

Zonal Selections Competition Briefing - Contents

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NOTE:

This briefing document is applicable only for South, North, Senior and Central Zone selection competitions. This document doesn't serve as the briefing document for East and West Zone competitions.

Purpose of this document:

This document aims to provide detailed information on the ISDS Zonal Selection Competitions. Please ensure to read through this entire document to have a better understanding of how to enter this process, as well as what the competitions contain. Please read this document in conjunction with [this presentation](#) on the format, and [this presentation](#) on the roles of individual speakers at WSDC. This document may be long, but please read through it thoroughly and carefully, as it's critical to your understanding of the selection process and format.

Overview:

What is a Zonal Selection competition?

This is the first and preferred method through which students enter the National Selection Process for Team India. This is a one day debating competition with 4 rounds of debating. Students debate in teams they register at this competition. ISDS and our partners are running six zonal selection competitions this year:

- 1. 31st August, 2024: North Zone Junior Selection Championships**
Students in grades 7 - 9 attending schools in Bihar, Chandigarh, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand
- 2. 14th September, 2024: South Zone Junior Selection Championships**
Students in grades 7 - 9 attending schools in Andaman and Nicobar, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu, Telangana
- 3. 21st September, 2024: Central Zone Junior Selection Championships**
Students in grades 7 - 9 attending schools in South, Central, East, and North Zones
- 4. 21st September, 2024: East Zone Junior Selection Championships**
Students in grades 7 - 9 attending school in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, West Bengal
- 5. 28th September, 2024: Senior Selection Championships**
Students in grades 10 and 11 attending schools in South, Central, East, and North Zones
- 6. TBA: West Zone Junior Selection Championships**
Students in grades 7 - 9 attending school in Dadra & Nagar Haveli + Daman & Diu, Gujarat, Lakshadweep, Rajasthan

The best individual speakers from this competition **who speak in at least 3 out of 4 rounds** will proceed to the second round of selections.

Note: While students participate in teams, they proceed to next rounds based as individuals. This means there can be teams that didn't perform as well at the Zonal Selection competitions, but speakers in those teams who did, and vice versa.

Registering for Zonal Selection Competitions:

Can you register as an individual for a Zonal Selection Competition?

No. For each zonal selection competition, **students should form a team of 3-4**, and register this team to participate. Students cannot participate in this selection track as individuals.

However, students who cannot find a team to participate with can send us an email on isds@indianschoolsdebatingsociety.com, and **where possible, we can match them with other individual students without teams**. While we cannot promise that this will be successful, we will try our best.

Should you only participate with your school team at a Zonal Selection competition?

Teams can either comprise students of the same school, or a 'cross team' with students from different institutions. However, while allocating slots, unless in exceptional circumstances, we will be **prioritising school teams to encourage club formation and culture building within schools**.

What are the rules around team composition for Zonal Selection Competitions?

1. Teams should have a **minimum of 3**, and a **maximum of 4 students**
2. Unless students are from same sex schools, each **team of 3 should contain at least one non male** member on the team, and **each team of 4 should contain 2**
3. Where we have an excess of teams over slots, we will **prioritise teams who have religious diversity** (or other similar forms of diversity, e.g.: caste) on the team

Can you enter a Zonal Selection Competition if you do not go to a school in that zone?

We prioritise teams who are based in the respective zone that the Zonal Selection Competition is meant for. However, in exceptional circumstances, **we accommodate students** and teams where we have excess spots, **even if they aren't from that particular zone**.

Format and flow of Zonal Selections Competitions

What is the format of a Zonal Selection Competition?

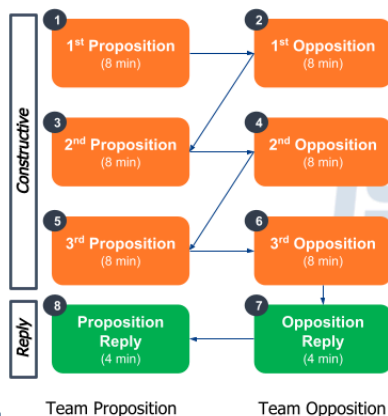
1. Each Zonal selection competition has 4 rounds of debating. EVERY TEAM participates in all 4 rounds of debating.
 - a. 2 of these 4 rounds are 'prepared rounds'. For prepared rounds, we will **pre release topics at least 4 days before the competition**. Teams will **not** receive their sides in advance and are **expected to prepare for both sides of the motion**. Sides will be provided 15 minutes before the debate begins, to account for potential absences and last minute drop outs.
 - b. The other two debates are called 'impromptu debates', where **sides will be determined on the spot, and topics will be given to students 45 minutes prior** to their debate rounds.
2. Debates will be held in the WSDC format with some adjustments (mentioned in the next question). Please [refer these resources to understand the WSDC format](#), and [watch the following video](#) to understand the format.

What is the WSDC format?

1. Every debate is **between two teams** – Proposition (supporting the topic) and Opposition (opposing the topic)
2. Overall, in the WSDC format, teams comprise of a minimum of 3 and maximum of 5 members (**for zonal selections, only a maximum of 4 are allowed**)
3. All these members prepare together for debates. The topics for the debates can be released well in advance (prepared debates), or right before the debate is meant to begin (impromptu).
4. In the debate itself, **three members speak from each team (meaning 6 speakers in the debate as a whole)**. However, **each team makes four speeches (meaning 8 speeches in the debate as a whole)**. This means one team member on each team (either the first speaker, or the second speaker as per the rules) repeats a speech. This speech where a speaker comes back up to speak is called a 'Reply' speech. The other six speeches before this speech are called 'constructive' or 'substantive' speeches
5. Speeches alternate between teams for constructive speeches. This means First Proposition is followed by First opposition, followed by Second Proposition, etc.
6. However, for reply speeches, Opposition Reply speaks first, right after Third Opposition, and then is followed by the Proposition Reply, which is the last speech in the round
7. Each speaker on the team has a unique role to play. More on speaker roles can be found [here](#).



Each WSDC debate consists of six speakers and eight speeches

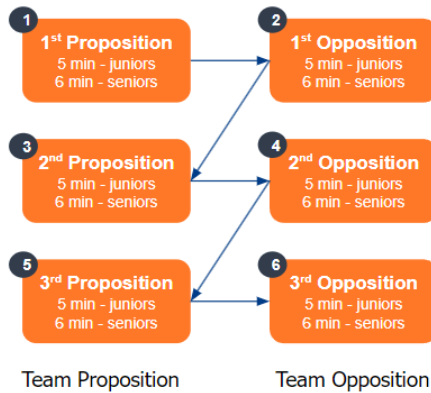


Important points to note:

- The **first six speeches** in the debate are called '**constructive**' or '**substantive**' speeches
- The **last two speeches** are called '**reply**' or '**summary**' speeches
- The **first proposition speaker opens the debate**, and they are followed by first opposition. **Speakers alternate between sides until reply** speeches
- **Opposition reply speaks first**, and is followed by proposition reply
- Only **first or second** speakers can **deliver replies**
- Teams receive 1:00 hr of preparation time for impromptu rounds, no access to internet allowed



For our selections, we will have WSDC style debates with some changes:



Changes from the original WSDC format:

- No reply speech for either side
- Speech duration will be 5:00/6:00 as opposed to 8:00
- Protected time for Points of Information will be from 0:00-1:00 and 4:00-5:00/5:00-6:00 as opposed to 0:00-1:00 and 7:00 - 8:00
- Prep time for impromptu rounds will be for a total of 45 minutes, no access to internet allowed

Notes on the format and the roles of each speaker can be found [here](#). Videos to better understand the format can be found [here](#).

If only 3 speakers can speak in the debate, what does the fourth team member do?

The role of the fourth team member, or the 'non speaking member' ends in preparation time. **They become an observer during the debate. They cannot contribute rebuttal, or questions, or ideas to the speaking team during the debate.**

Teams however are encouraged to **rotate their non speaking member in a team of 4**. That way, **every speaker speaks in 3 rounds of debate out of 4**, and all four speakers can qualify to be selected into the next rounds of selection.

What are the roles of each speaker in the WSDC format?

Please refer [this document](#).

What are the adjustments to the WSDC format ISDS has made for Zonal Selection Competitions?

1. Each team can only comprise of a maximum of four members
2. For students competing in junior selections, speeches are 5 minutes long – NOT 8 mins
3. For students competing in senior selections, speeches are 6 minutes long – NOT 8 mins
4. Neither junior, not senior selection competitions have Reply speeches

Note: We will change these adjustments around for later rounds of selections as necessary.

What are some unique features of the WSDC format?

1. Longer speech times: Unlike in a number of other formats, speech times in this format are relatively longer so that students can analyse their arguments, as well as incorporate rebuttal within speeches
2. No separate rebuttal rounds: Speakers have to incorporate rebuttal based on the previous speakers' speeches, and not wait to the end of the debate for a separate rebuttal round

- Points of Information: There are no rounds of questioning by audiences or judges or separate rounds of cross questioning by teams. A point of information however can be raised by one of the **speaking members** on the other team to a speaker on this team during a designated period of time (called unprotected time). Please refer the slide on points of information under the Format section of [this presentation](#) to understand points of information better. [Watch a debate](#) to ensure you get this right.

What does the Zonal Selection Competition schedule typically look like?

Time	Event
8:00 AM - 8:45 AM	Technical Briefing & Tournament Briefing
8:45 AM - 9:00 AM	Roll call & check-in
9:00 AM - 9:15 AM	Side and Room Allocation for Teams
9:15 AM - 9:30 AM	Preparation time for Debate 1
9:30 AM - 10:20 AM	Debate 1 (Prepared)
10:20 AM - 10:40 AM	Feedback for Debate 1
10:40 AM - 10:55 AM	Match Up Release and Room allocation for Teams for Debate 2
11:00 AM	Motion Release for Debate 2
11:00 AM - 11:45 AM	Prep-Time and Adjudicator Allocation for Debate 2
11:45 AM - 12:35 PM	Debate 2 (Impromptu)
12:35 PM - 12:55 PM	Feedback for Debate 2
12:55 PM - 1:25 PM	Lunch Break
1:25 PM - 1:40 PM	Roll Call, Room and Side Allocation for Teams
1:40 PM - 1:55 PM	Preparation time for Debate 3
1:55 PM - 2:45 PM	Debate 3 (Prepared)
2:45 PM - 3:05 PM	Feedback for Debate 3
3:05 PM - 3:20 PM	Match Up Release and Room Allocation for Teams
3:20 PM	Motion Release for Debate 4
3:20 PM - 4:05 PM	Prep Time for Debate 4
4:05 PM - 4:55 PM	Debate
4:55 PM - 5:20 PM	Feedback for Debate 4

Topics

When will topics be released for Zonal Selection Competitions?

There will be 4 rounds of debate in the Zonal Selection competition.

1. 2 of these four rounds are 'prepared rounds'. For prepared rounds, we will pre release topics at least 4 days before the competition. Teams will **not** receive their sides in advance and are **expected to prepare for both sides of the motion**. Sides will be provided 15 minutes before the debate begins, to account for potential absences and last minute drop outs.
2. The other two debates are called 'impromptu debates', where sides will be determined on the spot, and topics will be given to students 45 minutes prior to their debate rounds.

Judging and decision making

How are individual speakers judged at a Zonal Selection Competition?

To know more about adjudication, go through the [Judging & Decision Making section of this document](#).

What happens after a Zonal Selection Competition?

Once a zonal selection competition ends, the ISDS Training team compiles speaker averages across rounds, and spends copious hours pouring over qualitative feedback that we receive on each speaker. After a few days, on the basis of scores and qualitative feedback, we select a set of students to go into the next step of the selection process.

Preparation

How can you prepare for Zonal Selection Competitions?

While individuals and teams develop their own preparation schedules, here are some tips.

1. Understand the [format](#) thoroughly
2. Watch debate videos in the WSDC Format
 - a. Videos from [OWSDC 2021](#), [WSDC 2022](#), [WSDC 2023](#)
 - b. ISDS Tips on [how to watch debate videos](#)
3. Keep up with the News and improve your general knowledge
 - a. ISDS Tips for [building knowledge for debating](#)
4. Attend competitions and workshops to improve your skill
 - a. [ISDS Workshops and Events Calendar](#)
5. Prepare with your team by cycling through debate topics you find on [Hellomotions.com](#)