MAFIQ FOUNDATION

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

Virtual MYDT 2022 – Rules of the Road 2022

1. POIs are back in the game.

- POIs are an integral part of Parliamentary debate and ensure the dynamism that is characteristic of it.
- In the virtual debate on May 21st, you may raise your hand closer to the camera, unmute and say, "POI" or "Point of information". Thereafter, you can keep your hand up. If you have neither been taken nor asked to sit down, you may unmute again and repeat your request as you would have if it were in person.

2. Timing

- There will be no extra time allowed between speeches.

- Judges are asked to score the debater right after they are done with the speech. This allows a few moments between speeches that debaters can take advantage of in gathering their thoughts.

- The speech times will remain at 5 minutes for the 1st and 2nd speakers.

- The 3rd speaker will be speaking for **4 minutes** each. This is a change from the previous years to allow for the concluding speaker to do a thorough job and weigh the debate for the adjudicators.

- Debaters are encouraged to keep their own time as well. However, the cues for beginning and end of protected time will be given by the judges and must be followed.

- CAVEAT: The judge of each debate is the ultimate arbiter of time.

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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 <u>while the debate is in session</u>. Only teammates may communicate with each other while the debate is in session. As noted above, <u>during a speech, i.e while the debater is speaking</u>, a speaker cannot receive help from anyone, including a teammate.

4. Impromptu Debates

- Teams will be given 20 minutes of prep time following the 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).

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- 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 is 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:

Complete details for virtual logistics will be given on or before the tournament. These are the general guidelines:

- All debaters in a round will be required to have their webcam turned **on** when in debate.

- Everyone signed into the MYDT 2022 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.

- All debaters and judges must keep their cameras on during the debate.

- 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 debaters and judge(s). After the debate is over, while the judge is deliberating, everyone in the room must be on mute.

- 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).

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- Judges will hold up one finger for 5 seconds when indicating protected time over or begins and call out "TIME" when time is up.

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. Please note that a teammate may **not** speak on behalf of the dropped speaker.

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- 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 effectively. 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).