

# *The Japan Parliamentary Debate Union Tournament rule*

## 1. General Provisions

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- 1.1 These rules apply to the Japan Parliamentary Debate Union Tournament.
- 1.2 The interpretation of these rules shall at all time be the prerogative of the Tournament Director. All the Tournament Director's decisions shall be final.
- 1.3 Sanctions for violations of section 3,4 and 5 that apply during the debate will be province of the judge.

## 2. Eligibility

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- 2.1 This tournament is open to universities' and colleges' students. To be eligible, debaters must not be senior (fourth year). A registered member can be changed until the deadline that is given by Tournament Committee.
- 2.2 Both debaters of a single team should belong to the same debating organization. Composite teams will be allowed only with the explicit permission of the Tournament Director.
- 2.3 Tournament Director has a right to disqualify a team from the Tournament who violates these prescribed rules of procedure.

## 3. Format of the Debate

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- 3.1 The debate will consist of 2 teams of 2 debaters and adjudicators.
- 3.2 A panel consisting of an odd number of judges shall adjudicate each debate.
- 3.3 A panel of audience judges shall consist of odd numbered ones who have not enrolled at any organization the finalists belong to.
- 3.4 One team, called the Government, argues in favor of the motion. The other team, called the Opposition, argues against the motion.
- 3.5 Team members will assume the following roles:  
Government: "Prime Minister" and "Member of the Government"  
Opposition: "Leader of the Opposition" and "Member of the Opposition"
- 3.6 Debaters shall speak in the following order:
  - 1) Prime Minister Constructive
  - 2) Leader of the Opposition Constructive
  - 3) Member of the government Constructive
  - 4) Member of the Opposition Constructive
  - 5) Leader of the Opposition Rebuttal
  - 6) Prime Minister Rebuttal
- 3.7 Each constructive speech should be 8 minutes in duration, and each rebuttal speech should be 4 minutes in duration. Debaters should not exceed this time period by more than 30 seconds.
- 3.8 It is the duty of the helpers to time speeches. During the constructive (rebuttal) speech, the helper will knock the table twice at the end of eight (four) minutes, and four times at the end of eight (four) and half minutes.
- 3.9 Debaters may introduce new arguments during all constructive speeches.
- 3.10 Debaters must not introduce new arguments in rebuttal speeches except the Prime Minister Rebuttal. The Prime Minister may introduce new arguments in his or her rebuttal only to refute arguments that were first raised in

the Member of the Opposition Constructive. New examples, analogies, etc. which support previously introduced arguments are welcomed in both rebuttal speeches.

#### 4. Preparation

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- 4.1 After the announcement of which teams will compete with each other in each round, a different motion will be announced 20 minutes prior to the beginning of the debate.
- 4.2 Teams should prepare by themselves. Once the motion has been announced, debaters are not allowed to talk with anyone outside of their teams.
- 4.3 Printed and prepared materials can be used during the preparation time. No access to electronic media nor electronic storage other than electronic dictionary is allowed during the preparation time.

#### 5. Intervention

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##### 5.1 Point of Information

- 5.1.1 The speakers are expected to offer and accept Point of Information at least twice in each constructive speech.
- 5.1.2 Either speaker on the opposite team may make the Points of Information during the constructive speech.
- 5.1.3 The first and last minutes of the speech are known as "protected time" and a Point of Information is prohibited during this time.
- 5.1.4 A Point of Information may not be made during the rebuttal speeches.
- 5.1.5 To ask a Point of Information, a member should stand, place one hand on his or her head and extend the other towards the member speaking. Then the member may announce that they would like to ask a "Point of Information" or use other words.
- 5.1.6 The debater holding the floor may accept or decline to answer the Point of Information.
- 5.1.7 A Point of Information should not exceed 15 seconds in length.
- 5.1.8 If a Point of Information is refused, the debater who offered Point of information must sit down at once.
- 5.1.9 The speaking time of the debater with the floor continues during Points of information.
- 5.1.10 A debater of the other team can request Points of Information to the debater who is holding the floor for various purposes. For example:
  - a) To clarify what the speaker is saying.
  - b) To point out any contradiction in the speech.
  - c) To indicate any inconsistency between the other team's speeches.
  - d) To question the relevance of arguments.

##### 5.2 Point of Order

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- 5.2.1 Points of Order may be to the Judge by any competitor to protest that his/her opponent has violated one of these rules. Point of Order may also be used to point out prohibited new arguments in rebuttals.
- 5.2.2 Points of Order can be addressed to the adjudicator if at any time during the debate; a debater believes that his or her opponent has violated one of these Rules. And the speaking time of the debater with the floor stops during the Points of Order.

## 6. Definition

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### 6.1 definition

- 6.1.1 The definition should state the issue (or issues) for debate arising out of the motion and state the meaning of any terms in the motion which require interpretation.
- 6.1.2 Only the Prime Minister can define the motion.
- 6.1.3 The Prime Minister should provide the definition at the beginning of his or her speech.
- 6.1.4 Once the Prime Minister makes the case statement, the Government must prove the case statement, not the motion.
- 6.1.5 The definition must:
- (a) have a clear and logical link to the motion - this means that an average reasonable person would accept the link made by the member between the motion and the definition (where there is no such link the definition is sometimes referred to as a “squirrel”);
  - (b) not be self-proving - a definition is self-proving when the case is that something should or should not be done and there is no reasonable rebuttal. A definition is may also be self-proving when the case is that a certain state of affairs exists or does not exist and there is no reasonable rebuttal (these definitions are sometimes referred to as “truisms”).
  - (c) not be time set - this means that the debate must take place in the present and that the definition cannot set the debate in the past or the future; and
  - (d) not be place set unfairly - this means that the definition cannot restrict the debate so narrowly to a particular geographical or political location that a participant of the tournament could not reasonably be expected to have knowledge of the place.

### 6.2 Challenging the definition

- 6.2.1 The definition may be challenged if it violates clause 6.1.3 of these rules. Only the Leader of the Opposition may challenge the definition, and if s/he does not do so, all debaters must accept it.
- 6.2.2 When the Leader of the Opposition challenges the definition; s/he should clearly state that s/he is challenging the definition and explain why their opponent’s definition is not acceptable.
- 6.2.3 The Leader of the Opposition should substitute an alternative definition after challenging the definition of the Prime Minister.

### 6.3 Assessing the definitional challenge

- 6.3.1 The adjudicator should determine the definition to be ‘unreasonable’ where it violates clause 7.1.3 of these rules.
- 6.3.2 The onus to establish that the definition is unreasonable is on the members asserting that the definition is unreasonable.
- 6.3.3 Where the definition is unreasonable, the opposition should substitute an alternative definition that should be accepted by the adjudicator provided it is not unreasonable.

## 7. Judge

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- 7.1 The Judge will vote for the team, which is more reasonable, logical and persuasive.
- 7.2 The judge does not speak in the debate, except when ruling on POO or giving a caution.
- 7.3 The judge including the audience judges must not tell the adjudication results to anyone

7.4 The judge including audience judges may not hold a consultation with anyone else over rating and decision-making. But the judge can deliver some comment briefly as far as your decision is not exposed.

7.5 The judge shall not have bias to influence their assessment of argumentation.

7.6 The combined speaker points of the winning team must be higher. Therefore, low win or tie cannot be occurred.