

JCI Debating Competition Toolkit



2025 Edition



Introduction

The JCI Debating Championship is a prestigious competition that aims to sharpen and showcase the debating abilities of JCI members. This competition promotes personal and professional development by enhancing participants' analytical thinking, argumentation skills, and poise, which are essential for effective leadership. As a key activity under the Individual Development Area of Opportunity, this event significantly contributes to advancing JCI's mission and reputation by highlighting the persuasive debating talents of its members.

Registration Details

Opening of Applications

All Four Area Conferences will open their applications on:
Tuesday, February 25, 2025

World Congress
Thursday, August 21, 2025

Deadlines

- Conference of America: Thursday, April 3, 2025, 23:59 GMT
- Africa and the Middle East Conference: Tuesday, April 15, 2025, 23:59 GMT
- European Conference: Tuesday, April 29, 2025, 23:59 GMT
- Asia and the Pacific Conference: Thursday, May 8, 2025, 23:59 GMT
- World Congress: Tuesday, September 30, 2025, 23:59 GMT

Eligibility and Submission

- Each contestant must receive approval from their National President.
- Only one team per National Organization per language is allowed to participate.
- Applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.

Registration Process

Online Registration

Participants must complete event registration and purchase by the specified deadlines provided by JCI World Headquarters. All contestants must be registered for their respective Area Conference or World Congress. All contestants must be active members of JCI.

Application Approval

Each team's application must be approved by their National President. A National Organization may field one team per language per championship at both Area Conferences and the World Congress.

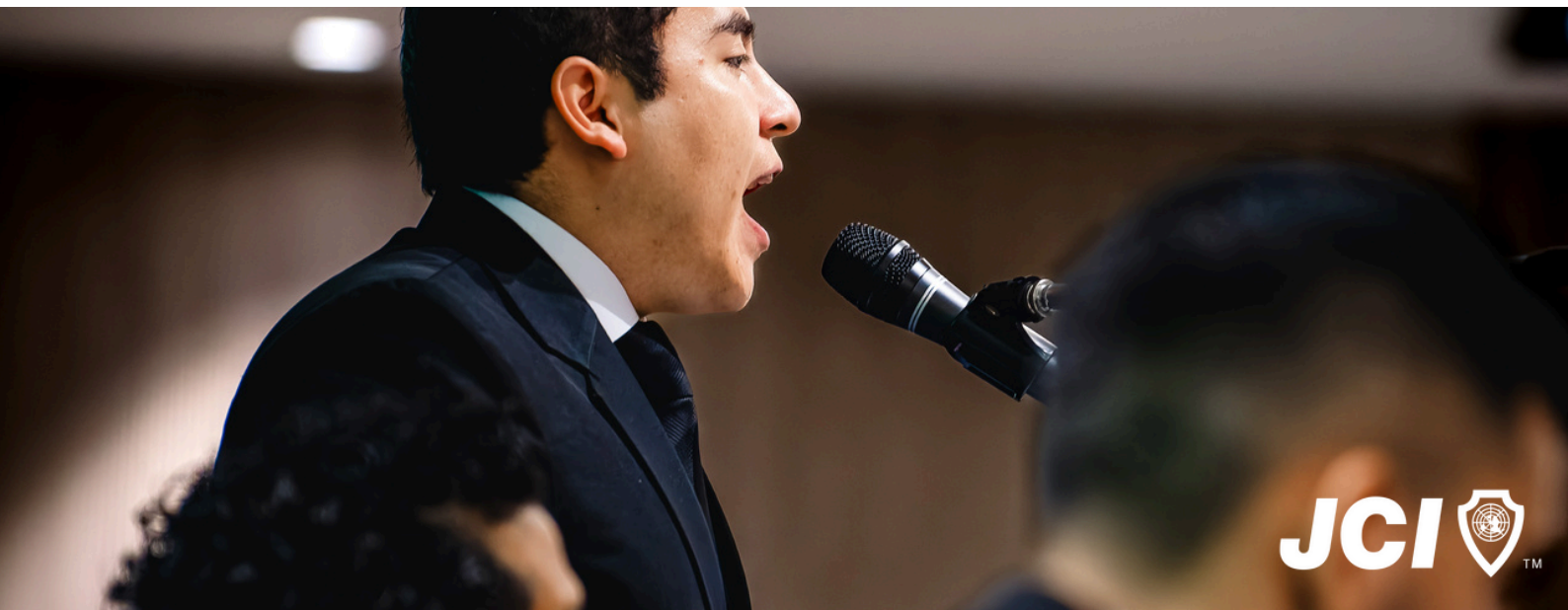
Priority and Waitlist

Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis, with spots guaranteed for the first 8 teams. Any subsequent teams will be added to a waiting list and could be moved up if spaces open up. We advise teams on the waiting list to attend the Team Draw event (refer to Section 4.3) on the initial day of the Debating Competition. Please note, only teams already on the waiting list may fill spots made available by any last-minute withdrawals; no new teams will be added at this stage. This is due to potential withdrawals—often for logistical reasons—creating opportunities for waitlisted teams to participate.

Competition Structure

Team Composition and Speaking Languages

Teams consist of three members: one Team Captain and two speakers. Competitions are conducted in the official JCI languages: English, Spanish, and French.



Speaking Structure

The speaking order and allotted times are as follows:

PROPOSITION - Team Captain: 2 minutes

OPPOSITION - Team Captain: 2 minutes

PROPOSITION - 1st Speaker: 3 minutes


OPPOSITION - 1st Speaker: 3 minutes

PROPOSITION - 2nd Speaker: 3 minutes

OPPOSITION - 2nd Speaker: 3 minutes

OPPOSITION - Team Captain: 2 minutes

PROPOSITION - Team Captain: 2 minutes



Bracket Structure and Session Planning

Bracket Formation

The formation of the debate bracket depends on the number of teams registered for the competition. The final bracket setup and the number of debates per session are determined by the Program Chairpersons based on:

- Total number of participating teams.
- Overall schedule of the event.
- Number and duration of available sessions.

The official brackets can be found [here](#).

Session Division

The debating competition may be split into one or two sessions, depending on the total duration allotted for the debates and the logistics of the event:

- Single Session: All debates are conducted in a continuous session with brief intermissions.
- Two Sessions: Debates are spread over two separate sessions, based on the event's overall timeline and participant needs.

Draw and Placement

The draw for team placement within the bracket occurs 20 minutes before the competition begins. The procedure is as follows:

- All teams gather, and the draw is conducted in their presence.
- Teams are drawn sequentially and placed into matchups: the first team drawn competes against the second, the third against the fourth, and so forth, setting the lineup for the initial round of debates.
- The order of the draw not only determines team placement but also whether a team will Propose or Oppose a motion. The first team drawn will Propose the motion for the initial debate, while the second team drawn will Oppose it. This pattern continues for each subsequent debate in the initial round, dictating roles in the same sequence.
- If there is an odd number of teams, the last team drawn will receive a "pass" and advance to the second round of slots.
- Any team absent during the draw will be automatically disqualified from the competition. It is mandatory for all debaters to be present at the draw for their team to be eligible to compete.
- After the initial round of debates, the first team to advance will Propose the motion in the subsequent round, and the second team to advance will Oppose the motion. This procedure will be followed for all teams that win in the initial round of debates.
- For the Fina Debate, team order is established through the following method: Prior to announcing the motion, the highest-scoring team among the finalists earns the right to call a coin toss (heads or tails). The outcome of this coin toss determines the roles of the teams. The team that wins the toss will choose whether to Propose or Oppose the motion. After the teams have selected their positions, the motion will then be announced.

Timekeeping



Role of the Timekeeper

A Timekeeper is assigned to monitor and display the time during debates to ensure adherence to the timing rules. The Timekeeper's responsibilities include:

- **Time Display:** Time will be visibly displayed to participants, Program Chairs, and the Judging Panel using official timecards marked with 3 minutes, 2 minutes, 1 minute, 30 seconds, 10 seconds, and time up. These will be shown either on printed paper or a tablet to ensure both visibility and accuracy.
- **Visibility:** The Timekeeper's location will be strategically positioned to be visible to both the participants and the Judging Panel, ensuring that all parties are aware of the time remaining during each debate segment.
- **Debaters have a leeway of +/-10 seconds for their allocated speaking times.** If a debater speaks outside this window, a penalty of one point per second will be applied for each second over or under, up to a maximum penalty of 10 points.
 - For instance, if a Team Captain has 2 minutes for their debate and speaks within 1 minute 50 seconds to 2 minutes 10 seconds, no penalty is incurred. However, if the Captain finishes at 2 minutes 15 seconds, a penalty of 5 points will be assessed.
- The initial minute of each debater's speaking time is designated as Protected Time. During this period, no Points of Information can be offered to the speaker currently addressing the audience (refer to the section on Points of Information for more details).



Motions and Draws

- Initial Motion Draw: The motion for the first debate is selected 15 minutes before the commencement of the competition, involving a public draw by the Program Chairpersons.
- Subsequent Motions: The process for selecting motions for each subsequent debate is structured and timed. After the 1st Speaker for the Opposition concludes (and before the 2nd Speaker for the Proposition begins), the Chairperson(s) will summon the two teams for the next debate. The motion will be announced, and both teams will receive 15 minutes to prepare. After this preparation time, they must return to the debate room.
- For the Final Debate, each of the two teams will have 30 minutes to prepare their arguments before the start of the debate.

Points of Information (PoI)

Opening of Applications

Procedures for Points of Information are as follows:

- Only a participating speaker in the current debate may offer a Point of Information. Substitutes, supporters, and members of the audience cannot offer or answer Points of Information.
- Initiating a Point of Information: Raise your hand or place your hand over your head, stand up, and address the speaker at the podium by requesting a “Point of Information.”
- Speaker's Response: The speaker at the podium may accept by listening, refuse by saying “no thank you” or with a gesture, or indicate they will address the point after finishing their current argument.
- Delivery: If accepted, deliver the point clearly and briefly, then return to your seat. No extended conversation is allowed. However, a supplemental Point of Information may be offered if the person who offered the initial point is not satisfied with the answer. This can be called by standing up, raising a hand, and announcing “Supplemental”.
- Timing for Points of Information: The first minute of a Debater’s time is Protected Time - no Points of Information can be offered to the current speaker during this time. This means that Points of Information may only be offered to Team Captains during their second minute of speaking, and during the second and third minutes of Speaker 1 and Speaker 2’s allotted time.



Timeouts

Each team is allowed a one-minute timeout per debate, which can only be requested between speakers after one has stepped back from the podium. The Team Captain must indicate the request for a timeout to the Chairperson, and the Timekeeper will notify when the one minute is up.

Judging

Feedback and Scores

Judges have the option to decide whether to share their scoring with participants, but they are encouraged to provide this feedback as it offers constructive insights into the debaters' performances. Participants are also encouraged to seek feedback from judges after the competition. It is crucial that judges refrain from disclosing the winners of the debating competition until after the Awards Ceremony. Therefore, it is advisable that feedback be sought and given only after the winners have been officially announced during the appropriate ceremony.

Judging Panel

A three-person panel evaluates the debates, with results announced by the Chair of the Judging Panel and considered final.

Financial Responsibility

Participant Costs

Contestants are solely responsible for their own registration fees for the event. JCI World Headquarters does not cover any costs related to ticket fees, travel, or accommodation arrangements.

Competition Progression

Winners from Area Conferences do not automatically qualify for the World Congress. Each competition at the Area Conferences and the World Congress is independent and standalone.

Additional Information

Participants may contact the JCI Programs Team at programs@jci.cc for any unforeseen issues or clarifications.

This toolkit is designed to ensure that all participants have a clear understanding of the competition framework, promoting fairness and a competitive spirit among the debaters.

Timekeeper Timesheet



DEBATING CHAMPIONSHIP TIMEKEEPERS BALLOT					
NOTE: TIMEKEEPER RECEIVES ONE SHEET PER ROUND TO EVALUATE EACH DEBATE.					
TIMEKEEPER'S NAME:					
MOTION:					
INSTRUCTIONS: The Timekeeper should ring the bell and keep a record of the time used by each speaker on this provided Time Sheet.					
Side:	PROPOSITION (FOR)			OPPOSITION (AGAINST)	
Team Name:					
TEAM	SPEAKER	ALLOTTED TIME	ACTUAL TIME	DIFFERENCE	NUMBER OF POINTS DEDUCTED
FOR	TEAM CAPTAIN	2 MINUTES			
AGAINST	TEAM CAPTAIN	2 MINUTES			
FOR	1ST SPEAKER	3 MINUTES			
AGAINST	1ST SPEAKER	3 MINUTES			
FOR	2ND SPEAKER	3 MINUTES			
AGAINST	2ND SPEAKER	3 MINUTES			
AGAINST	TEAM CAPTAIN	2 MINUTES			
FOR	TEAM CAPTAIN	2 MINUTES			

DEDUCTING POINTS: Usually, the full 10 points will be awarded. If a speaker does not use all the time allocated and runs below the 10 seconds, then the Judges must deduct points. When a speaker goes over the prescribed time and exceeds the maximum 10 seconds time to conclude, then points must be deducted. As a rule of thumb, 1-point should be deducted for every second that the speaker exceeds or falls short of the ten-second buffer period. For example, a speaker with two minutes will incur no penalty if finishing at one-minute and fifty-seconds through two-minutes and ten-seconds but will incur a 1-point penalty per second if going under or over that buffer time.

Scoresheet

Side:	PROPOSITION (FOR)			OPPOSITION (AGAINST)		
Team Name:						
Speaking Position:	Captain (Prop)	1st Speaker (Prop)	2nd Speaker (Prop)	Captain (Prop)	1st Speaker (Prop)	2nd Speaker (Prop)
Name						
Speaking Order:	1	3	5	2	4	6
Definition (30 Points) Did the team clearly define the motion? Did they show knowledge about the motion? Was their strategy for arguing the motion clear?						
Content (30 Points) Did the team communicate the motion logically? Did they demonstrate knowledge of the subject and provide technical information?						
Debate Skills (20 Points) Did the team develop a good argument, i.e. clearly deliver a good intonation, include humor in context, and answer points of information?						
Teamwork (10 Points) Did the team work together well, i.e. adequately address teammates arguments and present a coordinated strategy for the argument?						
Timekeeping (10 Points) One point should be deducted for every second that the speaker exceeds the ten second conclusion period.						
COLUMN TOTALS:						
TEAM TOTALS						
TEAM CAPTAIN'S SUMMARY	Captain (Prop)			Captain (Opp) SPEAKS FIRST		
Summary (10 Points) How well did they summarize the argument of their team?						
Persuasiveness (10 Points) How persuasive was their argument strategy?						
Effectiveness (15 Points) How effective was their argument, style and delivery?						
Rebuttal (15 Points) How well did they provide a rebuttal of the opposing team's argument?						
CAPTAINS' SUMMARY TOTAL						
SIDE	PROPOSITION			OPPOSITION		
TEAM NAME						
GRAND TOTAL Team Total + Summary Total						