

DEBATING COMPETITION HANDBOOK 2022

The ability to speak confidently and to debate in public are skills to be encouraged in our students. Not only are they valuable talents that will be used throughout life in many different situations, they are also useful skills for oral assessments in the HSC and for practise in thinking rapidly and arranging arguments in a coherent fashion. Debating skills develop critical thinking and are particularly helpful in essay writing.

Organisation

<p>HICES Debating Chair Mr Richard Ledger Richard.Ledger@ngs.nsw.edu.au</p>	<p>HICES Debating Coordinator Ms Sue Macneil sue.macneil@gmail.com</p>
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HICES Debating is an independent inter-school debating competition organised across eight (8) geographic regions in four (4) age divisions.

Regions

1. Northern – north of the Manning River to the Tweed Coast
2. Hunter - Newcastle and Central Coast
3. North Shore
4. North West Sydney
5. South West Sydney
6. South Sydney
7. Southern – south of
8. Central & Western

Divisions

Four age divisions comprise the HICES Debating competition:

Junior = Years 5 & 6	Middle = Years 7 & 8
Senior = Years 9 & 10	Open = Years 11 & 12

Preliminary rounds of debating are conducted within each region and division to determine a limited number of teams to progress to elimination final rounds and ultimately a grand final.

2022 Important Dates

<u>Important dates</u>	
Early team entries	From Monday, Nov 15, 2021
Registration form sent out	Week ending Friday, Feb 11
Registration forms due back	Week ending Friday, Feb 25
Registration period completed. Draft draw released.	Week ending Friday, Mar 4
Draw confirmed	Tuesday, March 8

Preliminary Round results submitted by:	
Round 1	Week ending Friday, Mar 18
Round 2	Week ending Friday, Apr 1
Round 3	Week ending Friday, May 6
Round 4	Week ending Friday, May 27
Tie break Playoff Week	Week ending Friday, Jun 10

Elimination Finals results submitted by:	
Preliminary Final	Week ending Friday, Jul 22
Quarter Final	Week ending Friday, Aug 5
Semi Final	Week ending Friday, Aug 19
Grand Final	Thursday, Sep 1

If local school calendars make it problematic to meet the fixed competition dates, schools are encouraged to negotiate another mutually suitable date with the opposing school in preference to a forfeit being awarded. Host school to inform HICES Coordinator of anticipated date.

General Rules

- Schools will be required to confirm registrations by Friday February 25, 2022.
- Schools are invited to nominate up to a maximum of two (2) teams per age division. If a competition fails to attract five (5) teams, then schools may be invited to nominate other teams.
- If after the above, a competition still fails to raise five (5) teams – then there will NOT be a competition in that region and age division. Affected teams may be placed into another region to compete.
- Preliminary round debates are to be held in a virtual format or where appropriate face to face. All Elimination final rounds can be held in a virtual format or where appropriate in face to face format. The Grand Final is anticipated to be face to face at UTS.
- Schools entering any competition are obliged to complete all debates. A team forfeiting a preliminary round debate will make that team ineligible for progression to the Elimination Finals.
- For schools entering Open teams – please note carefully that Quarter Final and Semi-Final dates that might conflict with local Trial HSC examination periods.
- Any teams wishing to be removed from a competition after the registration period has closed must discuss this impact with the HICES Debating Chair prior to notifying students and parents of their withdrawal.
- Results of debates must be emailed to the HICES Debating Coordinator, Sue Macneil sue.macneil@gmail.com, by the Host school's coordinator immediately after the debate. A Results Form is included at the end of this Handbook.
- The adjudicator's decision is final. Protests will only be considered if the rules of the competition have been broken. Any disputes regarding any aspect of the conduct of a debate must be forwarded in writing to the HICES Debating Chair within one week of the problem arising. Disputes not submitted according to the above instructions will not be considered.
- Virtual debates: See the Rules for the Conduct of a Virtual Debate at Appendix A.

Host & Visiting School Responsibilities

Host schools are the school mentioned first in each fixture and initiate the communication that determines the final scheduling of the debate.

For Virtual Debates, Host schools create and send the Zoom link to their competing school.

For Face-to-Face Debates, Host school communication includes dates, timing, room location, parking and contextual WHS and emergency procedures or Risk Assessments to be aware of in your communication.

For face to face debating a host school must be able to provide enough rooms for simultaneous debates and other spaces for preparation for the senior and open teams. The draw makes it apparent how many rooms are required.

When visiting another school, a teacher from the visiting team must remain at the host school for the duration of the visit, to be available in case of emergency.

It is good practice for Host schools to:

- provide enough rooms to achieve all required debates. In each room, enough space for the teams to be set up at the front of the room and the adjudicator at the back, with seating for an audience (COVID-19 permitting).
- provide suitable private preparation rooms for each of the Senior and Open Division teams. Dictionaries are to be provided. Laptops with internet capabilities or mobile phones are not to be used. It is important that teachers accompanying teams attend to this and take devices from students.
- Greet the visiting teams at the entrance of their school, to ensure that the team reaches the venue for the debate on time.
- Host schools do not have to provide afternoon tea for debaters and adults from visiting schools during the preliminary rounds. However, it is encouraged during the finals rounds where greater distances of travel are involved.
- Host Team provides a chairperson (aspiring debaters are ideal or other squad members) and a time-keeper a bell and a stopwatch.
- The Visiting Team provides a suitably qualified adjudicator for the preliminary rounds, at the expense of the school.

Digitally recording debates

Debates cannot be recorded unless written permission is granted from both teams. Schools will have their own protocols and policies in place, but simply, privacy regulations prohibit recording unless permission has been provided by parents of all debaters.

Case

For prepared and impromptu debates, the Host team is Affirmative, the Visiting team, named second in the draw, is Negative.

- Junior and Middle division preliminary rounds will be prepared topics whilst all Senior and Open division debates for all rounds will be impromptu topics.
- Topics for impromptu debates will be notified to school coordinators by email, sent at approx. 9.00am on the Monday of the scheduled week of the debate. As HICES Debating is underpinned by and operates on an integrity system, the topic for impromptu debates must in all fairness remain confidential until preparation time at 3:30pm.
- For impromptu debates, the participating teams must declare their three speakers and fourth consultant; before the topic is shared. It is not acceptable to determine the speakers who will participate in the debate after the viewing of the topic.
- Preparation for impromptu debates cannot be supported by any technology. Debaters are to be limited to writing paper, pens, and a dictionary. Coordinators are to collect any technologies that are brought to the debate and hold them during preparation time.

Adjudicators

Schools, as a requirement of nomination, are required to have a group of qualified adjudicators that they can call upon for debates. The rule of thumb is that a school has an adjudicator for every two teams nominated. Ideally, adjudicators must be independent; that is, it is preferable that adjudicators not be an alumnus or a teacher from the competing school.

If schools experience trouble finding adjudicators:

1. Contact another school's debating coordinator in your region for assistance
2. Contact HICES Debating Coordinator, Sue Macneil (sue.macneil@gmail.com)
3. Contact Masters Academy <https://www.mastersacademy.com.au/>

Adjudicators are not permitted to adjudicate a team from their own school unless (a) there is agreement from the opposition school or (b) have received approval from the HICES Debating Chair. This applies to teachers or student alumni affiliated with the competing schools.

The adjudicator's decision will be final, but any problems should be directed to the HICES Debating Chair.

There will be a sole adjudicator for each debate in the Preliminary Rounds, a panel of two adjudicators for the Elimination Finals (each school is to provide one adjudicator) and a panel of three adjudicators for the Grand Final (arranged by HICES Coordinator).

In the Finals series, where two adjudicators are required, each school will provide an adjudicator, sharing the cost.

Competition Conditions and Rules

1. Four age divisions comprise the HICES Debating competition:

Junior = Years 5&6	Middle = Years 7&8
Senior = Years 9&10	Open = Years 11&12

2. It is anticipated that all debates will be held after school.
 - Typically Junior and Middle division planned debates could commence at 3.30pm
 - Typically Senior and Open divisions could commence preparation at 3:25pm with debates commencing at 4.30pm.

Schools should arrive with sufficient time to allow for greetings, administration, and preparation.

3. Teams are to consist of four members of whom one will be a non-speaker. The fourth speaker may participate in the preparation and sit with the team and contribute notes during the debate. The recommended size of a squad is six (6). This is regarded as a stable and reliable group to get experience and improve across the season.

Students may not compete in more than one team within an age division or in more than one age division*

* Students may participate in a competition for a higher age group, but not a lower one, and must remain with that team for the remainder of the competition.

- 4 The composition of teams is determined by each school. There is no gender ratio criterion.
- 5 Students are encouraged to speak for the maximum amount of time available to them. There will be a warning bell, then a final bell, then a continuous bell to indicate that the speaker's time has expired. Anything said after this time will not be counted in the adjudication of the debate.

These bells will be rung as follows:

Junior Division: 3 minutes, 4 minutes, 4½ minutes (continuous bell)

Middle Division: 4 minutes, 5 minutes, 5½ minutes (continuous bell)

Senior Division: 4 minutes, 6 minutes, 6½ minutes (continuous bell)

Open: 6 minutes, 8 minutes, 8½ minutes (continuous bell)

- 6 Adjudicators will record 3, 2 and 1 points for the best debaters after each debate and marked on the score sheet. At the end of the competition, marks will be tallied, and the results made public at the Grand Final.
- 7 Teams will accrue 2 points for a win or bye, 0 points for a loss and -1 points for a forfeit
- 8 To qualify for the Finals Series, teams must top their region through the preliminary rounds. The balance of the teams progressing from within each region will be determined as a proportion of the overall competition.

e.g. $X / Y \times 16$ (number of teams qualifying for the Preliminary finals), where x = number of teams in the region, and y = number of total teams in the competition

e.g. 20 teams in the Southern region / 64 teams in the entire competition $\times 16$ = top 5 teams to progress

e.g. 8 teams in the North Shore Region / 64 teams in the entire competition $\times 16$ = top 2 teams to progress

- 9 Teams tied at the end of the Preliminary Round debates will be separated, in the first instance via a Play Off round. Should teams still not be separated, a win against a tied team in the Preliminary Rounds will be the next separating criteria followed by the school with highest best debater points.
- 10 All Elimination Finals will be knock out rounds. The Preliminary Final round will consist of sixteen (16) teams, the Quarter Final round of eight (8) teams, the Semi Final round of four (4) teams, and the Grand Final of two (2) teams.
- 11 Venues where required for the Finals Series will be selected from those interested participating schools. All schools entering the competition must be aware that there will be travel involved. If travel to another school is considerable, schools are advised to use a virtual debate or a half way school as a venue for a finals series.

If it eventuates that a half way school is used; the half way host coordinator will share the topic on arrival and decide the Affirmative Negative cases by the toss of a coin. However, the co-ordinator of the winning team must complete results sheet.

Champion School

To be eligible for consideration for Champion School, a school must have nominations in all four age groups. If a team from a school forfeits a debate, that school cannot be considered for the Champion School.

Points will be allocated as below:

- A win in a preliminary round debate earns (1) point
- A win in an Elimination Preliminary Final earns (3) points
- A win in an Elimination Quarter Final earns (4) points
- A win in an Elimination Semi Final earns (5) points
- A win in a Grand Final earns (6) points

The total number of points earned by an eligible school will be divided by the total number of teams entered, to determine the quotient for the Champion School.

Obligation of Students

- Students should bear in mind the principles of good manners and fairness.
- Inappropriate language, rudeness and disparaging comments about opposing teams will not be tolerated.
- Full dress uniform will be expected for all debates.
- Students will be expected to attend all coaching or preparation sessions organised by their school.
- In addition, when available, older students should be encouraged to help younger students to learn the principles of debating and help them in their preparation.
- A student will be expected, if possible, to attend all debates in their division in which their school is involved if they are in the squad, even if they are not in a particular debate.
- Students must not question the result of a debate and staff ought to set an example in this regard. However, they may and indeed should be encouraged to approach the Adjudicator after the debate to ask for any suggestions or advice.

APPENDIX A – Virtual Debates

The following guide is a general overview of the rules and conditions for a Virtual Debate. All school coordinators and competition adjudicators should be familiar with this guide prior to and during the competition.

Please also see <https://www.aisnsw.edu.au/virtual-debating/virtual-debating-guide/> for AISNSW approved guidelines to host virtual debates.

Preferred delivery platform is via ZOOM. Host schools are asked to post ZOOM meeting links 72 hours prior to the debate.

Schools must ensure they have effective technology to support a virtual debate. To participate in a virtual debate, schools should ensure they can meet the requirements listed below:

- reliable internet connection
- video conferencing facilities
- desktop/laptop computer with the following peripherals
 - Microphone - ability to pick up participant input from anywhere in a reasonable sized room.
 - HD Camera - HD quality cameras that can ZOOM and PAN to any position in the room.
 - Speakers - sound output sufficient so incoming audio can be heard comfortably anywhere in the room.
- TV or projector for input.

Co-ordinators must speak to their school IT department and be confident that they have the technology to participate in a virtual debate. If a school is not confident – they may wish to consider their entry into the competition.

Each round in HICES has a specific end date, all debates in any round must be completed by the specified date. A virtual debate should be scheduled at least 72 hours prior to this date, so that a contingency can be put in place, if required.

The normal patterns of good behaviour and manners expected in normal face-to-face debates are also expected in virtual debates, respect for opponents must be shown always. In a virtual debate this includes:

- Student team members on both sides should and will be visible on camera always and should be always respectful. Gesticulations of any kind (besides polite applause) towards the camera and opposition are not appropriate. Coordinators are asked to monitor their students to ensure appropriate behaviour.
- Being muted when the other side is speaking. An advantage of virtual debating is that the observing (non-speaking) team can verbalise thoughts to an extent as it will not be discourteous to the other team who can't hear.
- All students, staff and spectators in the room should be visible on camera whenever possible and be on a school campus. Debaters should not be debating from home.

Due to the nature of a virtual debate and the reliance on both parties being able to connect at once it is essential that the following protocols are followed:

1. Perform a test connection. Any issues connecting should be resolved well before the debate.
2. Join before the start time. On the day of the debate, please ensure you enter the Virtual Room at least 10 minutes prior to the start time, so that the debate can begin on time. Remember that the other parties involved may not have much time either side of the debate, so it is essential that they begin on time.
3. If a team is not present in the room after 15 minutes - a forfeit will be handed to the opposition.
4. Microphone use during the debate. Please mute your microphone unless it is your time to speak. It is also good etiquette to applaud the opposition speakers at the start and completion of each speaker, at these times the microphone can be 'on' and the muted again afterwards.
5. Camera use during debates. In a debate at least two camera positions should be utilised: ZOOM, close up and PAN wise angle
 - a. A close up of the current speaker – possibly at a lectern. All speakers should assume the same position.
 - b. A frame including the whole team – this pre-set could be used when the other team is speaking. For schools without software adjustable ZOOM and PAN on their web cameras these changes will need to be made manually and as quickly as possible.

Role of HICES Chair & Coordinator

- Seek and collate competition registrations
- Establish and publish competition draw for each region and division, including the finals competition.
- Receive debate results and compile results
- Arrange Grand Final venue and end of competition presentations.
- Create collate and publish annual Coordinator Contact lists.
- Annually update HICES Debating Handbook.
- Adjudicate disputes

History of the Chapman Cup

Year	Division	School
2021	Junior Middle Senior Open Runner up Open Chapman Cup Champion School	HICES Debating was concluded after the Preliminary Rounds due to COVID 19 restrictions
2020	HICE Debating competition for 2020 was abandoned due to COVID-19	
2019	Junior Middle Senior Open Runner up Open Chapman Cup Champion School	The Illawarra Grammar School Shire Christian College Oxley College Macarthur Anglican School St Spyridon College Blue Mountains Grammar School
2018	Junior Middle Senior Open Runner up Open Chapman Cup Champion School	Hunter Valley Grammar School Central Coast Grammar School St Luke's Grammar School Central Coast Grammar School Inaburra School Central Coast Grammar School
2017	Junior Middle Senior Open Runner up Open Chapman Cup Champion School	Central Coast Grammar School Emanuel School Arndell Anglican College Hills Grammar School Moriah College Emanuel School
2016	Junior Middle Senior Open Runner up Open Chapman Cup Champion School	Macarthur Anglican School Emanuel School Emanuel School Arndell Anglican College Wollondilly Anglican College Central Coast Grammar School
2015	Junior Middle Senior Open Runner up Open Chapman Cup Champion School	Illawarra Grammar School Central Coast Grammar School Wollondilly Anglican College Kinross Wolaroi School (2) Kinross Wolaroi School (1) Central Coast Grammar School
2014	Junior Middle Senior Open Runner up Open Chapman Cup	St Luke's Grammar School Central Coast Grammar School International Grammar School Kinross Wolaroi School Central Coast Grammar School

Year	Division	School
2013	Junior Middle Senior Open Runner up Open Chapman Cup	St Luke's Grammar School The Hills Grammar School Central Coast Grammar School Newcastle Grammar School Blue Mountains Grammar School
2012	Junior Middle Senior Open Runner up Open Chapman Cup	Nowra Anglican College Wollondilly Anglican College Newcastle Grammar School Emanuel School The Illawarra Grammar School
2011	Junior Middle Senior Open Runner up Open Chapman Cup	International Grammar School Central Coast Grammar School Blue Mountains Grammar School Georges River Grammar Emanuel School
2010	Junior Middle Senior Open Runner up Open Chapman Cup	William Carey Christian School The Hills Grammar School The Illawarra Grammar School William Carey Christian School Central Coast Grammar School
2009	Junior Middle Senior Open Runner up Open Chapman Cup	Rouse Hill Anglican College Chevalier College Central Coast Grammar School Newcastle Grammar School Kinross Wolaroi School
2008	Junior Middle Senior Open Runner up Open Chapman Cup	Newcastle Grammar School Macarthur Anglican School Hunter Valley Grammar School Newcastle Grammar School The Illawarra Grammar School
2007	Junior Middle Senior Open Runner up Open Chapman Cup	International Grammar School The Illawarra Grammar School William Clarke College International Grammar School Central Coast Grammar School

HICES Debating Competition: Results Form

To be completed by Host School Coordinator

Age Division:
(Please circle one)

Junior	Middle	Senior	Open
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Affirmative School:

Negative School:
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Topic:

Date of debate:

Full names of team members, first and last name (please print):

	Affirmative		Negative
1			
2			
3			
4			

To be completed by Adjudicator (do not announce at time of debate):

	Please enter full first name and surname
Best Debater
2 nd Best
3 rd Best

Winning School:

Name of Adjudicator (please print):

I would like my details to be included in the HICES Adjudicators Register (please tick)

When completed, Host school co-ordinator to email to HICES Coordinator
sue.macneil@gmail.com