

DEBATE RULES AT LYCÉE RENOIR

The debates are based on the rules and procedures of the House of Commons. The following rules are simplified ones, as we may use them at Lycée Renoir.

COMPOSITION OF A TEAM

Each team is composed of at least one coach and four debaters. Coaches are not allowed to debate.

The **Government** (the side which proposes the motion) is the host team and the **Opposition** is the visiting team. Both team sit in front of each other, in the same order from speaker number one to speaker number 4.

DEBATE PREPARATION

The motion will be disclosed to debaters before the debate so that they can begin preparation at home. The coach of the team is expected to organize the preparation of the debate within his team.

DEBATE ORGANIZATION

Four speakers from the Government and four speakers from the Opposition speak consecutively for 2 minutes each. The debate starts with the first speaker of the Government followed by the first speaker of the Opposition and so forth until the final speech by the Opposition's fourth speaker.

Speakers may be interrupted into two ways:

- **by a Point of Information** : it is made by standing up with one's hand on one's head. Each speaker is penalized if they refuse to accept any POIs, however they are expected to take no more than two in any speech. Acceptance or refusal of a POI should be made clear, communicated politely either verbally or through a gesture. POIs are included in the timing of the speech. POIs are short, concise and usually open-ended questions that are used by the opposite team to throw the speaker off-balance and highlight the weaknesses in his or her argumentation. When accepting a POI, the speaker should seize this opportunity to dismiss the POI asked as incorrect, redundant or irrelevant. The chairman is responsible for making sure that a team is not making too many POIs.

- **by a Point of Order (POO):** POOs are made at any point during the debate directly to the chairman who is obliged to accept them. They must only concern the running or the procedure of the debate POOs are not included in the timing of the speech. A POO can only come from one of the eight speakers participating in the debate.

The five speakers of each team may speak quietly among themselves during the debate but must not disturb the speaker. The coach is not allowed to communicate with his/her team during the debate

WINNING THE DEBATE

The winner of a debate is the team which has obtained the most votes from the jury.