



Providing a platform for Muslim Youth to foster analytical reasoning, critical thinking, and persuasive argumentation.

Visit Debate.MAFIQ.ORG, or contact by email at Debate@MAFIQ.ORG



Virtual MYDT 2020 – Rules of the Road (8/19/2020)

1. Cross Examination

- POIs to be replaced with cross examination.
- After each of the first four speeches (both team's 1st and 2nd speakers) one member from other team (the team that did not just finish speaking) will have the option of making a cross examination of up to 3 questions.
- The entirety of the cross examination will last a maximum of 3 minutes or 3 questions, whichever comes first. This includes prep time. The judge will announce when the cross examination time has ended.
- The speaker who just finished their speech and is being cross examined has to respond to every question. They can respond however they like, including "I choose not to answer."
- During the cross examination period, the speakers can interrupt each other and there can be "direct clash." For example, if the questioner is making statements rather than questioning, the responder can interrupt and answer the question without allowing the questioner to finish. In the same vein, if the person answering the questions goes on and on wasting time, the questioner can interrupt and ask another question.
- The team whose turn it is to cross examine has the option to do any of the following: (a) pass on the cross examination opportunity; (b) ask one question; (c) ask two questions; (d) ask three questions.
- All cross examination following each speech must be done by one debater.
- Each debater on a team can only cross examine once during a debate. E.g., if a team's 3rd speaker cross examined the first speaker of the opposing team, then only the 1st or 2nd speaker can cross examine the second speaker of the opposing team.
- No cross examination will occur after the last two rebuttal speeches.
- During cross examination both the debater who just finished speaking and the opposing debater performing the cross examination will have their camera ON. Both should remain seated.

Virtual Debate Rules of the Road – subject to change

- **BEST PRACTICE:** It is best to ask 3 great yes/no style leading questions that poke holes in your opponent's argument. Next best is to ask 1-2 good yes/no style leading questions. A neutral position is to ask no questions which generally will not hurt you. Worst is to ask 3 bad questions which tend to be open ended and simply allow your opponent to strengthen their argument on your time.

2. Timing

- A maximum of 2 minutes will be allowed in between rounds from the end of cross examination to the start of the next speech (interstitial time). If the judge decides to proceed before 2 minutes elapse then the debate will proceed at the judge's discretion. The judge will announce when the next speaker may begin after the interstitial time has ended.
- The speech times will remain at 5 minutes for the 1st and 2nd speakers and 3 minutes for the 3rd speakers.
- **TIMING SUMMARY:** (a) speech: up to 5 or 3 minutes; (b) cross examination: up to 3 minutes; (c) interstitial time (between the cross examination period and the next speech): up to 2 minutes.
- **CAVEAT:** The judge of each debate is the ultimate arbiter of time.
- **NOTE:** At the end of the hour allotted for each debate, all breakout rooms will automatically close and everyone will be routed back to the main room.

3. Communication

- The Zoom chat window will be disabled.
- Individual team members will have to use an alternate method of online text and voice communication to communicate with team members during the debate and during the prep time for impromptu debates (instant messaging, GroupMe, Google hangouts, WhatsApp 3-way call, etc.).
- Just like an in-person debate, no help is to be provided to a speaker while they are speaking, including from a teammate.
- Internet usage will be prohibited during speeches but is permitted to prep for impromptu debates (*cf.* "Impromptu Debates", below).
- Under no circumstances should debaters receive instruction from coaches, parents, or anyone else while the debate is in session. Only teammates may communicate with each other while the debate is in session. As noted above, during a speech, a speaker cannot receive help from anyone, including a teammate.

4. Impromptu Debates

- Teams will be given 20 minutes of prep time following announcement of the debate topic.
- Predetermined prop/opp sides will be announced for each team when the topic is announced. Each team will be assigned one prop and one opp side for the two impromptu debates.
- Impromptu topics (preliminary rounds 2 and 4) will be announced in the main room. Once the topic is announced, debaters must discuss the topic using their alternative devices (e.g. 3-way call) (*cf.* “Communication”, above). They can turn off audio and video during the 20 minute prep time but they should **not** leave the Zoom meeting. Debaters will be assigned to their breakout rooms during the 20 minute prep time.
- Teams may consult any source during the prep time, including Internet, coaches, and parents. However, as mentioned previously, under no circumstances should debaters receive instruction from coaches, parents, or anyone else while the debate is in session. During a speech, a speaker cannot receive help from anyone, including a teammate (*cf.* “Communication,” above).
- Internet use during prep time for impromptu debates is permitted but not recommended, as there isn't enough time to adequately research and understand key research in the time internet access allowed. Instead take the time to gather your thoughts, confer with your teammates and ensure you address all relevant points and refutations (*cf.* “Communication”, above).

5. Zoom/Virtual Etiquette:

- All debaters will be required to have their webcam turned **on** when speaking.
- Everyone signed into the MYDT 2020 Zoom meeting must follow the following name designations (*cf.* “Logistics”, below).
 - Debaters
 - In the **main room**: Name + Team (e.g. “Sadia Siddiqui, MUNA Team 1”)
 - In the **breakout room**: Name + Speaking Position (e.g. “Sadia Siddiqui, Prop 1”).
 - Non-Debaters: Name + Function + Team you would like to accompany (if applicable) (e.g. “Abul Kalam, Judge”; “Sara Rahman, Coach, MUNA Team 3”; “Hosam Estwani, Spectator, ISB Team A”).
- Everyone who is not speaking must be on MUTE.

- Everyone should keep their cameras ON prior to debate commencement and turn their cameras OFF, except for the speaker(s) and judge(s).
- CAMERA SUMMARY: (a) everyone (including spectators) has their camera ON prior to the debate; (b) once debate commences, everyone turns their camera OFF, except the speaker(s) and judge(s).
- Debaters will sit when speaking and face the camera.
- Virtual backgrounds that have any motion are prohibited.
- Debaters will be dressed modestly the same way they would at an in-person tournament.
- No chats will be permitted during a debate in the Zoom chat window (*cf.* “Communication,” above).
- During cross examination both the debater who just finished speaking and the opposing debater performing the cross examination will have their cameras ON. Both should remain seated (*cf.* “Cross Examination” above).
- Judges will use the Zoom “clap” feature 1 minute prior to stop time and will call time at stop time.

6. Logistics

- Device audio/video must be verified and cross-checked prior to tournament day. For example, the coaches or parents can check devices or the debaters can check each other’s devices (*cf.* “Internet Interruption”, below).
- Everyone **must stay in the Zoom meeting for the whole day**. If someone leaves the meeting by mistake, they can rejoin by using the Zoom link and will be directed to where they want to go (*cf.* “Impromptu Debates”, above).
- Name designation must be strictly observed (*cf.* “Zoom/Virtual Etiquette”, above).
 - Debaters
 - In the **main room**: Name + Team (e.g. “Sadia Siddiqui, MUNA 1”)
 - In the **breakout room**: Name + Speaking Position (e.g. “Sadia Siddiqui, Prop 1”).
 - Non-Debaters: Name + Function + Team you would like to accompany (if applicable) (e.g. “Abul Kalam, Judge”; “Sara Rahman, Coach, MUNA Team 3”; “Hosam Estwani, Spectator, ISB Team A”).
- No changes in team name or composition on tournament day.
- Each debater must login using a unique address that is not shared by others.
- Judges will decide prop/opp sides in the breakout rooms (except for the impromptu debates, *cf.* “Impromptu Debates”, above).

- To improve bandwidth, limit internet usage by others in the home as much as possible (e.g. avoid streaming of video, gaming, etc. on other devices by others in the home).

7. Internet Interruption

- In the event that a speaker's speech drops or becomes incomprehensible because e.g., the speaker's device malfunctions or because of Wi-Fi/internet connection issues, the speaker should immediately call into the MYDT 2020 Zoom meeting and will be directed back to their debate to complete their speech. Call-in information will be made available in advance.
- In the event the speaker is unable to call into the Zoom meeting, or if it takes too long, they may take other measures such as calling a teammate who may put them on speakerphone to complete their speech and respond to cross examination (if applicable).
- Please note that a teammate may **not** speak on behalf of the dropped speaker.
- The speaker will **not** get an extension in speaking time in case of interruption. E.g., if the Prop 1 speaker's internet drops at minute 2 of their 5 minute speech, and it takes another minute to call in, they will only get another 2 minutes to complete their speech.
- The judges will determine their score based on what the speaker could communicate comprehensibly. E.g., in the above example, the Prop 1 speaker only got 3 minutes of speaking time, so the score will be determined based on those 3 minutes. Another example – if the speaker's internet is choppy the whole 5 minutes, and the judge could only understand 2 minutes of the speech, the score will be determined based on those 2 minutes.
- To avoid such issues to the greatest extent possible, each debater should cross check their device audio/video prior to tournament day and minimize parallel internet usage within the home (*cf.* "Logistics", above).