

RULES OF COMPETITION

IPSWICH GRAMMAR SCHOOL | BRISBANE GRAMMAR SCHOOL | ST JOSEPH'S GREGORY TERRACE | TOOWOOMBA GRAMMAR SCHOOL | ST JOSEPH'S NUDGE COLLEGE | THE SOUTHPORT SCHOOL | BRISBANE BOYS' COLLEGE | ANGLICAN CHURCH GRAMMAR SCHOOL | BRISBANE STATE HIGH SCHOOL | IPSWICH GRAMMAR SCHOOL | BRISBANE GRAMMAR SCHOOL | ST JOSEPH'S GREGORY TERRACE | TOOWOOMBA GRAMMAR SCHOOL | ST JOSEPH'S NUDGE COLLEGE | THE SOUTHPORT SCHOOL | BRISBANE BOYS' COLLEGE | ANGLICAN CHURCH GRAMMAR SCHOOL | BRISBANE STATE HIGH SCHOOL | IPSWICH GRAMMAR SCHOOL | BRISBANE GRAMMAR SCHOOL | ST JOSEPH'S GREGORY TERRACE | TOOWOOMBA GRAMMAR SCHOOL | ST JOSEPH'S NUDGE COLLEGE | THE SOUTHPORT SCHOOL | BRISBANE BOYS' COLLEGE | ANGLICAN CHURCH GRAMMAR SCHOOL | BRISBANE STATE HIGH SCHOOL | GRAMMAR SCHOOL | ST JOSEPH'S GREGORY TERRACE | TOOWOOMBA GRAMMAR SCHOOL | ST JOSEPH'S NUDGE COLLEGE | THE SOUTH



Years 5-12

Debating

Effective 1 January 2014

APPROVED BY: GPS Debating Sub-Committee – 18 September 2013
GPS Sport and Activities Committee – 14 February 2014 [Flying Minute]
GPS Management Committee – 19 May 2014

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SECTION A: PREAMBLE

These rules are for the 2014 GPS Debating Season competition which is to be held in Term 1 and Term 2 of the school year. GPS Debating is an activity drawn independently of other GPS summer sports.

From the commencement of the 2014 school calendar year the current Year 8-12 sporting and cultural involvement in the nine member schools will be extended to also include these schools' students in Years 5-7.¹ Debating will be offered for Year 5 -12.

Ideally, the season will comprise of:

1. One competition of four debates for Years 5-7
2. One competition of seven consecutive rounds of fixtures held fortnightly for Years 8-12.

1. APPLICABILITY OF INTERNATIONAL/NATIONAL RULES

GPS Debating is conducted under the rules of the Queensland Debating Union Schools Competition and Queensland Debating Union Junior Round Robin Competition Handbook except as far as the same are modified, altered or added to by the governing body in Queensland, the Queensland Debating Union (hereafter referred to as the QDU), and herein-after modified, altered or added to by the GPS Association in these Rules of Competition.

SECTION B: CODE OF BEHAVIOUR – DEBATE DAY**1. PLAYERS**

- 1.1. Play by the rules
- 1.2. Cooperate with and respect game officials and their decisions.
- 1.3. Abstain from verbal abuse, distraction, or provoking of officials or other players – see section on *Sledging* below.
- 1.4. Treat all players as you would like to be treated and respect the property of others.
- 1.5. Abstain from excessive encouragement of team-mates.

2. COACHES

- 2.1. Set a good example for all players.
- 2.2. Encourage and create opportunities to develop individual and team skills.
- 2.3. Ensure your players are friendly towards officials and opponents.
- 2.4. Remove from the field of play, any of your players whose behaviour is unacceptable.

3. PARENTS AND SPECTATORS

- 3.1. Provide a model of good behaviour for all players.
- 3.2. Demonstrate courtesy towards all players, all officials, and all spectators.
- 3.3. Encourage honest effort, skilled performance, and team loyalty.

¹ GPS Headmasters Meeting – 6 May 2013; Y5-12 GPS Reform decision

3.4. Let officials conduct the debate without interference yet be willing to provide assistance if requested.

4. ADMINISTRATORS AND OFFICIALS

- 4.1. Ensure the equipment and conditions are safe for the skill level of the boys involved.
- 4.2. Ensure everyone involved, including parents, understand their responsibilities regarding fair play and appropriate behaviour.
- 4.3. Officiate without bias, emphasize skill and enjoyment, encourage both teams, and set a good example.
- 4.4. Be consistent, courteous, and helpful towards all participants.
- 4.5. Ensure that the 'spirit of the game' is not lost by overcalling violations.
- 4.6. Ensure that coaches and officials provide adequate supervision of the players.

Adapted from 'Fair Play in School Sport – Code of Behaviour': Australian Schools Sports Council.

PLAYERS, COACHES, PARENTS, SPECTATORS AND OFFICIALS ARE ENCOURAGED TO FAMILIARISE THEMSELVES WITH THE "GPS CODES OF BEHAVIOUR" THAT APPLY TO ALL GPS ACTIVITIES.

5. SLEDGING

The Headmasters of GPS schools have determined that 'sledging' has no place in GPS Debating. This practice is forbidden.

The Headmasters have directed that players:

- a) are to make no derogatory comments **at** an opposing debater;
- b) are to make no derogatory comments **about** an opposing debater, and
- c) are to make no comments or noises at critical times during the debate

6. MAINTAINING A STANDARD OF BEHAVIOUR –BREACH OF CODE OF BEHAVIOUR REPORT SYSTEM²

The above breaches of behaviour are guidelines.

Coaches

All coaches are responsible for ensuring that the letter and the spirit of the Code of Conduct is followed and are expected to set an example to others at all times.

Adjudicators

Adjudicators in GPS Debating are instructed to watch such negative activities as those listed above. Should an official consider the Code of Conduct is being broken during a debate, he shall, using his discretion (and being mindful of the context of any such comments or actions of either teams members), take action.

The procedure to control unacceptable behaviour is:

- i) to stop the debate and warn any student who is displaying any unsportsmanlike behaviour and inform

² Clarification of current Red Card/ Yellow Card System 2009; GPS Headmasters meeting – 21 October 2013 – preferred terminology to be used is Breach of Code of Behaviour Report

- the Captain of the warning, and include the player/s name/s in the report,
- ii) should it persist further the Official/s will stop the debate and report the debater to the Coach of the school team.

If an Official warns a debater he must record the incident on the Adjudicators report form. When an Official reports a student the incident must be recorded in detail. For all incidents the student's name and school must be stated.

Captains and Vice-Captains of all teams are expected to see that their team participates according to the spirit as well as the letter of the Code of Conduct and set the example to others.

Directors / MIC's of Debating

As the Code of Conduct applies to all teams, not only the Senior A, Directors/ MIC's of Debating are to liaise with GPS Sport and Activities Committee members to ensure that all coaches are issued with the Code of Conduct and the appropriate regulations and that the school as a whole is informed of the content of the Code of Conduct.

Students who breach the directions above or the "GPS Code of Behaviour" will face the following consequences:

- a) they will be issued with a warning for a first offence in a debate;
- b) serious offences will result or a second offence in a Breach of Code of Behaviour Report which may mean immediate exclusion from the debate;
- c) when a player is issued with a Breach of Code of Behaviour Report, he will incur a further penalty of missing the next GPS fixture game in which he would otherwise have played.

The purpose of this system is to monitor and support appropriate player behaviour.

SECTION C: ALL TEAMS

1. AGE REGULATIONS

- 1.1. The LOWEST age division in which any student may compete in a school year of competition will be determined by his age on 1 January of the school year³.
- 1.2. No student is eligible to take part in this competition at any time in the year of his 19th birthday or if he had turned 19 before the year of competition.
- 1.3. Students in Years 5 to 12 only, enrolled in a GPS member school, may participate in the competition⁴.

2. TEAMS – DIVISIONS AND COMPOSITION

³ GPS Headmasters Meeting – 21 October 2013; Change to Age Group Cut Off dates from 1st November the previous school year to 1st January of the school year from 2014.

⁴ GPS Headmasters Meeting – 21 February 2011; The Association states the exceptions for female students from BSHS to participate in the activities of Debating, Music and Chess are supported based on historical precedence, and that these are considered as cultural activities. It is also noted that BSHS female students participate in the GPS competition as there is no equivalent activity in QGSSA competition.

2.1. Divisions. The competition shall be conducted in the following age groups/division:

- 2.1.1. Senior A;
- 2.1.2. Senior B, etc
- 2.1.3. Year 11(1), Year 11(2);
- 2.1.4. Year 10(1), Year 10(2), Year 10(3);
- 2.1.5. Year 9 (1), Year 9(2), Year 9(3), Year 9(4)
- 2.1.6. Year 8(1), Year 8(2), Year 8(3), Year 8(4)
- 2.1.7. Year 7(1), Year 7(2), Year 7(3) ; Year 7(4)
- 2.1.8. Development (Years 5 or 6); D(1), D(2), D(3) and D(4)

And so on for further teams

2.2. Composition. The Composition of teams in the age groups/divisions shall be:

- 2.2.1. Competitors in the 'Development' Division must be students of Year 5 or 6.
- 2.2.2. Competitors in the Year 7 Division must be students of Year 7.
- 2.2.3. Competitors in the Year 8 Division must be students of Year 8.
- 2.2.4. Competitors in the Year 9 Division must be students of Year 9 except in the case of the 9(4) team, which may be a composite of Year 9 or 10 students;
- 2.2.5. Competitors in the Year 10 Division must be students in Year 10;
- 2.2.6. Competitors in the Year 11 Division must be students in Year 11;
- 2.2.7. Competitors in the Senior Division must be students in Year 12, except that competitors in the Senior A Team may be any student enrolled at the competing schools.

2.3. Where insufficient students are available in a division, a school may have students compete up in a higher division. (See Footnote below).⁵

2.4. No student may compete in more than one division in the same round.

3. DRAW⁶

- 3.1. The competition will be conducted in accordance with a schedule of debates drawn up by the GPS Sport and Activities Committee prior to the start of the season.
- 3.2. Eight member schools in the Association participate in a single round robin competition against all of the other schools. After seven weeks of competition, a Premiership (Champion School) is awarded to the Senior A team with the most season points.
- 3.3. There is one competition of four debates for Years 5-7

4. VENUES/ TIMES

⁵ The intent of this rule is to provide schools the opportunity of completing teams starting from the lower end of teams in a particular Division. It is not intended to provide an opportunity, for example, to fill a (1) or (2) team where students in that particular Year Division are available from that year from a lower team.

⁶ Clarification of current system 2009

- 4.1. The fixture is to be played on the date and at the host school as per the GPS Calendar and Fixture Draw.
- 4.2. The first named school in the fixtures draw shall be the host school in each case.
- 4.3. **Alteration of Fixtures**
 - 4.3.1. Alteration of fixture timings shall be allowed by mutual agreement between the competing schools.
 - 4.3.2. Alteration of fixtures shall be made as soon as it is known that the fixture-time is unsuitable. At least fourteen days notice shall be given of any proposed alterations of fixtures, except in exceptional circumstances.
 - 4.3.3. The GPS Executive Officer shall be informed of any alteration to fixtures as soon as such alteration is finalised.
 - 4.3.4. Should a debate(s) be cancelled on the day prior to the allotted date, the GPS Sport and Activities Committee member /MIC of Debating responsible for the cancellation will notify the GPS Executive Officer and the opposing school's GPS Sport and Activities Committee member /MIC of Debating by 1:30pm on that day.
 - 4.3.5. Cancellation of a whole round of debates shall not be allowed.

5. SIDES IN DEBATES

- 5.1. The host school shall argue the following sides in the debates with the visiting school to argue the opposite side.

Senior A	-	affirmative
Senior B	-	negative
Year 11(1)	-	affirmative
Year 11(2)	-	negative
Year 10(1)	-	affirmative
Year 10(2)	-	negative
Year 10(3)	-	affirmative
Year 9(1)	-	affirmative
Year 9(2)	-	negative
Year 9(3)	-	affirmative
Year 9(4)	-	negative
Year 8(1)	-	affirmative
Year 8(2)	-	negative
Year 8(3)	-	affirmative
Year 8(4)	-	negative
Year 7(1)	-	affirmative
Year 7(2)	-	negative

⁷ GPS Sport and Activities Committee meeting, 13 October 2008

- Year 7(3) - affirmative
- Year 7(4) - negative
- Development (1) - affirmative
- Development (2) - negative
- Development (3) - affirmative
- Year 6(4) - negative

And so on for additional teams.

6. SHORT PREPARATION IN DEBATES

- 6.1. The GPS Debating Sub-Committee may elect to hold one or more debates in the short preparation format.
- 6.2. All teams must be at the venue seventy-five minutes prior to the scheduled time for the debate.
- 6.3. Topics will be distributed in sealed envelopes to the GPS Sport and Activities Committee member of the host school by the Chairman of the GPS Debating Sub-Committee. Topics will be handed to the teams prior to commencement of the debate preparation by the Home MIC of Debating. Envelopes must remain sealed until debaters have reached their preparation rooms.
- 6.4. Teams will be allocated separate rooms in which to prepare their debates.
- 6.5. Only four team members will be allowed in the preparation room.
- 6.6. Coaches, parents, etc. will not be permitted in or near the preparation room.
- 6.7. Each team is permitted to take writing materials, one dictionary, one thesaurus and one quotation book into the preparation room. NO other reference books or printed matter are permitted.
- 6.8. Teams in breach of any of the above rules will be deemed to have forfeited the debate.
- 6.9. Preparation commences one hour prior to the scheduled time for the debate.
- 6.10. Students will be given a five-minute warning after fifty-five minutes of preparation time.
- 6.11. Students are permitted to write on whiteboards. The Host School is to provide the whiteboards to be available for use. Students are responsible to BYO their own marker pens.

7. OFFICIALS

- 7.1. **Chairman and Timekeepers.** It is the responsibility of the host team in each case to provide a student to act as Chairman and Timekeeper.

8. RESULTS

8.1. **Points of Information⁸.**

Format will be used for all Year 11 and 12 debates and will be marked for scoring. Reply speeches will only occur in Senior A debates.

⁸ GPS Debating Sub-Committee meeting 3 September 2007 – Bring in line GPS Debating with the QDU.

8.2. Forfeits.

In the case of the non-arrival of a team or member(s) of a team, a forfeit shall be declared after thirty minutes have elapsed from the agreed starting time. At the mutual discretion of the Debating supervisors of the competing schools, the debate may still go ahead without the necessity to declare a winner.

8.3. Results⁹.

The Host School shall forward results through to the GPS Executive Officer by 6.00pm on the Saturday immediately following the debates. Results should be communicated using the GPS Debating Results Sheet (Form 1) and should be signed by each school's Director /MIC of Debating. Results will be advised to schools by the next Monday.

9. FILMING OF DEBATES¹⁰

9.1. The Home School must inform the Visiting school if recording a debate. Permission to record another school must be sought through the Headmaster of the school.

10. ADJUDICATORS

10.1. For Development Division debates, suitably trained Senior A and Year 11 debaters can be appointed as adjudicators. NB: A maximum of 5 minutes for the adjudication explanation is recommended.

SECTION D: SENIOR A

1. SPEAKING TIME FOR DEBATES

- 1.1. Speeches in Senior A will be of 8 minutes duration.
- 1.2. Warning bells will be rung once at one minute and seven minutes and twice at eight minutes. Between the first and seventh minute bells, points of information may be asked by opposition debaters.
- 1.3. At the conclusion of six speeches, reply speeches of 4 minutes with a warning bell at 3 minutes, will be offered in reverse order (Negative then Affirmative). These speeches are usually made by the first speakers.

2. ADJUDICATORS

2.1. Competent Adjudicators for each round will be secured and appointed by the Queensland Debating Union (QDU) and advised through the GPS Executive Officer¹¹

⁹ GPS Debating Sub-Committee meeting 3 September 2007 – Results will be co-ordinated by the GPS office (as for other activities).

¹⁰ GPS Debating Sub-Committee meeting 12 February 2013 – current practice

¹¹ Agreement with Queensland Debating Union agreed December 2009

- 2.2. ¹²If the appointed officials fail to arrive for the Senior A fixture, the MIC from both schools should meet to discuss alternatives. Should a suitable alternative be arranged and agreed by both schools, the debate shall proceed. If a suitable arrangement cannot be agreed, the matter is to be referred to the GPS Sport and Activities Committee member of both schools to discuss with the GPS Executive Officer to postpone the match to a mutually agreed time.

3. COMPETITION POINTS AND SENIOR A POINTS TABLE¹³

- 3.1. A Premiership for the Champion School will apply to Senior A Debating only. Competition points are to be awarded as below:

RESULT	POINTS
<i>Win</i>	2 points
<i>Draw</i>	1 points
<i>Loss</i>	0 points

- 3.2. No points are awarded for a BYE.
- 3.3. In the event of two (2) or more teams being equal on competition points for any position they will be awarded the same placing.
- 3.4. The Premiership Trophy is presented to the winning school. The school having the highest points on the table at the end of the season shall be declared the winner and Premiership team for the year.
- 3.5. The GPS Executive Officer is responsible for preparing and distributing to all schools a Premiership Points Table for Senior A Debating.

SECTION E: OTHER AGE GROUPS/ DIVISIONS

1. SPEAKING TIME FOR DEBATES

1.1. Senior B/ Year 11

1.1.1. Speeches in Senior B and Year 11 will be of 8 minutes duration.

1.1.2. Warning bells will be rung once at one minute and seven minutes and twice at eight minutes. Between the first and seventh minute bells, points of information may be asked by opposition debaters.

1.2. Year 9/10

1.2.1. Each speaker shall be allowed seven minutes, with a warning at five minutes.

1.3. Year 8/ 7

1.3.1. Each speaker shall be allowed five minutes, with a warning at three minutes. NB: Year 7 [no Short Prep].

¹² GPS Sport and Activities Committee – 13 October 2008

¹³ Clarification of existing system December 2009

1.4. Development

1.4.1. Each speaker shall be allowed four minutes, with a warning at three minutes.

2. ADJUDICATORS

2.1. The host school is responsible to provide Adjudicators.

2.2. Whenever possible, independent, competent, Queensland Debating Union (QDU) Adjudicators shall be used for all debates.

SECTION F: AMENDMENTS TO RULES OF COMPETITION

No amendment to these Rules of Competition is authorised unless such amendment is issued by the GPS Executive Officer of the Association.

Appendices to GPS Debating Rules:

- A) Protest Procedure – Senior A
- B) GPS Debating - Protest Form

Separate Appendices to GPS Debating Rules:

- GPS Debating Result Sheet – Form 1

PROTEST PROCEDURE – SENIOR A

The following procedure will apply with respect to any Protest concerning the result of a Senior A Debate:

As soon as possible but by no later than 12.00pm on the Monday immediately following the fixture, the GPS Sport and Activities Committee member from the school that is protesting the result is to inform the GPS Executive Officer of the Association, the Chairman of the GPS Sport and Activities Committee and the Chairman of the GPS Debating Sub-Committee of the possibility of a formal protest being made and of the circumstances.

As soon as possible but by no later than 4.00pm on the Monday immediately following the fixture, any Official Protest is to be sent by the GPS Sport and Activities Committee member of the school protesting the result, to the GPS Executive Officer by email. The GPS Executive Officer is to acknowledge receipt of the Protest. The GPS Sport and Activities Committee member is also to contact the GPS Executive Officer by telephone advising of the Official Protest.

Any Official Protest is to be made on the Form attached and is to clearly outline the reason for the Protest and the appropriate details.

On receipt of the Protest Form, the GPS Executive Officer will inform the Chairman of the GPS Sport and Activities Committee and the GPS Sport and Activities Committee member of the schools concerned.

The GPS Executive Officer will then forward the Protest to the Chairman and members of the GPS Executive Committee of the Association.

The GPS Executive Committee will consider the Protest and if the Protest is upheld, determine any penalty.

Following determination of the Protest by the GPS Executive Committee, the GPS Executive Officer will inform the Headmasters and the GPS Sport and Activities Committee member of all schools of the results of the protest.

¹⁴ Update with standard GPS protest procedure, November 2008

APPENDIX B: PROTEST FORM

GPS DEBATING – PROTEST FORM

DATE: ____/____/____

EVENT TIME: _____

FIXTURE AND DEBATE: _____

SCHOOL: _____

THE PROTEST IS BEING LODGED IN REFERENCE TO GPS REGULATION / DEBATING REGULATION (Note item):

DETAILS: _____

SIGNED: _____

MIC DEBATING

Signature

GPS SPORT & ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE MEMBER

Signature

Notification to:

- GPS Executive Officer
- Chairman of the GPS Sport and Activities Committee
- Chairman of the GPS Debating Sub-Committee

GPS Office Use:

Note Time Received: _____AM/ PM

Receipt acknowledgement of Protest sent: _____AM/PM

Notification to:

- Chairman of the GPS Sport and Activities Committee
- GPS Sport and Activities Committee member (schools concerned)
- Headmasters (schools concerned)

Panel Convened: _____AM/ PM

Decision: Upheld Overturned

Rationale for decision/ Reference to GPS Regulation/ Debating regulation:

Advice to Headmasters/ GPS Sport and Activities Committee member (all schools):

Date: ____/____/____ Time: _____AM/PM

NB. Attach additional documentation if required