

ITALIAN YOUTH DEBATE CHAMPIONSHIP 2024/25

HIGH SCHOOL – ENGLISH EDITION

RULES OF THE COMPETITION

1) Preamble

1.1 - The Italian Youth Debate Championship is a debate tournament aimed at young people organized by the Italian National Debate Society (SNDI). These regulations concern the Championship track reserved for high school debaters.

1.2 - The High Schools track of the Italian Youth Debate Championship consists of two sub-tracks, one in Italian and one in English.

1.3 - These regulations are approved by the Board of Directors of SNDI, which at the same time approves the bodies, protocol, rules and organizational methods of the Championship.

1.4 - The Italian Youth Debate Championship is held annually.

1.5 - These regulations refer to the Italian Youth Debate Championship of the 2024-2025 season.

BODIES

2) Organizing Committee.

2.1 - The Organizing Committee is appointed by the Board of Directors of the Italian National Debate Society.

2.2 – It adopts the Regulations of the Italian Youth Championship.

2.3 – It appoints the members of other committees.

2.4 - Every other Championship Committee is represented in the Organizing Committee through one of its delegates.

2.5 – It sets the dates of the debates and the place where the final stages of the Championship will be held.

2.6 – It checks the admission requirements of all teams and their coaches.

2.7 – It ensures the implementation of the Championship in all its phases.

2.8 - The coach of a team participating in the Italian Youth Championship cannot be a member of the Organizing Committee.

3) Motions Committee

3.1 - The Motions Committee is appointed by the Organizing Committee and consists of five members.

3.2 – It chooses all the motions for the Italian Youth Championship: prepared motions and impromptu motions.

3.3 – It communicates to the Organizing Committee the prepared motions at least 4 weeks before the date of the debate on the prepared motion.

3.4 – It notifies the Organizing Committee of impromptu motions within 24 hours prior to the debate on the impromptu motion.

3.5 - The Motions Committee shall be assisted by two external advisors appointed by the Executive Board.

3.6 - The coach of a team participating in the Italian Youth Championship cannot be a member of the Motions Committee.

4) Chief Adjudicators Panel

4.1 - The members of CAP are appointed by the Organizing Committee. Each championship has its own CAP. The CAP for the High Schools Championship consists of seven persons.

4.2 - The CAP identifies the judges of the Italian Youth Championship debates.

4.3 - It validates the results of each debate.

4.4 – It validates team rankings prepared by the Tab Master.

4.5 – It settles issues regarding the assignment of judges to debates.

4.6 - The coach of a team participating in the Italian Youth Championship cannot be a member of the CAP.

5) Equity Committee

5.1 - The members of the Equity Committee are appointed by the Organizing Committee in the amount of five persons.

5.2 - The Equity Committee monitors and ensures that rules, decisions and actions taken by other committees are based on principles of inclusiveness, fairness and impartiality.

5.3 – it evaluates and responds to challenges that may be raised during the Championship by committee members, judges, coaches, debaters and any other person involved in the championship. However, this evaluation shall respond to the principles and criteria set forth in Article 11.3 below.

5.4 - It shall issue, when necessary, appropriate and proportionate measures with respect to substantiated transgressions of the rules of the Championship, of the Debater's code, of the Code of conduct, and of any behavior that may offend the dignity and freedom of the Championship participants.

5.5 - The coach of a team participating in the Italian Youth Championship cannot be a member of the Equity Committee.

6) Judges

6.1 - Judges who adjudicate the Italian Youth Championship debates are identified by the CAP.

6.2 - Judges are selected through an open call, on the basis of the curriculum submitted for qualifications and experience.

6.3 - The coach of a team cannot serve as a judge in a debate involving his/her team.

6.4 - All judges are required to abide by the rules of the World Schools Debate Championships protocol (Annex No 1- World Schools Debating Championships Protocol) and the criteria for evaluation and scoring. (Annex No 3 “Evaluation Criteria and Scoring of Debates”).

MODALITÀ DI PARTECIPAZIONE

7) HOW TO PARTICIPATE

7) Criteria for participation.

7.1 - All teams that agree to abide by the criteria set forth in these rules may participate in the Italian Youth Championship.

7.2 - Each team must register at least one judge in its respective sub-track (Italian or English). It is not possible to register a team without the team registering a judge at the same time.

7.3 - Participating teams must consist of a minimum of three to a maximum of six debaters and one or two coaches.

7.4 - The maximum limit of teams that can register is 60 (sixty) for the Italian language sub-track, and 20 (twenty) for the English language sub-track. The Organizing Committee reserves the right to identify different team caps depending on the number of judges registered.

7.5 - Each school may enter up to two teams in the Italian language section, and one in the English language section.

7.6 - It is possible to register mixed teams, i.e. teams in which at least two debaters belong to a different School/Institute than the other team members.

7.7 - Should the Organizing Committee be forced to place a limit on the number of teams, priority will be given to the diversity of Schools: it will retain only the first registered team from each School. In case of further need to reduce the number of registered teams, it will proceed in order of registration.

7.8 - Until the end of in-rounds, the team can replace a maximum of 3 members. Since only SNDI members can participate in the championship, the substituting debater must be registered with SNDI for the year 2025. No substitutions are allowed during out-rounds.

7.9 - Debaters must be fourteen years old or older on the day of the first debate of the Championship and under twenty years old on the day of the first debate of the Championship. For the English language sub-track, only one debater may be older than seventeen at the time of the first debate.

7.10 - College students or students attending post-secondary educational institutions may not participate in the Italian Junior Championship.

7.11 - The coach of the team must be at least 18 years old on the day of the first debate of the Championship.

7.12 - The coach is responsible for the behavior of his/her team members, who must abide by the rules established by WSDC protocol and these rules.

7.13 - Participation in the Championship is restricted to members of the Italian National Debate Society.

7.14 - Registration for the Championship for both sub-tracks is done online through specific and different forms, within the time and in the manner provided in the Call for Registration that will be published by the Organizing Committee.

8) Debate format and rules

8.1 - The debating protocol adopted by the Italian Youth Debating Championships is the World Schools Debating Championships. (Attachment No 1- World Schools Debating Championships Protocol)

8.2 - The duration of the first three speeches is 8 minutes, 4 minutes for reply speeches.

8.3 - Debates will be disputed on Impromptu motions and Prepared motions.

8.4 - Impromptu Motions: the preparation of teams will take place in assigned classrooms (virtual classrooms for online rounds). The scheduled 60 minutes of preparation will start the moment the motion is announced.

8.5 - No written, printed or published materials -online or offline- may be used, except for the English language vocabulary and factbooks. Debaters may be asked, during preparation, to share screen and camera at the same time. The team that fails to comply with the above requirements will lose by the book.

8.6 - At least two and no more than five team members must be present during the preparation phase. The coach(s) cannot be present during the preparation phase. Debaters must be visible, as well as the environment in which they are located. Only debaters should be present in the preparation environment. Once the motion has been read no additional team members are allowed to join in the preparation room.

8.7 - Prepared Motions: three weeks prior to the holding of the debate on a prepared motion, the Organizing Committee shall publish the motion of the debate on the Championship website (www.campionatoitalianodebate.it).

8.8 - Before the start of the debate, the team must declare which are the starting speakers and the backup. The backup attends the debate as a spectator along with any other member of the team.

8.9 - In case of non-compliance with the rules, the team is disqualified and given a score of zero. The opposing team is scored with the average of the points obtained in the previous and subsequent debates held in the same round.

8.10 - During the debate if a speaker is unable to present or continue his/her speech due to technical or health reasons he/she is replaced by one of the reserve speakers or one of the other two speakers of his/her team.

8.11 - During an online meeting in case of disconnection of a speaker the debate is suspended; if the issue lasts more than ten minutes, the backup speaker or one of the other two speakers of the team continues the speech.

8.12 - Members of a team will be allowed to debate from the same place or, alternatively, from separate positions.

8.13 - In the event that members of a team are debating from the same location, the backup and other members of the team shall not sit together with the debaters, but in a position where they cannot communicate with the team. However, the backup must be ready to intervene if necessary.

8.14. In the event that a team has only two debaters available and is still willing to debate, the order of speeches will follow the pattern A B A B.

9) Adjudication of the Debate

9.1 - At the end of each debate, the judges award victory to one of the two teams by scoring for content, style and strategy. (See Annex No. 3 “Criteria for evaluation and scoring of debates”).

9.2 - To advance to the next stages, teams are ranked according to the number of wins they obtained; if the number of wins is equal, according to the ballots received; if there is a further tie according to the overall score; if there is a further tie again, according to the maximum score in a single debate.

9.3 - If a team withdraws from the debate, the opposing team wins by forfeit and is awarded as a score the average of the points obtained in the previous and subsequent debates held in the same round.

9.4 - The outcome of each debate is announced by the judges at the end of the debate.

10) Debate Judges

10.1 – In-round debates are judged by three judges.

10.2 – Out-round debates are judged by at least three judges.

10.3 – Finals shall be judged by at least five judges including at least one judge from the CAP.

10.4 - A judge may judge the same team more than once.

11) Complaints

11.1 - In the spirit of the debate and the debater's code (Attachment No 4 “The Debater's Code of Ethics”), speakers and coaches of teams calmly accept the judgment made by the judges.

11.2 - Any complaints must be submitted to the Equity Committee in writing at eticom@sn-di.it and within 24 hours after the end of the debate.

11.3 - The outcome of the debate may be questioned only and exclusively on grounds concerning a formal violation of the protocol. Under no circumstances, therefore, may complaints concerning the merits of the decision made by the judges be considered.

STRUCTURE OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP

12) Stages

12.1 - The Italian Youth Debate Championship is divided into two phases (see Annex 2 - “Italian Youth Debate Championship Structure 2024-2025”)

First Stage – In-rounds

Second Stage – Final-12 for the Italian sub-track and Final-4 for the English sub-track.

13) First Stage – In-rounds

13.1 - Each team debates six in-rounds on impromptu motions and one prepared motion, both as Proposition and Opposition.

13.2 - The prepared motion will be debated in the third and fourth rounds.

13.3 - For debates on impromptu motions (first, second, fifth and sixth rounds) the motion and position to be argued are announced one hour before the debate starts.

13.4 - At the end of the fourth round, teams with 1 and 0 wins do not qualify for the next rounds. Repechage of the team with the highest ranking is possible to ensure an even number of teams in the fifth and sixth rounds.

13.5 - The pairings between teams are decided on the basis of high-low power pairing.

13.6 - The in-rounds shall be held online.

13.7 - A debate round is scheduled approximately every 28/35 days.

14) Second Stage – Final-12 for the Italian sub-track and Final-4 for the English sub-track.

14.1 - The top 12 ranked teams in the in-rounds enter the Final-12. Three rosters are formed and four teams are placed in each of them by drawing lots among the first three ranked teams (let 1), the fourth, fifth and sixth (round 2), the seventh, eighth and ninth (round 3), and the tenth, eleventh and twelfth (round 4). For the English sub-track, the top four finishers will advance to the Final-4, competing in round-robin.

14.2 - The Final 12 will consist of three preliminary rounds, two impromptu motions and a prepared motion debated only once. Each team meets all the teams in its round. Likewise for the Final-4, English sub-track.

14.3 - The team's position in the prepared debate is given by a coin toss between the two teams.

14.4 - At the end of the Final-12, the best three runners-up from each group, and the best runner-up from the three groups on the basis of the score obtained, enter the semifinals. In the first semifinal, the best first runner-up based on the score obtained, and the best second runner-up meet. In the

second semifinal, the other two first-place finishers from the groups meet. At the end of the Final-4, English sub-track, the best two runners-up advance to the Finals.

14.5 - The winning teams of the semifinals advance to the Finals.

14.6 - For impromptu motion debates, the motion and position to be argued are communicated one hour before the debate.

14.7 - The prepared motion is communicated at least four weeks before the debate.

14.8 - Finals will be held on the prepared motion debated during the Finals (Final-12 / Final-4).

14.10 - For Finals, the position to be argued is given by a coin toss between the two teams.

15) Final Standings.

15.1 The final standings will be announced at the end of each phase.

16) Awards.

16.1 - After Finals, prizes shall be awarded to:

- the team that wins the final; - the second-place team;
- the top three speakers based on the scores awarded in the single round.

16.2 - Other prizes may be awarded at the discretion of the Organizing Committee.

17) Approval and Amendments to the Championship Regulation.

17.1 - Amendments to these rules must be approved by the Board of Directors of SNDI.

18) Code of Conduct.

18.1 - The Code of Conduct is described in Attachment No. 5.

18.2 - Each participant in the Italian Youth Debate Championship is required to sign it for acceptance at the time of registration and to abide by it.

Annexes:

No. 1 – “Protocollo World Schools Debating Championships”

No. 2 – “Struttura del Campionato Italiano Giovanile di Debate 2023-2024”

No. 3 – “Criteri di valutazione ed attribuzione dei punteggi dei dibattiti

No. 4 – “Codice Etico del Debater”

No. 5 – “Codice di Condotta”

Annexes are provided in Italian. If the English translation is needed, please email info@sn-di.it