



## LEADERSHIP

Everything you need to successfully participate in the JCI World Debating Championship →

# Debating Rules & Guidelines

A participant's guide to the  
JCI WORLD DEBATING  
CHAMPIONSHIP



Sponsored by  
Eric H. Stevenson, 1963 JCI President

# **Table of Contents**

<b>INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>RULES AND GUIDELINES .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1. ENTRY .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. PARTICIPATION .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3. SPEAKING FORMAT .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4. DEBATING FORMAT .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5. MOTIONS .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>6. POINT OF INFORMATION .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>7. TIMEOUTS .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>8. JCI .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>9. ADJUDICATION .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>HINTS AND TIPS FOR GOOD DEBATING .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>ENTRY FORM .....</b>	<b>8</b>

## **INTRODUCTION**

We are happy to present to you the newly updated JCI World Debating Championship Guidelines. This tool was restructured by 2004 JCI Vice President Graham Hanlon and 2002 JCI Vice President John MacLeod in conjunction with the JCI Headquarters team. The guidelines are designed to assist you in getting the most out of this great international program.

We are also happy to advise that the awards for this program are sponsored by 1963 JCI President Eric H. Stevenson.

We hope you find them helpful and we encourage you to provide feedback on how we can improve them.

Please send all comments and feedback to the JCI Programs Coordinator at JCI World Headquarters.



## The JCI World Debating Championship Rules and Guidelines

### 1. ENTRY

- (a) Entry is free.
- (b) Entries will be accepted up until one day before the championship (i.e. if the championship falls on a Thursday, the deadline will be on Wednesday). No entry will be considered after the set deadline.
- (c) All teams must provide an adjudicator who has debating experience.
- (d) Teams must confirm their participation in the championship using the form provided, which they may email or hand-deliver to the assigned JCI Vice President.

### 2. PARTICIPATION

- (a) National Organizations may enter more than one team.
- (b) Each team must have 3 team members (2 speakers and a coach), together with an adjudicator. (4 persons in total)
- (c) Members of a team must be active members and not senior members.
- (d) Teams are not limited to formation based on National Organization membership and it is possible for members of different National Organizations to form an "international" team.
- (e) The championship will be conducted in a series of rounds. Only the winning team will advance to the next round; those who lose will be eliminated from the championship.

### 3. SPEAKING FORMAT

- (a) The speaking format will be as follows:
  - First Speaker: four (4) minutes
  - Second Speaker: four (4) minutes
  - Summation: three (3) minutes

The Team Captain will provide the team's summation in the allotted three minutes. The First Speaker need not necessarily be the team captain.

- (b) The First Speaker for "the Government" (the "pro" team) shall commence the debate. Thereafter the speakers alternate between the teams until the summation, which is always given by the opposition first.

#### **4. DEBATING FORMAT**

- (a) The debating format will be decided by the assigned JCI Vice President, who will draw the names of the teams randomly. The first name drawn will debate against the second name drawn, the third name drawn will debate against the fourth name and so on, until all names have been exhausted. This procedure shall be known as the “First Round Draw” and shall take place immediately prior to commencement of the championship.
- (b) In the event of an odd number of teams, one team (perhaps the first or last drawn) might be given a “bye,” automatically advancing to the second round. In this case, paragraph 4 (a) is duly amended.
- (c) JCI's World Debating Championship is an impromptu competition and the motions for debate will be announced to the teams in the auditorium at least 15 minutes before their debate.
- (d) It is the responsibility of the teams to be present in the auditorium when the motion for their debate is announced.
- (e) The first team drawn or the first team through to successive rounds will be the team of "the Government" (the "pro" team).
- (f) Rules 4 (c), (d) and (e) shall not apply to the Final. The finalists will be notified of their motion at least thirty (30) minutes before the debate. Determining who should be the Government team to propose the motion shall be decided as follows:

  - i The finalist team with the highest overall points from the semi-final debate will have the right to call the coin toss that will determine which team shall take which position.
  - ii Whichever team wins the coin toss shall choose whether they'll speak for or against the motion.
  - iii This process shall take place before the motion is announced.

#### **5. MOTIONS**

- (a) Teams, individuals and members of JCI are invited to submit Motions for debate to the assigned Vice President prior to the Conference/Congress.

## 6. POINT OF INFORMATION

- (a) Only a participating speaker can give a Point of Information. Substitutes, supporters, members of the audience cannot offer or answer Points of Information.
- (b) Following are the procedures for giving and accepting Points of Information:
  - i If giving a Point of Information, raise your hand or place your hand over your head, stand up and address the speaker at the podium, saying, "On A Point Of Information."
  - ii Wait for the speaker to indicate whether he or she will listen to your point. If the speaker says "No, thank you", or indicates by way of a gesture that the point will not be taken, or continues with their speech without yielding the floor, **then sit down.**
  - iii If the speaker indicates that he or she will take the point, then deliver it clearly and briefly and then sit down. Do not retort to the speakers reply. At no point should speakers engage in a conversation.
  - iv If speaking, and an opponent offers a Point of Information, you can accept it there and then, you can refuse to accept it, or you can indicate you will deal with it in a moment when you are finished with the point you are making.
  - v When replying to a Point of Information, be brief, humorous if possible, and then return to your speech.
  - vi It is important that the speaker keep control of his/her allotted time.
- (c) A point of information may be made only during the second and third minutes of the speaker's time.

## 7. TIMEOUTS

- (a) Each team is allowed (1) one-minute timeout during the debate.
- (b) A timeout may be taken at any time during the debate as long as it is called in between speakers.
- (c) The team captain shall indicate to the Chairman that his/her team wishes to use their timeout, at which time the Chairman will ask the Timekeeper to inform them when the minute is up.

## **8. JCI**

- (a)** JCI will be responsible for organizing the venue, judges and other procedural and logistical matters for the championship.

## **9. ADJUDICATION**

- (a)** Each Debate will be adjudged by an adjudicating panel of three people, appointed by the Debate Chairman.
- (b)** A Panel of Adjudicators Chairman shall deliver the verdict of the Panel to the Debate Chairman, who shall then announce the result.
- (c)** Such verdict, once announced, shall be final and no appeal shall arise therefrom.

Entry forms, together with any queries regarding the above rules, should be sent to the assigned JCI Vice President



## **The JCI World Debating Championship Hints and Tips for Good Debating**

1. Demonstrate deep knowledge and understanding of the subject.
2. Make sure arguments are relevant to the Motion.
3. Make sure that points made are both substantive and pertinent to the argument.
4. Simultaneously rebuke your opponent's arguments.
5. Logically arrange your arguments.
6. Show an ability to communicate.
7. Speak with clarity and effectiveness.
8. Endeavor to blend humor into your argument, assuming such humor is expressed appropriately and in context.
9. Address the audience with minimal reference to your notes.

Remember, other factors will influence the Adjudicators when making a decision. Always look neat and presentable when approaching the podium. As a matter of courtesy, the Speaker should address the Chairperson first and then commence with his/her debate.

There are also points awarded for team work. It is therefore necessary for the debating team to give a general impression of coordination, preparation and consistency in your team's arguments.