiteout, erasers).
  - b. Blank paper and palm cards (These must not contain any written content including words and prompts like "definition", "ethos").
  - c. One unannotated dictionary
  - d. A stop watch or wristwatch (No other equipment capable of timing).
  - e. Water bottles (subject to the school rules at the venue).
- 29.12. All items intended to be used in the room must be in the possession of team members at the time of topic release.
- 29.13. No other written materials or electronic equipment including, but not limited to, laptops, mobile phones, and PDA's are permitted in the room.
- 29.14. There is to be no writing on the blackboards or whiteboards in the preparation room under any circumstance.
- 29.15. In the event that a team member has any item other than those permitted in 29.11, in their possession, the team member must remove it from their possession prior to entering the preparation room.
- 29.16. In the event that a preparation room, prior to a team entering it, contains materials not allowed in the preparation room, pursuant to 29.11, the team must not touch or engage with the material or equipment.
- 29.17. If a student wishes to use the bathroom during their preparation time, they must notify the venue coordinator if possible. All of the QDU rules concerning conduct during short preparation debates continue to apply to students who leave their preparation room to use the bathroom.
- 29.18. Students should not leave their short preparation rooms until the commencement of the debate unless it is to use the bathroom or in the event of an emergency.
- 29.19. Any alleged breach of this Rule 29 should immediately be brought to the attention of the venue coordinator, and subsequently by the complainant to the QDU Schools' Vice-President in writing. The written complaint must contain:
- a. (a) The date, topic and grade of the debate;
  - b. (b) The names of the teams debating and the team members;
  - c. (c) The name of the adjudicator;  
*(N.B: adjudicator names are posted outside the door of the room in which the debate is held.)*
  - d. (d) The name of the venue coordinator;
  - e. (e) The details of the complaint, including any action taken on the night;
  - f. (f) The name and telephone number of the complainant.
- 29.20. If an alleged breach of Rule 29 is brought to the attention of the venue coordinator, he/she may investigate the alleged breach and request that the accused parties stop the alleged misconduct. Regardless of the outcome of any investigation,



the debate involving the accused parties must continue and be decided upon on the merits of the debate, not factoring into account any alleged misconduct. Any disciplinary action shall be taken by or in accordance with the directions of the Schools' Vice President, not the venue coordinator.

- 29.21. The Schools' Vice-President may, in their sole discretion, deem a team to have forfeited a debate, where the team is found by the Schools' Vice- President to have breached any of the Rules in this section.

## 2016 Fees Schedule

### Fines and Penalties – All Competitions

*(NO GST is payable on any fines and/or penalties imposed as per ATO ruling GSTD2005/6)*

#### Withdrawal Fees

Team withdrawal after nomination	\$150.00
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#### Forfeit Fines

Forfeit notified to QDU in writing prior to 5.00pm the day before a scheduled debate	\$50.00
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Forfeit notified to QDU in writing after 5.00pm the day before a scheduled debate or NO SHOW	\$100.00
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#### Postponement Penalties

Any postponement notified to the QDU in writing more than two weeks prior to Round 1 of the competition	No Charge
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More than one month prior to the scheduled debate but not meeting the above requirement	\$25.00
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More than two weeks written notice but less than one month prior to the scheduled debate	\$40.00
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#### Notes:

*Schools requesting a postponement will only be charged the appropriate fee if and when the request is granted by the QDU Schools' Vice-President in all cases. If the postponement request is denied, then failure to debate will result in the relevant forfeit fine being applied.*

***Exceptional circumstances waiver will still apply as per QDU rules.***