



Young Farmers'
Clubs of Ulster

Group Debating Competition

*Two teams of 3 competitors debate against each other. Each speaker's role varies in the debate.
The topic will be presented on the night and the competitors will be provided
with the necessary resources of information and given time to prepare the team debate.*

Where:

Area / County Heats

Eligibility:

There will be six classes as follows:

- A 12 - 14 years;
- B 14 - 16 years;
- C 16 - 18 years;
- D 18 - 21 years;
- E 21 - 25 years;
- F 25-30 years.

In order to ensure that a Club will have a minimum of one team in each class it shall be in order for it to enter for classes B, C, D, E and F not more than two persons from a lower age group to complete a team.

This concession applies only to Clubs that could not otherwise enter one team for classes B, C, D, E or F through lack of members of the required age.

This concession shall not be used to complete a second or more teams in B, C, D, E or F and no member may speak in more than one age group.

No member can participate in two debates however if a club has insufficient members to complete a team YFCU HQ will encourage and facilitate proposals for amalgamating with another club.

If a Group Debating team is through to the final, but one team member cannot attend, can they be substituted for another Club Member who meets the age group requirements, and has not already competed in the Group Debating Heats.

Marking Scale/ Timing/ Penalties:

1st Speaker:

The opening speaker for the motion should confine themselves to the discussion of broad principles. The opening speaker against the motion should do likewise. They should give a general survey of the subject without necessarily countering specific points made by the proposed. The 1st Speaker is also required to conclude with a summary of their argument.

1st Speaker:

Platform manner, general effect and use of notes	10 marks
Voice production and delivery	20 marks
Introduction, content and ability to present motion	35 marks
Debating technique and conclusion	35 marks
TOTAL	100 marks

Supporting Speakers:

A supporting speaker should drive home the chief points raised by the main speaker for their side and counter points made by the other side. They may add new points.

Platform manner, general effect and use of notes	10 marks
Voice production and delivery	20 marks
Debating technique, content and marshalling of facts	70 marks
TOTAL	100 marks

12-14, 14-16 and 16-18 Age Groups will:

- Be given 40 minutes to prepare their debate.
- All team members must speak no less than 1 ½ minutes and no more than 3 minutes.

18-21, 21-25 and 25-30 Age Groups will:

- Be given 30 minutes to prepare their debate
- Participants must speak no less than 2 minutes and no more than 3 minutes
- And the first speaker will sum up for no less than 1 minute and for no more than 2 minutes.

Competitors will be given a warning when their speaking time has 30 seconds maximum time left. The chairperson will stop the debate after the maximum allocated time, even if this disrupts the flow of the debate.

Closing date:

The closing date for entries will be provided by HQ.

Proficiencies:

Awarded at Area/County.

Prizes:

Final Stage:

- Winners of the 21 - 25 class will receive a trophy & £10 each.
- All other categories receive certificate

Discipline:

Appoint one person in the Club who will be responsible for their Club members' behaviour during the competition.

Protests:

See Protests in General rules section.

Additional Information:

Members and the public are allowed to listen in on other debates at the finals with the member who is debating's permission.

Subjects:

In all classes the subjects shall be decided by YFCU HQ

For Senior Age Categories, the subject will not be revealed until the competition.

For Junior Age Categories, the subject will be issued to Club Secretaries prior to the competition Heat.

Clubs must compete at the area competition.

The Judge(s) and/or Executive Committee will have the power to decide which teams shall compete in the succeeding stage of the competition. If entries warrant it, competitions will be held in each County and the selected teams will compete in the N.I. Finals.

It is likely therefore that only one team per age group per area/ county contest can be assured of being accepted as there is a limit to the number of debates that can be staged at the Finals.

In each age group all speakers may use notes as they wish - whether compiled before the debate or during it. Contributions that do not have an air of spontaneity will be penalised by the Judges.

The Executive Committee of the YFCU reserves the right to amend or cancel any of the foregoing rules as it may consider necessary.