



**VANUATU SCHOOL
DEBATE**

OFFICIAL DEBATE RULE BOOK

FOR THE VANUATU SCHOOL DEBATE 2016

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Students:

Students eligible to participate in the debates competition must:

- Be enrolled in year 10-13 (Anglophone) and year 10-14 (Francophone) in a registered government run or private secondary school. Schools that only have up to grade 10 are permitted to enter students from year 8-9.
- **Are permitted to compete again even if they competed in previous years**

Teams

- Each team will comprise of 3 members per debate.
- Each team will have least one female and at least one male. .
- All teams should have at least 1-2 reserves in case of illness or absence.
- Speakers may be substituted between rounds.
- Speakers may not be substituted during a debate.

Adjudicators

Adjudicators shall:

- Be objective and neutral, not influenced by preconceived opinions of the motion or teams. Have expert knowledge and understanding of the adjudicators judging criteria and rules of debating, including the glossary of terms.
- Complete the adjudicator judging criteria sheet independently, 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.
- Not take into account any arguments made after the debate. Should there be a question and answer session after the debate, these points cannot be included in the final decision.
- Provide a useful constructive feedback to students that is not overly negative
- Not display non-hostile or inappropriate behavior towards debating teams

Chair

Chair shall:

- Ensure the debate runs smoothly
- Manage and coordinate the debate and delegate duties including timekeeper.
- Regulate behavior of all present during the debate to ensure a quiet environment for speakers to present.
- Monitor and intervene to obscene behavior, personal remarks or mocking.

Debate:

- Two Teams of three persons each will participate in each debate.
- **Each speaker will be given a maximum of 5 minutes to talk.**
- Students are not permitted to read from whole sheets of paper. Palm cards are permitted.
- One team will be “for the Motion - Affirmative” and the other team “against the Motion - negative”.
- The debate will always commence with the affirmative team
- After 4 minutes a 1 minute card will be shown by the time keeper to signify “last minute”.
- A 10 Second card will be held at 4min 50 to indicate that the student must wrap up their debate.
- A Stop card will be held up to indicate that the student has run out of time and needs to conclude their debate.
- 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.
- Content presented after the 5 minute mark will still be considered, although the speaker will lose points for timing.
- Students are permitted to take notes during other speakers, however must remain respectful to the other team.
- Inflammatory language, or personal remarks are not permitted After each speaker a maximum of 1 minute will be given to allow adjudicators to finalise their scoring.
- At the conclusion of both team’s cases adjudicators will be given as much time as needed (within reason) to come to a consensus.
- There will always be a winning and a losing team. There cannot be a draw.
- The adjudicators must come to a decision together. Once a decision has been made it cannot be un-made or challenged.
- Every debate there will be a best speaker awarded. The best speaker can come from the winning or losing team. It does not necessarily have to be based on points.