

Senior Debating League 2005/2006 RULES

1. Participants shall be students of grades (10) 11 to 13, an exception may be made for 9th and 10th graders in their 2nd (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.
3. Schools may , by common consent, join together to field a mixed team, provided that all the other stipulations hold good.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. Meetings will preferably take place at the weekend. Whenever possible, several schools will meet to compete at any one venue. 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 or schools will be arranged in the middle of Germany where all the teams will stay together and will pay for their stays individually.
7. Venues and meetings will for practical reasons generally be set centrally, and will definitely be announced well in advance.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. Teams are out to win, however, all participants shall behave with courtesy and respect to all other participants. 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.
11. 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.
12. A small participation fee to cover overheads and copies will be exacted to be paid at the moment of registration.
13. Debating Society Germany thus will present an annual all German schools debating league with semi-finals and a final which will be an integral part of the opening of our annual German Schools Debating Championships. The winner will be awarded our Senior Cup for a year.

***ratified at the DSG annual general meeting
5th March 2005***