

Rules for DAV Competitions

As at 20 March 2022

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Rules for DAV Competitions

PART 1 – PRELIMINARY

1. Citation and Commencement

- (a) These Rules may be cited as the *Rules for DAV Competitions*.
- (b) These Rules come into operation on 1 May 2017 as a By-Law under rule 13 of the Constitution.
- (c) All previous By-Laws and Rules relating to the Schools Competition are repealed by these Rules.
- (d) These Rules should be read in conjunction with any other policies, rules or By-Laws issued by the Executive, the Office or any other body of the DAV. If any part of those policies conflicts with any part of these Rules, these Rules shall prevail.

2. Definitions

In these Rules, unless inconsistent with the context or subject matter, the following definitions shall be taken to apply –

Adjudicator

An adjudicator appointed by the Debaters Association of Victoria, including a panel of adjudicators

Advised Topic Debate

A debate where the subject area is published in advance of the debate and the topic released shortly before the scheduled commencement of the debate

Australia-Asia Debating Guide

The guide published by the Debaters Association of Victoria known by the title The Australia-Asia Debating Guide

Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct as included in Schedule 1 of these Rules

Competition

A debating or other competition conducted by the DAV in accordance with these Rules

Constitution

The Constitution formed by the Statement of Purposes and the Rules of the Debaters Association of Victoria

DAV

The Debaters Association of Victoria, Incorporated (ABN 36 529 609 712)

Debate

A debate conducted in accordance with these Rules

Debating Coordinator

The teacher(s) in charge of debating at a Participating School

Executive

The Executive of the Debaters Association of Victoria as described in rule 3

Forfeit

A debate that has been forfeited in accordance with rule 12

Finals Complaints Panel

A review panel established under rule 20

Genuine Non-Debate

A remedy outlined in rule 13 of these Rules where a debate is deemed not to have occurred. Each team is awarded full ladder points (as though they had won the debate) and no team is subject to any forfeit penalty

Host School

The school at which a competition, or debates in a competition, are taking place

Interim Forfeit

A forfeit declared on an interim basis by a Regional Coordinator that is subject to confirmation by the Vice-President (Schools)

Junior Secondary Program

The Competition outlined in Part 5 of these Rules and established by rule 45

Office

The Office and Office Staff of the Debaters Association of Victoria as described in rule 4

Participating School

A school which has, in the relevant calendar year, entered one or more teams in the Competition and has paid the appropriate fees

Play-Off Debate

A debate with the meaning given in rule 40

Prepared Topic Debate

A debate where the topic is released at least five days prior to the debate

Principal

The Principal of a Participating School

Regional Coordinator

The DAV representative(s) at and coordinator(s) of a region in a Competition

Rules

These *Rules for DAV Competitions*

Schools Competition

The Competition outlined in Part 4 of these Rules and established by rule 22

Secret Topic Debate

A debate where the topic is released shortly before the debate with no previous indication of the nature of the topic having been published

Vice-President (Schools)

The Vice-President (Schools) of the DAV as described in rule 5

PART 2 – OFFICES

Division 1 – Administrative Bodies

3. The Executive

- (a) The Executive is that outlined in the Constitution.
- (b) The Executive consists of:
 - i. the President;
 - ii. the Vice-President (Adjudication and Training);
 - iii. the Vice-President (Schools);
 - iv. the General Secretary;
 - v. the Treasurer;
 - vi. the Member Services Officer;
 - vii. the Media and Publications Officer;
 - viii. the Immediate Past President; and
 - ix. the Executive Officer.

4. The Office

The Office consists of:

- (a) the Executive Officer;
- (b) the Schools Administrator; and
- (c) the Training and Development Administrator.

5. The Vice-President (Schools)

- (a) The Vice-President (Schools) is responsible for these Rules.
- (b) Any dispute as to the meaning of any part of these Rules shall be decided by the Vice-President (Schools), subject to any motion passed by the Executive and the review process described in Rule 19.
- (c) The Vice-President (Schools) may delegate any power or role set out in these Rules except –
 - i. the powers in relation to complaints;
 - ii. the powers in relation to topics; and
 - iii. the powers awarded to any other officer of the Executive

6. The Finals Complaints Panel

The Finals Complaints Panel is established in accordance with rule 20.

Division 2 – Consultative Bodies

7. The Schools Advisory Board

The Schools Advisory Board is established in accordance with rule 24.

8. The Topic Advisory Committee

The Topic Advisory Committee is established in accordance with rule 24.

9. The Topic Selection Board

The Topic Selection Board is established in accordance with rule 24.

PART 3 – PRINCIPLES GOVERNING ALL COMPETITIONS

Division 1 – General Conduct

10. Clarification

- (a) For the avoidance of doubt, this Part applies to –
 - i. the Schools Competition;
 - ii. the Junior Secondary Program; and
 - iii. any other Competition the Vice-President (Schools) deems appropriate.
- (b) Where these rules are applied to a competition with individual participants rather than teams, any reference to a team should be taken as referring to an individual.

11. Rules and Code of Conduct

- (a) All Competitions and debates within Competitions must be conducted in accordance with these Rules and the Code of Conduct, included as Schedule 1.
- (b) The Vice-President (Schools) shall be responsible for these Rules and the Code of Conduct, and must report to the Executive on the operation of these Rules and the Code of Conduct.
- (c) If –
 - i. a Participating School causes unreasonable disruption to a Competition;
 - ii. a Participating School or one of its teams contravenes these Rules or the Code of Conduct;
 - iii. an employee of a Participating School contravenes these Rules or the Code of Conduct; or
 - iv. a person associated with a Participating School or one of its teams contravenes these Rules or the Code of Conduct—the Vice-President (Schools) has the discretion, after investigation and acting reasonably, to determine an appropriate course of action.
- (d) An appropriate course of action may be, but is not limited to—
 - i. no further action being taken;
 - ii. the suspension of one or some or all of the Participating School's teams from the Competition;
 - iii. the suspension of one or some of a Participating School's debaters; or
 - iv. a warning given to a Participating School regarding the conduct of—
 - A. a debater or debaters representing that school;
 - B. a team or teams representing that school;
 - C. an employee or employees of that school; or
 - D. another person or persons associated with that school.
- (e) The Vice-President (Schools) must inform the Executive of any course of action taken in relation to this rule.
- (f) The Vice-President (Schools) must inform the subject of any such course of action that they have the right to seek review in accordance with rule 19.
- (g) Any request for review of a decision must be made in writing to the Executive, to be considered at the next Executive meeting, in accordance with rule 19.
- (h) The Vice-President (Schools) may choose to investigate a situation even when no complaint has been made under rule 16.
- (i) The Vice-President (Schools) must provide reasons for taking a course of action if requested to do so by an affected party.

12. Forfeiture of Debates

- (a) A forfeit may be awarded by the Vice-President (Schools) against a team where—

- i. the team was not present and ready to debate within 20 minutes of the scheduled time to debate but both the other team and adjudicator were present and ready;
 - ii. for a secret topic or advised topic debate, the team was not present and ready to debate within 5 minutes of the scheduled time to debate but both the other team and adjudicator were present and ready;
 - iii. the team was present at the correct time but refused to start the debate within 10 minutes of being requested to do so by the adjudicator;
 - iv. the team has advised that it will be unable to attend a scheduled debate; or
 - v. the team was in breach of a provision of these Rules.
- (b) A Regional Coordinator may declare an interim forfeit under sub-rules (a)(i)–(a)(v) on the night of a debate scheduled for that Regional Coordinator’s region, but any such interim forfeit shall be of no force until it is confirmed as a forfeit by the Vice-President (Schools).
- (c) If a team forfeits a debate and—
 - i. notice of the forfeit was given to the Office, the Host School and the opposing team before the midnight prior to the debate;
 - ii. notice of the forfeit was given to the Office, the Host School and the opposing team before 3.00pm on the day of the debate;
 - iii. notice of the forfeit was given to the Office, the Host School and the opposing team after 3.00pm on the day of the debate; or
 - iv. no notice of the forfeit was given to the Office—
 the Vice-President (Schools) may suspend the team from the Competition.
- (d) All teams that forfeit a debate must pay a forfeit fee. These fees, which may be differentiated according to sub-rule (c), will be determined before the commencement of each Competition by the Executive, and be made available to Participating Schools.
- (e) A Participating School may apply in writing to the Vice-President (Schools) for any forfeit fee imposed under sub-rule (d) to be waived. A decision on whether or not to grant an exception is subject to review in accordance with Rule 19.
- (f) Where a team forfeits on more than two occasions in a year, the Vice-President (Schools) may—
 - i. suspend that team; and
 - ii. suspend some or all of the other teams entered by that team’s Participating School.
- (g) The Vice-President (Schools) must inform the Executive of any course of action taken in relation to sub-rules (e) and (f).

13. Genuine Non-Debates

The Vice-President (Schools) may award a ‘genuine non-debate’ where –

- (a) a debate did not occur because of the failure of an adjudicator to attend within 45 minutes of the time for the debate;
- (b) although a debate may have been forfeited under rule 12, the Vice-President (Schools) is satisfied that the team which did not attend or debate was prevented from doing so by some supervening event, which in all the circumstance justifies the award of a genuine non-debate;
- (c) a postponed debate has been impossible to reschedule and the Vice-President (Schools) is satisfied that a genuine attempt has been made by both parties to reschedule the debate; or
- (d) the Vice-President (Schools) is satisfied, after investigation, that some other circumstance warrants the awarding of a Genuine Non-Debate.

14. Use of Electronic Devices in Competitions

- (a) Subject to this Rule—
 - i. Adjudicators, chairpersons, and debaters are permitted to use mobile phones as timing devices during a debate; and
 - ii. Audience members are permitted to record a debate, in part or in whole.
- (b) Any electronic device used under this Rule should be switched to a mode that prevents it from receiving calls or messages or making noises that could in any way disturb the debate.
- (c) Debaters using an electronic device for the purposes of timing must place the device on a table, lectern, or other surface, and refrain from all interaction with it for the duration of the speech.
- (d) Audience members who wish to record a debate, in part or in whole, must ensure that—
 - i. Both schools participating in the debate have provided **prior, written consent** to the Vice-President (Schools) for their students' debates to be recorded; and
 - ii. Both teams participating in the debate, the adjudicator, and the Host School Coordinator have given written consent, prior to the commencement of the debate, for any part of the debate to be recorded.
- (e) Under no circumstances may any part of a debate be recorded unless all conditions specified under sub-rule (d) have been met.
- (f) Electronic devices in secret and advised topic rounds:
 - i. For face to face competitions, debaters shall not use electronic devices when preparing for an advised topic or secret topic debate, except to check the time or otherwise assist with timekeeping during the preparation period.
 - ii. For online competitions, debaters are permitted to use electronic devices when preparing and competing in an advised topic or secret topic debate.
- (g) No other electronic device may be used by any participant in a debate (including during preparation time for a Secret or Advised Topic) without the express prior approval of the Vice-President (Schools).
- (h) The Vice-President (Schools) may approve the use of an electronic device under sub-rule (g) where:
 - i. There is evidence that the use of an electronic device is necessary for a medical reason;
 - ii. The use of an electronic device is in the interests of the safety or wellbeing of a participant or participants in the debate; or
 - iii. Some other reason that exists that satisfies the Vice-President (Schools) that the use of an electronic device is in the interests of the debate, participants in the debate or the DAV.

Division 2 – Complaints

15. Complaints

- (a) A complaint may only be made by—
 - i. a Participating School;
 - ii. an adjudicator representing the DAV at the region to which the complaint relates;
 - iii. a Regional Coordinator at the region to which the complaint relates; or
 - iv. an officer of the Executive.

Complaints will not be accepted from friends, relatives, coaches or other persons interested in the debate unless submitted by one of the above individuals.

16. Code of Conduct or Rules Complaints

- (a) This rule should be read in conjunction with rule 11.
- (b) A Code of Conduct complaint or a Rules complaint (referred to in this rule 16 as a 'debating complaint') arises from conduct that has occurred in a debate or at a location being used for a Competition and is governed by this rule 16. This is in contrast to complaints relating to the conduct or decision of an adjudicator in adjudicating a debate (referred to in this rule 17 as an 'adjudication complaint'), which are governed by rule 17.
- (c) A debating complaint must—
 - i. be in writing;
 - ii. be addressed to the Vice-President (Schools);
 - iii. be signed by—
 - A. the Debating Coordinator or Principal of a Participating School;
 - B. an adjudicator at the region to which the complaint relates;
 - C. a Regional Coordinator at the region to which the complaint relates;or
 - D. an officer of the Executive; and
 - iv. concisely relate the relevant facts;
 - v. meet any further criteria published in advance by the Vice-President (Schools); and
 - vi. be lodged with the Vice-President (Schools) within 14 days of the relevant incident taking place.
- (d) After a debating complaint is made, the Vice-President (Schools) must—
 - i. acknowledge receipt of the complaint;
 - ii. investigate the complaint; and
 - iii. come to a decision regarding this complaint and determine an appropriate course of action in accordance with rule 11.

Written notice of this decision, and reasons for the decision, must then be given to the complainant and any other parties the Vice-President (Schools) deems appropriate.

- (e) If the Vice-President (Schools) is satisfied that the complaint is of such importance that it requires a suspension to be made, the Vice-President (Schools) must follow the procedure set out in rule 11.
- (f) The Vice-President (Schools) must table all decisions made according to this rule at the next available Executive meeting, along with reasons for each decision.
- (g) If the complaint directly involves the Vice-President (Schools) or would give rise to a material conflict of interest, the complaint must be handled by a disinterested officer of the Executive appointed by the President.

17. Adjudication Complaints

- (a) An adjudication complaint may only be made about the conduct or decision of an adjudicator in adjudicating a debate.
- (b) An adjudication complaint must—
 - i. be in writing;
 - ii. be addressed to the Vice-President (Adjudication and Training);
 - iii. be signed by—
 - A. the Debating Coordinator or Principal of a Participating School;
 - B. an adjudicator at the region to which the complaint relates;
 - C. a Regional Coordinator at the region to which the complaint relates;or

- D. an officer of the Executive; and
 - iv. concisely relate the relevant facts;
 - v. meet any further criteria published in advance by the Vice-President (Adjudication and Training); and
 - vi. be lodged with the Vice-President (Adjudication and Training) within 14 days of the relevant incident taking place.
- (c) After a debating complaint is made, the Vice-President (Adjudication and Training) must—
 - i. acknowledge receipt of the complaint;
 - ii. investigate the complaint; and
 - iii. come to one of the following decisions:
 - A. that, when there is sufficient doubt surrounding the result of a debate, allow the team to proceed to the finals if, apart from the debate concerned, the team would otherwise have qualified for the finals; or
 - B. that no action be taken; and
 - iv. provide reasons for the decision;
 - v. provide written notice of any decision, and reasons for the decision, to the Participating School that has made the complaint and any other parties the Vice-President (Adjudication & Training) deems appropriate; and
 - vi. make recommendations to the Executive or Office or Vice-President (Schools) concerning the particular adjudicator, where appropriate.
- (d) The Vice-President (Adjudication & Training) must table all decisions made according to this rule at the next available Executive meeting.
- (e) If the complaint directly involves the Vice-President (Adjudication & Training), the complaint will be handled by a disinterested officer of the Executive appointed by the President.

18. Combined Complaints

Where a complaint is made which falls within the scope of both Rule 16(b) and 17(a), either the Vice-President (Adjudication and Training) or the Vice-President (Schools) may investigate and determine the complaint provided that:

- (a) The Vice-President determining the complaint consults with the other Vice-President in coming to a decision; and
- (b) All of procedural requirements of Rules 16 and 17 are followed.

19. Review of Decisions

- (a) An application for review by the Executive may be made by—
 - i. a Debating Coordinator or Principal on behalf of a Participating School;
 - ii. any person directly affected by a decision; or
 - iii. any officer of the Executive.
- (b) An application for review may relate to a decision made under these Rules by the Vice-President (Schools), Schools Administrator, Executive Officer, Vice-President (Adjudication & Training), Training and Development Administrator, Regional Coordinator, Training Coordinator, Office or any other officer of the Executive, but may not relate to a decision of the Executive or the Finals Complaints Panel.
- (c) An application for review must—
 - i. be in writing;
 - ii. be addressed to the General Secretary;
 - iii. be signed by—
 - A. the Debating Coordinator or Principal of a Participating School affected by the decision;
 - B. the person directly affected by the decision; or

- C. any officer of the Executive; and
- iv. state how the Participating School or signatory is affected by the decision;
- v. concisely relate the relevant facts;
- vi. be lodged with the General Secretary within 14 days of the decision to which the complaint relates; and
- vii. state a ground or grounds for review of the decision. The ground or grounds may be that—
 - A. the decision was reached without following a proper process;
 - B. the decision was made by someone who had no power to make that decision;
 - C. there was no evidence to justify the decision;
 - D. the decision is wholly unreasonable;
 - E. no reasons were given for the decision;
 - F. the decision was not of a type authorised by these Rules;
 - G. the principles of natural justice were not observed in reaching the decision; or
 - H. the decision is contrary to these Rules, the Constitution or law.
- (d) An application for review must be considered at the first Executive Meeting following the lodgement of the application for review.
- (e) Where the application for review relates to a decision made by an officer of the Executive, that officer must not—
 - i. be present when the application for review is being considered;
 - ii. be present when a decision is being reviewed; or
 - iii. vote on any related resolution.
- (f) At the first Executive Meeting following the lodgement of the application for review, the Executive must decide—
 - i. whether the application for review should be granted; and
 - ii. where the application is granted, whether there is any merit to the reasons provided for seeking review.
- (g) In making a decision under sub-rule (f), the Executive must consider the conditions outlined in sub-rule (c), and in particular the grounds included in sub-rule (c)(vii).
- (h) Where the Executive is satisfied that the reasons provided for review have merit, the Executive may, by resolution, provide a remedy. The remedy may be to—
 - i. uphold the decision, notwithstanding the merit of the complaint;
 - ii. refer the matter to an officer of the Executive to investigate the matter and make a fresh decision;
 - iii. to make a final, binding decision with regard to the matter; or
 - iv. refer the matter to a mediator appointed in accordance with rule 4A of the Constitution to make a final, binding decision.

20. Complaints during the Finals Series of a Competition

- (a) In respect of the finals series of any Competition—
 - i. complaints may only be made with regard to the Code of Conduct or these Rules;
 - ii. no adjudication complaints will be accepted; and
 - iii. any complaint must be in writing and be received by the Office within 24 hours of the relevant incident.
- (b) There shall be a Finals Complaints Panel.
 - i. The Finals Complaints Panel shall consist of three members: the President, the Vice-President (Adjudication and Training) and the Vice-President (Schools).

- ii. Where any of the President, the Vice-President (Adjudication & Training) or the Vice-President (Schools) feel their involvement on the Finals Complaints Panel would create a conflict of interest or the perception of a conflict of interest, or where it is not reasonably practicable for one of those officers to participate, the General Secretary shall take their place.
 - iii. Where, in the opinion of the Executive, a conflict of interest or the perception of a conflict of interest remains, or where it is still not reasonably practicable for one of the officers to participate, the Executive may appoint by resolution any other officer of the Executive to take the place of the officer to whom the conflict relates.
- (c) The Finals Complaints Panel must consider the complaint and reach a decision within 24 hours of receiving the complaint. The decision must be conveyed to all relevant parties as soon as reasonably possible.
- i. Reasons for the decision must be published within 14 days of the decision being made and distributed to any affected parties.
 - ii. The Finals Complaints Panel may choose to—
 - A. dismiss the complaint; or
 - B. uphold the complaint; and
 - I. issue a warning to the offending party; or
 - II. call for a debate to be re-held; or
 - III. suspend a debater or debaters from the Competition; or
 - IV. suspend a team or teams from the Competition; or
 - V. take any other appropriate action it deems fit.
 - iii. Any decision of the Finals Complaints Panel shall be final and shall not be subject to review.
- (d) Where a team is suspended or otherwise rendered unable to debate during a finals series due to a decision made pursuant to this rule, the Vice-President (Schools) may authorise that team's place to be filled by the team they defeated in the preceding round of the finals series.

21. Suspension

Where a team is suspended from a Competition, the term of that suspension shall be—

- (a) of a length determined by the Vice-President (Schools); or
- (b) until the end of that year's Competition.

PART 4 – SCHOOLS COMPETITION

22. Establishment of the Competition

- (a) This rule establishes an annual schools' debating competition, consisting of a preliminary series of 5 rounds and a finals series.
- (b) The DAV must, before or at the commencement of the school year, invite schools to enter teams in the Schools Competition.

23. Format

- (a) The Competition occurs in the Australian Debating Style as outlined in the Australia-Asia Debating Guide.
- (b) The style—
 - i. has no points of information; and
 - ii. has no reply speeches.
- (c) During a debate, only three members of the team may be present at the team's bench and –
 - i. only these speakers may speak during the debate; and
 - ii. the speakers at the bench may not communicate or pass notes with other members of their team not at the bench, nor with coaches, parents or other audience members.
- (d) If any provision in the Australia-Asia Debating Guide is inconsistent with these Rules, these Rules prevail.

Division 1 – General Procedures

24. Selection of Topics

- (a) Before each year's Schools Competition, the Vice-President (Schools) shall establish and convene a Topics Advisory Committee, comprising—
 - i. the Vice-President (Schools);
 - ii. the President;
 - iii. the Schools Administrator; and
 - iv. as many or as few other members as the Vice-President (Schools) sees fit.
- (b) The Topics Advisory Committee will establish a long-list of topics for the coming Schools Competition.
- (c) After this task is completed, the Vice-President (Schools) will establish and convene a Topics Selection Board, comprising—
 - i. the Vice-President (Schools);
 - ii. the Schools Administrator; and
 - iii. as many or as few other members of the Topics Advisory Committee as the Vice-President (Schools) sees fit.
- (d) The Topics Selection Board will assign topics to the prepared topic debates in each grade and each round where they occur, and set the topic area for any Advised Topic Debates.
- (e) The Topics Selection Board may also develop a list of suggested topics for use in Secret and Advised Topic Debates. Additionally -
 - i. The Vice-President (Schools) may re-convene the Topic Selection Board at certain times during the Schools Competition at their discretion to aid in determining topics for Secret and Advised Topic Debates; and
 - ii. The Vice-President (Schools) may authorise a topic for a Secret or Advised Topic Debate in the preliminary rounds that has not been suggested by either the Topics Advisory Committee or the Topics Selection Board.

- (f) The Vice-President (Schools) will also establish and convene a Schools Advisory Board, comprising the Debating Co-ordinators of at least five different schools. The Schools Advisory Board must include at least one Debating Co-ordinator from each of:
 - i. A non selective-entry High School;
 - ii. A non-government school;
 - iii. A non-government school not of the same religious denomination as the school in sub-rule (f)(ii);
 - iv. A co-educational school; and
 - v. A single-sex school.
- (g) The Schools Advisory Board will be asked to provide feedback on a list of topics, including the prepared topics selected by the Topics Selection Board. In response to the feedback the Vice-President (Schools) may reconvene the Topics Selection Board to alter the topics assigned under sub-rule (d).
- (h) The Topics Selection Board will be convened again before the finals series, and must determine topics for all of the finals.
 - i. The Vice-President (Schools) may also convene the Topics Advisory Committee to aid the Topic Selection Board in this task; and
 - ii. The Topics Advisory Committee Topic Selection Board for the finals series need not be of the same composition as the Board or Committee established at the start of the year, but must still meet the requirements of sub-rules (a) and (c) respectively.

25. Grades

- (a) The Schools Competition shall be divided into four grades:
 - i. A Grade, for students in Year 12 or equivalent or below;
 - ii. B Grade, for students in Year 11 or equivalent or below;
 - iii. C Grade, for students in Year 10 or equivalent or below; and
 - iv. D Grade, for students in Year 9 or equivalent or below.
- (b) Speaking times for each grade shall be as follows:
 - i. for A Grade, 8 minutes, with a warning bell at 6 minutes;
 - ii. for B Grade, 8 minutes, with a warning bell at 6 minutes;
 - iii. for C Grade, 6 minutes, with a warning bell at 5 minutes; and
 - iv. for D Grade, 5 minutes, with a warning bell at 4 minutes.

Additionally, a continuous bell shall sound once a speaker has exceeded the speaking time for their grade by 30 seconds.
- (c) The Vice-President (Schools) has the general power to determine the allocation of schools across regions and to determine the number of teams attending each region. The Vice-President (Schools) may, amongst other things—
 - i. combine, or not offer, certain grades where conditions in a region dictate that this would be appropriate. For example, the Vice-President (Schools) may combine A and B Grade into a 'VCE Grade'. When this occurs –
 - A. the grade shall be subject to the rules of the higher original grade with respect to topics and speaking times;
 - B. the teams in the grade which would have qualified only for the highest of the combined grades (for example, A grade teams in a merged VCE grade) will be subject to the rules of the higher grade with respect to finals; and
 - C. the teams in any grade which would have qualified for a lower grade in the combined grade (for example, B grade teams in a merged VCE grade) may qualify for finals in the lower grade if:

- I. Within the combined grade, they would have been eligible for finals under rule 40; or
 - II. The Vice-President (Schools) grants permission for them to proceed to finals. Such permission may only be granted where no other team from that lower grade has a higher number of ladder points as calculated under rule 36;
- ii. restrict the number of teams entered in a grade within a region—
 - A. generally, where the Vice-President (Schools), on advice from the Schools Administrator, is satisfied that there are insufficient resources to enable participation by all schools reasonably wishing to enter teams in that grade in the region; and
 - B. by a particular Participating School, where the Vice-President (Schools) is satisfied—
 - I. that the number of teams the Participating School has entered exceeds the school’s capabilities; or
 - II. that it is otherwise appropriate to do so; or
- iii. require, where the Vice-President (Schools) deems it appropriate, a school to participate in a region different to the region for which it indicated a preference when it registered to participate.

26. Teams

- (a) A team must consist of at least four members, but no more than 9 members, unless approval is otherwise given by the Vice-President (Schools).
- (b) A team must not in any circumstances, however, consist of fewer than three members.
- (c) A debater may only be entered for a team equivalent to their year level at school or a higher year level unless –
 - i. that school has two teams or less entered in the competition; and
 - ii. the Vice-President (Schools) has granted an exemption for a debater to participate in a team lower to their year level at school.
- (d) The Vice-President (Schools) must not grant an exemption under sub-rule (c)(ii) where –
 - i. it would result in the majority of the members of that team being granted an exemption;
 - ii. the Vice-President (Schools) believes it would be more appropriate for that team to compete in an higher grade; or
 - iii. some other reason exists that the Vice-President (Schools) believes that the team would receive an unfair advantage, or that it would not be in the interests of the Schools Competition.
- (e) Any decision made by the Vice-President (Schools) under sub-rule (c) must be tabled at the next meeting of the Executive.
- (f) The Vice-President (Schools) will assign a name to each team.
- (g) With the permission of the Vice-President (Schools), a Participating School may—
 - i. add a new debater to a team; or
 - ii. transfer a debater from one team to another.
- (h) Teams consisting of students from multiple schools (‘composite teams’) are not permitted to participate in the Schools Competition without the permission of the Vice-President (Schools).
- (i) The Vice-President (Schools) may grant a composite team permission to participate in the Schools Competition where—
 - i. the students on the team attend no more than one school already participating in the Schools Competition; or

- ii. Some other reason exists that satisfies the Vice-President (Schools) that allowing a composite team is in the interests of promoting debate and does not undermine the integrity of the Schools Competition.
- (j) Any decision made by the Vice-President (Schools) under sub-rule (i) must be tabled at the next meeting of the Executive.

27. Chairperson

- (a) The Affirmative team is responsible for providing a Chairperson for the debate to keep time and introduce each speaker according to a script published by the Schools Administrator.
- (b) There is no penalty if the Affirmative team fails to provide a Chairperson. In the absence of the Affirmative providing a Chairperson—
 - i. An audience member may chair the debate; or
 - ii. The adjudicator may assume the role of Chairperson.

Division 2 – Topics

28. Topics

There shall be three types of topics: Prepared, Secret and Advised.

- (a) Prepared topics are dealt with in rule 29.
- (b) Secret topics are dealt with in rules 30 and 32.
- (c) Advised topics are dealt with in rules 31 and 32.

29. Prepared Topic Debates

- (a) The topic for a prepared topic debate must be suggested, approved or otherwise authorised by the Vice-President (Schools), in accordance with rule 24.
- (b) The topics for all prepared topic debates must be published—
 - i. for a debate in the preliminary rounds, at the start of the Schools Competition; or,
 - ii. for finals debates, a reasonable time before each finals round.

30. Secret Topic Debates

- (a) The topic for a secret topic debate must be suggested, approved or otherwise authorised by the Vice-President (Schools), in accordance with rule 24.

31. Advised Topic Debates

- (a) The subject area for an advised topic debate must—
 - i. be approved by the Vice-President (Schools) in accordance with rule 24;
 - ii. be published—
 - A. for a debate in the preliminary rounds, at the start of the year's Schools Competition;
 - B. for finals debates, a reasonable time before each finals round; and
 - iii. not be specific enough to be a topic of a debate.
- (b) The topic for an advised topic debate must—
 - i. be suggested, approved or otherwise authorised by the Vice-President (Schools);
 - ii. be consistent with the subject area of the debate.

32. Rules governing Secret and Advised Topic Debates

- (a) The preparation area for each team must be clearly posted by the Regional Coordinator or Debating Coordinator of the host school.
- (b) More than one team may share a preparation room. Where this is necessary, the Regional Coordinator and Debating Coordinator shall take all reasonable steps to prevent collusion.
- (c) The Regional Coordinator must announce the topic—
 - i. in public; and

- ii. in the presence of at least one representative of as many participating teams as are present at the time the topic is announced.
- (d) The topic must be announced no later than 55 minutes before the time appointed for the debate to begin.
- (e) The topic must not be announced more than 60 minutes before the time appointed to the debate to begin, unless there are at least three of the debaters from each team present, in which case the topic may be announced up to 70 minutes before the time appointed for the debate to begin.
- (f) If the Vice-President (Schools), or, if the Vice-President (Schools) is unavailable, the Regional Coordinator, deems it appropriate, the topic may be released according to a different schedule.
- (g) As soon as the topic is announced, each team must go to their designated preparation area and must not discuss the topic with any person other than their team members.
- (h) Team members preparing:
 - i. For face to face competition, no more than 5 registered members from a team may be in the preparation room as representatives of that team. Anyone who is not a registered member of the team will not be allowed to enter the preparation room. (This includes – but is not limited to – teachers, parents and coaches). No registered member of a team may leave the preparation room and be ‘substituted’ by another registered member of that team during the course of preparation.
 - ii. For online competitions, there is no limit to the number of registered team members who may assist in preparation.
- (i) With regard to outside assistance—
 - i. debaters may make use of written or printed materials in the preparation room, but may not make use of electronic devices except:
 - A. In accordance with Rule 14(f); or
 - B. As authorised by the Vice-President (Schools) in accordance with Rule 14(h); and
 - ii. debaters preparing a debate must not communicate with, or receive any communication from, any person unless—
 - A. the person is the Regional Coordinator or is acting on behalf of the Regional Coordinator; or
 - B. the communication is authorised by the Regional Coordinator;
 - iii. a Regional Coordinator who becomes aware of a breach of any requirement in this sub-rule may declare the relevant debate forfeit subject to confirmation by the Vice-President (Schools) (an ‘Interim Forfeit’); and
 - iv. the Vice-President (Schools) may declare any debate forfeit against the team in violation of any of the requirements of this sub-rule.
- (j) With regard to process and administration—
 - i. a debater who has arrived after the commencement of preparation time must seek permission from the Regional Coordinator if they wish to enter the preparation room or participate in the debate;
 - ii. a debater may leave a preparation room to—
 - A. go to the toilet; or
 - B. consult the Regional Coordinator;
 - iii. a debater must seek permission from the Regional Coordinator if they need to leave the preparation room for any other reason;
 - iv. A Regional Coordinator who becomes aware of a breach of any of these regulations must—

- A. declare an interim forfeit; and
 - B. report the breach to the Vice-President (Schools); or,
 - C. where the Regional Coordinator does not consider the breach as deserving of a forfeit, warn the offending team that any further breach could result in the debate being forfeited.
- v. The Vice-President (Schools) may declare any debate a forfeit against the team in violation of any of these Rules.

Division 3 – Preliminary Rounds

33. Topic Allocation

- (a) In A Grade—
 - i. rounds 1 and 2 shall be prepared topic debates; and
 - ii. rounds 3, 4 and 5 shall be secret topic debates.
- (b) In B Grade—
 - i. rounds 1 and 2 shall be prepared topic debates; and
 - ii. rounds 3, 4 and 5 shall be secret topic debates.
- (c) In C Grade —
 - i. rounds 1, 2 and 5 shall be prepared topic debates;
 - ii. round 3 shall be an advised topic debate; and
 - iii. round 4 shall be a secret topic debate.
- (d) In D Grade, all rounds shall be prepared topic debates.

34. Regional Draw

- (a) The Schools Administrator, in consultation with the Vice-President (Schools), must divide each grade into regions at their discretion.
- (b) In allocating schools to regions, the Schools Administrator must ensure that, so far as is practical, all teams entered by the same school are in the same region.
- (c) In a grade in a region where—
 - i. an odd number of teams are entered—
 - A. the Vice-President (Schools) or Schools Administrator may authorise one school to enter one supplementary team (even if that would contradict decisions previously made under rule 25(c)); or
 - B. the Vice-President (Schools) or Schools Administrator may allocate a bye.
 - ii. a team withdraws from the Schools Competition—
 - A. the Vice-President (Schools) or Schools Administrator may authorise one school to enter one supplementary team (even if that would contradict decisions previously made under rule 10(c)); or
 - B. the Vice-President (Schools) or Schools Administrator may allocate a bye.
- (d) no fee shall be payable for a supplementary team.
- (e) a supplementary team shall be the equal of each other team.

35. Draws

- (a) The Schools Administrator will formulate the draw for each region.
- (b) Where possible, the Schools Administrator must avoid drawing a team from one school against a team from that same school unless, in the opinion of the Schools Administrator or the Vice-President (Schools), that school makes up a disproportionately large number of the teams in that grade and region.
- (c) Where there is a bye, the Schools Administrator must, where possible—
 - i. prevent any team from drawing the bye more than once; and
 - ii. avoid more than one team from each school in the region drawing the bye.

36. Ladders

- (a) The Schools Administrator must produce a ladder for every grade from every region within two weeks of the conclusion of each round.
- (b) Teams shall be allocated points according to the result of the debate.
- (c) Teams shall be allocated 4 points for—
 - i. a victory in the debate;
 - ii. a victory as a result of a forfeit by their opponents; or
 - iii. a genuine non debate.
- (d) Teams shall be allocated 2 points for a loss in a debate.
- (e) Teams shall be allocated 0 points for forfeiting a debate.
- (f) Teams will be listed from the team with the highest number of points through to the lowest. Teams on equal points will be listed randomly.

37. Final Round Power Pairing

- (a) The draw for the final round in a region must be conducted by the Schools Administrator as soon as practically possible after the end of Round 4, in accordance with this rule.
- (b) In order to conduct the final round draw, the Schools Administrator must:
 - i. rank the teams from each region from highest to lowest using the ladders at the end of round 4, as produced by the process outlined in rule 36; and
 - ii. allocate debates between each odd-ranked team and the next lowest even-ranked team where applicable, with a bye for the lowest ranked team where there is an odd number of teams.
- (c) The Schools Administrator may vary the draw where—
 - i. the ranking would cause a team to debate another team it has already debated in the preliminary rounds; or
 - ii. the ranking would cause a team who has already drawn a bye to draw an additional bye; or
 - iii. the ranking would cause a team to debate another team from the same school; and
 - iv. there is at least one other team with the same number of points.
- (d) Where a variation contemplated by sub-rule (c) is not practical, and a team must debate a team against which it has debated in the preliminary rounds, each team shall be randomly allocated a side.

38. Postponements

- (a) The Vice-President (Schools), or the Schools Administrator after consulting the Vice-President (Schools), must publish guidelines for applying for a postponement.
- (b) Applications that are rejected on the grounds of failing to meet the guidelines may not be reviewed under rule 19.
- (c) Postponements shall be granted subject to—
 - i. the consent of the other team; and
 - ii. the payment of any applicable fee that has been deemed appropriate by the Vice-President (Schools).
- (d) The Vice-President (Schools) may grant a postponement that does not comply with published guidelines if the Vice-President (Schools) is satisfied that—
 - i. the team to whom the debate would otherwise be forfeited is willing to debate; and
 - ii. an appropriate adjudicator is available for the debate.

Division 4 – Finals Rounds

39. Eligibility of Debaters

- (a) A debater may only debate for a team in a finals debate if they—
 - i. were registered in that team; and
 - ii. have debated—
 - A. only for that team during the season; or
 - B. for that team in more debates than any other team.
- (b) Notwithstanding sub-rule (a), a debater may debate for a team in a finals debate if the Vice-President (Schools) receives a written request from the debater's school and—
 - i. is satisfied that the debater has transferred into or joined a team in good faith;
 - ii. is satisfied that it is fair and reasonable, in the circumstances, for the debater to so debate; and
 - iii. gives permission in writing.

40. Conduct of Rounds

- (a) The finals rounds in each grade shall be made up of—
 - i. one or more qualifying rounds (known as 'Play-Off Debates'), involving—
 - A. every undefeated team in the grade (including wins by forfeit or a genuine non-debate); and
 - B. for each region where there is no undefeated team, the team(s) that finished at the top of the regional ladder; and
 - ii. Octo-Finals, Quarter Finals, Semi-Finals and the Grand Final, starting with 16 teams promoted from the qualifying round.
- (b) The qualifying round or rounds shall be conducted in accordance with rule 41.
- (c) The draw for the Octo-Finals, Quarter Finals and Semi-Finals shall be a knockout draw in which—
 - i. all teams shall be allocated by lot; and
 - ii. the side each team takes shall be randomly assigned.
- (d) The draw for Grand Final debates must be conducted after the Semi-Finals and will be determined by a coin toss.
- (e) Teams excluded or under suspension shall not be eligible to participate in the Play-Offs or Finals.

41. Promotion from Play-Offs

- (a) If precisely 16 teams enter the Play-Offs, they shall all be promoted to the Octo-Finals.
- (b) If between 15 and 32 teams enter the Play-Offs, the Qualifying Table in Schedule 2 shall be used to determine which teams will proceed to the Octo-Finals and which must proceed through the Play-Offs.
- (c) Teams shall be selected for column two of Qualifying Table 1 in the following order until the necessary amount is revealed:
 - i. teams who have proceeded as the result of a decision in accordance with these rules by the Vice-President (Adjudication & Training) or Vice-President (Schools);
 - ii. teams who were defeated during the rounds;
 - iii. teams who are undefeated as a result of forfeits against them; then
 - iv. undefeated teams, selected randomly.
- (d) These teams will debate each other by lot, with the winners proceeding to the Octo-Finals. However, the Vice-President (Schools) may authorise alterations to the draw to:
 - i. Prevent teams from the same school debating against each other during the Play-offs; or

- ii. To minimise the travelling distance for schools located outside of Greater Melbourne (e.g. allowing schools from Ballarat, Ararat or Geelong to be drawn against each other)
- (e) The Vice-President (Schools) must notify the Executive that alterations were made according to sub-rule (d) at the next available Executive meeting.
- (f) If more than 32 teams enter the Play-Offs, Qualifying Table 2 in Schedule 3 applies.

42. Selection of Adjudicators

- (a) A Play-Off debate or an Octo-Final debate will be adjudicated by a single adjudicator or a panel of an odd number of adjudicators of three or more.
 - i. Any debate re-held under Rule 20(c) must be adjudicated by a panel of an odd number of adjudicators of three or more.
- (b) A Quarter Final, Semi-Final or Grand Final debate will be adjudicated by a panel of an odd number of adjudicators of three or more.
- (c) Adjudicators for the finals debates shall be appointed by the Vice-President (Schools) from a finals list provided by the Vice-President (Adjudication & Training). The Vice-President (Schools) should consult with the Vice-President (Adjudication & Training), the President and the Office over the allocation of adjudicators.

43. Topics for Finals

- (a) The Vice-President (Schools) must determine the topics for finals debates in accordance with rule 24.
- (b) Notwithstanding rule 24, the Vice-President (Schools) may determine the topics for Secret Topic Debates in the finals series that have been postponed.
- (c) Finals debates, will be—
 - i. in A Grade and B Grade, secret topic debates; and
 - ii. in C Grade and D Grade, prepared topic debates, with the topics announced with the draw.
- (d) This rule 43 also applies to Play-Off Debates as though they were finals debates.

Division 5 – Best Speaker Awards

44. Swannie Awards

- (a) At the conclusion of the preliminary rounds, the Schools Administrator, in accordance with a methodology made clear to participant schools, approved by the Vice-President (Schools), and tabled at the next available Executive meeting—
 - i. must determine for each grade the debater who is to be regarded as the best speaker; and
 - ii. may determine for each region in each grade the debater who is to be regarded as the best speaker.
- (b) These awards are called the ‘Swannie Awards’ and are named after Alan Swanwick.

PART 5 – JUNIOR SECONDARY PROGRAM

45. Establishment and Purpose of the Competition

- (a) Each year, the DAV shall hold a debating program targeted towards junior secondary students, entitled the 'Junior Secondary Program' ('JSP').
- (b) The purpose of the JSP shall be to provide—
 - i. training in the art of debate; and
 - ii. three rounds of debating to school students in year eight (or equivalent) and below.
- (c) Debates occur in the style outlined in Rule 23.

46. Code of Conduct and Complaints

The Junior Secondary Program and training and debates held as part of that Program must be—

- (a) subject to the Code of Conduct and related provisions in Part 3 of these Rules;
- (b) subject to the complaints process outlined in Part 3 of these Rules; and
- (c) consistent where possible with these Rules.

47. Speaking Times

Speaking times shall be for four minutes for each speech, with a warning bell at three minutes. A continuous bell shall sound once a speaker has exceeded their speaking time by 30 seconds.

48. Chairperson

- (a) The Affirmative team is responsible for providing a Chairperson for the debate to keep time and introduce each speaker according to a script published by the Schools Administrator.
- (b) There is no penalty if the Affirmative team fails to provide a Chairperson. In the absence of the Affirmative providing a Chairperson—
 - i. An audience member may chair the debate; or
 - ii. The adjudicator may assume the role of Chairperson.

49. Rounds

- (a) There shall be three rounds of debates.
- (b) There shall not be a finals series.

50. Training

Training shall be provided to all participants in a form and at a time determined by the Vice-President (Adjudication & Training).

51. Topics

- (a) Topics shall be set by the Vice-President (Adjudication & Training).
- (b) The Vice-President (Adjudication & Training) must consult with the Vice-President (Schools) to ensure that no topic from the Schools Competition is also used in the JSP in any given year.

52. Genuine Non-Debates

- (a) The Vice-President (Adjudication & Training) or the Vice-President (Schools) may award a genuine non-debate in the JSP.
- (b) A genuine non-debate in the JSP is of the same type as a genuine non-debate awarded in any other Competition, except inasmuch as it relates to a finals series.

53. Awards

- (a) The Training and Development Administrator will notify Participating Schools of any undefeated teams or high-achieving students.
- (b) The Vice-President (Adjudication and Training) will authorise the measure of whom is considered an high-achieving student in a given year

PART 6 – REGIONAL DEBATING

54. Description

- (a) A Regional Debating Competition is a Competition (other than the Schools Competition or Junior Secondary Program) described by the Vice-President (Adjudication & Training) or Vice-President (Schools) as a Regional Debating Competition.
- (b) Regional Debating Competitions occur in the style outlined in Rule 23.

55. Code of Conduct and Complaints

All Regional Debating Competitions and debates held as part of those Competitions must be—

- (a) subject to the Code of Conduct and related provisions in Part 3 of these Rules;
- (b) subject to the complaints process outlined in Part 3 of these Rules; and
- (c) to the extent possible be conducted in accordance with these Rules.

56. Format and Topics

- (a) The format of the competition must be approved by the Vice-President (Schools). This includes—
 - i. Whether or not the competition is divided into divisions;
 - ii. The speaking time for each division;
 - iii. The eligibility for each division; and
 - iv. The number and type of topics (e.g. Secret, Advised or Prepared Topics)
- (b) The topics for a regional competition must be suggested, approved or otherwise authorised by the Vice-President (Schools).

57. Training

Training may be provided to participants in a form and at a time determined by the Vice-President (Adjudication & Training).

PART 7 – BRITISH PARLIAMENTARY COMPETITIONS

58. Establishment of the Competition

- (a) This rule establishes—
 - i. A Senior British Parliamentary Debating Competition ('Senior BP');
 - ii. An Intermediate British Parliamentary Debating Competition ('Intermediate BP'); and
 - iii. A Junior British Parliamentary Debating Competition ('Junior BP').
- (b) Both Competitions occur in the World Parliamentary Style as outlined in the Australia-Asia Debating Guide.
- (c) During a debate, only two members of the team may be present at the team's bench and—
 - i. only these speakers may speak during the debate (including the offering of points of information); and
 - ii. the speakers at the bench may not communicate or pass notes with other members of their team not at the bench, nor with coaches, parents or other audience members.
- (d) If any provision in the Australia-Asia Debating Guide is inconsistent with these Rules, these Rules prevail.

59. Code of Conduct and Complaints

All British Parliamentary Debating Competitions and debates held as part of those Competitions must be—

- (a) subject to the Code of Conduct and related provisions in Part 3 of these Rules;
- (b) subject to the complaints process outlined in Part 3 of these Rules; and
- (c) to the extent possible be conducted in accordance with these Rules.

60. Teams

- (a) The Senior BP Competition is for students in Years 11-12 or equivalent.
- (b) The Intermediate BP Competition is for students in Years 9-10 or equivalent.
- (c) The Junior BP Competition is for students in Years 7-8 or equivalent.
- (d) No student may compete in more than one BP Competition in a given year without the permission of the Vice-President (Schools).
- (e) No student outside of the year level ranges specified in sub-rules (a), (b) and (c) may participate in those competitions without the permission of the Vice-President (Schools).
- (f) Teams consisting of students from multiple schools ('composite teams') are not permitted to participate in the British Parliamentary Debating Competition without the permission of the Vice-President (Schools).
- (g) The Vice-President (Schools) may grant a composite team permission to participate in the Schools Competition where—
 - i. the students on the team attend no more than one school already participating in the British Parliamentary Debating Competition; or
 - ii. some other reason exists that satisfies the Vice-President (Schools) that allowing a composite team is in the interests of promoting debate and does not undermine the integrity of the British Parliamentary Debating Competition.
- (h) Where the number of teams in the competition is not divisible by four, the Vice-President (Schools) may authorise the presence of 'swing-teams'. A 'swing-team'—
 - i. may be a composite team; and
 - ii. may, at the discretion of the Vice-President (Schools), be eligible to participate in the finals series.

61. Speaking Times

Speaking times for the British Parliamentary Competitions shall be as follows:

- (a) In Senior BP, 7 minutes, with warning bells at 1 minute and 6 minutes;
- (b) In Intermediate BP, 6 minutes with warning bells at 1 minute and 5 minutes; and
- (c) In Junior BP, 5 minutes, with warning bells at 1 minute 4 minutes.

Additionally, a continuous bell shall sound once a speaker has exceeded the speaking time for their competition by 20 seconds.

62. Points of Information

Members of the opposing bench may offer a speaker Points of Information, except during the first and last minute of a speaker's speech.

63. Competition Format

- (a) Each British Parliamentary Competition shall have three rounds held over one day where—
 - i. the draw for the first round is randomized;
 - ii. the draw for the second and third round is based on the ladder from the previous rounds in a manner prescribed by the Vice-President (Schools).
- (b) Each competition will also have a finals series, which may be held on a day separate to the rounds. The Vice-President (Schools) will determine the structure of the finals series and which teams progress.

64. Topics

- (a) The topics for a British Parliamentary Competition must be suggested, approved or otherwise authorised by the Vice-President (Schools).
- (b) All debates in a British Parliamentary Competition are Secret Topic Debates held in accordance with Rule 32, except—
 - i. The topic shall be released 30 minutes before a debate commences; and
 - ii. Teams are limited to three members in the preparation room.

65. Training

Training may be provided to participants in a form and at a time determined by the Vice-President (Adjudication & Training).

66. Chairperson

The adjudicator of the debate (or in the case of a panel of adjudicators, the chair of the adjudication panel) shall act as the Chairperson of the debate and be responsible for—

- (a) introducing speakers and keeping time during the debate; and
- (b) maintaining order during the debate.

67. Best Speaker Awards

Best Speaker Awards will be awarded to the top ten overall speakers in each competition, as well as the best speaker in each year level.

PART 8 – PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITIONS

68. Establishment of the Competition

- (a) This rule establishes—
 - i. A Senior Public Speaking Competition;
 - ii. An Intermediate Public Speaking Competition; and
 - iii. A Junior Public Speaking Competition.
- (b) The criteria against which the competition is judged will be approved by the Vice-President (Adjudication and Training) and published by the Training and Development Administrator.

69. Code of Conduct and Complaints

All Public Speaking Competitions and rounds held as part of those Competitions must be—

- (a) subject to the Code of Conduct and related provisions in Part 3 of these Rules;
- (b) subject to the complaints process outlined in Part 3 of these Rules; and
- (c) to the extent possible be conducted in accordance with these Rules.

70. Competitors

- (a) The Senior Public Speaking Competition is for students in Years 11-12 or equivalent, and no school may enter more than two students from each of Years 11 and 12 (i.e. total of four) without the permission of the Vice-President (Adjudication and Training).
- (b) The Intermediate Public Speaking Competition is for students in Years 9-10 or equivalent, and no school may enter more than two students from each of Years 9 and 10 (i.e. total of four) without the permission of the Vice-President (Adjudication and Training).
- (c) The Junior Public Speaking Competition is for students in Years 7-8 or equivalent, and no school may enter more than six students in each region. The Vice-President (Adjudication and Training) or Training and Development Administrator may limit the regions that a school can enter students in.
- (d) No student may compete in more than one Public Speaking Competition in a given year.

71. Format

- (a) Each competitor will present a prepared speech and two impromptu speeches
- (b) Prepared speeches are limited to,—
 - i. in the Senior Public Speaking Competition, 8 minutes with a warning bell at 6 minutes;
 - ii. in the Intermediate Public Speaking Competition, 6 minutes with a warning bell at 5 minutes; and
 - iii. in the Junior Public Speaking Competition, 5 minutes with a warning bell at 4 minutes.
- (c) Impromptu speeches are limited to, —
 - i. in the Senior Public Speaking Competition, 5 minutes with a warning bell at 4 minutes;
 - ii. in the Intermediate Public Speaking Competition, 4 minutes with a warning bell at 3 minutes; and
 - iii. in the Junior Public Speaking Competition, 3 minutes with a warning bell at 2 minutes.

72. Topics

The topics for a Public Speaking Competition must be suggested, approved or otherwise authorised by the Vice-President (Adjudication and Training).

73. Training

Training may be provided to participants in a form and at a time determined by the Vice-President (Adjudication & Training).

74. Finals

A finals series may take place in a form prescribed by the Vice-President (Adjudication and Training).

75. Best Speaker Awards

In the absence of a finals series, Best Speaker Awards will be awarded to the in a manner prescribed by the Vice-President (Adjudication and Training).

PART 9 – OTHER COMPETITIONS

76. Rules Governing Other Competitions

- (a) All other Competitions established under the auspices of the DAV must be—
 - i. subject to the Code of Conduct;
 - ii. subject to the complaints process outlined in Part 3 of these Rules, where deemed applicable by the Vice-President (Adjudication & Training) or Vice-President (Schools); and
 - iii. to the extent possible be conducted in accordance with these Rules.
- (b) Unless the Vice-President (Schools) determines otherwise in writing, this Part 7 shall not apply to competitions that are not conducted under the auspices of the DAV (even if the DAV has some involvement).

SCHEDULE 1 – CODE OF CONDUCT

Debaters will —

- o treat the occasion, each other, and the adjudicators with respect;
- o respect the rules of the competition, particularly relating to secret topic and advised subject preparation; and
- o accept the adjudicator's decision.

Debaters will not —

- o disrupt or distract from another debater's speech or the adjudicator's comments;
- o use offensive language or behaviour;
- o make denigrating comments, including on the basis of age, culture, gender, sexuality, disability, religion, family, or gender presentation; or
- o harass their opponents or the adjudicator.

Adjudicators will —

- o treat the outing in a formal and professional manner;
- o limit their adjudications to 10 minutes, and make constructive comments to assist the debaters; and
- o be sensitive when commenting upon physical or physiological disabilities;

Adjudicators will not —

- o allow bias or personal knowledge to influence their decisions.

Teachers and the audience will —

- o hear the speakers in reasonable silence; and
- o encourage and foster a spirit of fair play and good sport.

Teachers and the audience will not —

- o harass debaters and adjudicators before, during or after the debate.

Coaches will —

- o Conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times; and
- o Notify Regional Coordinators and the Schools Administrator of any possible conflict between their role as coach and their involvement in any DAV activity.

Coaches will not —

- o Communicate with any DAV representative with the purpose of intimidating them or challenging them in the fulfilment of their role.

Participants will —

- o request and receive permission from both teams, and the adjudicator, and the Host School Coordinator, and the DAV Office before recording any debate in whole or part.

Participants will not —

- o use mobile phones to make or receive calls or send text messages during a debate; and
- o take photographs during the debate.

SCHEDULE 2 – QUALIFYING TABLE 1

No. of teams in qualifying round	Number of teams through to Octo Finals (Column 1)	Number of teams which participate in Play-Off Debates (Column 2)
17	15	2
18	14	4
19	13	6
20	12	8
21	11	10
22	10	12
23	9	14
24	8	16
25	7	18
26	6	20
27	5	22
28	4	24
29	3	26
30	2	28
31	1	30
32	0	32

SCHEDULE 3 – QUALIFYING TABLE 2

No. of teams in qualifying round	Number of teams through to second round of Play-Off Debates (Column 1)	Number of teams which participate in first round of Play-Off Debates (Column 2)
33	31	2
34	30	4
35	29	6
36	28	8
37	27	10
38	26	12
39	25	14
40	24	16
41	23	18
42	22	20
43	21	22
44	20	24
45	19	26
46	18	28
47	17	30
48	16	32
49	15	34
50	14	36
51	13	38
52	12	40
53	11	42
54	10	44
55	9	46
56	8	48
57	7	50
58	6	52
59	5	54
60	4	56
61	3	58
62	2	60
63	1	62
64	0	64

Explanatory Note:

- Where more than 32 teams enter the Qualifying Round, it will be necessary for some teams to complete two rounds of Play-Off Debates.
- Teams are selected for Column 2 by the Vice-President (Schools) or Schools Administrator as outlined in rule 41.
- Teams that are subject to column 2 (and which participate in the first round of Play-Off debates) will debate another such team allocated by lot, the winner proceeding to the second round of Play-Off debates.