

THE BOMBAY STUDENT DEBATE SOCIETY



Eligibility to Join the Bombay Student Debate Society

To join, one shall be above the age of twelve years (12 years) and be a student at any institution, but shall be a PHD or lower than PHD.

Anyone from any part of the world can join the society

Eligibility to Participate in the Debates

One has to be a part of the Bombay Student Debate Society

Rules to be followed in the community groups and debates

No discrimination based on religion, caste, sex, race or birthplace will be tolerated and will result in a permanent ban from ALL of the groups

Indirect insults, sarcasm targeting individuals, or passive-aggressive remarks shall not be passed about anyone. If reported, the offender may face a permanent ban after multiple offences, at the moderators' discretion.

In the groups as well as debates, personal remarks/ad hominem will not be tolerated.

Only one participant may speak at a time. Interruptions are not permitted unless allowed by the moderator.

Abusive Language

Since we want to create a safe space for everyone, abusive words are highly discouraged. We do understand that it could be an accident, but many repetitions may lead to removal from the particular group where the incident occurred.

Briefing On The Debate Format

The Debate will be utilising the Oxford Debate format (Also known as the Oxford style debate)

This is a modified version of the Oxford Debate Format to fit the needs of TBDS.

Total Time: 110 minutes (1 Hour 50 min)

The specified time limits are guidelines and should not be rigorously enforced.

Reaffirmation

We, the members of The Bombay Student Debate Society, reaffirm that we do not intend to associate or relate to any similarly named organisation. We are a community/student-run online organisation, to empower young minds like ours.

Two-Team System

Each Team will consist of 5 members (proposition and opposition). The debaters are expected to prepare on their own before the event.

From each team, 2 participants will be chosen on the basis of consistency (i.e., the more debates they do in the BDS series, the more likely they are to be selected). This is to encourage more participation.

The other three participants from each team will be chosen on a first-come, first-served basis. This can be influenced by the influence of a judge- to elaborate on this point, if a judge feels that someone should take part, based on merit, they can be chosen (The participant can refrain from participating too.) You won't need to worry about partiality as the other two judges can put their say forward too.

Proposition - Is in favour of the motion, Opposition - Is against the motion.

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The Judges/Moderators

There will be three Judges in total. The judges will be maintaining decorum.

The judges are required to be a part of the core members/management. In case a judge is unavailable for the session taking place that month, the other two judges should come to a consensus to select a temporary judge for that specific session.

If one of the judges wishes to participate, they are urged to give a prior notice, preferably 1 week before the debate if going to take place, and the other two judges are again requested to come to a consensus to find a temporary judge for that monthly session.

Participants/Debate Team (Eighty (1h 20) minutes in total)

The Participants will be given five (5) minutes EACH to present their points, and targeting the other team's stance will be permitted during this time. The orator, with any remaining time, can yield it to a member of their own team (the member should accept it; they have the liberty to decline).

Both of the teams will get twenty-five (25) minutes to present their own stance (fifty (50) minutes in totality). Following this session, there will be a ten (10) minute break. After the ten (10) minute break, a thirty (30) minute rebuttal session will commence, where the participants can ask questions to the opposing team and the opposing team is obliged to answer the question. Along with the answer to their question, the responder can ask the opposing team a question, too.

The audience has the liberty to raise a point of information if they notice a factual inaccuracy or inconsistency in their argument.

Audience Participation (20 minutes)

The Audience will be given 20 minutes to ask questions directly to the judge; one of the judges will redirect the questions to the team. The audience member asking the questions will be given 2 minutes to ask their question in the following format.

“I ‘xyz name’ would like to ask the ‘proposition/opposition, (insert the question)’

The judge will reply to redirect the question with

“I would like to redirect the ‘person who asked the questions’ name’s question to the proposition/opposition

Ten (10) questions will be presented to the judges in totality

Deciding the Winners

One of the Judges will call out the names of the audience (In this case, the usernames. The audience must reply with “Ayes” if they are in favour of the motion (i.e., favour of the proposition) and “Noes” if they are not in favour of the motion (i.e., favour of the opposition). Once the counting of the votes is done, the Winners will be announced.

Code Of Conduct

A Moral/General Code of Conduct shall be followed.