

BYE LAWS OF THE WORLD SCHOOLS DEBATING CHAMPIONSHIPS LIMITED

Part One – Interpretation and Introduction

1. Interpretation

In these bye laws:

- 1.1 “the Articles” means the articles of association of the Charity;
- 1.2 “Championship” means a debating tournament organised by a Host and recognised by the Charity as the World Schools Debating Championship for a particular year;
- 1.3 “the Charity” means World Schools Debating Championships Limited, a company limited by guarantee and registered in England with number 6666449;
- 1.4 “the Directors” means the directors of the Charity;
- 1.5 “Host” means an organisation chosen to be Host as described in bye law 10;
- 1.6 “the Memorandum” means the memorandum of association of the Charity;
- 1.7 “the Tournament Rules” means the Tournament Rules described in bye law 7;
- 1.8 “the World Schools Debating Championships” means the ongoing series of debating tournaments each of which is recognised by the Charity as the World Schools Debating Championship for a particular year;

Part Two – The Charter and the status of the bye laws

2. The Charter

- 2.1 The charter set out in the annex to these bye laws is adopted as the Charter of the World Schools Debating Championships.
- 2.2 The Charter is a part of these bye laws and shall be amended in accordance with the requirements for amending these bye laws.
- 2.3 Every Host of a Championship, every participating debater and adult at a Championship, and every member and officer of the Charity must agree to the spirit of the Charter.

3. Status of the bye laws

- 3.1 These bye laws were adopted as bye laws of the Charity by the Directors on 14 August 2011, as empowered by a resolution of the members of the Charity in General Meeting on 23 February 2011.
- 3.2 Proposals to amend these bye laws shall take the form of a resolution at a general meeting, the procedures for which are described in the Articles.

Part Three – The Charity

4. Membership

- 4.1 Any organisation or individual meeting the criteria for membership, as determined from time to time by the Directors, may apply for membership of the charity.
- 4.2 The Directors shall at all times have the discretion to reject applications for membership if they consider such action to be in the best interests of the World Schools Debating Championships.
- 4.3 Notwithstanding any other bye law, the Directors may terminate the membership of any member in the manner described in article 4 of the Articles of Association if they reasonably believe that a change in the Charity's membership would be in the best interests of the World Schools Debating Championships.
- 4.4 The Directors may charge, on behalf of the Charity, such reasonable membership fee (as the Directors in their sole discretion shall determine) to any applicant for membership, and may charge different fees to different members as they determine.
- 4.5 The Directors shall at all times maintain a register of the members of each class of members of the Charity.
- 4.6 The class to which a member belongs shall indicate that member's country of affiliation for the purposes of the rule below.
- 4.7 Each class of membership (in as much as that class is determined by and consists in the indication of the member's country of affiliation) shall be deemed to have an equal voting weight with all other such classes at general meetings of the Charity, as described in bye law 4.8
- 4.8 The votes cast by each class shall be deemed to be one hundred in total, and the proportion of that one hundred to be counted as votes either for or against a resolution shall be determined by the proportion of the members of that class so voting.

5. The Development Committee

5.1 There shall be a Development Committee for the Charity.

5.2 The Development Committee shall include at all times at least one Director.

5.3 The Development Committee shall be chaired by a Director.

5.4 If more than one Director is a member of the Development Committee, the members of the committee shall choose which Director is to act as Chairman.

5.5 Any individual may be invited to join the Development Committee by the Directors.

5.6 The Development Committee shall be responsible for action in all areas concerning the Charity falling outside the responsibilities of the Directors, including, but not limited to: strategic development; the creation and maintenance of an alumni programme; fundraising efforts; management of funds, investments, property and staff; legal issues, the creation of learning and publicity materials to further the Charity's aims, and the maintenance of strategic partnerships with member organisations and other national and international debating organisations.

5.7 The Directors may from time to time choose to delegate any of their powers as described in the Memorandum to the Development Committee.

5.8 No actions properly pertaining to the Directors under the laws of England and Wales shall be taken by the Development Committee except as delegated by the Directors.

Part Four – The Tournament

6. The Tournament Rules

6.1 There shall be a set of guidelines for the setting, drawing, conduct, format, scoring and adjudication of debates held at a Championship, known as the Tournament Rules.

6.2 The Tournament Rules shall include complaints procedures as described in those rules.

6.3 The Tournament Rules shall describe the prizes awarded at a Championship and define the membership of any categories of nations or individuals that may be used to award those prizes.

6.4 The Tournament Rules shall decide the eligibility of individuals to participate in a Championship, including defining the meaning of the term Nation for the purposes of bye laws 7 and 9, insofar as the assignment of an individual to a Nation may be used to determine the membership of the Tournament Committee and the Competitors Advisory Board.

6.5 Changes to the Tournament Rules shall be submitted to the Competitors Advisory Board, which may pass non-binding resolutions.

7. The Tournament Committee

7.1 There shall be a Tournament Committee for each Championship.

7.2 The Tournament Committee shall consist of one adult (coach, adjudicator or observer) from the delegation of each Nation participating at a Championship.

7.3 Adults representing Nations on the Tournament Committee shall be nominated during the registration process by the person responsible for registering that Nation's delegation.

7.4 Meetings of the Tournament Committee shall be chaired by the chairperson of the Tournament Committee Executive.

7.5 The Tournament Committee shall:

7.5.1 vote on proposed changes to the Tournament Rules brought before it by the Tournament Committee Executive, such changes requiring a two-thirds majority of Tournament Committee votes cast either 'yea' or 'nay' to be 'yea' votes;

7.5.2 elect the Tournament Committee Executive;

7.5.3 elect a Motions Committee;

7.5.4 elect a Complaints Committee;

7.5.6 choose, by a vote using the first-past-the-post system, between competing candidates to be Hosts of upcoming Championships; and

7.5.7 approve or reject the Host's choice of Chief Adjudicator.

7.6 The Tournament Committee shall also receive a report at each Championship from each of the Tournament Committee Executive, Host and Chief Adjudicator.

8. The Tournament Committee Executive

8.1 There shall be a Tournament Committee Executive for the term between each Championship.

8.2 The members of the Tournament Committee Executive shall be:

8.2.1 a Chairperson elected by the Tournament Committee;

8.2.2 a Vice-Chairperson elected by the Tournament Committee;

8.2.3 a Secretary elected by the Tournament Committee;

8.3.4 six members, elected by the Tournament Committee.

8.3 The elected members shall hold office from the Tournament Committee meeting at which they are elected until the following Tournament Committee meeting.

8.4 No person shall serve in any one of the capacities of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson or Secretary of the Tournament Committee Executive for more than five consecutive terms of office.

8.5 The Tournament Committee Executive shall be responsible for action in areas concerning the hosting arrangements or tournament rules of current or future Championships falling outside the responsibilities of the Charity or Host, and will focus on key issues through its working groups.

8.6 The Chairperson shall determine which areas each working group shall focus on and which of the elected members shall chair each working group.

8.7 The Tournament Executive Committee may provide interpretation of the Tournament Rules to the Host or Chief Adjudicator of the current or future Championships as and when required.

9. The Competitors Advisory Board

9.1 There shall be a Competitors Advisory Board for each Championship year.

9.2 The Competitors Advisory Board shall consist of one debater from the delegation of each Nation participating in a Championship.

9.3 Debaters representing Nations on the Competitors Advisory Board shall be nominated during the registration process by the person responsible for registering that Nation's delegation.

9.4 Any member of the Competitors Advisory Board may nominate themselves for election as chair of the meeting.

9.5 The Competitors Advisory Board shall elect its own chair from those nominated by a vote using the first-past-the-post system.

9.6 The Competitors Advisory Board shall be responsible for considering any changes to the Tournament Rules proposed by the Tournament Committee Executive and may pass nonbinding resolutions on them by a simple majority.

9.7 The Competitors Advisory Board may, by the means of passing resolutions by a simple majority, provide non-binding advice to the Tournament Committee and Charity on any other matter.

10. The Host

10.1 There shall be a Host for each debating tournament considered by the Charity to be a World Schools Debating Championship.

10.2 Organisations may apply to the Charity to be candidates to host the Championship for a particular year.

10.3 Those organisations meeting the minimum criteria for candidacy, as decided by the Directors, shall be eligible to be chosen as Host for a particular year.

10.4 That choice shall be made by the Tournament Committee, up to three Championships in advance of the Championship for which the bid is made, by a vote using the first-past-the post system.

10.5 Once chosen, the Host has the right to call their debating tournament the World Schools Debating Championship for the year in which it is held.

10.6 If chosen, Hosts must ensure that their debating tournament complies with these bye laws, the Tournament Rules, and any contractual obligations imposed by the charity.

10.7 The officers of the Charity may from time to time request information from a Host. This implies neither an oversight role nor responsibility to act on that information.

10.8 If a Host does not comply with these bye laws, the Tournament Rules, or their contractual obligations, or if the Directors so choose for any other reason, the Charity may withdraw from a Host the right to call their debating tournament the World Schools Debating Championship for a particular year.

ANNEX

The Charter of the World Schools Debating Championships

The aims of the World Schools Debating Championships are:

- to encourage and advance the education of young people in communication skills through conducting debating events;
- to achieve excellence in debating by young people through annually conducting the World Schools Debating Championships;
- to promote international understanding and free speech through debating to help young people develop their capabilities that they may grow to full maturity as individuals and members of society.

In order to further these aims, all participating nations agree that:

- the team of any participating nation may be required to debate any issue
- the team of any participating nation may be required to debate against the team of any other participating nation
- the team of any participating nation is entitled to take part in the Championships on the same basis as any other participating nation's team