

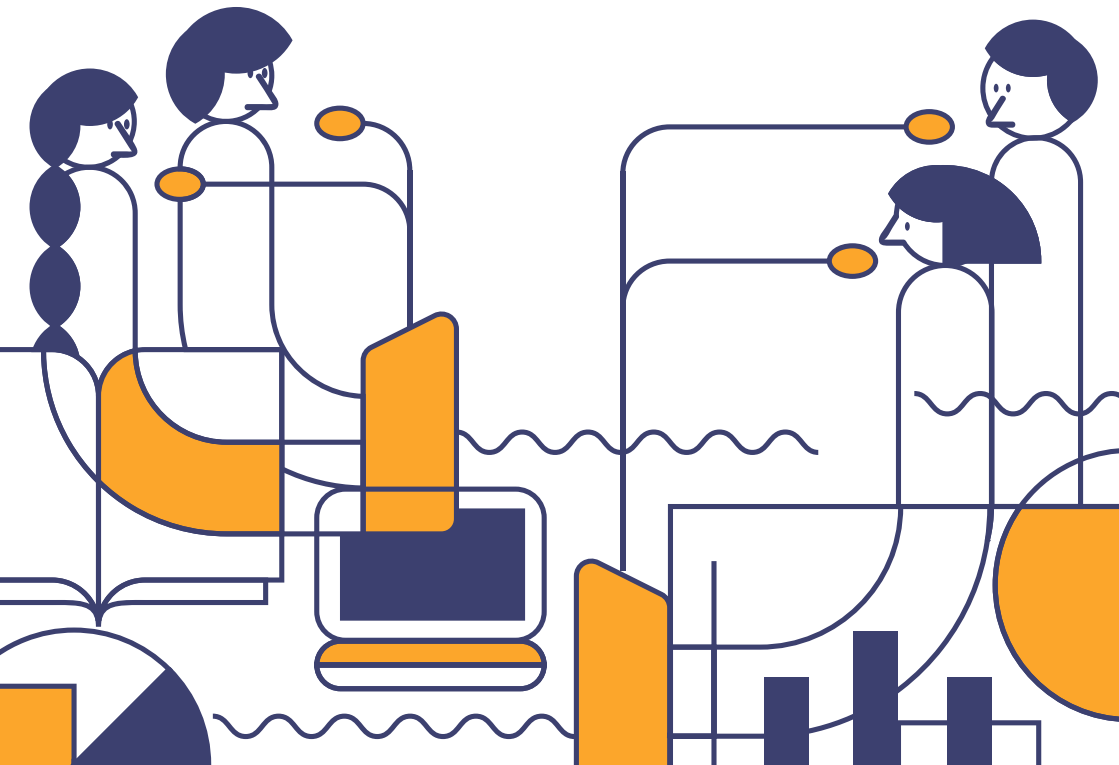


P R E S E N T S



INTERNATIONAL DEBATE COMPETITION

# RULE BOOK



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# INTRODUCTION

- The second edition of Vijaybhoomi University's For, Not-For International Debate Tournament shall be held online in a Conventional Debate Format on 2nd October, 2021.
- The schedule for the Tournament along with the format and structure of the debate can be found in the official website - <https://vijaybhoomi.edu.in/fornotfor/>.
- The tournament will consist of 5 rounds that will take place on 4 separate days in October: Preliminary Rounds on 2nd of October 2021, Quarter-Finals on the 5th of October, Semi-Finals on 8th of October and the Pre Finals and Finals will be held on the 10th of October.
- The tournament will follow a 1 v. 1 Lincoln Douglas Debate Format wherein each participant shall represent one side, either For (Affirmative) or Not-For (Negative) the motion. Each round will last a max of 30 minutes (inclusive of buffer time). Both speakers shall speak for a total time of 8 minutes, split into three speeches i.e. Substantive Speech (4 minutes), Cross Examination (2 minutes) Rebuttal/Summary (2 minutes) alternating between themselves.
- All speeches shall be ranked and the top 16 students shall progress to the Quarter Finals. From the Quarter Finals, the top 8 ranked students shall progress to the Semi Finals. From the Semi Finals, the top 4 ranked students shall progress to the Pre- Finals. From the Pre - Finals, the top 2 ranked students shall progress to the Finals. The top ranked student shall be the Winner and the 2nd ranked student shall be the Runners-up of the Tournament.



# SOFTWARE GUIDELINES

- The tournament platform shall be Zoom. All the relevant links to access and join shall be provided to the official email IDs of the participants and will also be shared on the WhatsApp group.
- All participants are requested to ensure they have the best possible internet connectivity they can have. The recommended bandwidth is 20 mbps.
- All Communications shall be conveyed via WhatsApp and Facebook. The official announcements and motion release for the rounds will all be done through the official WhatsApp group of the tournament.
- It is mandatory for the participants to share their video along with their audio, so it is requested that a device with a functional camera is used. Only in extraordinary circumstances would video sharing not be mandatory.



# PROCEDURE OF ROUNDS

- The motions/topics for each debate shall be released two days in advance to the date of the debate. Preliminary round motions shall release on 29th September. All queries, shall be entertained before the tournament dates and no queries shall be entertained once the tournament is underway.
- Participants will be given two motions for the Preliminary, Quarter-Final and Semi - Final rounds. One topic will be given for the Pre - Final round and the Final round topic will be given half an hour before the Final debate. Participants will have to prepare both sides of the argument for each of the topics.
- Pairing and matchups of students will be done by the organizers and shall be released a few days prior to the event so that all participants are aware of their Zoom Track and Round Timings.
- The topic for the round as well as the side which the participant will take shall be determined by a coin toss which the moderator shall conduct. The participant that wins the toss can choose the Motion while the other can choose the Side.
- The links for the rounds shall be shared on the WhatsApp group during the Opening Ceremony of the Competition along with additional rules.
- Participants are requested to join their respective Zoom calls at least 15 minutes prior to the beginning of their rounds. The participants can use these 15 minutes as part of their prep time.
- Greetings, Introduction to the judges and the Coin Toss shall be done with the assistance of the Moderator of the call before the start of the debate.
- All participants and judges shall be waiting in their respective Zoom calls. If any participant is missing, the judge may choose to wait for an additional length of 5 minutes at most and get in touch with their moderator to decide further proceedings.

- In case of absence, a proxy participant will replace them and the debate shall proceed as usual.
- Once the debate ends, the judges shall submit their scores, evaluation and final remarks through the forms. Judges will deliver constructive feedback to the participants, without disclosing the results.
- All participants are required to be on 'mute' at all times unless they are called upon to speak.
- Observers shall always remain on mute and cannot speak, chat, record any speech, send documents or use their video during the course of the debate.
- Speakers may record their own speeches. However, speakers shall not record the other speaker in the debate without the consent of the other speaker.
- Participants are expected to strictly adhere to the time limits provided. Exceeding the time limit would incur penalties on scores. Moderators will prompt the participants on speech timing intervals in the chat box.
- If judges believe that debaters have exceeded the time repeatedly, they can stop/ disqualify the debater and factor this misconduct into their decision.
- Dress Code for Participants: Formals/School Uniforms



# POLICY ON TECHNICAL ISSUES

- If any participant is facing technical issues and thus either disconnects or is rendered incomprehensible, then they shall be allowed a maximum time of 5 minutes to resolve the same. If the technical issue persists, the participant can call the mobile number of the moderator of their round and speak through their mic. In case such an issue arises, the judge is requested to allocate additional time accordingly to the participant.
- If any judge disconnects from the debate, then the debate shall be paused until they reconnect or up to a period of 5 minutes at the most. Following this, the debate shall proceed as usual with the remaining judges. In the event only one judge (out of a three judge panel) remains in the call due to technical difficulties, the debate shall continue with a single judge panel.
- If there are disruptions from another participant during a participant's speech and the host is unable to mute them, then the speaker can pause until the disruptions end. Repeated disruptions shall lead to strikes against the participant causing the same and if any participant amounts to three strikes then it shall lead to expulsion from the tournament analogous to an equity violation, since there is unnecessary disrespect to the speaker being disrupted.



# EQUITY POLICY

Any behaviour that attempts to exclude someone from meaningful participation in a debate or the tournament as a whole is not appreciated at this tournament. This includes, but is not limited to:

- **Bullying:** Bullying is the repeated, unreasonable behaviour by an individual or group, directed towards another individual or group, either physical or psychological in nature, that intimidates, offends, degrades, humiliates, undermines and/or threatens. This includes pressuring another individual or group to do something that they are uncomfortable with.
- **Direct Discrimination:** Direct discrimination is treating another individual or group less favourably on the basis of a protected attribute than someone without that attribute in the same circumstances or circumstances not materially different. Protected attributes include, but are not limited to; age, appearance, disability, ethnicity, gender, nationality, personal background, religion, sexuality and social status.
- **Harassment:** Harassment is any unwelcome, offensive, abusive, belittling or threatening behaviour that humiliates, offends or intimidates an individual or group on the basis of any part of their identity. Note that **sexual harassment** has a specific meaning as any unwelcome sexual advance, request for sexual favours or any other unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature that humiliates, offends or intimidates a person and which a reasonable person, having regard to all the circumstances, would anticipate making the person humiliated, offended or intimidated.
- **Offensive language:** Sometimes words can hurt a lot regardless of the intention behind these words. Therefore it is important to avoid language that can attack someone's identity. This includes but is not limited to – gender, sex, sexual orientation, sexuality, disability, religion, race, nationality, ethnicity, educational background, age, appearance, class or debating skills. Furthermore, keep in mind that some topics such as violence and sexual assault can be painful for some people. Therefore, avoid overly graphic language



and be extra careful with the words you pick when talking about sensitive topics.

- **Causing Disturbances:** Any online disturbance done with intention to throw off another speaker or create an unpleasant debating room shall result in the issuance of warnings. Upon receipt of a third warning, the organisation committee is entitled to expel the participant from the competition without any recognition (including but not limited to participant certificates)
- **Undermining the equity policy:** Attempts to undermine and/or belittle the equity policy, or parts of it, will also be an equity violation.
- **Victimisation:** Victimisation means to cause detriment to a person because that person has made a complaint or taken part in complaints proceedings.

Any other form of behaviour that can reasonably make people feel unwelcome and/or unsafe at this tournament will also fall under equity violations and shall be based on the discretion of

**All policies shall be adhered to by the participants throughout all days of the tournament and the power vests in the organisation committee to make any decision based on the policies placed herein.**



# Evaluation Parameter

SCORE	5	3	2
<b>FACTUAL INFORMATION AND UNDERSTANDING OF TOPIC</b>	Clearly understood the topic in-depth and presented the information/ argument with supporting facts convincingly.	Understood the topic in-depth and presented the information/ argument with supporting facts with ease.	Seemed to understand the main points of the topic and presented those with some efficiency with few facts to support arguments.
<b>LANGUAGE</b>	Excellent use of diction, grammatical construction, engaging vocabulary and debating etiquette.	Good use of diction, grammatical construction, engaging vocabulary and debating etiquette.	Satisfactory use of diction, grammatical construction, engaging vocabulary and debating etiquette.
<b>PERSUASIVENESS</b>	Very strong and persuasive arguments made throughout.	Many good arguments made, only some were convincing.	Few good arguments made, only some were convincing.
<b>DELIVERY</b>	Communicated clearly and confidently; maintained eye contact; excellent voice inflection and delivery rate.	Communicated clearly; frequent eye contact; good voice, inflection and delivery rate.	Seldom communicated clearly; poor eye contact; poor voice, inflection and delivery rate.
<b>USE OF CROSS-EXAMINATION AND REBUTTAL:</b>	Excellent cross-exam and rebuttals against opponent team's objections.	Good cross-exam and rebuttals, with only minor slip-ups.	Poor cross-exam or rebuttals failure to point out problems in opponent team's position or failure to defend itself against attack.
<b>JUDGES Q&amp;A</b>	Answered all parts of the questions convincingly.	Answered some parts of the questions convincingly.	Answered only some parts of the questions but failed to convince.
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>			



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We have drawn upon the tournament and equity policies from Safar Fundraiser Debate 2020, India Debate Open Edition 1 and 2 2020, IIT-Bombay Asian ProAm Tournament Policy, Lund Debate Society's Equity Policy and the Berlin Online Technical Protocol while framing this document and we are thankful for their effort.





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