

Minutes of the Judges' Briefing for Junior and Senior League 2024/25

19 November 2024, 19:00 CET

Presentation Slides are available here:

https://www.schoolsdebate.de/images/2024/SL_JL_2024_25_JudgesBriefing_Slides.pdf

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Presentation on the WSDC debate format and scoring system
 - 2.1. The WSDC debate format
 - 2.2. Judging Categories
 - 2.3. Scoring system for JL and SL
3. Information on conferral judging in Senior League
4. Questions & Answers

1. Welcome

The presenters, Sunny Lorenz, Alex Seitz, and Leander Mathiessen, welcomed all participants on behalf of the Senior and Junior League Organization Committees.

The chairman and chairwoman of Debating Society Germany e. V., Christopher Sanchez and Vivian Schreier, welcomed all participants on behalf of DSG.

Franziska Mohr kindly volunteered to take the minutes of the meeting.

Before the briefing, the OrgComms made the following organizational announcements:

1. Teams who plan to attend a debate day with more than seven team members should contact the venue host in advance and inform them how many people they will be, so the host can make preparations for sufficient seating and refreshments.
2. For events taking place at youth hostels, any (especially adult) visitors who are not registered participants must announce themselves by name to the OrgComm in advance, and check in with the OrgComm on the day(s) of their attendance. This is for reasons of safeguarding and because the hostels maintain a list of individuals present in the building for fire safety.
3. For events taking place at public schools, visitors can be present unannounced, as these are public buildings.
4. During all DSG debate events, any persons who are not appointed by DSG are **absolutely prohibited** from creating video and audio recordings. This is to comply with data protection laws, which are especially strict when minors are involved. There is one exception: Coaches and debaters are allowed to record the speeches of their own team members if they have their consent for this, including parental consent in

the case of minors. When doing this, they must make sure that no other persons are in frame and stop the audio recording when people other than the speaker are audible (e.g. during POIs).

2. Presentation on the WSDC debate format and scoring system

(See the presentation slides)

3. Information on conferral judging in Senior League

(See the presentation slides)

4. Questions and Answers

Question: What is the policy on use of digital devices in speeches and preparation rooms?

- During debates, digital devices such as smartphones or smart watches are only allowed for the purpose of timing your own speech (not for research or for note taking). No digital electronic devices are allowed in preparation rooms. Timekeeping in preparation rooms must be done using “non-smart” wrist watches or stop watches.
- Debaters with disabilities may use accessibility devices (e.g. hearing aids, laptops with screen readers) at all times.

Question: Are there auto-win and auto-loss conditions? (e.g. related to role fulfillment)

- Even when speaker roles are not fulfilled, there are no auto-wins and auto-losses. Judges should still credit all arguments and points brought up in the speech (except for new material in reply speeches). Role fulfillment is judged in the Strategy category.

Question: Do speakers have to be the same in the two rounds of one debate day?

- Speakers within a team can be freely rotated or changed between rounds. The speakers for impromptu debates have to be selected from the up to 5 people who were in the preparation room, but no other restrictions apply. Theoretically, you can have a total of 8 people involved in the same day (3 speaking in the impromptu, 2 helping them prepare, and 3 speaking in the prepared).

Question: In what scenarios can Opposition change or modify a definition?

- They are expected to do this if the definition is unreasonable or unfair in regards to the motion. This includes obvious misdefinitions (e.g. defining “an orange” as meaning “a watermelon”) or definitions resulting in impossible or unfair burdens of proof. Opposition can also extend the definition to include cases which Proposition did not address (e.g. adding unauthorized use of intellectual property to a definition of theft).

Question: When offering a POI, do debaters have to stand up and remain standing until the end of the response?

- If they are physically able to do this, they are expected to remain standing until the POI are accepted or declined. If it is accepted, they should remain

standing while they deliver the POI. They are not expected to remain standing during the speaker's response.

Question: What other decorum rules are there for POIs? Primarily in JL: should judges intervene between speeches to encourage giving more POIs or discourage excessive POIs as harassment?

- Judges should definitely point out if the amount of POIs becomes excessive or POIs are frequently offered while speakers are still responding to a previous POI. However, the appropriate tone and amount of POIs always depends on the confidence and experience of the current speaker.
- Asking for POIs as the current speaker at a convenient time during the speeches is strongly discouraged, and should be seen as bad style and strategy. The POI givers are the ones who are in control of when they happen.
- It is okay to delay accepting a POI (e.g. by saying "let me finish this thought", or by accepting and giving a very brief reply and then saying "I will get into this in my speech"). If delayed, POIs should be responded to at the earliest time possible.
- It is considered bad style to interrupt POIs with "I got your point" before 10-15 seconds have passed (they couldn't possibly have made their point yet!).

Question: Are there still going to be Judges' Briefings at the venues on each debate day?

- No detailed briefings are required unless there are novice judges present who request them. Hosts should still offer judges the opportunity to ask and discuss questions during the impromptu debate preparation time. This time should also be used to prepare the judges' allocation. Judges are expected to arrive at venues at the start of the preparation time, so they can be present for this. Only in exceptional circumstances is it acceptable for judges to only arrive immediately before the start of the first debate.

Action Points

1. The presenters will forward the presentation slides and minutes of the meeting to all invitees, and make them publicly available on the DSG website.