

Hart House Debating Club Worlds Transfer Document



Updated as of May 2015 by the 2014/2015 Executive

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I. Preamble

The purpose of this document is to lay down an agreement between the Debating Club and Debates Committee of Hart House regarding the administration of World's. It is already agreed between the two groups that the transfer of responsibility for this project from the Club to the Committee will help avoid conflicts of interest while taking advantage of the Committee's stature and influence to help secure funding. What follows is meant to be acted upon in the spirit of good fellowship, and not as a 'legal document'.

II. Criteria

The minimum eligibility criteria are that any candidate must:

- (a) be a U of T student in good standing;
- (b) be a current travelling member of the Hart House Debating Club;
- (c) compliance with all criteria laid out according to (III) below.

Teams shall be qualified for Worlds in accordance with Article VI.

The Debates Committee will be responsible for determining how many teams will be paid for. Teams who wish to pay their own way may apply to the Debates Committee for permission to represent Hart House without participating in the qualifier ONLY if the total number of paid and unpaid teams does not exceed the maximum number allowed per school and if sufficient judges are attending. If the maximum is exceeded, teams may not pay their own way. Judges who wish to pay their own way (entirely) may also apply to the debates committee for permission to represent Hart House without participating in the judge selection process. Requests to the committee must be made before applications for judge selection are made available. The number of paid and unpaid judges will be at the discretion of the Debates Committee. If there are more applicants for self-funding than the committee chooses to send, a judge selection subcommittee shall decide which applicants may self-fund.

III. Requirements for Successful Candidates

Following the tradition that successful candidates are required to perform a certain level of service to the Club (such as assistance in training novices), these criteria may be set each year by the Debating Club Executive in their first meeting in September according to its anticipated needs for the year. The criteria set by the club must be presented in advance of any qualifiers or the start of the judge selection process. Monitoring the fulfilment of all such requirements and reporting non-fulfilment to the Committee is the responsibility of the Club Executive. The executive can, by a 2/3rds majority vote, disqualify any person from attending worlds as a judge or debater as late as two weeks before the tournament due to lack of cooperation with club executive requirements, so long as those requirements are made clear beforehand. Any individual whose

selection may be affected by a disqualification vote must recuse themselves from voting. If quorum cannot be reached, the Chair will make the decision. Where possible, those not meeting requirements shall be excluded from taking part in the selection process.

IV. Organizing the Qualifier

The Debates Committee will decide how many teams will be paid for based on financial considerations when its budget for the next year is requested. A qualifier will happen each year in April unless no more than the set number of teams apply.

The Secretary of the Debates Committee will select the date of the qualifier, the resolutions, and the judges. The format will be of the type to be used at the World's Tournament that year, and should consist of not less than two rounds, where side and speaker order should be *different* in each round where the format used permits this. Scratches will be decided by the Secretary, and may be appealed to the Chair of the Debates Committee. The judges' briefing should be done by a qualified member of the Club who is *not* competing. In the event that the secretary is unable to fulfill these duties, they shall appoint one or more representatives to perform some or all of them. In the event that the Secretary is participating in the qualifier, they shall delegate all the above duties to one or more representatives who are not. Under no circumstances shall someone competing in the qualifier have any say in the qualifier's format, in scratches, or in appeals, nor any knowledge of the resolutions or potential resolutions.

An announcement of the date of the qualifier will be done at least two weeks in advance.

V. Appeals

At the conclusion of the qualifier, the judges' decision is absolutely final with two exceptions: valid grounds for appeal are: (1) a resolution which is discriminatory; (2) demonstrable discriminatory behaviour on the part of the Debates Committee organizers or a judge. This issue will be referred to the Chair of the Debates Committee within one week, but notice of appeal must be given at the qualifier to the co-ordinator.

VI. Finances and Fundraising

The budget for World's will be included with that of the Debates Committee. A trust fund will be established and nurtured. The Committee will decide how many teams will be sent dependent upon costs and fundraising prospects, bearing in mind that two teams will be sent where possible, in keeping with the tradition of

the House's participation in this tournament. The Committee will hold primary responsibility for generating donation revenue for the trust fund. Travel arrangements will be researched by the Debates Committee to determine the minimum cost to arrive for the beginning of the tournament and return as quickly as possible after; each funded competitor may elect to take this option directly, or make his/her own arrangements and be reimbursed the minimum amount upon the presentation of travel receipts. All committee decisions and criteria must be made available in advance of qualifiers or the start of the judge selection process.

The Committee is within its rights to require assistance with fundraising from all debaters and judges receiving funding for Worlds. The Committee can, by a two-thirds majority vote, disqualify any person from participating in the tournament two weeks before Worlds due to lack of co-operation with fundraising guidelines. Any individual whose selection may be affected by a disqualification vote must recuse themselves from voting. If quorum cannot be reached, the Chair will make the decision. Where possible, those in non-compliance with fundraising guidelines shall be excluded from the qualifier or judge selection subcommittee process.

VII. Judge Selection

Judges for Worlds shall be selected by a subcommittee consisting of two Committee members, two Debating Club Executive members and one member appointed by consensus of the first four members. The Debates Program Advisor shall chair. No member of this subcommittee may be a prospective judge or a debater selected for Worlds. Judges shall be selected after the Worlds Qualifier and must submit a written statement to the subcommittee for consideration, though selection decisions shall not necessarily be limited to items contained within the document. The subcommittee shall set the deadline for applying to judge.

Judges will be selected based on the criteria of who will provide the greatest benefit to the club. Judge selection will not primarily be a reward for past service. The specific criteria used to determine "benefit to the club" shall include (but is not limited to): judging experience/ability, debating experience/ability, British parliamentary experience/ability, quality of club and committee participation and service (which may be used as an indicator of future contribution) and potential future benefit of sending this person. Subcommittee members may weight these criteria as they see fit, with the guideline of providing the maximum benefit to the club.

VIII. Amendment

Either body may request an amendment to this agreement by a two-thirds majority vote. This amendment must then be ratified by a two-thirds majority vote of the other body. Either body may revoke this agreement at any time by a two-thirds majority vote. In the event of revocation all selection and fiscal responsibility for sending teams to Worlds reverts to the Hart House Debating Club. Should this occur between Worlds and the budget allocation to that year, the Committee will render all necessary assistance to the club in securing the transfer of budgeted funds.

IX. Conclusion

As with most governance in Hart House, this system is based on the premise that the Club and the Committee can and will work together.