



O'Shea Shield 2017

**St Bernard's College
Lower Hutt**

"Living in Harmony with God's Creation"

Debating Guidelines

DEBATING

Rules for arrangement and conduct of Debates

(Based on the Russell McVeagh National Debating rules)

1. Each team shall consist of three speakers.
2. The order of speakers and speaking times shall be as follows:
 - 1 Affirmative
 - 1 Negative
 - 2 Affirmative **(Speeches to be a maximum of 8 minutes)**
 - 2 Negative
 - 3 Affirmative
 - 3 Negative
 - 1 or 2 Negative **(Maximum of 4 minutes with a warning bell at 3 minutes)**
 - 1 or 2 Affirmative
3. The warning bell will be a single ring of the bell (or similar device). Two rings of the bell will indicate the completion of allotted time.
4. For the 1st, 2nd and 3rd speakers, there will be a bell at ONE minute (signalling to all the debaters that Points of Information are now allowed to be offered) and one bell at SEVEN minutes (indicating that no more Points of Information may be offered) and two bells at eight minutes.
5. The conduct and control of the debate shall be the responsibility of the Chairperson. It is the Chairperson's duty to make the ruling on the Point of Order.
6. Speaking times shall be calculated by excluding any time taken up by Points of Order or any other interruption to the speeches. The clock is stopped during Points of Order but not during Points of Information.
7. No interjections from the audience or the teams will be accepted.
8. Points of Information are allowed.
 - a. Between the first and seventh minutes of a speaker's speech, members of the other team may offer Points of Information.
 - b. The purpose of a Point of Information is to make a short point or ask a short question of the speaker. It must be made in the form of a question.
 - c. A Point of Information should be brief, and no longer than 15 seconds.
 - d. Points of Information are an important part of the clash between the teams, and enable speakers to remain a part of the debate even when they are not making a speech.

- e. A speaker should offer Points of Information both before and after that speaker has given his or her speech.
 - f. The speaker has the absolute right to refuse to accept a Point of Information, or to accept it only at the end of the next sentence.
 - g. A speaker is obliged to accept some Points of Information, provided that they have been offered at reasonable times in the speaker's speech.
 - h. As a general rule a speaker should accept at least 2 Points of Information in his or her speech. But a speaker who accepts a significantly greater number of Points of Information risks losing control of his or her speech.
 - i. Members of the opposing team should not offer an excessive number of Points of Information to the point that they are barracking. As a general rule each team member should offer between 2 and 4 Points of Information per speech, and should not offer them within a short time of a previous point of information having been offered.
 - j. The response by the speaker to a Point of Information will be included in the mark for that speaker's speech.
 - k. The offering of Points of Information will be included in the mark for the speaker offering points.
9. Points of Order may be made on the following grounds only:
- a. That the speaker or any other person present is conducting themselves in an unseemly manner.
 - b. That the speaker is using personal abuse or offensive language.
 - c. That the speaker is misquoting an earlier speaker on a material point in the debate.
 - d. That the leader in her/his reply is introducing new material into the debate.
 - e. That the speaker is introducing material clearly not relevant to the subject of the debate (e.g. comments on how the topic was selected).
 - f. That any of the rules for the conduct of the debate are not being observed.
 - Please note that Points of Order are rarely used in modern debates.
10. A Point of Order may be raised by the current speaker or by any other member of the two teams during the debate.
11. The Chairperson should rule on the Point of Order without debate but MAY, if she/he is in doubt, allow members of the two teams to speak briefly to the Point of Order, but the adjudicator may stop the discussion at any time
12. The Chairperson must rule one way or the other on any Point of Order which has been properly raised.
13. When a Point of Order has been raised, the speaker shall resume their seat until the Chairperson has delivered a ruling. The person who has raised the Point of Order will stand to speak to the Point of Order if invited to do so by the Chairperson.
14. A Point of Order shall be allowed only if it is raised during or immediately after the breach.

15. A speaker whose remarks have been misunderstood shall not be permitted to make an explanation except at the end of the speech in which they claim to have been misunderstood.
16. The adjudicator shall judge the debate fairly and impartially and disregard any prejudice of the audience. The Adjudicator shall name the winning team and place the three best speakers in order of merit. As speakers are expected to end their speeches within the time allowed adjudicators are expected to reduce the speaker's marks for undue running-over of time.
17. If you can not get suitable adjudicators who are familiar with McVeagh Debating, then call on the competing schools to provide a suitable adjudicator. (Delegate's meeting 2012).

“That human will holds the answer to the environmental issues we face.”

The debates begin at 9:00 am, after the Powhiri.

The draw is as follows:

Affirmative	Negative
Garin	St Joseph's College
Sacred Heart College Napier	Sacred Heart College New Plymouth
St Patrick's College Silverstream	St Mary's College A
Bishop Viard College	St Mary's College B
St John's College	Cullinane College
Hato Paora College	St Peter's College
St Patrick's College Wellington	Chanel College
St Catherine's College	Sacred Heart Lower Hutt
Francis Douglas Memorial College	St Bernard's College (A)

Marks and Awards

The adjudicators' marking schedules total 400 and trophies will be awarded to the best Affirmative team and best Negative team.

6 points	Distinction award	Excellent standard	306+
5 points	Distinction award	Excellent standard	270 - 305
4 points	Merit award	Good standard	234 - 269
3 points	Merit award	Average standard	179 - 268
2 points	Participation award	Complete, below average	110 - 178
1 point	Participation award	Incomplete or inadequate	0 - 109

O'SHEA SHIELD COMPETITION 2017: DEBATING ADJUDICATION SHEET (Russell McVeagh)

MOTION: _____

DATE: _____

AFFIRMATIVE:

	SPEAKERS	STYLE (/40)	CONTENT (/40)	STRATEGY (/20)	POIS (/2)	TOTAL
1.						
2.						
3.						

	REPLY SPEAKER	STYLE (/20)	CONTENT (/20)	STRATEGY (/10)		TOTAL

AFFIRMATIVE TEAM TOTAL

NEGATIVE:

	SPEAKERS	STYLE (/40)	CONTENT (/40)	STRATEGY (/20)	POIS (/2)	TOTAL
1.						
2.						
3.						

	REPLY SPEAKER	STYLE (/20)	CONTENT (/20)	STRATEGY (/10)		TOTAL

NEGATIVE TEAM TOTAL

BEST SPEAKERS

1ST: _____

2ND: _____

3RD: _____

WON BY: _____

ADJUDICATORS NAME: _____

ADJUDICATORS SIGNATURE: _____

Convert to Points:

6 points = 306+; 5 points = 270 - 305; 4 points = 234 - 269; 3 points = 179 - 268; 2 points = 110 - 178; 1 point = 0-109