



# WESTERN AUSTRALIAN DEBATING LEAGUE

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## INCORPORATED

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### **2019 Policy on Conduct Unbecoming During Debates**

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1. This is a WADL policy outlining the action to be taken by adjudicators in the event of conduct unbecoming by debaters, teachers or members of the audience during a WADL debate.

#### 2. Noise and Distraction

- 2.1. Where debaters, chairpersons, timekeepers or members of the audience are being unacceptably loud or are distracting the speaker during a debate the adjudicator has the right to intervene. The adjudicator should:
  - 1.1.1 Wait until the end of the speaker's debate before intervening. The adjudicator should not interrupt a debater mid-speech; and
  - 1.1.2 Politely speak to the person or persons involved and ask them to stop the offending conduct. The adjudicator should not lecture or discipline the person or persons involved.
- 2.2. If the offending conduct continues, the adjudicator should:
  - (i) In the case of a debater, warn the debater again and deduct manner marks accordingly (whether or not that person has already spoken); and
  - (ii) In the case of a chairperson or timekeeper or member of the audience, warn the person again. If the conduct still persists ask that person to leave the room. Adjudicators should seek the assistance of the Head Adjudicator if they are not comfortable asking the person to leave.

#### 3. Offensive Behaviour

- 3.1. Offensive behaviour for the purposes of this policy is any behaviour by word or action which is likely to offend a participant or participants in the

debate or a member or members of the audience. Offensive behaviour includes but is not limited to behaviour which:

- (i) Is racist;
- (ii) Is sexually explicit;
- (iii) Constitutes a personal insult to a participant or participants in the debate; or
- (iv) Involves the use of obscene language or gestures.

3.2. Where debaters, chairpersons or members of the audience are engaging in offensive behaviour during a debate the adjudicator has the right to intervene. The adjudicator should:

- (i) In the case of a debater currently giving his or her speech, interrupt the debater and ask them to stop the offensive behaviour, without lecturing or disciplining the debater. The adjudicator should also deduct manner marks immediately;
- (ii) In the case of a debater not currently giving his or her speech, wait until the end of the speaker's debate before intervening. The adjudicator should then politely speak to the person or persons involved and ask them to stop the offending conduct. The adjudicator should also deduct manner marks immediately (whether or not that person has already spoken); and
- (iii) In the case of a chairperson, timekeeper, member of the audience, or debater not currently giving his or her speech, wait until the end of the speaker's debate before intervening. The adjudicator should then politely speak to the person or persons involved and ask them to stop the offending conduct. The adjudicator should not lecture or discipline the person or persons involved.

3.3. If the offending conduct continues, the adjudicator should:

- (iii) In the case of a debater, warn the debater again and deduct further manner marks (whether or not that person has already spoken); and
- (iv) In the case of a chairperson or timekeeper or member of the audience, warn the person again. If the conduct still persists ask that person to leave the room. Adjudicators should seek the assistance of the Head Adjudicator if they are not comfortable asking the person to leave.

#### 4. Report to WADL Executive

- 4.1. If an adjudicator is required to act according to this Policy, the adjudicator must:
  - (i) Inform the Head Adjudicator at the venue at the end of the final debate, and
  - (ii) Prepare a brief written report outlining the details of the conduct involved, and forward the report to the Technical Vice-President within 48 hours of the debate.
- 4.2. After receiving the written report, the Technical Vice-President must forward the report to the President.
- 4.3. After receiving the written report, the President must prepare a written complaint:
  - (i) Within 7 days of receipt of the written report;
  - (ii) Addressed to the appropriate Debating Coordinator and Headmaster/Headmistress;
  - (iii) Outlining the conduct involved, the standards expected by WADL and a request that the person or persons involved be approached and spoken to about the standards expected by WADL; and
  - (iv) Demanding a written response within 14 days.
- 4.4. The President must report to the WADL Executive and the adjudicator involved regarding the written response.