

## **S20-4 Motion to Update the International Debate Competition Trials Agreement for the Union Debating Society (UDS)**

Owner: Toni Valencia

In Effect From: Immediately

Review Date: February 25, 2020

### **Proposer**

Toni Valencia – SSC Debates Officer

### **Seconders**

Gavin Sandford - SSC Member without Portfolio

Shaina Sullivan - DoSDA

Markus Lee - SSC Societies Officer

### **It is noted that:**

1. The Union Debating Society currently selects teams and judges to attend the European University Debating Championships and the World University Debating Championships through a trials process.
2. The cost to the Union Debating Society in registering for the European University Debating Championships this year was €250 per person.
3. The Union Debating Society previously had trial participants informally agree to cover the cost of their travel and to train with a novice after the competition, although this was not in the Association Laws.
4. The members of the Board of Ten involved in organising trials are the Chief Whips, although the successful teams are normally chosen by external judges.

### **It is believed that:**

1. Given the significant cost to the Union Debating Society in booking teams for international tournaments, participants in trials should be confident that they can cover the appropriate costs and commit the appropriate time before participating.
2. The current and former Intervarsity Secretaries have had difficulty in recruiting people to judge at or train with novices at local competitions.
3. A formal agreement would be a better way of ensuring that trial participants are able to meet these obligations, and allow better enforcement when they do not.
4. The current bursary scheme should support any prospective participants who would have difficulty covering travel costs for an international tournament.
5. The current bursary scheme necessitates that a participant commits to trialling before they know if they would receive the bursary making them liable for financial obligations which may put people off of trialling.
6. Given that the President and Treasurer are not involved in organising trials, they can determine recipients of the bursary without conflict of interest before trials take place. This means there is no necessity for people to trial without knowing if they have received the bursary.

### **It is resolved to:**

1. Require participants in trials for future international tournaments to sign the attached appendices.

2. Update Chapter 14 Section 11.3 from the Laws of the Association to:

11.3 People who are accepted into the bursary scheme will not be at a disadvantage for the selection of a speaker or judge spot at debate competitions.

3. Add the following as Section 12 to Chapter 14 of the Laws of the Association:

## 12. International Tournament Trials

12.1 Selection of teams and judges for the European University Debating Championships (EUDC) or World University Debating Championships (WUDC) will be through a trials process in the semester prior to the tournament taking place. This will be in Semester 1 for WUDC and Semester 2 for EUDC.

12.2 Any ordinary member of the Students' Association in good standing is eligible to trial.

12.3 Any person interested in trialling must sign an agreement as outlined in the "Union Debating Society International Trials Agreement for Speakers" and "Union Debating Society International Trials Agreement for Judges" document.

# International Trials Agreement for Speakers

## **All trial participants...**

If you are successful in getting on a team, the committee will fund the registration fee for [insert name of competition here] and the registration fees for prep competitions you attend. The registration fee includes accommodation for the duration of the competition, participation in the competition, socials, and food on in-round days. Given that this is a very significant cost to the society, we ask that all trial participants agree that they are able to commit to the following before trialling:

- funding and attending at least three prep competitions with their partner in the run up to the international competition - ideally these should be adequately spread in the run up to the competition and not months in advance or all directly before;
- funding your travel to [insert location here] for the competition dates;
- any extra accommodation or travel costs you may have due to your travel dates;
- being available in [insert location here] for the entire duration of the competition [insert dates here];
- attending every Wednesday training and advanced training session in the run up to the international competition;

Note that participating in the St Andrews Open or another competition in St Andrews would not usually count towards the prep competition requirement, except in exceptional circumstances.

**In addition to the above, we place additional conditions depending on whether you are a graduating student or whether you are returning next semester.**

## **If you are a graduating student...**

Any graduating student and are successfully placed in a team for the international competition, we ask that you complete one pro-am before you graduate. This will likely involve scheduling one pro-am before the competition takes place. You may complete this pro-am at the St Andrews Open if necessary.

## **If you will be returning next semester...**

Any student returning next semester who is successfully placed in a team for the international competition should complete one pro-am and one judge spot in the semester following the international competition. Note that the St Andrews Open does not count towards this requirement. It is expected that this will likely be at one of the following important competitions in the Scottish calendar, and so you should make yourself available to participate in these or inform the Intervarsity Secretary (competitive.debating@) well in advance if you cannot participate.

- Edinburgh Cup
- Durham IV
- Scottish Mace
- SSDC Pro-Am
- Glasgow Ancients
- Newcastle Mixed Doubles

Exceptions can be made here for specific extenuating circumstances at the discretion of the committee. If you think you may have difficulty funding travel to the prep competitions, proams, or international competition, you may be eligible for support from our bursary scheme. We encourage anyone who thinks they may be eligible for this support or who would need it to trial to contact the Debates Convenor on debates@ in advance of trialling.

**If you do not meet these requirements...**

If you do not meet these requirements, the following measures can be placed at the discretion of the committee:

- being barred from trialling for future internationals;
- being barred from attending other competitions funded by the committee;
- having your place on the squad removed;

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge, I can meet the obligations set out above.

Name:

Date:

# International Trials Agreement for Judges

## **All trial participants...**

If you are successful in getting a judge spot, the committee will fund the registration fee for [insert name of competition here] and the registration fees for prep competitions you attend. The registration fee for the international competition includes accommodation for the duration of the competition, participation in the competition, socials, and food on in-round days. Given that this is a very significant cost to the society, we ask that all trial participants agree that they are able to commit to the following before trialling:

- funding and attending at least three prep competitions in the run up to the international competition - ideally these should be adequately spread in the run up to the competition and not months in advance or all directly before;
- funding your travel to [insert location here] for the competition dates;
- any extra accommodation or travel costs you may have due to your travel dates;
- being available in [insert location here] for the entire duration of the competition [insert dates here];
- attending every Wednesday training and advanced training session in the run up to the international competition;

Note that participating in the St Andrews Open or another competition in St Andrews would not usually count towards the prep competition requirement, except in exceptional circumstances.

**In addition to the above, we place additional conditions depending on whether you are a graduating student or whether you are returning next semester.**

## **If you are a graduating student...**

Any graduating student and are successfully given a judge spot for the international competition, we ask that you complete one extra judge spot before you graduate. This will likely involve scheduling one extra judge spot before the competition takes place. You may complete this judge spot at the St Andrews Open if necessary.

## **If you will be returning next semester...**

Any student returning next semester who is successfully awarded a judge spot for the international competition should complete two more judge spots in the semester following the international competition. Note that the St Andrews Open does not count towards this requirement. It is expected that this will likely be at one of the following important competitions in the Scottish calendar, and so you should make yourself available to participate in these or inform the Intervarsity Secretary (competitive.debating@) well in advance if you cannot participate.

- Edinburgh Cup
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- having your place on the squad removed;

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge, I can meet the obligations set out above.

Name:

Date: