

Debating Society Germany e.V.

Code of Conduct

One of the attractive things about debating is that we spend much of our time not at home, but in other places with other people - mainly in schools or youth hostels. Following on from the debating rules are these social rules. It is perhaps as well to spell them out, as otherwise they tend to be forgotten or ignored.

1. The most important rule is that **courtesy and consideration** are required on all occasions.
 - I. For the debates themselves, courtesy and consideration imply:
 - a. that we should pay a certain amount of attention to our dress, and aim at a more formal standard than in everyday wear;
 - b. that we should keep up a high standard of politeness: this implies such things as shaking hands with opponents, refraining from barracking, harrassing, or interrupting, and - very important - listening receptively to the judges' remarks, especially during the "feedback" session, which is **not** an occasion for arguing about the judges' decision.
 - II. At other times when we are in contact with other debaters or with our hosts, courtesy and consideration imply that we should cause no trouble or annoyance to other people; in fact, that we should go out of our way to make things easier for them. In particular, we should:
 - a. make sure that we cause no damage in rooms which we use, that we remove any litter, and that we clear plates and cutlery from canteen tables;
 - b. keep to house rules relating to such things as smoking, returning in the evening, bedtimes, and lights out;
 - c. keep noise down at all times;
 - d. recognise the authority of all coaches and teachers-in-charge, not merely those from our own schools;
 - e. refrain from the consumption of alcohol.
2. Coaches are responsible for making sure that this code of conduct is known to, and agreed to and kept to by, the teams of which they are in charge.
3. It is essential that teams are accompanied to debates, whether normal rounds or postponed rounds, by their coaches, or at least by a substitute who can take charge of and be responsible for the team, and act as a judge in other debates.