

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF YOUNG FARMERS' CLUBS

“How to” Guide – Mace Debating

1.1. **The Panel** made up 5 members:



1.2. **Format**

Timing	Opposition 2	Opposition 1	Chair	Proposition 1	Proposition 2
Start			Welcome & introduces the debate, teams & 1 st Proposition Speaker (approx. 2 minutes)		
02:00	(Opposition can interject with Points of Information during the unprotected time of the Proposition speech)			Defines motion, outlines proposition case, delivers own arguments and summarises proposition case (6 minutes)	
08:00			Introduces 1 st Opposition Speaker (approx. 30 seconds)		
08:30		Outlines opposition case, rebuts proposition arguments, delivers own arguments and summarises opposition case (6 minutes)		(Proposition can interject with Points of Information during the unprotected time of the Opposition speech)	
14:30			Introduces 2 nd Proposition Speaker (approx. 30 seconds)		
15:00	(Opposition can interject with Points of Information during the unprotected time of the Proposition speech)				Rebuts, recaps, outlines, delivers own arguments and summarises (4 minutes)

19:00			Introduces 2 nd Opposition Speaker (approx. 30 seconds)		
19:30	Rebuts, recaps, outlines, delivers own arguments and summarises (4 minutes)			(Proposition can interject with Points of Information during the unprotected time of the Opposition speech)	
23:30			Invites speakers from the floor (not questions but points or queries to be used in summary speeches) (up to 5 minutes)		
28:30			Introduces summary speaker for opposition (approx. 30 sec)		
29:00	One of the members of the opposition team summarises, referring to own case and floor debate (4 minutes)				
33:00			Introduces summary speaker for proposition (approx. 30 sec)		
33:30				One of the members of the proposition team summarises, referring to own case and floor debate (4 minutes)	
37:30			End of Debate: Conducts votes on motion, thanks speakers and concludes the debate (approx. 2 minutes)		
39:30	End				

1.3. Role descriptions

Chair:

- The chair is responsible for inviting speakers to deliver their speech, thanking them and calling on the next speaker, calling on audience members to make points during the floor debate and maintaining good general order. Taking the vote (show of hands – those for the motion, those against and any abstentions) and concluding the debate.
- The chair is also responsible for time keeping, giving audible signals indicating when a speaker is in protected time (1 minute at the beginning and end of each speech) or unprotected time (middle section of each speech) and indicating when a speaker's time is up. The chair should record the length of each speech and give the timings to the judges after the debate.
- 30 minutes planning time before competition – Chair needs to gather information from each participant so they can be introduced correctly and see if can gather any information about what they are planning to cover.

Note: Good practice is too use a bell to signify the timings

Proposition:

First Speaker 1:

(Max 6 minutes – time penalties will incur if over time)

- Define the motion the Chair gives
- Outlines the arguments the proposition will make towards the motion
- Set up the debate in terms of what the proposition want to debate
- If the opposition interject with a point of information (POI) the speaker has to choose whether to accept it or not. If accepted listen to the POI and respond and then continue with your speech as though the POI never happened
- Ensure keep within time, any Points of Information will be included in the overall time of the speech
- To offer Points of Information (POI) to other speakers when they are in unprotected time

Second Speaker 2:

(Max 4 minutes – time penalties will incur if over time)

- Rebut the argument made in the First Opposition's speech
- Expand on the arguments made by team member (speaker 1)
- Introduce new arguments that expand on the motion or introduce a new angle of the argument and develop it fully
- If the opposition interject with a point of information (POI) the speaker has to choose whether to accept it or not. If accepted listen to the POI and respond and then continue with your speech as though the POI never happened
- Ensure keep within time, any Points of Information will be included in the overall time of the speech
- To offer Points of Information (POI) to other speakers when they are in unprotected time

Proposition Summary Speaker (can be either 1 or 2):

(Max 4 minutes – time penalties will incur if over time)

- To use the full range of arguments made in the debate to their advantage, reminding the audience and adjudicators of the Points of Information their team made and why they exposed the flaws in the proposition case
- Refer to the floor debate and draw on points or queries from the audience to their advantage
- Convince the audience and adjudicators that their case was better
- The summary speech should not contain any new material not raised in the main speeches or the floor debate
- No Points of Information can be given in the summary speech

Opposition:

First Speaker 1:

(Max 6 minutes – time penalties will incur if over time)

- Rebut the arguments made in the First Proposition speech
- Outline all the arguments to be made by Opposition
- Make a substantive case for the opposition instead of just denying what the proposition have said
- If the proposition interject with a point of information (POI) the speaker has to choose whether to accept it or not. If accepted listen to the POI and respond and then continue with your speech as though the POI never happened
- Ensure keep within time, any Points of Information will be included in the overall time of the speech
- To offer Points of Information (POI) to other speakers

Second Speaker 2:

(Max 4 minutes – time penalties will incur if over time)

- Rebut the arguments made in the Second Proposition speech
- Expand on the arguments made by team member (speaker 1)
- To use the full range of arguments made in the debate to their advantage
- Introduce new arguments that expand on the case or to introduce a new angle of the argument and develop it fully



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- If the proposition interject with a point of information (POI) the speaker has to choose whether to accept it or not. If accepted listen to the POI and respond and then continue with your speech as though the POI never happened
- Ensure keep within time, any Points of Information will be included in the overall time of the speech
- To offer Points of Information (POI) to other speakers

Opposition Summary Speaker (can be either 1 or 2):

(Max 4 minutes – time penalties will incur if over time)

- To use the full range of arguments made in the debate to their advantage; reminding the audience and adjudicators of the Points of Information their team made and why they exposed the flaws in the proposition case
- Refer to the floor debate and draw on points or queries from the audience to their advantage
- Persuade the audience and adjudicators that their case was stronger
- The summary speech should not contain any new material not raised in the main speeches or the floor debate
- No points of information to be given in the summary speech

30 minutes before Competition:

- Chair and Opposition and Proposition members get together in room to share information. Chair will want information to be able to introduce you during the competition.
- Be careful what you share as you don't want to give away too much.

TERMS DEFINED

Protected Time:

- The first minute and the last minute of each main speech
- All of the Summary Speeches are protected
- Protected time signalled by Chair

Unprotected time:

- After the first minute and before the last minute of a main speech
- Unprotected time signalled by Chair

Rebuttal

- Addressing the other side's arguments during your own speech is known as rebuttal
- The aim of rebuttal is to undermine the opposition's case and leave your own case looking stronger
- Rebuttal can be at any time during the speech but make sure the audience and adjudicators are clear that you are addressing the other's side's arguments

Points of Information:

- These are central to the interactivity of the debate and demonstrate ability to engage in arguments (approx 25% of the teams marks are for listening and response)
- These cannot be made during the first and last minute of the main speeches or during the summary speeches, this time is known as protected time.
- Points of Information are included in the time limit

An example of Point of Information:

Example of Points of Information

