

# Junior League

## RULES & CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

(accepted by the Annual General Meeting 05.03.2005)



1. Participants shall be **beginners in their first or second years of debating**.  
*Debaters will have started at earliest in August-September of one school year, and continue to be eligible until June-July of the following school year at the latest.*
2. Participants shall be students of **grades (7) 8 to 9 only**. An exception may be made for 10<sup>th</sup> graders in their very first year of debating (*but not for grades 11 to 13, and not for 10<sup>th</sup> graders in their 2<sup>nd</sup> year of debating.*)
3. 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.
4. Schools may, *by common consent*, join together to field a **mixed** team, provided that all the other stipulations hold good. *This might make sense for schools within one town.*
5. Speaking time will be **six** minutes for substantive speeches and **three** for reply speeches.  
*But judges are urgently requested to be lenient towards beginners finishing ahead of time!*
6. Junior League judges needn't be adult teachers; they could & should be recruited from among the more experienced of the **senior student debaters**.
7. Venues will be schools, preferably of the competing teams and, whenever possible, several schools will meet to compete at any one venue. *Teams cannot be expected to travel great distances; and the more teams there are, the more judges should prove available.*
8. Meetings will preferably take place at the weekend or on Friday afternoon.
9. Venues and meetings will for practical purposes generally be determined centrally, and will definitely be announced well in advance.
10. Schools are expected to stick to the dates and venues announced and, in order to avoid disqualification, should turn up to the event.  
*This will not apply when a school has demonstrably not been notified; or when a school has good reason to plead absence at least one week in advance.*
11. Judges are urged to be **positive** in their choice of words during feedback when & after announcing the result, as they are dealing with relative beginners in Junior League.  
*The whole point of Junior League is to encourage, not discourage youngsters.*
12. All debating being a blood sport, teams are out to win. However, the first priority of Junior League being to encourage, not discourage beginners, more experienced teams will be courteous, even gentle, to weaker teams, & will **avoid harassment** of any kind, notably in "points of information." *Even at Worlds (WSDC) points are deducted for harassment!*
13. Participation is restricted to teams whose school or coach are **members of Debating Society Germany e.V.** *An exception will be made for schools in their very first Junior League debating year only.*  

A small participation fee will be exacted to cover overheads, to be paid at the moment of registration by both DSG members & non-members..
14. Debating Society Germany e.V. looks forward to a separate Junior League within each *Bundesland*, with *Länder* finals culminating in an all-German final.