Debating Survival Guide

All debaters and parents should know the procedures for debating at Scots, so that everything runs smoothly. Any questions should be referred to Claire Duffy, Director of Public Speaking and Debating at c.duffy@tsc.nsw.edu.au
Attendance
It is expected that all boys attend all debates. Absence, especially at short notice, can disable a team. If there is a very good reason for not coming you must seek permission in advance. The website is where you do this. If you are ill on the day of a debate, please email Ms Duffy as well as logging your leave request on the website.

Here is the procedure:

Absence is known
• Debating is a College priority and if it clashes with another College commitment this will be negotiated case by case.
• If the absence cannot be avoided you must provide ample notice to ensure we have time to organise replacements.

Absence is declared
• Absence must be logged on the Debating website, with reasons given. There are three types:
  • College Commitment
  • Personal Commitment
  • Illness

Contact Director of Public Speaking & Debating (T-12)
• If the absence is recurring or there is another issue, you should contact Ms Duffy
• If necessary a meeting will be called.

On parent/teacher nights, competition debaters are still expected to debate. Parents can try and arrange interviews to include their sons during coaching time if they wish.

Dinner
Meals are provided in the dining room for debaters, timekeepers and chairmen who stay after 5pm. This is charged to your accounts, at an approximate cost of $8 per meal. Here is the procedure:

Dinner order on Debating website
• Only one order is required for the whole year.

No Order - No Dinner
• A list is marked at the servery, if your name is not on the list no dinner will be served
• The Dining Hall must be left in a clean state
• No second helpings!

$8 per meal is recharged to student accounts
• Each term your account is charged for the meals your son ate.
Boys are not allowed to ‘order-in’. Pizza or other food deliveries are not permitted and we ask parents not to interrupt training by bringing food to their sons. If you want a meal from home, please bring it to school with you in the morning.

Transport
Buses take boys to ‘away’ debates. They generally leave the College at about 4.45pm. There is no bus back. We encourage you to watch your sons’ debates and car pool with other parents and teammates to bring him home if you cannot. Boarders must see Ms Duffy to ensure an arrangement is in place to return them to school.

Friday schedule
Training is at 3.15, straight after school, with dinner for competition teams at 4.30. Debates start and finish times are below. At the end of the debate boys will stay and talk first with their adjudicator, then with their coach, and should make notes to refer to in next week’s training. Allow about 15 minutes for this.

ISDA
Primary, 7 & 8 prep at 6pm and debate at 7pm, finishing around 7.45-8.15pm.
Year 9, 10, and Senior A&B prep at 7pm and debate at 8pm, finishing by 9 - 9.15pm.

Eastside: Years 7, 8 & 9 prep at 5.30 and debate at 6.30pm, finishing around 7.30.
Years 10, 11 & 12 Prep at 6.30 and debate at 7.30, finishing around 8.30.

GPS
Year 7,8,and 9 prep at 6pm and debate at 6.45pm. Finished around 7.45
Years 10 and above prep at 6.45 and debate at 7.30. Finished by 9 .00pm.

FAD (Friday Afternoon Debating): FAD runs from 3.15 –5.00pm. For each home debate, 10 boys will be rostered to stay late to chair and time-keep. They work in pairs and do two debates, finishing at the close, around 8.30 - 9pm.

FADsters will be asked to do this two or three times in the course of three debating terms. We are required to provide people to do these jobs, it’s part of being in the competition.

What to bring
You should wear full school uniform - summer or winter.
Bring palm cards, white board markers and pens.
Keep a debating book to note your coach’s comments and personal feedback.
Team Line Up
The coach decides each week what the speaking order will be. Coaches must balance giving boys speaking experience with the need to choose the best team for Scots. There is no ‘rotation’ system. Coach’s decisions are final.

Finding Debates
At Scots we debate in the Graeme Clark Centre for Innovation in the Sciences, Anderson Hall, and Dr Robert Iles Theatre. Occasionally we use the Coote Theatre and very occasionally the Main Building.

Directions and locations for debates at other schools will be on the Debating website, once the host school has given them to us.

Suppers
Parents are asked to assist the Support Group by providing food and help on the night with suppers at home debates. Karen Hamilton, Support Group President would love to hear from you. Her contact details are available on the Contact Us page.

Suppers are served before debates and are available until the beginning of the second debate. We do not serve after the second debate has finished.

Code of Conduct
- No Mobile Phones or Laptops in debates
- All communication during debates must be non-obtrusive
- Audience members must not communicate with debaters while the debate is taking place
- Adjudication should be treated with respect
- Debaters must stay back for feedback from their coach and to help tidy the room.