GUIDELINES FOR DEBATING

1. ***Be sure to wear your full and correct Winter college uniform with college blazer to the competition rounds.***

2. ***In joining Debating, you are expected to commit to the full 2027 Season, unless in the case of illness or an emergency preventing them from being able to continue.***

3. ***Email your coach to notify them if you will be absent or late for training. Parents will be notified by the coach that you have not attended.***

4. ***If you are unable to make a debate round due to illness on the day of competition, ensure to contact your coach and team members as a priority and matter of urgency. It is courtesy to also email your coach and team members if you are unable to attend a training session or competition.***

5. ***If a scheduled training session needs to be cancelled for any unforeseen reason, you and your parents will be notified by your coach by email.***

6. ***Follow your coach's expectations and arrive to your training session on time. Get yourself into a habit of checking your emails for information or update your coaches, and to check your training schedule.***

7. ***You are responsible to prepare for their debate with support from their coach. They are expected to have their speech completed by the date set by the coach so there is ample time for the team to practice and refine their argument or speech.***

8. ***In preparation for the debate in weeks leading up to the competition, the debate topic will be released on the Debating SA website usually on the evening of the prior debate. Team members are responsible for checking if their team is Affirmative or Negative.***

9. ***Be sure that you arrive on time for your debate. If you are more than 5 minutes late from the competition start time, the adjudicator may call a forfeit, and your opponent will be awarded an automatic win.***

10. ***Organise to have your debate speech completed by the day of the debate at the very latest so that you can spend time with your team practicing tone and projection of your voice. Ideally, your speech will be completed a few days before, so you have at least one practice and feedback session.***

11. ***Debating is a team activity. Consider a range of viewpoints and listen carefully to your team members. Offer constructive feedback to your team members after you have listened to their speech and while your team is in the process of writing a speech.***
12. ***Avoid leaving your part of the teamwork and writing of your speech***

to the last minute. Write your notes on cue cards, which can be collected from your coach.

13. *In the event that the opposing team has forfeited, your team will debate the adjudicator. In this instance, you are scored on your merit.*

14. *During the debate the team of three students are not to confer with their Chairman or Timekeeper, or members of the audience. This will be a loss to that team.*

15. *Debaters are not to use their phones or any other electronic devices during the debate. It will be an instant loss to that team if this rule is not adhered to. AI Systems are not permitted in the writing of your speeches.*

16. *There is no talking between debaters during the debate. However, passing of notes is acceptable. Do not speak with team members during and between speeches, or when the Chairman or adjudicator is speaking and waiting to call upon the next speaker. Adjudicators may choose to take points off teams who speak throughout the debate.*

17. *When giving your speech, remember to position yourself in front of the audience in the centre between them and the chairman/timekeeper. Speak confidently and project your voice clearly. Remember to make sure that you have given eye-contact to your audience throughout your speech.*
18. *Remember to prepare a 'Vote of Thanks' for the end of the evening's debate following the traditional format. One team member will be responsible each round to thank the other team for their debate and say thank you to parents for their attendance, coaches for their support, the chairman and timekeeper, and the adjudicator for their attendance. Shake hands with your opponent.*

19. *Signing up to a co-curricular activity commits you to the season from its start to conclusion. This means that you attend training sessions and competitions. While we understand that at times, we may experience illness and emergencies happen, as a team member you are expected to attend the majority of training sessions and debating competitions as a team. Please ensure to give your coach and College coordinator as much time as possible in the event that you are unable to compete in the debate on the competition night. A $100 fee is non-refundable at the time of teams being organised which is the 13th of February 2027.*

20. *There are five rounds (competition nights) and (four rounds and nights for Seniors) that a team is expected to attend. When students or whole teams begin the competition but then decide to withdraw because the activity may not be what they expected, this causes not only an immense admin problem for Debating SA and the schools involved but also to those teams who have spent time preparing for the competition. Given that you have committed to the co-curricular activity, it is now a responsibility to ensure the activity is seen through to the end.*