



## Senior League Rules

1. Participants shall be students of grades (10) 11 to 13, an exception may be made for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders in their 2<sup>nd</sup> (or more) year of debating.
2. A school need not field the same five speakers throughout the year's competition, but any or all team members may be replaced from debate to debate. Schools may, by common consent, join together to field a mixed team, provided that all the other stipulations hold good.
3. Speaking time will be eight minutes for substantive speeches and four minutes for the reply speeches, but judges are urgently requested to be indulgent towards beginners finishing ahead of time.
4. Senior League judges needn't be adult teachers only, in fact they can be recruited from among the most experienced of the senior debaters or former debaters.
5. Meetings will preferably take place at the weekend. Whenever possible, several schools will meet to compete at the most convenient venue, but all teams must be prepared to travel to the announced venues. Venues will be schools, preferably of the competing teams, youth hostels in central areas or the like. In order to avoid that the same teams, i.e. from the cities in northern, eastern or western Germany, will have to travel all the time great distances to the south, some debating weekends in youth hostels will be arranged where all the teams will stay together and will pay DSG for their stays individually.
6. Schools are expected to stick to the dates and venues announced and, in order not to be disqualified, should turn up to the event. This will not apply when a school has good reason to plead absence at least one week in advance or when they have demonstrably not been notified.
7. Judges are urged to be especially positive in their choice of words during feedback when and after announcing the result. The whole point of the League is to encourage, not discourage debaters.
8. Teams are out to win, however, all participants shall behave with courtesy and in a respectful and courteous manner, in respect to all other participants, hosts and guests. In particular, participants agree not to behave in a manner that is racist or sexist or offensive or derogatory or harassing or intimidating. The first priority of Senior League being to practise, encourage and not discourage beginners, teams will be fair and avoid harassment of any kind to weaker or less experienced teams in a debate. Members of the opposing team should not offer an excessive number of poi's to the point that they are barracking. Points will be deducted for inappropriate behaviour, for harassment or barracking.
9. The following code of conduct applies to all debaters and students. During the tournament participants must NOT take or use other people's property without permission, intentionally cause damage to the property of other participants or of any host venue, consume or be under the influence of any substance, f.ex. alcohol, which in any way may cause disturbances or bring DSG into disrepute. Breaches (Re. 9,10) will be reported to the organisers and they may warn or suspend the respondent or expel the team from the championship including future tournaments.
10. Participation is confined to schools and coaches that are members of Debating Society Germany e.V. An exception may be made for schools in their very first debating year.
11. A small participation fee to cover overheads, copies etc. will be exacted to be paid at the moment of registration.
12. Debating Society Germany thus will present an annual all German schools debating league with semi-finals and a final, which will be hosted by the finalists and can be part of the opening of our annual German Schools Debating Championships. The winner will be awarded our Senior Cup for a year.