

**MELANESIAN SCHOOL
DEBATE**

**OFFICIAL
DEBATING
RULE BOOK**

FOR THE MELANESIAN SCHOOL DEBATE 2015

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1.0 Students:

Students eligible to participate in the MSD debates competition must:

- 1.1 Be enrolled in a registered government or private secondary school of their representative country.
- 1.2 Be aged between 16 – 19 years on the 1st of January 2015 (born in 1996,'97,'98, '99)
- 1.3 Be a valid citizen or legitimate resident of the country they are competing for.
- 1.4 Will present their passport at the beginning of the MSD to confirm age and nationality. Should students not have a passport (if they are in the host country they will provide a valid birth certificate).

2.0 Teams

Teams competing in the MSDC:

- 2.1 Will comprise of 3 members within each debate.
- 2.2 Can have a maximum of 6 travelling students
- 2.3 Will have least one female and at least one male
- 2.4 May substitute speakers between rounds.
- 2.5 May not substitute speakers once a debate has commenced.

3.0 Adjudicators

Adjudicators shall:

- 3.1 Be selected and approved by PIPP and the MSDC committee.
- 3.2 Be objective and neutral, not influenced by preconceived opinions of the motion or teams.
- 3.3 Be committed to scheduled debates and arrive at least 15 minutes prior to any debate they are adjudicating.
- 3.4 Have expert knowledge and understanding of the Official MSDC Adjudicator Criteria and Rules
- 3.5 Complete the official MSDC Adjudicator Criteria sheet to the best of their ability during the proceeding of the debate. The criteria sheet should not be left and filled out at the conclusion of the debate. Criteria sheet's must have a complete score for every team.
- 3.6 Not display hostile or inappropriate behavior towards debating teams, fellow adjudicators, chair or the audience.
- 3.7 Not take into account any arguments made after the debate. Should there be a question and answer session after the debate, these points will influence the final decision.

- 3.8 As a unanimous body agree on a winning team and best speaker for each debate. This result does not need to be based on total points awarded to teams.
- 3.10 Provide a useful constructive feedback to students after the debate. Feedback should not be overly negative or personal.

4.0 Chair

Chair shall:

- 4.1 Be selected and approved by PIPP and the MSDC committee.
- 4.2 Be committed to scheduled debates and arrive at least 15 minutes prior to any debate they are to chair.
- 4.3 Have expert knowledge and understanding of the Official MSDC Rules and respective roles.
- 4.4 Oversee debate competition; organise teams, adjudicators and timekeeper
- 4.5 Ensure the debate runs smoothly at all times
- 4.6 Regulate behavior of all present during the debate. Ensure a quiet environment for speakers to present, monitor and intervene obscene behavior, personal remarks, mocking or any other behavior at contradicts MSDC rules.
- 4.7 Moderate any formal question time held after the debate.
- 4.8 At the conclusion of the debate, collect the adjudicator criteria forms and establish an “adjudicators average score” for each team. Each adjudicator criteria sheet will have a total score for each team. To find the “adjudicators average score” add a teams total scores together, and divide by the number of adjudicators. This ensures a score that is the median, representative of all adjudicators to eliminates bias.

5.0 Debate

- 5.1 Two Teams of **three** persons each will participate in each debate. One team will be “for the Motion - Affirmative” and the other team “against the Motion - negative”.
- 5.2 There will be one chair, one time keeper and at least two adjudicators.
- 5.3 The debate will always commence with the affirmative team
- 5.4 Each speaker will be given a maximum of **6** minutes to talk. After 5 minutes a 1 minute card will be shown by the time keeper to signify “last minute”.
- 5.5 A 10 Second card will be held at 5minute 50 to indicate that the student must wrap up their debate.
- 5.6 A Stop card will be held up at the 6 minute mark to indicate that the student has run out of time and need to finish.
- 5.7 Students will be penalized for going severely under or over time (30 seconds +). If students go well under time they also risk the chance on losing points in terms of content.
- 5.8 Content presented after the 6 minute mark will still be considered, although the speaker will lose points for timing.
- 5.9 Students are not permitted to read from whole sheets of paper. Palm cards are permitted.
- 5.10 Students are permitted to take notes during other speakers, however must remain respectful to the other team
- 5.11 Inflammatory language, or personal remarks are not permitted

- 5.12 During the debate, after each speaker presents a maximum of 1 minute will be given to allow adjudicators to finalise their scoring.
- 5.13 At the conclusion of both team's cases, adjudicators will be given as much time as needed (within reason) to come to a consensus.
- 5.14 There will always be a winning and a losing team. There cannot be a draw. The result will be announced as soon as the adjudicators have come to a decision in all debates.
- 5.15 The adjudicators will come to a decision together. Once a decision has been made it cannot be un-made or challenged.
- 5.16 After each debate, adjudicators must present constructive feedback to each team. 5.17 Every debate there will be a best speaker awarded. The best speaker can come from the winning or losing team. It does not have to be based on points, but must be agreed upon by all adjudicators.
- 5.18 At the conclusion of the debate, the chair will complete an "adjudicators average score" for each team. Each adjudicator criteria sheet will have a total score for each team. To find the "adjudicators average score" add a team's total scores together, and divide by the number of adjudicators. This ensures a score that is the median – and eliminates bias. This score will not impact on the result of the debate. It is used only in case of a draw after the round robins to establish Grand Finalists.

6.0 Competition Format

The MSDC 2015 competition format shall be:

- 6.1 Agreed to be all members of the MSDC committee
- 6.2 Consisting of a round robin competition followed by a grand final.
- 6.3 All components of the round robin (topics, teams and dates) will be selected in a random and transparent method to ensure fairness.
- 6.4 Each competing nation will put forward only 1 team each
- 6.5 Each team must debate against all teams once only during the round robin.
- 6.6 During the round robins, teams will be awarded 1 competition point for a win and 0 competition points for a loss.
- 6.7 Points will be accumulated through the round robin stages. The two teams with the highest number of competition points will move through to compete in the grand final.
- 6.8 In the event of a tie in competition points, the team with the highest total of "average adjudicator scores" will progress to the final.

7.0 Teachers and coaching

- 7.1 Students will come up with all material to be presented in their debate independent of a teacher or external aid.
- 7.2 Teachers will not provide content to the students to include in their debate. This includes resources, themes, arguments or other content related assistance.
- 7.3 Teachers can assist in the technicalities of debating – including providing feedback on presentation, style and structure of the debate. Their role is to support students to follow the rules of debating.
- 7.4 Shall not coach or aid their students during a debate.

- 7.5 Shall not dispute the final decision of the adjudicators.
- 7.6 Shall respect teacher/ student codes whilst traveling with teams.
- 7.7 Are responsible for traveling students at all times.

8.0 Host country

The host country will:

- 8.1 Coordinate Skype meetings with all participating countries in the organisation prior to the event
- 8.2 Work with the MSD committee to establish a suitable date for the competition
- 8.3 Finalise competition dates at least 2 months prior to the scheduled competition.
- 8.4 Provide accommodation, transport and other logistical information at least 2 months prior to the event, including a detailed estimate of how much funding countries will need during the competition for their own teams.
- 8.5 Provide competition formats and topics at least one month prior to the event.
- 8.6 Be responsible for all in country preparations for the debate including venue, media and transport.
- 8.7 Develop strict competition rules and selection criteria, with input from the MSD committee.
- 8.8 Work with the MSD committee to source neutral adjudicators that are agreed upon by all, and are representative of the nations competing.
- 8.9 Develop a comprehensive competition schedule that will be available to all teams.
- 8.10 Post competition, will produce a comprehensive evaluation report that notes all successes, challenges and areas to improve for next time, including adjustments to the competition rule book.
- 8.11 Has no obligation to fund any part of the traveling team's expenses.
- 8.12 Is not responsible for the health and safety of traveling students outside of the competition hours.

COMPLETE GUIDE TO DEBATING

ADJUDICATOR CRITERIA

Adjudicators should be selected on the following criteria:

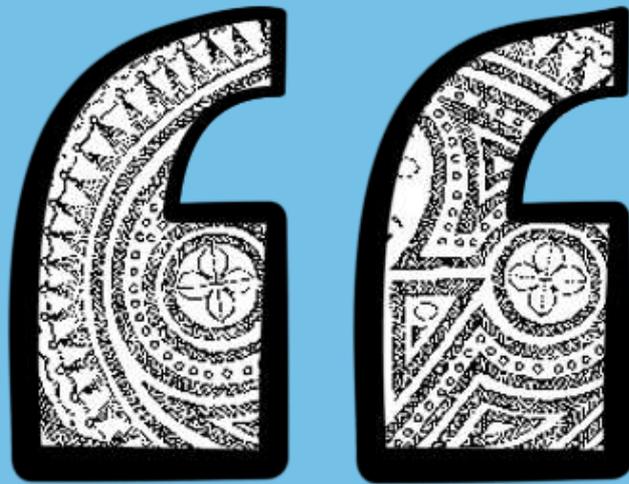
- The adjudicators are approved by PIPP and the MSDC committee
- Display confidence in English; written and spoken
- Be selected on the basis that there is no vested interest in the two teams competing
- Have a well-grounded understanding of a debate and the rules to debating.
- Be familiar with the adjudicator criteria sheet and all categories within it.
- Be well organised and able to listen and mark at the same time

Representative Adjudicators

To ensure a balanced panel of adjudicators, each participating county will have the opportunity to nominate 1 or 2 adjudicators to participate in the event competition. The nominated adjudicator must comply with all of the above criteria, and must also be approved by PiPP and the MSD committee. The host county, Vanuatu, will not provide any international transport or accommodation assistance. It is recommended that the nominated candidate be already based in Port Vila.

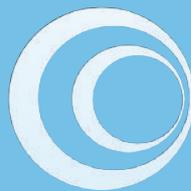
Chair Selection Criteria

- Chairs should be selected on the following criteria:
- The chair is approved by PIPP and the MSDC committee
- Display confidence in English; written and spoken
- Does not necessarily have to be neutral (can be a representative of one of the schools teams) but must be fair and have the ability to chair without favoritism.
- Have an excellent understanding of a debate and the rules to debating.



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