

The Constitution of the World Universities Debating Council

Article 1

- 1 The World Universities Debating Council is hereby established.

Article 2

- 1 There shall be a competition, which for the purposes of this constitution shall be named the World Universities Debating Championship. A round of the Championship shall be held once during each and every calendar year.
- 2 The Format of the debate shall be British Parliamentary as set out in the Rules of the Championship attached to this constitution as Appendix One.
- 3 Proposed changes to the Rules of the Championship shall be treated as a substantive motion before Council and subject to the provisions of Article 7.

Article 3

- 1 The purpose of the Championship shall be the promotion of debate, the free exchange of ideas and international contact and co-operation.
- 2 It should be noted that anything said by any debater during a debate round does not necessarily represent the debater's personal beliefs, those of his/her university or those of his/her nation.
- 3 In addition to the Championships, there shall be elimination rounds contested between the highest ranked English as a Second Language (ESL) teams.
- 4 In addition to the Championships, there shall be elimination rounds contested between the highest ranked English as a Foreign Language (EFL) teams.
- 5
 - a In addition to the Championships there shall be a Masters competition contested between teams representing their country of origin.
- 6
 - a In addition to the Championships there shall be an individual public speaking competition open to all participants at the championships.
 - b The format of the public speaking shall be as set out in the rules attached to this constitution.

Article 4

The functions of the Council shall be as follows:

- 1 To appoint a host for each round of the Championship;
- 2 To decide on appropriate sanctions against a host organisation in the event that it fails significantly to comply with the terms of the bid;
- 3 To perform the other functions conferred upon it by this constitution.

Article 5

The council shall consist of the following members:

- 1 The Chairperson of the Executive Organising Committee (who does not have a vote) or a designate in his/her absence.
- 2 Delegates, who shall be appointed in accordance with Article 7
- 3 The Chair of the Committee (under Article 28 who does not have a vote) or a designate in his/her absence;
- 4 The Registrar of the Committee (who does not have a vote) or a designate in his/her absence;
- 5 The Secretary of the Committee (who does not have a vote) or a designate in his/her absence
- 6 The Chair of the Executive Organising Committee of the next host university (who does not have a vote) or a designate in his/her absence.

Article 6

- 1 The acceptance of a bid by the Council in accordance with Articles 15-18 shall be deemed to operate as the election of the proposer as Chair of the Executive Organising Committee.
- 2 The Chair of the Executive Organising Committee elected under para1 above shall take office two weeks after his/her election.
- 3 The outgoing Chair of the Executive Organising Committee shall remain in office until his/her successor takes office.
- 4 The Chair of the Executive Organising Committee may resign from office only by appointing a successor in writing.
- 5 Where the office of Chair of the Executive Organising Committee becomes vacant other than by reason of para4 above, or the Chair of the Executive Organising Committee fails totally in his/her duties under Article 10.1 (ensuring the organisation of a round of the Championship) the Council, convened by registered mail sent to all members, may appoint a successor to the Chair of the Executive Organising Committee and a new venue.

Article 7

- 1 Every country represented at a Round of the Championship shall be entitled to send a delegate to the meeting of the Council convened during that Round.
- 2 Where there exists in relation to a country a debating body consisting of an executive elected by the debating organisations in that country, and relating to parliamentary debate as generally understood in common law countries, the President of that body, or equivalent, shall be deemed to have been appointed as delegate for that country provided that he/she or a nominee in writing is present at the Round of the Championship during which the meeting is being held.
- 3 In any other case the members of the teams originating from a country shall by common or majority action appoint one of their number as the delegate for that country.
- 4 Every delegate shall provide the Chair of the Committee with notice of his/her appointment, a home telephone number and address, and an alternative contact number and address if home details do not relate to permanent residence. This information shall be provided within 24 hours of appointment of the delegate or, in the case of an appointment not taking place during a Round of the Championship, within two weeks of appointment. The Chair of the Committee shall furnish a list of all information provided under this paragraph to all delegates within two weeks of the end of the Round for which he/she is responsible.
- 5 A delegate may resign from office only by appointing hi/her successor in writing.
- 6 A delegate shall hold office until his/her successor takes office.
- 7 Delegates shall take office immediately upon appointment.
- 8 Save as provided below, each delegate member of Council shall be entitled to cast one vote on every substantive motion placed before the Council.
- 9 Save as provided below, every substantive motion placed before the Council shall be decided by majority vote.
- 10 The Chair of the Committee shall not have a vote on any substantive motion placed before the Council, save in the event that the number of votes cast for and against the motion are equal, in which case he/she shall exercise a casting vote.
- 11 On every substantive motion placed before the Worlds Debating Council, delegates representing Status A nations will be entitled to cast four (4) votes, delegates representing Status B nations will be entitled to cast three (3) votes, delegates representing Status C nations will be entitled to cast two (2) votes, delegates representing Statuses D nations will be entitled to cast one (1) vote.

Status A nations are nations represented by teams eligible to participate in the final series of the Championships from four or more recognised institutions for two consecutive years.

Status B nations are nations represented by teams eligible to participate in the final series of the Championships from three recognised institutions for two consecutive years.

Status C nations are nations represented by teams eligible to participate in the final series of the Championships from two recognised institutions for two consecutive years.

Status D nations are nations represented by teams eligible to participate in the final series of the Championships from one recognised institution for two consecutive years.

Nations attending for the first time, or who have had a lapse in attendance of more than 2 years, shall be accorded Observer status.

Nations are allowed a lapse of one year in the level of their participation, before their status is downgraded. Any change of status can apply for only one (1) level per year.

- 12 Where there is placed before the Council a substantive motion which proposes an amendment to this Constitution, such a motion shall not be carried unless it gains yes votes from at least two-thirds of Status A Nations present and at least two-thirds of weighted votes overall.

- 13 Where Council makes any substantive change(s) to the rules and procedures of the WUDC that may affect the logistics of hosting the event (i.e.: additional in- or out-rounds, meetings, social events, etc.) within 10 months of the start of the Championships, the host, represented by the Convenor(s) and Chief Adjudicator(s), may apply to Council to opt out of those changes.

- 14 The Schedule formerly appended to this Constitution shall no longer be so appended, and shall cease to have effect save as otherwise provided.

Article 8

- 1 The Registrar to the Council shall be appointed by the Council, and such appointment shall give due consideration to the necessity of preserving continuity in the membership of the Council.
- 2 A Chair of the Executive Organising Committee who vacates office under para 4 and 5 of Article 6 shall be disqualified subsequently from holding the office of Registrar.
- 3 The Registrar or his/her deputy shall be responsible for keeping minutes of meetings of the Council and for making available to all interested parties copies of this Constitution. He/she shall maintain a permanent record of the names and addresses of organisations participating in the Championship.
- 4 The Registrar may appoint a deputy to act on his/her behalf.

Article 9

- 1 Any member of the Council may appoint a deputy to attend meetings, speak, vote and otherwise act, on his/her behalf.

Article 10

The duties of the Chair of the Executive Organising Committee shall include:

- 1 Ensuring that a Round of the Championship is organised during his/her term in office, which Round shall be a continuous period of not more than ten days;
- 2 Convening at least two meetings of the Council. The first meeting shall be a preliminary meeting which shall determine the eligibility of competitors and institutions and the voting rights of nations. The second meeting will be the main meeting of Council and may determine any other issue.
- 3 Convening such other meetings of the Council as are in his/her opinion necessary, provided that there be not fewer than one meeting per calendar year;
- 4 Giving notice to the other members of the Council of any meeting of the Council. Such notice shall be given in writing at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting and shall include an agenda containing all details of any proposed amendments to his Constitution.
- 5 Providing notice of the Round for which he/she is responsible to all societies which attended the Championship at any of the previous three Rounds, and any other societies which he/she considers appropriate. Such notice shall be posted at least four months before the Round and shall include a legally binding statement of the total cost to the entrant team of registration and accommodation. A further legally binding notice shall be sent at least one month in advance entailing the cost of meals, activities and other related expenses;
- 6 Informing all participants about number of people to rooms. Equally there should be an option for female-only and male-only rooms and the ability to separate faculty, staff, and students
- 7 Ensuring that a briefing is held for all judges and debaters before the first session of debate where the full tournament rules and norms shall be explained and clarified;
- 8 Ensuring that all ballots are returned to the competitors at the end of the tournament.
- 9 Ensuring that any surplus made by a host university be passed to the next host university to reduce fees for needy universities;
- 10 Ensuring that there is a women's meeting at the beginning and end of the tournament which would be open to all participants in the championship
- 11 Ensuring that full and accurate results are published in a reasonable timescale after the end of the tournament.
- 12 Shall appoint an equity officer who shall be responsible for dealing with issues arising from discrimination.

Article 11

The powers of the Chair of the Executive Organising Committee shall include the power to do anything which is in his/her opinion necessary, conducive or incidental to the fulfilment of the duties set out in, Article 10, revocable at his/her discretion. Full and final executive authority in relation to the organisation of the Round shall be vested in the Chair of the Executive Organising Committee, subject to this Constitution. This authority shall include the right to set all sales governing the competition.

Article 12

The Chair of the Committee shall regulate the proceedings of the Council, subject to this Constitution.

Article 13

The quorum for meeting of the council shall be at least two-thirds of Status A nations and at least one third of all nations. The Status of nations for quorum at the preliminary meeting of Council will be determined according to the voting entitlements of the previous championships.

Article 14

Within six months of a Round, the outgoing Chair of the Executive Organising Committee shall send to the Chair of the Executive Organising Committee for the next Round full accounts of the income and expenditure in relation to the organisation of the next Round. The accounts shall be considered in the following meeting of the Council. These accounts should reflect ordinary accounting standards applicable in the host nation.

Article 15

- 1 On meeting during a Round of the Championship, the Council shall consider bids to host future Championships two years in advance.
- 2 All bids shall be submitted in writing and shall be signed by a sponsor. Bids may be signed by one or more seconders. A bid shall state the College and Society which will host the Championship, the dates of the Round, the debating procedures to be followed, and any relevant financial or other information.
- 3 The Chair of the Executive Organising Committee of the successful bid shall supply a report to the Committee. The report shall be provided at least 3 months before the Council meeting at which the bid is to be confirmed.
- 4 On the basis of the report provided, the regional representatives appointed under article 28(2) will vote on the readiness of the host institution. If a majority of the regional representatives indicate that they have critical concerns about the host's level of preparedness then the Committee shall invite further bids which may be

considered by Council. In any other case the bid shall be considered to be endorsed by the Committee.

- 5 The Chair of the Executive Organising Committee of the successful bid shall present a report to the Council meeting at the Championships one year before the Championships which they are to host. If the Council has critical concerns about the ability of the hosts to hold the Championships then it may vote to reopen the bidding without prejudice to any bidder. In any other case the bid shall be considered to be ratified by Council.
 - a) WUDC bids to have a comply-or-defend requirement at ratification, to have in the org comm a financial officer with professional accreditation in the country hosting WUDC. The responsibility of this officer is at least to communicate budgetary difficulties and to ensure that accounting practices are consistent with English law insofar as those laws are applicable to the host country.
- 6 The Committee vote specified in paragraph 4 shall be conducted in a manner specified by the Registrar.

Article 16

When a bid is accepted, the appropriate Round of the championship shall be held in accordance with its terms, subject to Article 18.

Article 17

When the Council Accepts a bid, the Chair of the Committee shall endorse a copy of that bid with the Resolution of the Council, and such endorsed copy shall be evidence of the acceptance of the bid.

Article 18

The Chair of the Executive Organising Committee shall use his/her best endeavours to ensure that the round of the Championships for which he/she is responsible is held within the context of the College and Society mentioned in the bid, but he/she may , with the consent of at least two other members of the Council alter the venue to another venue within the same metropolitan area.

Article 19

- 1
 - a The originals of this Constitution shall be lodged with and authenticated by the Auditor of the College Historical Society, Trinity College, Dublin; the office of the President, Harvard University; the Secretary, University of Sydney Union; the World Debating Council office of the American college of Greece; the office of the Vice-Chancellor, University of Dhaka; the Convenor of Debates, Glasgow University Union; and the office of the Warden at Hart House, University of

Toronto. All such originals shall be equal, final and conclusive evidence of the text of this Constitution.

- b A Copy of this constitution will also be displayed on the websites of the council and host for reference by all interested parties.
- 2 Within one month of the completion of each Round of the Championship, the outgoing Chair of the Executive Organising Committee shall ensure that updated versions of the Constitution (if amended) are authenticated by the Chair-elect and forwarded to those institutions specified in para1 above. Upon receipt of said versions, there shall constitute equal, final and conclusive evidence of the text of this Constitution.

Article 20

All previous Constitutions, rules, resolutions, conventions and customs relating to the Council are hereby repealed, revoked and abrogated.

Article 21

This Constitution shall come into effect immediately upon its adoption.

Article 22

- 1 Competitors who satisfy the requirements of this Article may compete in a team eligible to make the finals series a maximum of four Championships. This provision shall take effect from 6th January 1990.
- 2 During the academic year of the competition, competitors shall represent the institution at which they pursue at least half of their courses toward a particular degree.
- 3 Competitors shall be recognised by their university debating union or equivalent, or in the absence of such a body by the university administration.
- 4 Documented evidence of the participants student status should be received by the host nation prior to commencement of the Championships. Registration shall be considered in complete until such evidence is received.
- 5 Competitors must be enrolled students and must be attending classes or pursuing research in the university which they represent on the last day of term preceding the competition.
- 6 In the event of any controversy regarding the interpretation of this article, the organisers of the Championship shall follow the recommendation of the president (or equivalent) of the competent national debating body (if applicable).
- 7 No individual or institution shall be allowed to register and participate at the Championships if they owe money to any previous host without the agreement of that host.

- 8 Institutions who wish to compete at Worlds may be required to send judges to the Championship Round, such requirements will be established and clearly communicated by the Organising Committee, at the latest in advance of registration.
 - a Council shall enforce this requirement, with penalties up to and including the dissolution of a team to create the required judges, with said dissolution at the discretion of the registering institution, or the removal of teams for the championship round draw.
 - b Any waivers or alternations to this policy shall be decided by Council at the pre-Council session.
- 9 Determination of Language Status
 - a Before each Championships, the Organisational Committee of the Championships shall appoint a committee of Language Review Officers (the Language Review Committee) to assist in the determination of language status of participants.
 - b The Language Review Officers shall be appointed with regard to experience with the issue and equitable geographical distribution.
 - c Before and during the preliminary rounds of the Championships, the Language Review Officers shall gather information about and shall interview participants claiming ESL or EFL status, to determine if they meet the requirements of Article 31.
 - d A list of all teams and speakers with ESL or EFL status shall be published before the announcement of the teams qualifying for the elimination rounds with at least enough time for the procedure outlined under Part f. to complete.
 - e Participants' status may be awarded without interview if at least two Language Review Officers agree.
 - f Any participant who believes their status has been determined incorrectly shall have the right to appeal to the full Language Review Committee, whose decision shall be final.
 - g No team shall have ESL status unless both its participants have ESL or EFL status. No team shall have EFL status unless both its participants have EFL status.
 - h Speakers may be awarded their status for future championships, if a change in status is not expected.
 - i Unless the criteria change, participants cannot re-apply for a language category that they have been ultimately denied at previous championships.
 - j Records must be kept by the Registrar of all decisions including reasons. A waiver of confidentiality of applicants must be obtained.
- 10
 - a The Masters competition will be limited to participants at the championship not entered in the Main or ESL competitions.
 - b Where there exists in relation to a country a debating body consisting of an executive elected by the debating organisations in that country, and relating to parliamentary debate as generally understood in common law countries, the

President of that body, or equivalent, shall notify the host, in writing, that countries participants in the Masters competition.

- c In All other cases the participants originating from a country shall by common or majority action select their Masters participants.
- d The Masters competition shall be held in the debating format local to the Host Society.

Article 23

Composite teams cannot register in advance for the Championship. The organisers may create such composite teams out of individual participants, as they deem necessary and appropriate. No composite team shall be admitted to elimination rounds. "Composite team" shall be defined for the purpose of this Constitution as meaning any team consisting of two individuals not both attending the same university.

Article 24

Where any issue arises before the Chair of the Executive Organising Committee and the Chair of the Committee that he/she expects will be found controversial by the members of the Council, he/she must notify the members of the Council by post or otherwise of the issue, and shall make no firm commitments regarding that issue before the opinions of the Council have been assessed and, if necessary voted upon.

Article 25

It shall be the duty of the outgoing Chair of the Executive Organising Committee to forward the Chair-elect a memorandum summarising his/her experience in the administration of the tournament which shall include:

- 1 A breakdown of the financing and sources of finance of the Round;
- 2 A complete mailing list used by the Chair during the course of the Round;
- 3 A complete list of the teams which participated in the Round, which list shall include the names of competitors.

Article 26

This constitution was adopted on 3rd January 1987, and was amended on 6th January 1988, 1st January 1990, 3rd January 1991, 5th January 1993 and 5th January 1998.

Article 27

There shall be established a 'World Universities Debating Committee.' The committee shall

- 1 establish and maintain World Universities Debating website
- 2 Provide a central information resource through this website which will include information on the upcoming Championship, rules of the Championship, minutes from meetings of Council, training information, a list of available debating training resources, records of participation from universities and individuals at each Championship.
- 3 Provide a contact point through this website for participants and members of the general public.
- 4 Collect from the host university and hold records of the Championships, including attendees and results
- 5 Make recommendations to Council based on year long discussions with Committee members and anyone else who cares to comment.
- 6 Investigate on behalf of Council and report back at the next championships on any matter deemed appropriate by council.
- 7 To maintain and review the rules of the Championship
- 8 To liase with potential sponsors and establish contact between them and the host institution.
- 9 To provide a full report to the main meeting of Council regarding the completion of the Duties outlined above.

Article 28

- 1 The Committee shall be appointed by Council as a substantive vote. There shall be elected from the debaters and adjudicators of the Championships:
 - a a Chair
 - b A Secretary (who will co-ordinate correspondence)
 - c A Registrar (who will maintain all other records)
 - d A women's officer (elected at the women's meeting held during the championships)
 - d.i The Women's Officer shall be responsible for chairing a women's forum to be held during the championship round, for organising, in agreement and co-operation with the Organising Committee, a women's night, and for the discharge of any other duties such as their membership of Council would involve.
 - e An Equity Officer
- 2 Nations from the following jurisdictions represented at Council shall elect a delegate from the participants of the Championship
 - a North America
 - b Caribbean and Latin America

- c Islands of the North Atlantic
 - d Continental Europe and the Middle East
 - e Africa
 - f Asia
 - g Australia - New Zealand and Oceania
- 3 The Chairperson or a delegate of the following host will be a member of the committee.
 - 4 The Committee shall have the power to co-opt up to two others (who may be non-participants of the Championship) to be members of the Committee.
 - 5 Elections shall be held each year at the main meeting of Council and the appointments will be effective from the end of that Championship until the end of the next championships.
 - 6 The same person may not be elected to occupy multiple Committee positions.
 - 7 The Council shall award individuals who served the World Universities Debating Championships in an extraordinary capacity the Order of Distinction.
 - a Awardees shall be given the title **World Council Member Emeritus**.
 - b Members shall be permitted to advise the Council without voting privileges.

Article 29

- 1 There shall be a deputy Chief Adjudicator from a country other than that of the hosting nation appointed to assist the Chief Adjudicator of the host university to:
 - a Assist in the training of adjudicators from the host university from at least two weeks prior to the Championship;
 - b Assist in the training of the remainder of the adjudicators prior to the Championship commencing;
 - c Assist in the accreditation and grading of all adjudicators at the Championship;
 - d Assist in a practice run of the tabulation system at least one week prior to the commencement of the Championships;
 - e Assist the host university to allocate adjudicators to debates during the championships;
 - f Assist the host university to comply with the constitution;
 - g Report to the main meeting of the council regarding the completion of the above duties.
- 2 The Deputy Chief Adjudicator shall be appointed by the host university at least six months prior to that championship. The host university may appoint more than one Deputy Chief Adjudicator.
- 3 The Deputy Chief Adjudicator must demonstrate to the host university a knowledge of draw and tabulation systems.

- 4 All reasonable transport, accommodation and food expenses of the Deputy Chief Adjudicator should be covered by the Championships budget.

Article 30

The format of a Round of the World Universities Debating Championships shall be as follows:

- 1 Overview of the Format
 - a There shall be nine preliminary rounds of debate, involving all teams eligible to debate in the Championships along with any composite teams deemed necessary under 2b).
 - b Following the nine preliminary rounds, there shall be an elimination round consisting of the top teams from the preliminary rounds (The Main Competition).
 - c Following the nine preliminary rounds there shall also be ESL elimination rounds, consisting of the top ESL teams, the number to be determined as below. (The ESL Competition)
 - d Following the nine preliminary rounds there shall also be EFL elimination rounds, consisting of the top four EFL teams. (The EFL Competition)
- 2 The Preliminary Rounds
 - a All teams eligible to debate at the Championships compete in the preliminary rounds
 - b Composite or "swing" teams must be added by the Tournament Director to under the following circumstances:
 - b.i If the number of teams eligible to debate in the preliminary rounds is equal to a number divisible by four, no composite teams are allowed; or
 - b.ii If this is not the case, then composite teams may be added until the number of teams in the preliminary round is equal to a number divisible by four.
 - c If a team withdraws from competition before or during the preliminary rounds then they shall be removed from the draw and either
 - c.i replaced with a composite team; or
 - c.ii the number of composite teams is reduced to ensure that the number of teams in the competition is still equal to a number divisible by four.
 - d Following each round, teams shall be ranked by the adjudication panel and awarded points (Team Points) as follows:
 - d.i 1st ranked team: 3 points;
 - d.ii 2nd ranked team: 2 points;
 - d.iii 3rd ranked team: 1 point;
 - d.iv 4th ranked team: 0 points.
 - e Teams shall also be given a score out of 200 (Team Scores) by the adjudication panel in accordance with the Rules of the Championship.
 - f If a team forfeits a debate they shall be given 0 points and a Team Score of 0.

g In the opening round, teams will be drawn in debates of groups of four teams on a random basis, and subsequently allocated Opening Government, Opening Opposition, Closing Government or Closing Opposition (Speaking Positions) on a random basis.

h For rounds two through to nine, the debates shall be drawn by the Tournament Director on a "power-pairing" basis, in accordance with section 3 of this Article.

3 Tabulation of Preliminary Rounds 2-9.

a At the conclusion of each preliminary round (except for the last round) teams shall be ranked in order of their aggregate Team Points accumulated by the team; from highest aggregate to lowest.

b The teams should then be divided up into pools of teams with the same amount of aggregate team points, with pools being ranked from highest aggregate to lowest.

c If any pool (The Upper Pool) consists of an amount of teams equivalent to a number that is not divisible by four, then teams from the pool ranking immediately below that pool (The Lower Pool) may be promoted to the Upper Pool, so that the Upper Pool consists of a number of teams that is divisible by four; provided that; (i) Team from the Lower Pool are selected on a random basis; and (ii) The pools are made up into numbers of teams divisible by four by starting at the highest ranking pool and moving consecutively to the lowest ranking pool, subject to 3f) below.

d Once the pools have been adjusted in accordance with 3c) then the pools are divided into debates of four teams on a random basis, subject to 3f) below.

e Once the teams have been placed in groups of four they shall be allocated Speaking Positions on a random basis, subject to 3f) below.

f The Tournament Director may devise a tabulation program or system that alters or varies:

f.i the random allocation of teams to a debate in accordance with 3d);

f.ii the random allocation of teams to Speaking Positions in accordance with 3e); and/or

f.iii the random promotion of a team from a Lower Pool to an Upper Pool in accordance with 3c);

f.iii.1.a in order to provide that teams are given as even an amount of the various Speaking Positions as possible over the nine preliminary rounds.

g The Tournament Director shall not be permitted under any circumstances to alter the composition of a pool beyond what is permitted under 3f).

h The following shall not be taken into account in any manner whatsoever when allocating teams to debates:

h.i Team Scores;

h.ii Whether two teams from the same institution have been drawn to debate each other; or

h.iii Whether the two or more of the teams drawn to debate each other have competed against each other in a prior preliminary round of the tournament.

- 4 Selection of teams for the elimination rounds
 - a At the conclusion of the nine preliminary rounds, teams are to be ranked in consecutive order (from highest to lowest) as follows:
 - a.i Total aggregate Team Points accumulated by the team; and
 - a.ii Where teams have an equal number of aggregate team points, on the basis of aggregate Team Scores accumulated by the team; and
 - a.iii Where this is also equal, on a count-back of the number of times that each team has ranked 1st, 2nd and 3rd, with a team ranking higher if it has been ranked 1st more often, and so on; and
 - a.iv Where the teams still cannot be distinguished, by drawing lots
 - b The top 48 teams on the tab after the preliminary rounds shall progress to the Open elimination rounds. These teams will be ranked as described in Article 30.4.a.
 - c Where there are, at the commencement of the preliminary rounds, at least 80 teams eligible to compete in the ESL and EFL elimination rounds, the highest sixteen ranking ESL and EFL teams will participate in the ESL Competition elimination rounds, and shall be ranked from 1st to 16th according to 4(a). In any other case, the highest eight ranking ESL and EFL teams will participate in the ESL competition elimination rounds, and shall be ranked from 1st to 8th according to 4(a). No EFL team participating in the ESL elimination rounds shall participate in the EFL rounds.
 - d The highest four ranking teams eligible to compete in the EFL Competition shall participate in that Competition, and shall be ranked 1st to 4th in accordance with 4(a).
 - e Any ESL or EFL team ranked high enough after the preliminary rounds to participate in the open category elimination rounds shall only participate in the open category elimination rounds.
 - f Teams shall compete in the elimination rounds subject to the qualification requirements of this Constitution.
 - g The consecutive order of finalists should be announced and posted by the Tournament Director before the commencement of the elimination rounds.
- 5 The Main Competition elimination rounds
 - a Teams shall be drawn to debate in accordance with Article 30 (4) of this Constitution.
 - b The 17th to 48th teams shall compete in a partial double-octo (PDO) round as follows:

PDO1: 17th 32nd 33rd 48th
 PDO2: 18th 31st 34th 47th
 PDO3: 19th 30th 35th 46th
 PDO4: 20th 29th 36th 45th
 PDO5: 21st 28th 37th 44th
 PDO6: 22nd 27th 38th 43rd

PDO7: 23rd 26th 39th 42nd
PDO8: 24th 25th 40th 41st

Two teams will progress from each of these debates and will face teams 1st-16th in the Octo-finals as follows:

PDO1 progressors face: 1st 16th
PDO2 progressors face: 2nd 15th
PDO3 progressors face: 3rd 14th
PDO4 progressors face: 4th 13th
PDO5 progressors face: 5th 12th
PDO6 progressors face: 6th 11th
PDO7 progressors face: 7th 10th
PDO8 progressors face: 8th 9th

- c At the conclusion of each of the Octo-Finals, Quarter Finals and Semi Finals, the adjudication panel shall select two winning teams from each debate. These two teams shall progress to the next elimination round.
 - d In the Final, the adjudication panel shall select the one winning team and the three runners-up. The three runners-up shall not be ranked in any way by the panel.
- 6 The ESL Competition elimination rounds
- a Teams shall be drawn to debate in accordance with Schedule A of this Constitution.
 - b At the conclusion of each Quarter Final and Semi Final, the adjudication panel shall select two winning teams. These two teams shall progress to the next elimination round.
 - c In the Final, the adjudication panel shall select the one winning team and the three runners-up. The three runners-up shall not be ranked in any way by the panel.
- 7 The EFL Competition elimination rounds
- a Teams shall be drawn to debate in accordance with Schedule A of this Constitution.
 - b The adjudication panel shall select one winning team and three runners-up. The three runners-up shall not be ranked in any way by the panel.

Article 31

- 1 The purpose of the English as a Second Language and English as a Foreign Language classifications is to recognize the achievement of speakers and teams in overcoming the inevitable burden of debating in a language that is not their own. The purpose of the English as a Foreign Language classification is to recognize the specific burden of speakers that have little or no exposure to English in their daily lives.
 - a The Language Review Officers shall evaluate the inevitable burden of a speaker both with regard to the amount of previous exposure to spoken English, as well as the level of complexity of said exposure.

- b Speakers are expected not to be suffering a sufficiently significant disadvantage to qualify as ESL or EFL when they:
 - b.i.1 Have spoken English for more than five years as a primary language in their home or social circle, or
 - b.i.2 Have spent more than five years when of school age or above in a country where English is the primary medium of exchange, or
 - b.i.3 Have spent more than five years enrolled in an educational program where English is the effective medium of instruction in a non-native English environment, or the English language is the subject of instruction, or
 - b.i.4 Have worked for more than five years in a workplace where English is the effective medium of exchange.
 - b.i.5 The cumulative period of time under which at least one of conditions (b) to (d) is fulfilled may not exceed five years.
 - b.i.6 Time shall be halved for education in a native English environment.
- c Speakers are expected not to be suffering a sufficiently significant disadvantage to qualify as EFL when they:
 - c.i.1 Have spoken a substantial amount of English in their home or social circle, or
 - c.i.2 Have spent more than three contiguous months when of school age or above in a countries where English is the primary medium of exchange, or more than 18 months in countries where English is an official language,
 - c.i.3 Have spent more than six months at an institution where English is the primary medium of instruction for subjects other than English.
- d The committee shall have discretion in evaluating speakers towards the quality of their exposure, specifically:
 - d.i.1 the content, structure, and quality of English used for the instruction that speakers are enrolled for.
 - d.i.2 the persons instructing the speakers.
- e A consistent classification of speakers should be maintained across the competition.

Article 32

- 1 Code of Conduct Requirement. Each host of each round of the Championship shall be required to draft, implement and enforce a Code of Conduct which will uphold the principle and the purpose of the Championship
- 2 Principle of the Championship. That all participants at rounds of the Championships should have an opportunity equal with other individuals to have their needs accommodated, consistent with their duties and obligations as participants in the Championships, without being hindered in or prevented from doing so by discriminatory practices based on race, nationality or ethnic origin, colour, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender, or disability, and to be free from harassment and intimidation in the performance of these duties and obligations.
- 3 Purpose of the Championship. The purpose of the Championship shall be the promotion of debate, the free exchange of ideas and international contact and co-operation.

- 4 Distribution of Code of Conduct. That code of conduct shall be advertised during registration, be made available on the tournament website and each participant shall be made to sign a copy upon registration.
- 5 Binding Nature of Code of Conduct. That code of conduct shall be binding upon all participants at that round of the Championship.
- 6 Minimum Provisions. That code of conduct shall contain, at a minimum, the following provisions: the statement of principles, expected conduct of participants, implementation and enforcement mechanisms, reporting procedure and appeals mechanisms.
- 7 Example of Code of Conduct. Hosts of each round of the championship may chose to adopt the example of a Code of Conduct in Schedule One of this constitution.

Article 33

- 1 The Registrar shall be responsible for maintaining the historical rankings of universities competing in the Championships.
- 2 The rankings shall be comprised of the total points accumulated by a university at the five most recent Championships. In the case where a university does not compete in a Championship because they serve as host, that university's ranking shall be comprised of the total points accumulated at the last five Championships in which that university competed.
- 3 A university's points for a particular Championship shall be comprised of the total points accumulated by all teams representing that university at that Championship during the preliminary rounds as reported in the published team tab.
- 4 Beginning with the 2012 Championships and henceforth, A university's points for a particular Championships shall also include points accumulated during the elimination phase of the Main Competition according to the following formula:
 - a Where a team receives a bye to a subsequent elimination round, that team shall receive three points for that bye.
 - b Where two teams advance from an elimination rounds, three points shall be awarded to each advancing team;
 - c Where one team is selected as the Champion in the Main Grand Final, six points shall be awarded to that team.

Article 34

1. Each WUDC host is required to be audited by two or three persons between three and six months prior to the tournament.
2. These auditors shall be appointed by the Council Executive prior to the tournament and shall not be affiliated with the host.
3. The audit shall cover the readiness of the host to successfully run the tournament, focusing on finances, logistics, volunteer structure, debate venues, accommodation, registration system and other relevant issues.
4. An audit report will be produced by the auditors and published no more than two weeks after the audit visit.

5. All reasonable expenses (esp. travel and accommodation costs) of the auditors have to be paid by the host.
6. A preliminary audit report shall be produced based on documents provided by the host. If the committee is completely satisfied with all documents and the preliminary audit report, it has the discretion to omit the necessity of a physical site visit.

Constitution Current as of 22nd December, 2014

Appendix One: Rules of the Championship

Part 1— Introduction

1.1 The format of the debate

1.1.1 The debate will consist of four teams of two persons (persons will be known as "members"), a chairperson (known as the "Speaker of the House" or "Mister/Madame Speaker" and an adjudicator or panel of adjudicators.

1.1.2 Teams will consist of the following members:

1.1.3 Members will deliver substantive speeches in the following order:

- (1) Prime Minister;
- (2) Opposition Leader;
- (3) Deputy Prime Minister;
- (4) Deputy Opposition Leader;
- (5) Member for the Government;
- (6) Member for the Opposition;
- (7) Government Whip;
- (8) Opposition Whip.

Opening Government:

" Prime Minister" or "First Government member" and
" Deputy Prime Minister" or "Second Government member";

Opening Opposition:

" Leader of the Opposition" or "First Opposition member" and
" Deputy Leader of the Opposition" or "Second Opposition member";

Closing Government:

" Member for the Government" or "Third Government member" and
" Government Whip" or "Fourth Opposition member";

Closing Opposition:

" Member for the Opposition" or "Third Opposition member" and
" Opposition Whip" or "Fourth Opposition member".

1.1.4 Members will deliver a substantive speech of seven minutes duration and should offer points of information while members of the opposing teams are speaking.

1.2 The motion

1.2.1 The motion should be unambiguously worded.

1.2.2 The motion should reflect that the World Universities Debating Championship is an international tournament.

1.2.3 The members should debate the motion in the spirit of the motion and the tournament.

1.3 Preparation

1.3.1 The debate should commence 15 minutes after the motion is announced.

1.3.2 Teams should arrive at their debate within five minutes of the scheduled starting time for that debate.

1.3.3 Members are permitted to use printed or written material during preparation and during the debate. Printed material includes books, journals, newspapers and other similar materials. The use of electronic equipment is prohibited during preparation and in the debate.

1.4 Points of Information

1.4.1 Points of Information (questions directed to the member speaking) may be asked between first minute mark and the six-minute mark of the members' speeches (speeches are of seven minutes duration).

1.4.2 To ask a Point of Information, a member should stand, place one hand on his or her head and extend the other towards the member speaking. The member may announce that they would like to ask a "Point of Information" or use other words to this effect.

1.4.3 The member who is speaking may accept or decline to answer the Point of Information.

1.4.4 Points of Information should not exceed 15 seconds in length.

1.4.5 The member who is speaking may ask the person offering the Point of Information to sit down where the offeror has had a reasonable opportunity to be heard and understood.

1.4.6 Members should attempt to answer at least two Points of Information during their speech. Members should also offer Points of Information.

1.4.7 Points of Information should be assessed in accordance with clause 3.3.4 of these rules.

1.4.8 Points of Order and Points of Personal Privilege are not permitted.

1.5 Timing of the speeches

1.5.1 Speeches should be seven minutes in duration (this should be signaled by two strikes of the gavel). Speeches over seven minutes and 15 seconds may be penalised.

1.5.2 Points of Information may only be offered between the first minute mark and the six minute mark of the speech (this period should be signaled by one strike of the gavel at the first minute and one strike at the sixth minute).

1.5.3 It is the duty of the Speaker of the House to time speeches.

1.5.4 In the absence of the Speaker of the House, it is the duty of the Chair of the Adjudication panel to ensure that speeches are timed.

1.6 The adjudication

1.6.1 The debate should be adjudicated by a panel of at least three adjudicators, where this is possible.

1.6.2 At the conclusion of the debate, the adjudicators should confer and rank the teams, from first placed to last placed. (see Part 5: The Adjudication).

1.6.3 There will be verbal adjudication of the debate after the first six preliminary rounds of the tournament. The verbal adjudication should be delivered in accordance with clause 5.5 of these rules.

Part 2 — Definitions

2.1 The definition

2.1.1 The definition should state the issue (or issues) for debate arising out of the motion and state the meaning of any terms in the motion which require interpretation.

2.1.2 The Prime Minister should provide the definition at the beginning of his or her speech.

2.1.3 The definition must:

(a) have a clear and logical link to the motion - this means that an average reasonable person would accept the link made by the member between the motion and the definition (where there is no such link the definition is sometimes referred to as a "squirrel");

(b) not be self-proving - a definition is self-proving when the case is that something should or should not be done and there is no reasonable rebuttal. A definition is may also be self-proving when the case is that a certain state of affairs exists or does not exist and there is no reasonable rebuttal (these definitions are sometimes referred to as "truisms").

(c) not be time set - this means that the debate must take place in the present and that the definition cannot set the debate in the past or the future; and

(d) not be place set unfairly - this means that the definition cannot restrict the debate so narrowly to a particular geographical or political location that a participant of the tournament could not reasonably be expected to have knowledge of the place.

2.2 Challenging the definition

2.2.1 The Leader of the Opposition may challenge the definition if it violates clause 2.1.3 of these rules. The Leader of the Opposition should clearly state that he or she is challenging the definition.

2.2.2 The Leader of the Opposition should substitute an alternative definition after challenging the definition of the Prime Minister.

2.3 Assessing the definitional challenge

2.3.1 The adjudicator should determine the definition to be 'unreasonable' where it violates clause 2.1.3 of these rules.

2.3.2 The onus to establish that the definition is unreasonable is on the members asserting that the definition is unreasonable.

2.3.3 Where the definition is unreasonable, the opposition should substitute an alternative definition that should be accepted by the adjudicator provided it is not unreasonable.

2.3.4 Where the definition of the Opening Government is unreasonable and an alternative definition is substituted by the Opening Opposition, the Closing Government may introduce matter which is inconsistent with the matter presented by the Opening Government and consistent with the definition of the Opening Opposition.

2.3.5 If the Opening Opposition has substituted a definition that is also unreasonable, the Closing Government may challenge the definition of the Opening Opposition and substitute an alternative definition.

2.3.6 If the Closing Government has substituted a definition that is also unreasonable (in addition to the unreasonable definitions of the Opening Government and Opening Opposition, the Closing Opposition may challenge the definition of the Closing Government and substitute an alternative definition.

Part 3 — Matter

3.1 The definition of matter

3.1.1 Matter is the content of the speech. It is the arguments a debater uses to further his or her case and persuade the audience.

3.1.2 Matter includes arguments and reasoning, examples, case studies, facts and any other material that attempts to further the case.

3.1.3 Matter includes positive (or substantive) material and rebuttal (arguments specifically aimed to refute the arguments of the opposing team(s)). Matter includes Points of Information.

3.2 The elements of matter

3.2.1 Matter should be relevant, logical and consistent.

3.2.2 Matter should be relevant. It should relate to the issues of the debate: positive material should support the case being presented and rebuttal should refute the material being presented by the opposing team(s). The Member should appropriately prioritise and apportion time to the dynamic issues of the debate.

3.2.3 Matter should be logical. Arguments should be developed logically in order to be clear and well reasoned and therefore plausible. The conclusion of all arguments should support the member's case.

3.2.4 Matter should be consistent. Members should ensure that the matter they present is consistent within their speech, their team and the remainder of the members on their side of the debate (subject to clauses 2.3.4, 2.3.5 or 2.3.6 of these rules).

3.2.5 All Members should present positive matter (except the final two members in the debate) and all members should present rebuttal (except the first member in the debate). The Government Whip may choose to present positive matter.

3.2.6 All Members should attempt to answer at least two points of information during their own speech and offer points of information during opposing speeches.

3.3 Assessing matter

3.3.1 The matter presented should be persuasive. 'The elements of matter' should assist an adjudicator to assess the persuasiveness and credibility of the matter presented.

3.3.2 Matter should be assessed from the viewpoint of the average reasonable person. Adjudicators should analyse the matter presented and assess its persuasiveness, while disregarding any specialist knowledge they may have on the issue of the debate.

3.3.3 Adjudicators should not allow bias to influence their assessment. Debaters should not be discriminated against on the basis of religion, sex, race, colour, nationality, sexual preference, age, social status or disability.

3.3.4 Points of information should be assessed according to the effect they have on the persuasiveness of the cases of both the member answering the point of information and the member offering the point of information.

Part 4 — Manner

4.1 The definition of manner

4.1.1 Manner is the presentation of the speech. It is the style and structure a member uses to further his or her case and persuade the audience.

4.1.2 Manner is comprised of many separate elements. Some, but not all, of these elements are listed below.

4.2 The elements of style

4.2.1 The elements of style include eye contact, voice modulation, hand gestures, language, the use of notes and any other element which may affect the effectiveness of the presentation of the member.

4.2.2 Eye contact will generally assist a member to persuade an audience as it allows the member to appear more sincere.

4.2.3 Voice modulation will generally assist a member to persuade an audience as the debater may emphasise important arguments and keep the attention of the audience. This includes the pitch, tone, and volume of the member's voice and the use of pauses.

4.2.4 Hand gestures will generally assist a member to emphasise important arguments. Excessive hand movements may however be distracting and reduce the attentiveness of the audience to the arguments.

4.2.5 Language should be clear and simple. Members who use language which is too verbose or confusing may detract from the argument if they lose the attention of the audience.

4.2.6 The use of notes is permitted, but members should be careful that they do not rely on their notes too much and detract from the other elements of manner.

4.3 The elements of structure

4.3.1 The elements of structure include the structure of the speech of the member and the structure of the speech of the team.

4.3.2 The matter of the speech of each member must be structured. The member should organise his or her matter to improve the effectiveness of their presentation. The substantive speech of each members should:

- (a) include: an introduction, conclusion and a series of arguments; and
- (b) be well-timed in accordance with the time limitations and the need to prioritise and apportion time to matter.

4.3.3 The matter of the team must be structured. The team should organise their matter to improve the effectiveness of their presentation. The team should:

- (a) contain a consistent approach to the issues being debated; and
- (b) allocate positive matter to each member where both members of the team are introducing positive matter;

4.4 Assessing manner

4.4.1 Adjudicators should assess the elements of manner together in order to determine the overall effectiveness of the member's presentation. Adjudicators should assess whether the member's presentation is assisted or diminished by their manner.

4.4.2 Adjudicators should be aware that at a World Championship, there are many styles which are appropriate, and that they should not discriminate against a member simply because the manner would be deemed 'inappropriate Parliamentary debating' in their own country.

4.4.3 Adjudicators should not allow bias to influence their assessment. Members should not be discriminated against on the basis of religion, sex, race, colour, nationality, language (subject to Rule 4.2.4), sexual preference, age, social status or disability.

Part 5 — The Adjudication

5.1 The role of the adjudicator

5.1.1 The adjudicator must:

- (a) Confer upon and discuss the debate with the other adjudicators;
- (b) Determine the rankings of the teams;
- (c) Determine the team grades;
- (d) Determine the speaker marks;
- (e) Provide a verbal adjudication to the members; and
- (f) Complete any documentation required by the tournament.

5.1.2 The adjudication panel should attempt to agree on the adjudication of the debate. Adjudicators should therefore confer in a spirit of cooperation and mutual respect

5.1.3 Adjudicators should acknowledge that adjudicators on a panel may form different or opposite views of the debate. Adjudicators should therefore attempt to base their conclusions on these rules in order to limit subjectivity and to provide a consistent approach to the assessment of debates.

5.2 Ranking teams

5.2.1 Teams should be ranked from first place to last place. First placed teams should be awarded three points, second placed teams should be awarded two points, third placed teams should be awarded one point and fourth placed teams should be awarded zero points.

5.2.2 Teams may receive zero points where they fail to arrive at the debate more than five minutes after the scheduled time for debate.

5.2.3 Teams may receive zero points where the adjudicators unanimously agree that the Member has (or Members have) harassed another debater on the basis of religion, sex, race, colour, nationality, sexual preference or disability.

5.2.4 Adjudicators should confer upon team rankings. Where a unanimous decision cannot be reached after conferral, the decision of the majority will determine the rankings. Where a majority decision cannot be reached, the Chair of the panel of adjudicators will determine the rankings.

5.3 Marking the members

5.3.2 Speaker points should be given the following interpretation:

Grade Marks Meaning

A 90-100 Excellent to flawless. The standard of speech you would expect to see from a speaker at the Semi Final / Grand Final level of the tournament. This speaker has many strengths and few, if any, weaknesses.

B 80-89 Above average to very good. The standard you would expect to see from a speaker at the finals level or in contention to make to the finals. This speaker has clear strengths and some minor weaknesses.

C 70-79 Average. The speaker has strengths and weaknesses and roughly equal proportions.

D 60-69 Poor to below average. The team has clear problems and some minor strengths.

E 50-59 Very poor. This speaker has fundamental weaknesses and few, if any, strengths.

5.4 Verbal adjudications

5.4.1 At the conclusion of the conferral, the adjudication panel should provide a

verbal adjudication of the debate.

5.4.2 The verbal adjudication should be delivered by the Chair of the adjudication panel, or where the Chair dissents, by a member of the adjudication panel nominated by the Chair of the panel.

5.4.3 The verbal adjudication should:

(a) identify the order in which the teams were ranked

(b) explain the reasons for the rankings of team, ensuring that each team is referred to in this explanation; and

(c) provide constructive comments to individual members where the adjudication panel believes this is necessary.

5.4.4 The verbal adjudication should not exceed 10 minutes

5.4.5 The members must not harass the adjudicators following the verbal adjudication.

5.4.6 The members may approach an adjudicator for further clarification following the verbal adjudication; these inquiries must at all times be polite and non-confrontational.

5.4.7 The verbal adjudication should not exceed 10 minutes.

5.4.8 The members must not harass the adjudicators following the verbal adjudication.

5.4.9 The members may approach an adjudicator for further clarification following the verbal adjudication; these inquiries must at all times be polite and non-confrontational

Schedule One: Example Code of Conduct

1 Purpose

The purpose of this Article is to give effect to the principle that all participants at rounds of the Championships should have an opportunity equal with other individuals to have their needs accommodated, consistent with their duties and obligations as participants in the Championships, without being hindered in or prevented from doing so by discriminatory practices based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender, or disability, and to be free from harassment and intimidation in the performance of these duties and obligations.

2 Conduct expected of participants

Participants at the Championships will comply with the following Code of Conduct

3 All participants at a round of the Championships will not engage in any behaviour that will undermine or attack the purpose of the Championship or the Code of Conduct including, but not limited to:

- a Engage in offensive language or behaviour;
- b make denigrating comments on the basis of age, race, sex, disability, religion or sexuality;
- c harass, threaten or intimidate other participants in any;
- d damage or destroy any property that does not belong to them;
- e harass, threaten or intimidate delegates to vote in a particular way.

4 The provisions of Article 30 (3) will apply:

- a during debates
- b during any formal event organised as part of the tournament;
- c during any social event organised as part of the tournament;
- d on transportation organised as part of the tournament;
- e in accommodation organised as part of the tournament;

5 Participants include all:

- a debaters
- b adjudicators
- c organisers
- d coaches
- e observers

6 Participants found to be in breach of this code of conduct agree to be bound by the decisions of the Equity Officer and / or the appeals committee

Implementation and Enforcement

7 Making a Complaint

Participants wishing to make a formal complaint alleging a breach of the Code of Conduct must do so:

- a in written form; and
- b submit the complaint to the designated Equity Officer of the Championship either in person; or
- c Complaints made in written form shall be submitted through any submission box at the Event marked for the express purpose of submitting Code of Conduct related complaints.
- d The tournament organising committee must provide a box for the express purpose of submitting Code of Conduct related complaints on each day of the Championship Round.
- e Nothing in the above subsections (a) – (d) prevents tournament participants from orally informing the designated Equity Officer of the Championship of an alleged breach of the Code of Conduct
- f Such an allegation will not be considered a formal complaint and will not trigger the complaints mechanism until a written complaint is submitted

8 Complaints must identify both the complainant and the accused.

9 Complaints Mechanism:

1 Subject to the provisions of section 2 of this Article, upon receipt of a complaint, the Equity Officer of the event shall without delay notify the Chair of Worlds Council that a complaint has been received, and where the Equity Officer of the event determines that such a complaint gives rise to a prima facie case of breach of this Code of Conduct, the Equity Officer shall conduct an investigation into the said complaint, and shall within twenty-four hours of the receipt of the complaint or before the end of the Championships, whichever is sooner, issue a decision on the complaint to the Chair of World's Council and to the parties involved.

2 Where the Equity Officer, acting reasonably, believes the Chair of Worlds Council to be in a position of a conflict of interest with regard to such a complaint, the Equity Officer shall not notify the Chair of Worlds Council, but instead shall notify any other member of the Executive Committee of the Worlds, as set out in Article 28 (1)(a-e), who the Equity Officer reasonably believes not to be in such a position of conflict of interest and shall deal with them as if they were the Chair of Worlds Council for the purposes of complying with the requirements under section 1 of this Article in relation to the complaint in question.

10 In any investigation entered into pursuant to Article 14, the Equity Officer shall

- a invite both the complainant and the accused person to participate in the investigation
- b have regard to all relevant factors in reaching their decision, including but not limited to:
 - e.i the circumstance in which the alleged act took place;

- e.ii whether the allegedly offensive comments were made in the context of a debate of the Championships and whether the comments were germane or relevant to that debate;
 - e.iii the intention of the accused person;
 - e.iv the extent and reasonableness of the offence taken; and,
 - e.v any relevant issues of culture and/or nationality
- 11 Both the Complainant and the Accused person shall be invited to participate in the investigation of the complaint.
 - 12 An investigation of the complaint may be terminated by the withdrawal of a complaint upon the request the Complainant, which will have the effect of rendering the initial complaint null and void from the beginning.
 - 13 In the event that the Equity Officer determines that an Accused person has breached the Code of Conduct, they will order any such disciplinary action as they feels in their discretion is appropriate, including (though not exclusively), a formal warning, a demand for a formal apology, removal from the tab, expulsion from the tournament.
 - 14 Where disciplinary action is taken, a written notification will be given to the party receiving the disciplinary action, and an additional copy will be kept by the Equity Officer under seal. These are the only copies that will be made by the Equity Officer, and the Equity Officer shall not disclose the terms of the document to anyone other than the members of the Appeals Committee and the party receiving discipline.
 - 15 Any person receiving disciplinary action may appeal the decision to an Appeals Committee to be comprised of the Convenor of the Event, any one of the Deputy Chief Adjudicators and the Chair of Worlds Council.
 - 16 The Appeals Committee will meet as quickly as possible to hear the appeal and will either uphold, amend, or overturn the decision of the Equity Officer.
 - 17 In the event that any member of the Appeals Committee finds themselves to be in a conflict of interest, or is unable to attend the hearing, they may nominate any of the Deputy Chief Adjudicators of the Event or the Chief Adjudicator, or another member of the Worlds Universities Debating Committee as set out in Article 28 (1)(a-e) to sit in their place.
 - 18 Decisions of the Appeals Committee are final.

Choice of Laws/Contract Terms/Definitions

- 19 Participants acknowledge that this agreement is governed by the laws of [insert country] and [insert relevant state jurisdiction (if applicable)]. Any and all legal actions concerning this Code of Conduct, or concerning any aspect of the Championships where the [insert name of Debating Society] (including its executive members, general members, or designated agents) or the [insert name of university] are named parties to the action shall be conducted exclusively and entirely in the [insert relevant jurisdiction].