

GPS Season Debating Information

Below is the main information you will need to see you through the GPS season of debating. **School maps, venue information, topic areas and so on** can also be found at the GPS Debating website, along with contact details for all schools involved.

<http://www.gpsdebating.org>

Our schedule this year is as follows

Term 3: 2012

Week	Friday	Fixtures	Topic Area
1	20 July	<i>Training only, no fixtures</i>	General training
2	27 July	<u>GPS rnd 1: Sydney High (home)</u>	Sport
3	3 August	<u>GPS rnd 2: Kings (home)</u>	Domestic Political Issues
4	10 August	<u>GPS rnd 3: St Josephs (away)</u>	Education
5	17 August	<u>GPS rnd 4: Scotts (home)</u>	Law and Order
6	24 August	<u>GPS rnd 5: Grammar (away)</u>	Media and the Arts
7	31 August	<u>GPS rnd 6: Shore (away)</u>	Current Affairs
8	7 September	<u>GPS rnd 7: St Ignatius (home)</u>	International Issues
9	12 September	<u>7-10 Debating Team Photos (Wednesday)</u>	1 pm - Blazer Uniform
	14 September	End of Season Event	
11	10 October	<u>Senior Debating Team Photos (Wednesday)</u>	9am – Blazer Uniform

Speaking Times

Topic distribution to Years 7-10 will be at **6pm with 45 minutes prep.**

Topic distribution to Seniors will be at **6.45pm with 60 minutes prep.**

All students are expected to arrive at the debate venue 30 minutes before topic distribution, unless required there earlier by their coach for training.

Speaking times have been reduced to the following: Years 7/8: 3 to 4 minutes; Years 9/10: 4 to 5 minutes; Senior: 5 to 7 minutes.

Code of Conduct

All students, parents, coaches and staff should be aware of the following elements of the GPS Debating code of conduct. This will be particularly enforced this year, with many schools moving to post the code at the venue and read it aloud before debates to remind all present of expectations and to encourage fairness and transparency. Please read through the following and bear all points in mind during your competitions this season.

Preparation

- There are only 3 speakers on each team but a silent speaker (“fourth speaker” or “team advisor”) may be included in Years 7-10 and Thirds (but not in First and Seconds debates) without further arrangement between schools. This will not be considered in adjudication.
- Apart from Year 7 debates, no notes/fact sheets may be taken into preparation rooms, although a dictionary is allowed (Host co-ordinators may check this).
- Year 7 teams ONLY will be supplied with fact sheets by the Co-ordinating Adjudicator. These should be handed out with the topic, after Year 8 has left.
- Teams should bring their own dictionaries and whiteboard markers.
- No laptop computers or mobile phones are allowed in prep rooms (May also be checked.)
- No parents, coaches or boys not in the team are permitted in preparation rooms.
- All debaters should ensure that they leave preparation rooms in exactly the state of tidiness in which they found them, or better.

Conduct

- Coaches are to avoid any form of active coaching DURING debates including non-verbal clues e.g. nodding and sighing and overtly negative behaviour during opposition speeches.
- Coaches are to identify themselves to adjudicators before debates commence, and adjudicators are empowered to speak to errant coaches after debates and to report them.
- Each school will include in the sheet that chairmen read out before debates commence words such as, “We remind audience members including coaches that all are expected to uphold the traditional etiquette of debating whereby words, gestures and other forms of communication are not employed to assist or influence the conduct or outcome of debates.”
- Conversations while debaters are speaking should be kept to a minimum, both in frequency and volume. Passing notes is preferable.
- The following Code of Etiquette was authorised by the GPS Headmasters in March 2002:

Note: The purpose of this code of etiquette is to remind all involved in GPS Debates of some important points. These points are part of the normal practice in GPS Debating. The minority of occasions on which they are not observed can, however, have a damaging effect.

1 Boys, coaches and adjudicators should be dressed neatly and appropriately. Boys wear correct winter uniform for their school, and coaches, organising masters and adjudicators dress to a level consistent with this formality.

2 Coaches and adjudicators are not to criticise other adults involved to boys. This does not prevent fair and measured comment on the proceedings in the proper circumstances for the purposes of guidance of the boys.

3 Coaches are not to dispute the result. This does not prevent them from putting questions to the adjudicator in a reasonable way or having a reasonable discussion. Nor does it prevent them from lodging a formal complaint in writing later to the committee about an adjudicator. Any such complaints will be dealt with not as potential grounds for reversing a decision but as a potential basis for discussion with the adjudicator about future occasions and, where necessary, for the issuing of guidelines.

4 Adjudicators and coaches are to encourage courtesy among the boys, and to provide an example of courtesy themselves. They are also to remember that the manner of presentation of an argument is important and in their adjudications and coaching encourage an effective and appropriate presentation. This includes discouraging any remarks which could be offensive to schools, such as any offensive references to religion, and any excessively sharp or personal attacks on the other side in a debate.

Rooms

- Rooms should be vacated promptly after debates to allow for premises to be secured.
- Rooms should be left in a tidy state. Conversations may continue over supper.
- Suppers at home debates will be provided in Prescott Hall.