

2021/22

**Rotary** **YOUTH**  
**SPEAKS** *A Debate*  
**COMPETITION**

Information Pack



[rotarygbi.org](http://rotarygbi.org)

Rotary  
Great Britain & Ireland



# Information Pack for 2021 – 2022

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# Information Pack for 2021 – 2022

## Introduction

Youth Speaks: A Debate is organised and promoted by Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland (Rotary GB&I). It is a three-stage competition which is designed to support and encourage the development of effective communication skills.

## Aims and objectives

The competition aims to offer young people:

- experience in speaking on a public platform as a member of a team
- an incentive to formulate ideas on topical subjects and to put these forward while being in opposition to another speaker
- discipline in dealing with a topic in a limited time
- the opportunity of learning and practising high standards of expression, presentation and appearance
- impartial feedback and assessment of performance by experienced adjudicators

This will be addressed by a team of three people who should prepare and deliver a short debate on a topic of their choice in front of an audience. Teams should note that Rotary International is a non-religious and non-party political organisation and this should be respected by competitors. Subjects chosen for debate should not set out deliberately to cause offence to others. Teams may choose to change the topic for debate at any subsequent level of the competition.

## Who can take part?

The competition is open to all schools and college communities and those who are home educated along with any other young peoples' community organisations, for example, community RotaKids, community Interact, Scout Groups, Girl Guides.

Each team will comprise of three students in full time education in two age groups:

Intermediate      11 to 13 years

Senior              14 to 17 years

With the age qualifying date of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021, it should be noted that some intermediate entrants may be 14 and some senior entrants may be 18 at the time of some or all the stage competitions i.e. a competitor who may be 17 on 31<sup>st</sup> August but turns 18 on 1<sup>st</sup> September is allowed to enter. **Competitors must include their age on the application form.**

**Students should enter the competition organised by the local Rotary club through their respective group, as detailed above.**

Competitors, school, colleges, and organisations may participate in a district that is outside of their geographical boundary but may compete in only one club or district competition.

## The Three Stages of the Competition

### Local Heats

Local heats are organised by Rotary clubs. Age group winners of local heats are then entered into a district competition. (There may be more than one round to decide which teams go forward to the district competition).

Local Rotary Clubs can be found by using the club finder facility in the top left-hand corner of the Home Page of the Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland website [www.rotarygbi.org](http://www.rotarygbi.org).

### District Competitions

These are organised by Rotary at schools or colleges. When there are a high number of entrants, it may be necessary to hold preliminary rounds prior to a district final.

### Regional Finals

Organised by Rotary Districts in conjunction with the Regional Coordinator.

**The dates for local heats, district and regional competitions will be determined locally. Entrants should check dates with their local Rotary club in the first instance.**

## Competition Guidelines

### Format

Each team will consist of three members with each taking a specific role: a Chairperson, a Proposer (speaking for the motion) and an Opposer (speaking against the motion). The team should remain the same throughout each stage of the competition. In exceptional circumstances substitutions may be made, subject to the approval of the organiser.

The Team will be allocated a total of **15 minutes** to present their debate. The timing of each part will not be monitored but it is recommended that both the Proposer and Opposer speak for 5 minutes with the Chairperson taking up the remaining 5 minutes for the introductions and summing up.

### Judges

Judges with appropriate skills, appointed by Rotary, will apply the judging criteria and provide feedback to all competitors. Judges should be encouraged to give advice to the winning team for each subsequent round.

A Rotarian will not be appointed as a judge for the regional final. Rotarians should not be used as judges if at all possible. Anyone acting as a judge in one stage of the competition should not be appointed for any subsequent stages.

### Judging Criteria

The judging criteria and scoresheet can be found at the back of the Information Pack.

Judges will deduct one point for each complete 15 seconds over the allocated time of 15 minutes and one point for each complete 30 seconds under the allocated time of 15 minutes.

A Rotarian with no interest in the participating teams will review the scores to ensure accuracy before the results are announced.

The Judges' decision is final.

Only in exceptional circumstances and at the sole discretion of the competition organiser will correspondence or discussion be entered into following the competition.

### Questioner

The questioner, who shall not be one of the judges, will be appointed by the competition organiser. The Proposer or Opposer will be asked to respond to a question asked by the questioner. The questioner can be a Rotarian but not from a participating club.

### Prizes

At all stages of the competition competitors will receive a certificate of participation.

After the judges have determined the result of the competition, comments and observations will be given by a judge before announcing the result.

### How to enter

To enter a local heat contact your local Rotary club which can be found by visiting [www.rotarygbi.org](http://www.rotarygbi.org). In case of difficulty, contact the national co-ordinator Malcolm Hallewell at [youth-debate@rotarygbi.org](mailto:youth-debate@rotarygbi.org) quoting the address of the school/organisation.

Entrants need to complete an entry form listing each member of the team. These are available from your local rotary club.

### Competition procedure

#### Arrival

Before each competition commences, the organiser will conduct a draw to determine the order in which each team will participate. This will be notified to teams on their arrival. Organisers have the right to adjust the order should teams arrive late.

#### Arrangements

A master of ceremonies will invite each team in the order of the draw to come to the front or to the stage to make their presentation.

The team should be led to their positions by the Chairperson who should sit with the Proposer on the right and the Opposer on the left. This is a team competition and each member must conduct themselves appropriately by being attentive to the others when they are speaking.

A reminder that the team **MAY NOT** use any props, including power point.

A system of lights or coloured cards will be used to indicate times:

Green – start; Amber – one minute to go (14 minutes); Red – end of allocated time (15 minutes).

Notes may be used. However, their use should not be too obvious. If electronic media is used for this purpose it must be used only as a reminder of the content of the speech and not as a prop or as a live means of presenting or sourcing information.

Where a venue would benefit from amplification, static microphones will be provided for team members to use. A sound test will be arranged prior to the competition. If any team member fails to use the static microphones and their words are inaudible, the judges will deduct marks.

The team members will perform their roles in the following order:

### Chairperson

When the team is ready and has been given the signal they are able to start, the Chairperson will stand. The Chairperson should control the debate. He/she should open the meeting and welcome the audience, introduce the speakers and their chosen topic. When the speakers have given their presentations the chairperson should invite a question from the audience. After this has been replied to, the chairperson should close the debate with an appropriate summing up.

### Proposer

The Proposer will put forward relevant arguments for the motion. The speech should be structured with an introduction, points for the motion and a conclusion.

### Opposer

The Opposer should put forward relevant arguments against the motion. If possible, he/she should pick up on some of the points put forward by the proposer. The speech should be structured with an introduction, points against the motion and a conclusion.

### Chairperson

Ask a question from the audience

### Proposer/Opposer

Reply to question

### Chairperson

Close debate with appropriate summing up.

The Team will be allocated a total of **15 minutes** to present their debate. Timing of each part will not be monitored but it is recommended that both the Proposer and Opposer speak for 5 minutes with the Chairperson taking up the remaining 5 minutes for the introductions and summing up.

Answering questions from the audience **will not be included in the timing of 15 minutes** but any answer should be limited to two minutes and this will be timed. A reply to the question which exceeds the stipulated time will be taken into consideration by the judges

A signal will be given to indicate that the Team can start the debate with a further signal being given at 14 minutes and a final one at 15 minutes.

The Team should not stop suddenly at the final signal but should be aware that time over the limit will be penalised by 1 point for each complete 15 seconds over the allocated time of 15 minutes and 1 point for each complete 30 seconds under the allocated time of 15 minutes.

### Results

After the judges have determined the result of the competition a judge will comment on their observations before announcing the result. These will be retained by the competition organiser for 3 months after the date of the competition after which time they must be destroyed to comply with GDPR and the competition Privacy Policy.

### Youth competitions

The Rotary Youth Speaks: A Debate competition is one of several competitions organised by Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland for young people. Among the others are Young Artist, Young Chef, Young Environmentalist, Young Filmmaker, Young Musician, Young Photographer, Young Writer, Young Citizens Awards and the Technology Tournaments. To find out more about these competitions and other opportunities please contact your local Rotary club.

### Working with children

Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland has adopted this statement of policy for working with children, the vulnerable and those with disability.

*The needs and rights of the child, the elderly, the vulnerable and those with disability take priority. It is the duty of every Rotarian to safeguard to the best of their ability, the welfare of and prevent the physical, sexual or emotional abuse and neglect of all children, the elderly, persons with disability or otherwise vulnerable persons with whom they come into contact during their Rotarian duties'.*

## JUDGES' SCORE SHEET

Team:			Topic for debate:		
MEMBER	ASPECT	MARKS	POINTS TO BE CONSIDERED	COMMENTS	SCORE
CHAIRPERSON	Delivery	5	Effective use of voice, clear enunciation, confident and relaxed manner. Engage audience.		
	Manner and control of debate	5	Polite but business-like handling of meeting, showing appropriate attention.		
	Process	5	Welcome audience. Explain structure of meeting and introduce speakers and topic for debate.		
	Summing up and close of proceedings	5	Take question from floor. Close debate appropriately, including thanks to both speakers.		
PROPOSER	Delivery	10	Effective use of voice, clear enunciation, confident and relaxed manner. Engage audience.		
	Subject and Construction of topic	25	Content of the speech and logic. Develop the topic and demonstrate clear thinking. Show knowledge and understanding of topic. Conclude by summarising points and why you are proposing the topic.		
OPPOSER	Delivery	10	Effective use of voice, clear enunciation, confident and relaxed manner. Engage audience.		
	Subject and Construction	25	Develop relevant arguments to points raised by proposer while also showing a knowledge and understanding of the topic. Conclude by summarising why you are opposing the subject.		
TEAMWORK	General	5	Posture, stance, mannerisms, general appearance, observance of formalities.		
	Question/Answer	5	Ability of Proposer/Opposer to answer question appropriately.		
	Timing of presentation		Marks be deducted in this section for mismanagement of time. (Maximum of 3 points)		
<b>Possible Score: 100 points</b>				<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>	