



# Debating Rules & Guidelines

A participant's guide to the  
JCI WORLD DEBATING  
CHAMPIONSHIP



**LEADERSHIP**

Everything you need to successfully  
participate in the JCI World Debating  
Championship →



Sponsored by  
Eric H. Stevenson, 1963 JCI President

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## INTRODUCTION

We are happy to present to you the newly updated Guide for the JCI World Debating Championship, sponsored by 1963 JCI President Eric H. Stevenson. The guidelines are designed to assist you in getting the most out of this great international program.

Debating skills equip members to advocate the message of social responsibility, resolve conflicts, respect differences and overcome obstacles. Contestants discuss topics that are relevant to the JCI Mission, as well as global issues. Capacity-building events like this build a foundation of teamwork, critical-thinking and problem solving that members use to address issues in their own communities.

We hope this guide will help you, and we welcome any feedback on how we can improve it. Please send all comments and feedback to the JCI Programs Manager at JCI World Headquarters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edson A. Kodama', with a large, stylized initial 'E'.

Edson A. Kodama  
JCI Secretary General

## RULES AND GUIDELINES

### 1. Entry

- (a) Entry is free.
- (b) JCI National Organizations must register by the specified deadline. No entries will be accepted once the deadline has passed.
- (c) All registration forms, including the details of the team members, must be submitted to the assigned JCI Vice Presidents (the Chairpersons) by the assigned deadline, two weeks before the opening ceremony of the JCI Area Conference or World Congress.
- (d) All teams must provide a judge who has debating experience. None of the judges shall be from the same JCI National Organization as any of the competing speakers.

### 2. Participation

- (a) JCI National Organizations may enter more than one team.
- (b) Each team must have 4 members: a Team Captain who speaks twice, 2 additional speakers, and a judge.
- (c) Members of a team must be active members.
- (d) Teams are not limited to formation based on JCI National Organization membership and it is possible for members of different JCI National Organizations to form an “international” team.
- (e) The championship will be conducted in a series of rounds. Only the winning team will advance to the next round; those who lose will be eliminated from the championship.

### 3. Speaking Format

- (a) The speaking format will be as follows:

Team Captain FOR:	2 minutes
Team Captain AGAINST:	2 minutes
1 <sup>st</sup> Speaker FOR:	3 minutes
1 <sup>st</sup> Speaker AGAINST:	3 minutes
2 <sup>nd</sup> Speaker FOR:	3 minutes
2 <sup>nd</sup> Speaker AGAINST:	3 minutes
Team Captain FOR:	2 minutes
Team Captain AGAINST:	2 minutes

### 4. Debating Format

- (a) The JCI Vice President(s) will draw the names of the teams randomly. The first name drawn will debate against the second name drawn, the third name drawn will debate against the fourth name and so on, until all names have been exhausted. This procedure shall be known as the “First Round Draw” and shall take place immediately prior to commencement of the championship.

- (b) In the event of an odd number of teams, the last team drawn will be given a “pass,” automatically advancing to the second round. In this case, paragraph 4 (a) is duly amended.
- (c) The motion for each round of debate will be announced to the teams in the auditorium at least 15 minutes before their debate.
- (d) It is the responsibility of the teams to be present in the auditorium when the motion for their debate is announced.
- (e) The first team drawn or the first team through to successive rounds will debate on the “for” side of the motion.
- (f) Rules 4 (c), (d) and (e) shall not apply to the final debate round. The two finalist teams will be notified of their motion at least thirty (30) minutes before the debate. Determining who should be the “for” team to propose the motion shall be decided as follows:
  - i The finalist team with the highest overall points from the semi-final debate will have the right to call the coin toss that will determine which team shall take which position.
  - ii Whichever team wins the coin toss shall choose whether they will speak for or against the motion.
  - iii This process shall take place before the motion is announced.

## 5. Motions

- (a) The motions for debate must be relevant to the JCI Mission and/or issues of global or regional interest.
- (b) Teams, individuals and members of JCI are allowed to submit suggestions for motions for debate to the assigned Vice President(s) up to two weeks prior to the Area Conference or World Congress.
- (c) The motions for debate will be ultimately decided on ahead of time by the assigned Vice President(s).
- (d) A list of potential motions for debate will be given to the teams by email on the day of the opening ceremony of the event, in order to give participants time to research the topics.

## 6. Point of Information

- (a) Only a participating speaker can present a point of information. Substitutes, supporters, members of the audience cannot offer or answer points of information.
- (b) Following are the procedures for giving and accepting points of information:
  - i If giving a point of information, raise your hand or place your hand over your head, stand up and address the speaker at the podium, saying, "On a point of information."

- ii Wait for the speaker to indicate whether he or she will listen to your point. If the speaker says "No, thank you", or indicates by way of a gesture that the point will not be taken, or continues with their speech without yielding the floor, then sit down.
  - iii If the speaker indicates that he or she will take the point, then deliver it clearly and briefly and then sit down. Do not retort to the speaker's reply. At no point should speakers engage in a conversation.
  - iv If speaking, and an opponent offers a point of information, you can accept it there and then, you can refuse to accept it, or you can indicate you will deal with it in a moment when you are finished with the point you are making.
  - v When replying to a point of information, be brief and then return to your speech.
  - vi It is important that the speaker keep control of his/her allotted time.
- (c) A point of information may be made only during the second and third minutes of the speaker's time.

## 7. Timeouts

- (a) Each team is allowed one (1) timeout for duration of one (1) minute during the debate.
- (b) A timeout may be taken at any time during the debate as long as it is called in between speakers.
- (c) The team captain shall indicate to the Chairperson(s) that his/her team wishes to use their timeout, at which time the Chairperson(s) will ask the Timekeeper to inform them when the minute is up.

## 8. JCI

- (a) JCI will be responsible for organizing the venue and other procedural and logistical matters for the championship.

## 9. Judging

- (a) Each debate round will be judged by a judging panel of three people, appointed by the Chairperson(s) from the pool of judges supplied by each Debating Team.
- (b) In the case that there are only two competing debate teams, the Chairperson(s) will appoint a third judge to the judging panel.
- (c) The Chair of the judging panel shall deliver the verdict to the Chairperson(s), who shall then announce the result.
- (d) Such verdict, once announced, shall be final and no appeal shall arise therefrom.

Entry forms, together with any queries regarding the above rules, should be sent to the assigned JCI Vice President(s) as stated in the rules above.

## Hints and Tips for Good Debating

1. Demonstrate deep knowledge and understanding of the subject.
2. Make sure arguments are relevant to the motion.
3. Make sure that points made are both substantive and pertinent to the argument.
4. Simultaneously rebuke your opponent's arguments.
5. Logically arrange your arguments.
6. Show an ability to communicate.
7. Speak with clarity and effectiveness.
8. Endeavor to blend humor into your argument, assuming such humor is expressed appropriately and in context.
9. Address the audience with minimal reference to your notes.
10. Speak within the allotted time allowed
11. Adhere to the rules for timeouts, and points of information

Remember, other factors will influence the Judges when making a decision. Always look neat and presentable when approaching the podium. As a matter of courtesy, the Speaker should address the Chairperson first and then commence with his/her debate.

There are also points awarded for teamwork. It is therefore necessary for the debating team to give a general impression of coordination, preparation and consistency in your team's arguments.



## JCI World Debating Championship

sponsored by: Eric H. Stevenson, 1963 JCI President

### Team Registration Form

This form confirms that JCI \_\_\_\_\_\* will participate in the JCI World Debating Championship and agrees to adhere to the Championship Rules.

Signed for and on behalf of the JCI National Organization:

\_\_\_\_\_  
National President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

(\* = the National Organization to which the team captain belongs)

**Team name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Team Captain: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Team Member 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Team Member 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Judge: \_\_\_\_\_

***Please submit your Team Registration Form to [programs@jci.org](mailto:programs@jci.org) two weeks before the Area Conference begins. Registrations received after the deadline will not be taken into account.***

#### **Details of Team Members**

Please provide the following information of each team member as well as a short biography. Try to make the biographies interesting, as they will be used to introduce the team to the audience. Please fill in the below completely and as clearly as possible in block letters.

#### **Team Captain**

1. National Organization: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Local Organization: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Position in JCI: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Year joining JCI: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Age: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Profession: \_\_\_\_\_
7. Interests/hobbies: \_\_\_\_\_
8. Debating experience: \_\_\_\_\_
9. Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Team member 1**

1. National Organization: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Local Organization: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Position in JCI: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Year joining JCI: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Age: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Profession: \_\_\_\_\_
7. Interests/hobbies: \_\_\_\_\_
8. Debating experience: \_\_\_\_\_
9. Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Team member 2**

1. National Organization: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Local Organization: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Position in JCI: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Year joining JCI: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Age: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Profession: \_\_\_\_\_
7. Interests/hobbies: \_\_\_\_\_
8. Debating experience: \_\_\_\_\_
9. Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Judge**

1. National Organization: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Local Organization: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Position in JCI: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Year joining JCI: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Age: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Profession: \_\_\_\_\_
7. Interests/hobbies: \_\_\_\_\_
8. Debating experience: \_\_\_\_\_
9. Email address: \_\_\_\_\_