



PROCEDURES FOR ONLINE WORLD SCHOOLS DEBATING CHAMPIONSHIPS

1. Purpose of this document and variations to the procedures

1.1 This document is an official document of the World Schools Debating Championships (“WSDC”) which outlines the procedures that shall be followed in a year when an Online World Schools Debating Championship (“Online WSDC”) is held instead of a regular WSDC championship held in a host nation.

1.2 The sections below outline the aspects of the rules and procedures for an Online WSDC which shall be different from a regular WSDC championship.

2. Number of preliminary rounds

2.1 There shall be 8 preliminary rounds (4 prepared rounds and 4 impromptu rounds) at an Online WSDC in which all competing teams will participate, in accordance with the WSDC Rules.

2.2 The preliminary rounds will be held over 4 days with one prepared round and one impromptu round on each day.

2.3 The Convenor(s) shall arrange for there to be a ‘rest day’ during the preliminary rounds rather than having the preliminary rounds on 4 consecutive days.

3. Creation of divisions for an Online WSDC

3.1 At an Online WSDC, the participating teams shall be divided into 2 divisions, with teams debating only against other teams from their own division during the preliminary rounds.

3.2 Teams will be allocated to divisions by the Chief Adjudicators in consultation with the Convenors and the WSDC Ltd Board of Directors, with the aim of teams from nations in similar time zones being put together in the same division as far as is reasonably possible. Participating nations will be allowed to indicate during the registration process the time zone

to which they will belong for the purposes of the Online WSDC, in cases where members of the team may be located in different time zones, and they will be allocated accordingly.

3.3 The two divisions shall be as similar in size to each other as is reasonably possible (but do not necessarily have to have exactly the same number of teams).

3.4 In situations where there are teams from nations which could reasonably be put into either of the 2 divisions after taking time zones into account:

- (i) The Chief Adjudicators shall take into account the seeding of these teams in accordance with the seeding procedures outlined in Section 4 and allocate teams to divisions with the aim of ensuring that there is a reasonably equitable spread of teams of different seeding levels in each division.
- (ii) In situations where, taking 3.4 (i) into account, there are two or more such teams of roughly equal seeding levels who the Chief Adjudicators still feel could reasonably be placed into either division, those teams will be allocated to divisions through a random draw.

3.5 Teams will be informed of the division which they have been allocated to at least 2 weeks before the first day of debates at the Online WSDC.

3.6 Once divisions have been released as required by 3.5, amendments can only be made if:

- (i) In the judgement of the Chief Adjudicators, the amendments will improve the fairness and balance of the divisions, and
- (ii) All teams affected agree to the new divisions (this includes the teams whose division would change and teams whose round 1 draw may be affected by this change).

4. Seeding and draw for preliminary round 1

4.1 At least 2 weeks before the first day of debates at an Online WSDC, all participating teams shall be informed of the full preliminary rounds draw if the number of teams is less than 24, or the draw for preliminary round 1 if the number of teams is 24 or more.

4.2 The draw for preliminary round 1 shall be a seeded draw using the guidelines outlined in 4.3 to 4.9.

4.3 For the purposes of determining pre-seeding for preliminary round 1, each team in the division shall be placed in groups A, B, C or D.

4.4 The nations will be seeded based on each nation's final ranking at the end of the tournament in both of the following types of championship:

- (i) The previous 3 regular WSDC tournament held in a host nation, and
- (ii) Any Online WSDC tournament that has been held instead of a regular WSDC tournament during the 3 year-period prior to the current Online WSDC championship.

4.5 Nations which have not entered a team in any of the previous 3 regular WSDC tournaments or any Online WSDC tournament that has been held during the previous 3 years shall be placed at the bottom of the seeding order.

4.6 Once seeded, as far as is reasonably and practically possible the top 25% will be placed in Group A, the second 25% in Group B, the third 25% in Group C, and the bottom 25% in Group D.

4.7 As far and is reasonably and practically possible, for preliminary round 1 each team from Group A shall debate against a team from Group C and each team from Group B shall debate against a Team from Group D, with teams being paired up using a random draw method.

4.8 In situations where the total number of teams is not divisible by 4, the Chief Adjudicators shall determine what adjustments need to be made to this system in order to ensure that every team's draw for preliminary round 1 remains as fair as possible, keeping the adjustments as minimal as possible.

4.9 As far as is reasonably and practically possible, approximately half the teams in each seeded group will be assigned to debate in proposition and approximately half the teams in each seeded group will be assigned to debate in opposition for preliminary round 1.

4.10 Once the draw has been released as required by 4.1, amendments can only be made if they are done so in accordance with the procedures outlined in section 6.4 of the WSDC Rules.

5 Draw for preliminary rounds 2 to 8

5.1 For preliminary rounds 2 to 8, the draw in each division shall be determined using the power pairing guidelines outlined in the document 'Procedures for Power-Pairing at the World Schools Debating Championships'.

5.2 Preliminary round 3 shall be a prepared debate.

5.3 Teams who debated in proposition for preliminary round 1 shall debate in opposition for preliminary round 3, while teams who debated in opposition for preliminary round 1 shall debate in proposition for preliminary round 3. (This will allow teams to prepare for a specific side of the preliminary round 3 motion in advance of the round.) The Chief Adjudicators and Tab Master will determine what adjustments need to be made to the

power-pairing system for preliminary round 3 in order to enable this to happen, keeping the adjustments to the minimum necessary.

5.4 The draw for the first preliminary round of the following day shall be released to teams in the division no later than one hour after the final judge's ballot from the second round of the previous day has been entered.

6. Procedures regarding walkovers and swing teams

6.1 Where necessary, arrangements shall be made for a 'swing team' debate in the preliminary rounds in one or both divisions in order to ensure an even number of teams.

6.2 Procedures regarding the composition and deployment of swing teams shall follow the procedures outlined in section 4 of the document 'Procedures for Power-Pairing at the World Schools Debating Championships'.

7. Qualification for knock-out rounds and participation in the Partial Double Octofinal round

7.1 Provided that at least 48 teams compete in the preliminary rounds of the Online WSDC across both divisions, a Partial Double Octofinal round will be held prior to the Octofinals.

7.2 The number of teams qualifying for the knock-out rounds from each division will be as follows:

- (i) If 12 or fewer teams in the division win 5 or more preliminary round debates, the top 12 teams from the division shall qualify for the knock-out rounds.
- (ii) If more than 12 but less than 16 teams from the division win 5 or more preliminary round debates, the number of teams which qualify for the knock-out rounds shall be the number of teams which won 5 or more preliminary round debates or half the number of teams competing in the division (rounded down to the nearest whole number), whichever is the smaller number of teams. (If half the number of teams in the division rounded down to the nearest whole number is less than 12, then 12 teams from the division will qualify for the knock-out rounds.)
- (iii) If 16 or more teams win 5 or more preliminary round debates, the number of teams which qualify for the knock-out rounds shall be 32 teams or half the number of teams competing in the preliminary rounds (rounded down to the nearest whole number), whichever is the smaller number of teams. (If half the number of teams in the division rounded down to the nearest whole number is less than 12, then 12 teams from the division will qualify for the knock-out rounds.)

7.3 The number of teams participating in the Partial Double Octofinal round and the teams proceeding directly to the Octofinal round shall be determined using the following formula:

Number of breaking teams in Division A	Number of breaking teams in Division B	Teams participating in the Partial Double Octofinals
12	12	16 (8 from each division). A1-4 & B1-4 go directly to Octofinals.
12	13	18 (9 from each division). A1-3 & B1-4 go directly to Octofinals.
12	14	20 (10 from each division). A1-2 & B1-4 go directly to Octofinals.
12	15	22 (11 from each division). A1 & B1-4 go directly to Octofinals.
12	16	24 (12 from each division). B1-4 go directly to Octofinals.
13	12	18 (9 from each division). A1-4 & B1-3 go directly to Octofinals.
13	13	20 (10 from each division). A1-3 & B1-3 go directly to Octofinals.
13	14	22 (11 from each division). A1-2 & B1-3 go directly to Octofinals.
13	15	24 (12 from each division). A1 & B1-3 go directly to Octofinals.
13	16	26 (13 from each division). B1-3 go directly to Octofinals.
14	12	20 (10 from each division). A1-4 & B1-2 go directly to Octofinals.
14	13	22 (11 from each division). A1-3 & B1-2 go directly to Octofinals.
14	14	24 (12 from each division). A1-2 & B1-2 go directly to Octofinals.
14	15	26 (13 from each division). A1 & B1-2 go directly to Octofinals.
14	16	28 (14 from each division). B1-2 go directly to Octofinals.
15	12	22 (11 from each division). A1-4 & B1 go directly to Octofinals.
15	13	24 (12 from each division). A1-3 & B1 go directly to Octofinals.
15	14	26 (13 from each division). A1-2 & B1 go directly to Octofinals.
15	15	28 (14 from each division). A1 & B1 go directly to Octofinals.
15	16	30 (15 from each division). B1 goes directly to Octofinals.
16	12	24 (12 from each division). A1-4 go directly to Octofinals.
16	13	26 (13 from each division). A1-3 go directly to Octofinals.
16	14	28 (14 from each division). A1-2 go directly to Octofinals.
16	15	30 (15 from each division). A1 goes directly to Octofinals.
16	16	32 (16 from each division).

8. Procedures for the knock-out rounds

8.1 The draw for teams participating in the Partial Double Octofinal round shall be determined as follows:

- (a) Highest-ranked participating team from Division A against lowest-ranked participating team from Division B,
- (b) 2nd highest-ranked participating team from Division A against 2nd lowest-ranked participating team from Division B,

- (c) 3rd highest-ranked participating team from Division A against 3rd lowest-ranked participating team from Division B, etc.

8.2 Following the Partial Double Octofinal round, the draw for the Octofinal round shall be determined as follows:

A	Division A Team 1 <u>or</u> team which defeated Division A Team 1	vs	Division B Team 8 <u>or</u> team which defeated Division B Team 8
B	Division A Team 2 <u>or</u> team which defeated Division A Team 2	vs	Division B Team 7 <u>or</u> team which defeated Division B Team 7
C	Division A Team 3 <u>or</u> team which defeated Division A Team 3	vs	Division B Team 6 <u>or</u> team which defeated Division B Team 6
D	Division A Team 4 <u>or</u> team which defeated Division A Team 4	vs	Division B Team 5 <u>or</u> team which defeated Division B Team 5
E	Division A Team 5 <u>or</u> team which defeated Division A Team 5	vs	Division B Team 4 <u>or</u> team which defeated Division B Team 4
F	Division A Team 6 <u>or</u> team which defeated Division A Team 6	vs	Division B Team 3 <u>or</u> team which defeated Division B Team 3
G	Division A Team 7 <u>or</u> team which defeated Division A Team 7	vs	Division B Team 2 <u>or</u> team which defeated Division B Team 2
H	Division A Team 8 <u>or</u> team which defeated Division A Team 8	vs	Division B Team 1 <u>or</u> team which defeated Division B Team 1

8.3 The draw for the Quarterfinal round shall be determined as follows:

A	Winner Octofinal A	vs	Winner Octofinal E
B	Winner Octofinal B	vs	Winner Octofinal F
C	Winner Octofinal C	vs	Winner Octofinal G
D	Winner Octofinal D	vs	Winner Octofinal H

8.4 The draw for the Semifinal round shall be determined as follows:

A	Winner Quarterfinal A	vs	Winner Quarterfinal C
B	Winner Quarterfinal B	vs	Winner Quarterfinal D

8.5 All knock-out round debates at an Online WSDC, including the Grand Final, shall be impromptu debates.

8.6 As far as possible, teams participating in the knock-out rounds shall be guaranteed a minimum number of rest hours between rounds.

9. Individual speaker rankings & team awards

9.1 The final rankings for individual speakers at the Online WSDC shall be created by using the average judges' scores given to the debater for substantive speeches in each preliminary

round for all debaters who speak in at least 50% of the preliminary rounds.

9.2 Final team rankings shall be determined, as follows, regardless of the division the team participated in for the preliminary rounds:

- (i) The champions and runners-up shall be ranked 1 and 2 respectively;
- (ii) All other teams shall be ranked according to:
 - (a) the round of the Online WSDC the team reached and, where equal,
 - (b) the team's preliminary round ranking in the division they competed in and, where equal,
 - (c) the number of judges' ballots the team was awarded during the preliminary rounds and, where equal,
 - (d) the total number of speaker points the team was awarded during the preliminary rounds.

9.3 Speaker awards and team awards shall be given to the highest ranked debaters and teams regardless of which division the team participated in. There shall not be separate speaker or team awards for each division.

10. Setting of debate motions

10.1 For impromptu rounds, a different motion shall be set for each time-slot at which debates for the round will take place.

10.2 Motions shall be set by a Motions Committee, in accordance to Part Eight of the WSDC Rules.

10.3 In situations where it is not possible for the Motions Committee to follow the timeline outlined in 8.4 and 8.5 of the WSDC Rules due to a decision being made to hold an Online WSDC event at fairly short notice, the timing of these procedures may be adjusted accordingly by the WSDC Ltd Board of Directors in consultation with the Motions Committee, Convenor and Chief Adjudicators.

11. The Chief Adjudicator(s)

11.1 In instances where there are two Chief Adjudicators for an Online WSDC, there should be one Chief Adjudicator present and overseeing each of the divisions.

11.2 The requirements, appointment and functions of the Chief Adjudicator(s) and the Chief Adjudicator's Panel shall be in accordance to Part Twelve of the WSDC Rules and the

provisions outlined in this document.

12. The Host

12.1 The timeline for the selection of the host of an Online WSDC shall be determined by the WSDC Ltd Board of Directors, depending on the circumstances and timing which led to the decision to host an Online Championship in that year. This timeline will be communicated in full to the Tournament Committee, before the host selection process commences.

12.2 Provided that the adapted timeline can allow for this, the process used for the selection of the host will be the same as that outlined in Part Two of the WSDC Rules.

12.3 The Host may choose to partner with a second organisation to run one of the divisions. In such instances, it must be clear which organisation is the main host of the Online WSDC.