

**PRELIMINARY ROUND  
PRIME MINISTER'S CHALLENGE TROPHY**

**ENGLISH DEBATE  
RULES AND REGULATIONS  
2017**

**1.0 NAME OF COMPETITION:**

**1.1** The competition is known as **The English Language Debates, Prime Minister's Challenge Trophy, Hari Kecemerlangan Sekolah Berasrama Penuh Kementerian Pendidikan Malaysia.**

**1.2** The preliminary rounds are held to choose teams eligible to the final round of the Prime Minister's Challenge Trophy Debate, in conjunction with the 44th Hari Kecemerlangan Sekolah Berasrama Penuh 2017

**2.0 ELIGIBILITY :**

**2.1** The competition is open to all government-aided fully residential schools of the Ministry of Education.

**2.2** Each school is allowed to send only one team to participate in the competition.

**2.3** Each registered team shall comprise of a maximum of four (4) members, including a reserve debater. No change in line-ups is allowed shall the team be eligible for the National HKSBP 2017.

**2.4** The registration of the team members shall be officially endorsed by the Contingent Leader and duly submitted to the organizing committee on the registration day.

**2.5** The eligibility of the registered team members is strictly non-transferable throughout the whole duration of the debate competition. Any breach or infringement of this rule shall result in the team being disqualified.

**2.6** A team must be represented by students currently studying in their respective schools.

**2.7** Each team member **shall not be above 18 years of age** on January 1 of the competition year and it is the onus of the team members to furnish documentary proof (in the form of identity cards) to the Speaker before the start of the debate.

**2.8** Only one (1) non-bumiputera student is allowed to be part of the team.

**3.0 PARTICIPATION**

**3.1** Each school shall be represented by a team consisting of three (3) main debaters and one (1) reserve.

**3.2** The proposing team shall be known as the **Government** and shall compete against the opposing team, the **Opposition**.

**3.3** The first Government speaker is the **Prime Minister**. The following two Government speakers are the **Second** and the **Third Minister**. The first

Opposition speaker is the **Opposition Leader**, while the subsequent two Opposition speakers are the **Second** and the **Third Opposition**.

### 3.4 Allocation of time and speaking order:

NO	GOVERNMENT	TIME	NO	OPPOSITION	TIME
1	The Prime Minister	8 minutes	2	Opposition Leader	8 minutes
3	2 <sup>nd</sup> Minister	7 minutes	4	2 <sup>nd</sup> Opposition	7 minutes
5	3 <sup>rd</sup> Minister	7 minutes	6	3 <sup>rd</sup> Opposition	7 minutes
8	Reply Speech by Prime Minister or 2 <sup>nd</sup> Minister	4 minutes	7	Reply Speech by Opposition Leader or 2 <sup>nd</sup> Opposition	4 minutes

**3.5** The first and second debaters from both teams shall introduce ONE argument. The third debater **SHALL NOT** introduce any new argument, as his role is to rebut and to reaffirm their case.

**3.6** While a debater is speaking, the opposing team can offer “Point(s) of Information” (formal interjection) from the second minute (2<sup>nd</sup>) minute onwards up to the seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) minute for the first speaker, and sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) minute for the second and third speakers. The debater may accept or decline it **politely**. No heckling, harassment or barracking is allowed at any time during the debate.

**3.7** After the three debaters of each team have spoken, the first (1<sup>st</sup>) or second (2<sup>nd</sup>) debater of each side shall deliver the Reply Speech with the Opposition having the first say and the Government, the final say.

## 4.0 COMPETITION SYSTEM

**4.1** The competition would implement the “Power Match” system. The system is used to determine a team’s opponent and their roles, either as the government or the opposition in the debate.

**4.2** The preliminary rounds consist of 3 matches. The team matchup for the first debate will be determined randomly. After the first debate, the position of each team will be established according to the following criteria:

- 4.2.1** Win / Lose
- 4.2.2** Jury
- 4.2.3** Margin
- 4.2.4** Marks

- 4.3 The best eight (8) schools from each zone, as well as the best three teams from the SQL zone are eligible to the National HKSBP in SM Sains Banting.
- 4.4 Through the “Power Match” system, there are possibilities that a team may meet another team more than once.

## 5.0 ADJUDICATION

- 5.1 Adjudicators for the English Language Debate Competition must be English Language teachers from the respective zones of the Fully Residential Schools, Ministry of Education, Malaysia.
- 5.2 The adjudicators should comprise of an odd-numbered panel. At the preliminary rounds, an odd-number panel of at least **three (3) adjudicators** shall judge all debates.
- 5.3 The Technical Committee shall brief the adjudicators on the rules and regulations of the debate before each debate starts.
- 5.4 Appointed adjudicators for respective debate sessions must attend and discharge their duties during the competition. The attendance of the adjudicators will be recorded. A copy of their respective attendance shall be distributed to their respective Principals.
- 5.5 In the event that **an adjudicator is unable to discharge his/her duties** for a particular debate, **the onus lies on the adjudicators concerned to inform the organizing committee immediately.** The adjudicator concerned shall furnish the organizing committee with medical certificate (if applicable) or other relevant documents. **Non-compliance with this clause shall result in the adjudicator concerned being issued a show-cause letter by the Fully Residential Schools and Cluster Schools Management Division, Ministry of Education, Malaysia** (Bahagian Pengurusan Sekolah Berasrama Penuh dan Sekolah Kluster, Kementerian Pendidikan Malaysia).
- 5.6 **Adjudicators shall observe the official dress code and maintain the decorum of adjudication.** T-shirts and jeans are deemed inappropriate attire. Short skirts and blouses with plunging necklines are strictly forbidden for female adjudicators. It is imperative for male adjudicators to wear neckties and they are encouraged to wear long-sleeved shirts.
- 5.7 Adjudicators shall not judge the team from their own schools.
- 5.8 The Chief Adjudicator shall verify, validate and sign the overall Debate Result Slip and announce the winner of the debate and the Best Speaker.
- 5.9 Adjudicators shall not discuss on the verdict of the debate. They shall only confer to decide on the margin and the best speaker. The Speaker shall collect the Result Slips and all relevant documents from the adjudicators at the end of each debate.
- 5.10 The adjudicators must reach the decision of win or loss. No draw decision is allowed.

- 5.11 At the end of each debate round, the Chief Adjudicator shall announce the following :
- 5.11.1 Win/ Loss
  - 5.11.2 Jury
  - 5.11.3 Margin
  - 5.11.4 Best Speaker
- 5.12 The adjudicators shall reach either a unanimous (3-0) or a split (2-1) decision at the end of the debate. No amendments to the decision is allowed after the announcement of the results.
- 5.13 **The best speaker is determined via Jury System.** In the event that a consensus cannot be reached, the chief adjudicator shall look at the highest overall marks of the candidates. In the case of a tie, he or she will refer to the highest marks for substance. The Chief Adjudicator will announce the Best Speaker at the end of each debate.
- 5.14 **All adjudicators are required** to give comments of no longer than one minute after each debate.
- 5.15 The comments of the adjudicators should focus on the strengths and weaknesses pertaining to substance, language as well as strategy and style. Comments should be personal comments directed on any of the debaters.

## 6.0 OBJECTIONS

- 6.1 In the event that a team disagrees with the result of a particular debate, a **written objection** shall be issued within **30 minutes** after the result is announced. Objections shall be issued to the Appeal Panel, comprising of BPSBPSK officers, as well as members of the Debate Technical Committee.
- 6.2 Only the **accompanying teacher** present in the debate venue shall issue the written objection.
- 6.3 A fee of RM200 is applicable for each objection.
- 6.4 The said fee is non-refundable if the objection is overturned. The fee will be channelled to the hosting school for the management and expenditure of the competition.

## 7.0 STRUCTURE OF THE DEBATE COMPETITION

### 7.1 THE DEBATE PROCESS

- 7.1.1 All competing schools will receive a list of motions which have been decided upon by the Technical Committee of the HKSBP English Language Debates, Prime Minister's Trophy.
- 7.1.2 Each team shall **draw the stand fifteen (15) minutes before the debate starts**. All members of the team must be present during each ballot. If the opponent team fails to show up **after ten (10) minutes**, the waiting team will get the advantage to choose the stand.

- 7.1.3** Only the team members competing (i.e. the 3 main debaters and 1 reserve) shall be allowed to be in the quarantine room. Teachers, trainers, family members and supporters are strictly prohibited from the vicinity.
- 7.1.4** Any attempts to undermine or breach the security of the quarantine room(s) or any act(s) that cause(s) the sanctity of the quarantine room to be brought into disrepute whether intended or otherwise during the quarantine period is tantamount to a serious and gross violation of the rules and regulations governing the debate competition. The organizing committee reserves the right to take necessary measures it may deem fit and bring it to the attention of the Debate Technical Committee for further action against the offending party/parties.
- 7.1.5** The team **is not be allowed** to use **reference materials and access the internet via laptops** in the quarantine room and during the debate sessions. The use of **handphones and other electronic devices is strictly prohibited during the quarantine and the debate**. Laptops are not provided by the host school. **The host school shall not be held responsible for any unseen circumstances such as internet connection failure etc.**
- 7.1.6** Each team is advised to bring their portable modems to ensure continuous internet access while preparing the debate.
- 7.1.7** 15 minutes will be allocated for quarantine.
- 7.1.8** **Assistance in any way or manner from the audience, trainers, teachers and supporters is strictly prohibited during the debate**. The Chief Adjudicator shall be empowered to take any action deemed fit and necessary to protect the sanctity and validity of the debate and most of all to ensure fair play.
- 7.1.9** Any forms of recording (audio, video etc) is prohibited during the course of the debate

## **7.2 ROLE OF THE SPEAKER**

- 7.2.1** A Chairperson who shall be addressed as Mr. Speaker or Madam Speaker will chair each debate.
- 7.2.2** The Speaker shall introduce the timekeepers, adjudicators, and the debaters prior to the start of the debate. The Speaker shall refrain from mentioning the names of the schools of both the debating teams and the adjudicators.
- 7.2.3** The Speaker is responsible for the smooth running of the debate. The Speaker is responsible to invite the debaters to speak, to keep the occasion in order and subject to these rules, to make any decision about any aspect of the disputed debating procedures.
- 7.2.4** The Speaker shall read out the rules of the debate.

- 7.2.5** The Speaker shall refrain from making any comments concerning the debate or the debaters during the debate.
- 7.2.6** Should the Speaker notice any assistance given to any of the debaters, he or she shall inform the Chief Adjudicator for further action against errant violators. The Chief Adjudicator shall be empowered to evict the offending party/parties from the debate room to ensure that a fair and conducive atmosphere prevails at the debate venue.
- 7.2.7** The Speaker shall ensure that adjudicators are given ample time to fill in the marks before the next debater is called upon to deliver his or her speech. The Speaker shall await the signal from the Chief Adjudicator before proceeding to the next debater.
- 7.2.8** At the end of the debate, the Speaker shall invite all the adjudicators to give their comments before the Chief Adjudicator announces the results.

### **7.3 THE ROLE OF THE TIME-KEEPER**

- 7.3.1** The time-keeper shall ensure that eight (8) minutes are given to the 1<sup>st</sup> Speakers to deliver his/her speech. The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Speakers will be given seven (7) minutes to deliver their speeches.
- 7.3.2** The time-keeper shall ring the bell once after the first (1<sup>st</sup>) minute and at the end of the seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) minute to indicate the time allocated to the 1<sup>st</sup> Speakers for the points of information. The time-keeper shall ring the bell once after the first (1<sup>st</sup>) minute and at the end of the sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) minute to indicate the time allocated to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Speakers for the points of information. At the end of the eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) and seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) minute, the bell shall be rung twice. The time-keeper shall indicate the remaining time left, at intervals of 1 minute by displaying placards.
- 7.3.3** During the Reply Speech, the time-keeper shall ring the bell once at the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) minute to indicate that the debater has one (1) minute left. At the end of the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) minute, the bell shall be rung twice to indicate the end of the Reply Speech.

## 8.0 TECHNICAL RULES AND GUIDELINES OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEBATES

### 8.1 PRIMARY DEBATER ROLES

GOVERNMENT	OPPOSITION
<p><b>PRIME MINISTER (8 Minutes)</b></p> <p>i. Deliver Opening (to get audience's attention)</p> <p>ii. Provide definition of the motion (Who, What, Where, When, How)</p> <p>iii. Signpost Team Structure (What arguments will the government team be making)</p> <p>iv. Present Argument 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- State, Explain, Illustrate/</li> <li>- Assert, Reasoning, Example</li> </ul> <p>v. Provide a summary of what you have said.</p>	<p><b>OPPOSITION LEADER (8 Minutes)</b></p> <p>i. Deliver Opening</p> <p>ii. Agree or refute definition</p> <p>iii. Signpost Team Structure</p> <p>iv. Rebuttal of the Prime Minister Speech arguments</p> <p>v. Present Argument 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- State, Explain, Illustrate/</li> <li>- Assert, Reasoning, Example</li> </ul> <p>vi. Provide a summary of what you have said.</p>
<p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> MINISTER (7 Minutes)</b></p> <p>i. Deliver Opening</p> <p>ii. Rebuttal to Opposition Leader Speech argument (respond to each of the opposition arguments)</p> <p>iii. Present Argument:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Argument 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- State, Explain, Illustrate/</li> <li>- Assert, Reason, Example</li> </ul> <p>iv. Provide a summary of what you have said.</p>	<p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> OPPOSITION (7 Minutes)</b></p> <p>i. Deliver Opening</p> <p>ii. Rebuttal to 2<sup>nd</sup> Minister Speech argument</p> <p>iii. Present Argument:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Argument 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- State, Explain, Illustrate/</li> <li>- Assert, Reason, Example</li> </ul> <p>iv. Provide a summary of what you have said.</p>

### 3<sup>rd</sup> MINISTER (7 Minutes)

- i. Deliver Opening
- ii. Signpost Thematic Structure including:
  - a. **Rebut** the most important argument made by Opposition Leader and 2<sup>nd</sup> Opposition
  - b. **Rebuild** arguments made by Prime Minister and 2<sup>nd</sup> Minister which have been dealt with by Opposition
  - c. **Restate** arguments made by Government which have not been dealt with by the Opposition
- iii. Provide a summary of what you have said.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> OPPOSITION (7 Minutes)

- i. Deliver Opening
- ii. Signpost Thematic Structure including:
  - a. **Rebut** the most important arguments made by the Prime Minister and 2<sup>nd</sup> Minister
  - b. **Rebuild** arguments made by Opposition Leader and 2<sup>nd</sup> Opposition which have been dealt with by Proposition
  - c. **Restate** arguments made by Opposition which have not been dealt with by the Government
- iii. Provide a summary of what you have said.

### GOVERNMENT REPLY SPEECH (4 Minutes)

- i. Provide Opening
- ii. Present Summary of issues
  - Theme 1
  - Theme 2
- iii. Why Government has won all of the areas.

### OPPOSITION REPLY SPEECH (4 Minutes)

- i. Provide Opening
- ii. Present Summary of issues
  - Theme 1
  - Theme 2
- iii. Why Opposition has won all the areas.

#### NOTE:

- Weightage- refers to how much effort (importance) and time a debater should allocate for each aspect of his role. The percentage figure does not refer to the marks awarded.
- Marks will be awarded based on the overall performance of a debater under the different categories such as Substance, Style, Strategy, and Language

## 9.0 SUMMARY OF THE MARKING STANDARD (ASSESSMENT SCHEME)

### 9.1 PRIMARY SPEECHES – 8 & 7 MINUTES

Marks shall be awarded to each debater under the following categories:

a) Substance	=	30 marks
b) Strategy	=	30 marks
c) Language	=	20 marks
d) Style	=	20 marks

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Total = 100 marks

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Each debater shall be given 8 & 7 minutes to deliver his/her speech.

#### Guidelines for the Marking Scale.

STANDARD		TOTAL	SUBSTANCE	STYLE	STRATEGY	LANGUAGE
(MINIMUM)		(100)	(30)	(20)	(30)	(20)
<b>A</b>	Excellent	80 - 85	25-28	17-18	25-28	17-18
<b>B</b>	Good	70 - 79	21-24	15-16	21-25	15-17
<b>C</b>	Average	60 - 69	16-20	12-14	16-20	12-14
<b>D</b>	Fair	50 - 59	11-15	9-11	11-15	9-11
<b>E</b>	Poor	40 - 49	6-10	6-8	6-10	6-8

## 9.2 REPLY SPEECHES – 4 MINUTES

9.2.1 Marks shall be awarded to each debater under the following categories:

- a) Final Rebuttals = 25 marks  
 b) Summing up = 25 marks

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 Total = 50 marks  
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9.2.2 Either the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> debater from each team shall deliver the Reply Speech. The Opposition shall deliver the Reply Speech first, followed by the Government.

9.2.3 Each debater shall be given four (4) minutes to deliver his/her speech.

### 9.2.4 Guidelines for the Marking Scale

STANDARD (MINIMUM)		TOTAL (50)	FINAL REBUTTAL (25)	SUMMING UP (25)
<b>A</b>	Excellent	36-38	19-23	19-23
<b>B</b>	Good	20-35	10-18	10-18
<b>C</b>	Average	10-19	5-9	5-9

MARGIN	MEANING
1 – 4 marks	CLOSE - A very close debate, with only minor differences.
5 – 9 marks	CLEAR - A relatively clear decision with one team having an obvious advantage.
10 – 12 marks	THRASHING – A very clear win, with the losing team probably having failed in one or more fundamental aspects of its argument or presentation.

## **10.0 REFERENCES FOR ADJUDICATION FORMS**

### **10.1 MARKS ALLOCATION**

**10.1.1** Marks shall be awarded to each debater under the following categories:

- SUBSTANCE
- STRATEGY
- LANGUAGE
- STYLE

### **10.2 SUBSTANCE**

**10.2.1** Substance covers the arguments that are used, divorced from the speaking style. It is as if one sees the argument written down rather than spoken. Adjudicators must assess the weight of the arguments without being influenced by the oratory presented.

**10.2.2** Substance also includes an assessment of the weight of the rebuttal or clash. This assessment must be done from the standpoint of the average reasonable person.

**10.2.3** The adjudicator's task is to assess the strength of an argument regardless of whether the opposing team can refute it effectively. If a team introduces a weak argument, it shall not score highly in Substance, even if the opposing team fails to rebut it. Two consequences from this are as follows: -

**10.2.3.1** If a major argument is plainly weak and an opposing team fails to refute such an argument, it may well have committed a greater sin than the team, which introduces it. In effect that opposing team has let the other team get away with a weak argument and not a minor example, in which case the opposing team is right in choosing to ignore it in favour of attacking the more salient and significant points.

**10.2.3.2** Adjudicators must exercise caution not to be influenced by their own personal belief and convictions, or by their own specialized knowledge of an issue. For instance, if one is a lawyer and one knows that a team's argument has already been debunked by the International Court of Justice (ICJ), one should probably not consider this special knowledge unless the ICJ's decision is a matter of extreme public importance or notoriety.

## **10.3 STRATEGY**

**10.3.1** Strategy requires some attention. It covers two concepts:

- the structure
- the timing of the speech

### **10.3.2 Structure**

A good speech has a clear beginning, middle and end. Along the way there are signposts to help one see where the debater is proceeding, the sequence of argument is logical and flows naturally from point to point. This is true of the first debater rebutting the Government's case. Good speech structure is, therefore, a component of strategy.

### **10.3.3 Timing**

Timing is also important, but it must not be taken to extremes. There are also two aspects of timing:

- speaking within the time limit
- allocating an appropriate amount of time to the issue in the speech

A debater ought to give priority to the important issue and deal with the less important ones later. It is generally a good idea to rebut or begin with an attack on the other side before presenting one's own case. It is more logical to debunk the opposing arguments first before putting forth one's arguments.

Therefore, adjudicators must take into consideration not only the strength of the arguments in the SUBSTANCE category, but also the proper time and priority given in the STRATEGY category.

Understanding the Issues. Debaters should understand the important issues in the debate. It would be a waste of time to deal with points if crucial arguments are left unanswered, unrequited and unchallenged. Such a debater would not score well in Strategy.

It is imperative that adjudicators understand the difference and distinction between Strategy and Substance. If a debater inadequately addresses the critical issues with some weak and flimsy rebuttals, he/she would fare badly for substance due to the inferior rebuttals put forth. However, the debater concerned should get reasonable marks for Strategy as the right arguments are addressed.

## **10.4 LANGUAGE**

**10.4.1** Language refers to grammatical accuracy, correct sentence structures and the use of precise and appropriate expressions. It also covers pronunciation, fluency, rhythm, intonation, and clarity of speech. The standard of English one would expect at this level of competition is that of English as a second language. As such, adjudicators ought to bear in mind that the level of English competency one is looking for is not native-speaker competency nor Queen's English. However, expressions, which are mangled,

mumbled or not clearly understood, should not merit high marks in the Language section.

**10.4.2** On the other hand, the use of precise, apt, appropriate and interesting expressions should gain merit marks in the Language section.

## **10.5 STYLE**

**10.5.1** This term is rather misleading. Adjudicators are **not** looking for debaters who are stylish.

**10.5.2** Style refers to the manner or mode of expression in language, as distinct from the ideas expressed. It relates to the way debaters speak. This can be noted in many ways, in funny accents and body language (movements, poise, gestures and eye contact). Adjudicators should be tolerant of the different ways of presenting arguments.

**10.5.3** The use of palm cards and notes is allowed and should not be penalized, unless a debater is reading heavily from them.

**10.5.4** Adjudicators should be tolerant of different and various speaking styles and speeds of delivery. Penalty should only be imposed when a debater's style has gone gross and veered beyond the norm of what an average reasonable person would expect.

## **10.6 REBUTTALS**

**10.6.1** Rebuttal, like argumentation is one of the foundations of debate. It is a speaker saying that an opponent's argument is not valid and showing why it is not valid.

**10.6.2** When rebutting the debater's arguments, debaters need to decide which area they wish to attack, rather than to just rush in to say, "You are wrong".

**10.6.3** A debater can attack on various aspects such as attacking:

**10.6.3.1** relevance – by not supporting the opponent's stance

**10.6.3.2** assumption – the assumed trait of the subject

**10.6.3.3** impact – the presumed trait of the subject's assumed traits

**10.6.3.4** logic leap – the lack of logical links between the assumed traits of the subject and its presumed impact

**10.6.3.5** hung arguments – contingent on another argument to survive

**10.6.3.6** examples - done after attacking the logic of the arguments

**10.6.3.7** rebutting rebuttal – necessary to defend arguments, however, not to prioritise over rebutting the opponent's arguments

#### 10.6.4 Do's and don'ts of rebuttal:

DO's	DON'Ts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Attack new arguments first</li><li>• Complete the attack</li><li>• Develop rebuttals</li><li>• Push to other end by taking the opposite stance</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Do one -liners in rebuttals</li><li>• Just list rebuttals</li><li>• Ask rhetorical questions</li></ul>

### 10.7 REPLY SPEECH

**10.7.1** Reply speech is a 4-minute closing speech delivered by either the 1<sup>st</sup> or the 2<sup>nd</sup> speaker of each team.

**10.7.2** Its purpose is not to bring in any new material, but to take a step back and rationally analyse the debate by weighing cases proposed by each side

**10.7.3** The general three-step model for making such evaluative statements is

- They say ...
- We say ...
- Our wins because ...

**10.7.4** It is usually divided in approximately 3 distinctive points

- a clear structure
- points of clash
- a brief conclusion to sum up what has been said

### 10.8 POINTS OF INFORMATION

**10.8.1** Points of information (POIs) are a feature of parliamentary debate, allowing an opposing team member to offer a brief point during the current speech.

### 10.9 POI ETHICS

In all competitions that allow points of information, their use is restricted by a number of rules to allow the speaker to maintain control of their speech. Generally, the procedure for offering a point information is as follows:

**10.9.1.1** The opposing team member stands, and offers the point.

**10.9.1.2** The speaker then either accepts or declines the point, or else offers to accept it at the end of the sentence.

**10.9.1.3** If accepted, the debater that offered the point may then briefly interject a point, question or statement. Generally, this must be done in fifteen seconds or less, and the speaker may cut the opposing offer off at any point

**10.9.1.4** The speaker must then immediately answer the point of information.

## **10.10 REQUESTING AND ACCEPTING POIS**

**10.11** A rule of thumb for points of information is that each speaker should accept two during the course of his or her speech, and offer two to every opposing speaker.

**10.11.1** Examples of valid offers, that may be combined with any of several common hand gestures, are:

- "On a point of information."
- "May I have this point, sir/miss"
- "On [*subject*] (e.g., political capital or feasibility)"
- "On that point, sir/miss"

**10.11.2** If the opponent [during his/her Point(s) of Information] is taking up too much time, the debater on the floor can ask him/her to sit down if he/she has exceeded the 15-second time limit.

**10.11.3** Please note that it is of the utmost importance that debaters be polite at all times during the course of the debate especially when accepting or declining Point(s) of Information.

## **11.0 DEBATE ADJUDICATION PROCESS – AN ADJUDICATOR’S STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE**

**11.1** Write down the names of the debaters. The team on the right of the Speaker is the Government (Refer *Appendix 1: Adjudicator’s Scoresheet – Government*) while the team on the left is the Opposition. (Refer *Appendix 2: Adjudicator’s Scoresheet – Opposition*)

**11.2** While adjudicating, you are required to observe whether each debater has played his/her role. Adjudicate and award marks immediately after each debater has delivered his/her speech. You should ignore whatever has been spoken once the time limit is up i.e. 8 minutes for the Primary Speeches and 4 minutes for the reply speeches.

**11.3** Use the Adjudicator’s Comment Sheet to note down briefly the keywords/ideas for instance:

- ° Stand
- ° Strategy

° Arguments

This information will help when awarding marks to the respective speakers. (Refer *Appendix 3: Adjudicator's Comment Sheet – Primary Speech*; and, *Appendix 4: Adjudicator's Comment Sheet – Reply Speech*)

**11.4** Scoring should be done in this manner:

**11.4.1** After listening to the debate, consider whether he/she should be categorized as Excellent, Good, Average, Fair and Poor. Then decide on the marks and fill in the appropriate box.

**11.4.2** Marks can be adjusted when both sides have presented their arguments depending on the margin obtained.

**11.5** The Chief adjudicator will then collect the adjudicators' score sheets.

**11.6** The Chief adjudicator will determine the winning team and Best Speaker based on the score sheet.

**11.7** The Speaker will then invite all adjudicators to give their comments on the debate in the areas of Substances, Strategy, Style and Language respectively by leaving the Chief Adjudicator as the last person to deliver his comments.

**11.8** The Chief Adjudicator will give his/her comment before announcing the Best Speaker and the winning team.

**11.9** All adjudicators must ensure that they complete and sign all the adjudicators score sheets and comment sheets in every debate sessions which they adjudicated.

**THIS STANDARD OF PROCEDURE (SOP) IS PREPARED AS PER THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CURRENT YEAR. ANY AMENDMENTS AND/OR CHANGE IS SUBJECT TO THE DECISIONS OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND DELIBERATIONS.**