

# **RULES & REGULATION**

**2023**

## **The Hague Inter-University Law Debate Tournament**



**Corax Foundation**

The Hague, Netherlands

Preamble .....	3
1. Organisation of the Tournament .....	5
1.1 Materials .....	5
1.2 Organisation of the Tournament .....	5
1.3 Coordination .....	6
1.4 Student Organizers .....	6
1.5 Supporters and Sponsors .....	6
1.6 Venue .....	6
1.7 Language and Form.....	6
1.8 Privacy and Data Protection.....	7
1.9 Supervisory Committee .....	7
2. Registration, Participation and Eligibility .....	8
2.1 Team Eligibility .....	8
2.2 Team Members .....	9
2.3 Registration Fee .....	9
2.4 Team Selection and Number of Participating Teams .....	10
3. Format of the Tournament .....	11
3.1 General.....	11
3.2 Group Phase & Elimination Phase .....	11
3.3 Post-Elimination Standing Matches .....	11
3.4 Non-Participation Rule.....	11
3.5 Teams representing winning institutions from the past editions.....	12
3.6 Match & Statement Allocation .....	12
3.7 Use of materials .....	13
3.8 Format of the Match.....	13
3.9 The Final Match.....	13
4. Evaluation & Scoring .....	14
4.1 Criteria of Evaluation .....	14
4.2 Scoring sheet.....	14
4.3 Jury .....	15

4.4 Evaluation time .....	15
4.5 Sanctions .....	15
4.6 Throwing the match.....	16
4.7 Disputes and Complaints .....	16
4.8 Rules of Courtesy and potential suspended participation.....	16
4.10 Acknowledgement of the Present rules .....	17
5. Online Rounds.....	18
5.1 Platform(s) .....	18
5.2 Publicity of Matches.....	18
5.3 Technical difficulties and connection issues .....	18
6. Awards .....	19
6.1 Awards .....	19
6.2 The Best Oralist’s Trophy .....	19
6.3 Academic Credits .....	19
6.4 Miscellaneous .....	19
7. Assistance.....	20
7.1 Communication.....	20
7.2 Mentors.....	20
7.3 Mentor Network .....	20
7.4 Internal license.....	20
7.5 Debate Workshops.....	21
7.6 Friendly Matches.....	21
7.7 Possibility to be published .....	21
8. Contact Details .....	21

## Preamble

The Hague Inter-University Law Debate Tournament, in certain instances referred to as The Hague Law Debate Tournament (hereinafter the “**Tournament**”) is a competition organized by the Corax Foundation

for teams of students from various participating universities. The Tournament has been organized since 2015 in The Hague, Netherlands by the Corax Law Debate student association, student organizers and now by the Corax Foundation. The format of the English-speaking tournament was created by Anna Maria Urbanova, Maria Clara Ayres Hernandez and Aurelien Lorange in 2015.

The main objective of the Tournament is to stimulate the interest of students and develop their knowledge in the fields of law, while highlighting their skills in argumentation, and thus facilitate their visibility and networking with other students from around the world, employers, and other academic institutions. During the Tournament, students demonstrate and improve their oral communication skills, as well as their sense of competition. The aim of the Tournament is to show the politico-legal-economic-environmental-societal knowledge connected with legal knowledge acquired during their studies to all the people attending the matches broadcasted online: employers and potential academic partners (as well as professors, friends, and family).

The long-term ambition of the Tournament is to become and remain a world-wide International Law themed English-speaking competition of very high quality, open to all higher education institutions in the world, with a phase for the world group of 32 universities and regional qualifying rounds or by geographic area to provide access to additional universities that would like to participate each year. This Tournament aims to provide a platform via which it can help promote discussions for new partnerships between institutions for research, exchanges, events and any element of internationalization and cooperation between the participating universities and other partner organisations or institutions.

# 1. Organisation of the Tournament

These Rules & Regulations are applicable for the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of The Hague Inter-University Law Debate Tournament. The rules and regulations are reviewed annually and may be subject to change in the future editions. It is recommended that all participants familiarize themselves with the current edition's version as reliance on any past rules or practice will not in itself be an acceptable excuse for the failure to comply with the rules of the current edition.

## 1.1 Materials

All materials developed by the founders of the Tournament and then by Corax Foundation for the Tournament, including, without limitation, the official Rules & Regulations (current or past editions) are the sole property of Corax Foundation. These materials may not be reproduced for any purpose other than to participate or to administrate the Tournament without the express and prior written consent of the Directors. In addition, all recordings and potential written submissions become the sole property of the Corax Foundation and may not be republished without its express consent.

## 1.2 Organisation of the Tournament

The Tournament is an annual competition that begins in February and ends in June of each year. Each edition is preceded by competitions or myriad of internal selections specific to each institution registered to participate. Institutions are free to choose the method of selecting the team of students representing their institution. may choose to apply for an internal tournament license.

In 2023 the competition can be:

- internal (licensed) tournaments for the purposes of selection of representing team
- Tournament, representing the final stage of the competition (including Group-phase Rounds and Elimination Rounds).

All duly registered teams will be eligible to compete in the Tournament ed. 2023, subject to them registering within the 32 available participation spots.

With the unanimous consent of all parties involved, i.e., the Supervisory committee, the rules can be changed to keep the spirit and the continuation of the competition.

### **1.3 Coordination**

The coordination and organization of the Tournament is the responsibility of the Corax Foundation. The Corax Foundation has delegated the conduct of the Tournament to appointed Directors and the Organizing Team of which the Directors are part of. The organizing team comprises volunteers (both professionals and students) and has the mandate for the management and promotion of the Tournament at inter-university level, with the help of partners of the Foundation.

The appointed Directors of the Tournament are:

- Aurelien Lorange
- Anna Maria Urbanova

### **1.4 Student Organizers**

Students may apply to become part of the students organizers of the Tournament. Every year there is an open call for applications from the Corax Foundation published on the Foundation's website and social media accounts of the Tournament. The student organisers, depending on their skillset and experience level may support the organisation of the Tournament by joining either of the following: Content Team, Network Team, and Communications Team. The student organisers may also take on the role of host and or timekeeper of the match.

### **1.5 Supporters and Sponsors**

The Tournament is organised with the support of partner organisations, sponsors, independent professionals, academics as well as that of other volunteers.

The list of Tournament's sponsors is annually updated on the official website of the competition.

### **1.6 Venue**

In the ed. 2020 the Tournament transitioned for the first time into a virtual environment. For the purposes of the competition, platforms such as Cisco Webex or Zoom are used throughout the rounds. In the ed. 2023, the Tournament will be held in the hybrid format with Final Round taking place in person in The Hague. In the event of unsuitable epidemiological or other circumstances, the organisers reserve the right to change the venue to a more suitable one.

### **1.7 Language and Form**

The official language of the competition is English. All documents, communications and all communication elements are produced and presented in English.

The Tournament does not include written submissions, the students compete in oral debate rounds.

## **1.8 Privacy and Data Protection**

The Tournament is an educational five-months-long event, encompassing multiple time zones, that takes place in a fully- to semi- virtual environment. As such, a certain level of personal data collection is necessary.

In the event of concerns or questions please contact the Organizing Team via the form available on the website.

## **1.9 Supervisory Committee**

### **1.9.1 Composition of the Supervisory Committee**

The Supervisory Committee shall oversee the continued integrity of organization of the Tournament, the quality of the selected themes, disputes relating to a potential injustice from the side of the jury and shall provide advice in relation to the growth of the Tournament. Decisions of the Supervisory Committee are nonbinding with the exception of one situation explained further in this document.

The minimum number of committee members is 3, maximum number of committee members in 2023 is 12 (excluding the Chairperson). Each committee member may hold their position for a maximum of one year. Eligible universities may renominate their representative and the Chairperson of the Supervisory Committee may reelect the individual. This, however, is not guaranteed. Should a member leave their seat, they will not be replaced until the next annual selection round.

The Supervisory Committee of The Hague Inter-University Law Debate Tournament may be up of (i) representatives of the universities which have already participated in the competition twice and of (ii) past student organizers or individuals that have already participated at least twice in the organization of the competition and are no longer students.

There are two seats reserved – for representatives of The Hague University of Applied Sciences (Netherlands) and Dom Helder Law School (Brazil), the first participants in The Hague Inter-University Law Debate Tournament. Should these universities not nominate their representative for two consecutive years, their reserved seat is automatically forfeited. Every eligible university has until November 2022 to nominate their representative, should they choose to do so.

As the sustainable growth of the Tournament and uniformity between each edition is the interest of the Corax Foundation and the Tournament's founders, the Chairperson shall always be nominated by the Corax Foundation.

### 1.9.2 Rights and obligations of the Supervisory Committee

The Supervisory Committee may rule on potential disputes brought by the participants of the Tournament. As the Tournament consists of 2 phases, such ruling may be done in following manner:

- During the Group Phase, the deadline to bring the potential dispute to the notice of the Supervisory Committee is no longer than 48 hours after the receipt of the results of the match. The Supervisory Committee has until 4 April 2023 to rule on the dispute, and or 48 hours after meeting to rule on the dispute, whichever shall come first.
- During the Elimination Phase, the deadline to bring the potential dispute to the notice of the Supervisory Committee is no longer than 24 hours after the receipt of the results of the match. The Supervisory Committee has 72 hours to rule on the dispute after being notified of it. The Organizing Team and the Supervisory Committee reserve the right to amend this process in the Final Round.

Should a member of the Supervisory Committee have a conflict of interest with either of the sides of a potential dispute, this member shall not participate in the voting on the matter. Each resolution passed by the Supervisory Committee requires a minimum of 60% of the votes of all committee members eligible to vote. The Chairperson of the Supervisory Committee has the power of decision-making veto.

Committee members may discuss the agenda and format of the Tournament should the allowed number of participating universities exceed 32 and offer advice to the Organizing Team. The Tournament is predicted to gradually transform into a format incorporating regional qualifying rounds.

## **2. Registration, Participation and Eligibility**

### **2.1 Team Eligibility**

For a team to be eligible to participate in the Tournament, each participating institution must:

- submit Registration Form no. 1 – formally registering the university as participant in the Tournament ed. 2023 and thus reserving a spot for their team no later than by 18 December 2022 (“Registration Deadline no.1”)
- submit Registration Form no. 2 – formally nominating students (min. 2, max. 3) to represent the university in the Tournament no later than by 20 January 2023 (“Registration Deadline no.2”)
- nominate 2 judges or provide proof of payment of the administrative fee no later than by 30 January 2023

The Organizing Team will provide up-to-date information to all participants before and throughout the course of the Tournament. Once all of the required steps are completed, the university and the nominated team shall receive the final confirmation of their participation and the invitation for the Opening Ceremony and the detailed agenda of the Tournament ed.2023.

Should any university register after all available spots have already been filled, the Organizing Team shall inform the relevant contact person of the existing waiting list. Should any spots remain available after the January 2023, the universities on the waiting list shall be the first to be offered the available spots.

Every year, 16 spots shall be reserved for the best 16 universities of previous edition (determined by the ranking of the participating teams). These spots shall be reserved for a minimum of one month before the end of the Registration Deadline no. 1. In the ed.2023, this is the 18 November 2022.

In ed. 2023 the Tournament allows for a limited number of participating universities. The available spots will be made available to the institutions that have filled both forms prior to the registration deadline or prior to the exhaustion of the available spots, whichever shall come first. An invitation to participate in the competition, extended by the Organizing Team, does not guarantee a spot in the Tournament.

Every institution or law school may nominate one team only, regardless of the number of faculties or departments within. The number of participating teams is equivalent to the number of participating universities. Exemption may apply in the event of a written confirmation by the Directors of the Tournament.

All registration steps must be completed, otherwise the team might be unable to participate in the Tournament. After the completion of the registration process, Organizing Team will publish, before the start of the Tournament, the complete list of participating universities.

## **2.2 Team Members**

All students, who meet the following criteria, are eligible to participate and be nominated by the participating institution or law school before the deadline announced by the Tournament organizers:

- Student must be enrolled in the university represented throughout their participation in the Tournament.
- Student must be registered in a law program or in a program that includes law as part of its curriculum.
- Student must not have participated in the prior editions of the Tournament.
- Student may not be part of the Organizing Team as a student organizer.

Teams must submit proof of enrollment of their members to the Organizing Team via email to [competitions@coraxfoundation.com](mailto:competitions@coraxfoundation.com).

Teams may not include former students or former participants other than in the capacity of a coach or advisor.

## **2.3 Registration Fee**

For the purposes of participation in The Hague Inter-University Law Debate Tournament ed 2023, three registration steps must be completed:

- (i) registration of team,
- (ii) nomination of participants, and
- (iii) payment of registration fee (or nomination of no less than 2 potential judges).

Registration fee for the purposes of ed 2023 is set at maximum of 350 EUR. The payment instructions will be provided after the completion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> registration step – ie. nomination of participants.

The registration fee must be paid by 30 January 2023 in order to participate in the Tournament, unless a waiver was given or the Organizing Team specifically agreed in writing to a later date. The payment

instructions will be provided after the completion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> registration step – ie. nomination of participants.

Every registered team has the option to request waiver of registration fee by way of choosing the alternative to the registration fee. This must be done before the registration fee is paid. This waiver is granted when the team nominates no less than 2 potential judges. Members of teaching faculty, alumni or external network of the participating institutions may be nominated as potential judges so with minimum of Master level education in law (or its national equivalent). The Organizing Team will always inform the team of the registration fee waiver in writing after confirming the availability of the nominated judges.

The nomination of judge(s) does not automatically mean waiver of the registration fee unless specifically confirmed in writing by the Organizing Team through the official email channel.

Should a team pay the registration fee and withdraw prior to the 1 February 2023, the fee will be refunded in full, less any bank charges incurred. The registration fee will not be refunded for teams withdrawing after the 1 February 2023.

#### **2.4 Team Selection and Number of Participating Teams**

Each participating institute is free to choose their own method of internal selection, so long as it results in a team of 2 to 3 students eligible to participate in the Tournament. Should they wish to organise an internal version of the Tournament or organizational support from the Corax Foundation, they must apply for the relevant license via email to [competitions@coraxfoundation.com](mailto:competitions@coraxfoundation.com).

Teams must be made up of a minimum of two and a maximum of three students. In the case of two members, one member will be responsible for two roles during the debate. Delegation of roles within the team is left to the discretion of the teams.

Regarding the internal phase of each university, and because each university may have a different selection system of students to represent the university, each university can decide the number of students participating in the internal phase per team. At the end of the internal process, the university will nominate two or three students for the Inter-University Tournament. To have the widest possible choice, it is encouraged to ask all students enrolled in a higher education program to apply before selection takes place.

## **3. Format of the Tournament**

### **3.1 General**

The Tournament comprises several debate rounds structured in 2 stages:

- Group Phase
- Elimination Phase

Majority, if not all, matches shall be via video conference. All official matches are livestreamed and published.

Each match day shall be held no less than 10 days after the previous one. The reason is to give sufficient time available for the announcement of the results of the previous match day and to inform the teams of the subject of the next match. The subjects (debate statements) are announced minimum 7 days before each match. An updated scoreboard will be published for all participants and the public after each complete round with all results.

### **3.2 Group Phase & Elimination Phase**

During the Group Phase, each match won is rewarded with 3 points. Should there be a tie, each team shall be awarded 1 point. Each lost match is rewarded with 0 points. Only the top two teams from each group can advance to the next round after the group stage. Should there be teams with an equal total score in the group, to determine which team advances to the next round, here are the elements to be considered:

- the greatest number of points;
- if there is a tie, the highest total score of each team for all matches played in the group, accumulation of all the scores given by each judge for each match;
- if there is still a tie, the winner of each direct match that has taken place between the teams which have a tie during the group stage, meaning only the matches between the teams concerned by the tie;
- if there is still a tie, the organizers to draw lots between the two teams are in perfect tie.

Should there be less than 1 team eligible to continue from a group, the team with highest average score from the Group Phase that did not qualify to continue shall be offered the spot.

After Group Phase matches (the number of matches depending on the size of the group) the eligible teams proceed into Elimination Phase. In this stage, the team with higher score proceeds into the next round, starting with 1/8 finals.

### **3.3 Post-Elimination Standing Matches**

Post-elimination standings matches may be proposed and organized by the organizing team in addition to the Final and the Match for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Place.

### **3.4 Non-Participation Rule**

In the event of notification of non-participation (no less than 7 days before the match):

If a team decides to no longer participate in the Tournament and informs the organizers at least one week before the match in the eliminatory phase, it will be possible for the organizers to propose to the team that has been waitlisted or defeated in the previous round to participate in the remainder of the Tournament, in place of this same team.

Should a team withdraw from the competition less than 7 days before their next match, the spot shall be forfeited, and their opposing team shall qualify for the next match by default. As such, should a team withdraw from the Tournament less than 7 days before their next match, or should a no replacement be available, the other team shall:

- be awarded the average score of their prior matches should a reshuffle of the matches be impossible (in the group phase), or
- directly proceed to the next stage should a replacement team be unavailable (in the elimination phase).

Should a team withdraw from the match in the Group Phase, it shall receive 0 in terms of available points and the other team shall:

- be awarded the average score of their other matches that took place (in the Group Phase), or
- directly proceed to the next stage should a replacement team be unavailable (in the Elimination Phase).

### **3.5 Teams representing winning institutions from the past editions**

The team representing the winning institution of the previous edition is Seeded Number 1 in the following edition of the Tournament. The edition representing the finalist institution of the previous edition of the Tournament is Seeded Number 2 of the following edition of the Tournament. The Seeded Number 3 is the team representing the institution which reached the 3rd place of the previous edition. The Seeded Number 4 is the team representing the institution which reached the 4th place of the previous edition.

The Seeded Number 1 and the Seeded Number 2 cannot be in the same part of the draw during the Group Phase to avoid that the two teams meet before the 1/4 Finals and to have balanced qualifying chances for the other teams in the same part of the table at least until the 1/4 Finals.

Thus, the Seeded Number 1 can be placed in one of the following groups: A, B, C, or D and the Seeded Number 2 can be placed in one of the following groups: E, F, G or H.

The Seeded Number 3 can be placed in the same part of the draw than the Seeded Number 1 but not in the same group. The Seeded Number 4 can be placed in the same part of the draw than the Seeded Number 2 but not in the same group.

If one of the 4 best institutions of the previous edition does not want to participate to this edition, the teams which got the best ranking following them in the previous edition, admitted to participate, will get those titles of Seeds, depending on the ranking of the previous edition.

### **3.6 Match & Statement Allocation**

During the Tournament, following the format of matches mentioned in this document and depending on the number of participating universities, the allocation of participating teams in groups for the Group Phase takes place by drawing lots and is generated by an application, generation of results at random. The assignment of topics is also done by drawing lots. The order of matches is based on the allocation of groups. The table of the matches of the competition, the general themes of the competition and the agenda of matches are communicated during and after the Opening Ceremony.

Should the teams have conflicting academic schedule that would prevent them from participating in the match, they must inform the Organizing Team no later than 48 hours after receiving the match agenda. The Organizing Team reserves the right to refuse the postponement should it impact the next debate

round. Any postponement, should it be agreed to by the other affected team, may be no more than 3 days after the original date.

The Finals of the Tournament has a fixed date that may not be changed unless extenuating circumstances occur.

### 3.7 Use of materials

Each team has complete freedom to use the materials of their choice during the preparation of the competition matches.

During matches, only non-electronic media are permitted for use by members of the participating team. Reading on the screen of the computer or tablet is not forbidden, but the judges may decide to penalize overt reading with a penalty of -5 points each should they decide that it affected the debate (i.e., a maximum of -15 points).

### 3.8 Format of the Match

Each team has a total of 10 minutes of speaking time, with a specific time window for each of the 4 speaking positions. Teams are free to decide the order of speakers.

In the beginning of the match, each team can use a maximum of 4 minutes for their opening statement. Following the two opening statements (order being: (i) team in favor, (ii) team against), the (adversarial) debate of the match may begin with 6 additional minutes allocated to each team during the debate.

- The first intervention of each team lasts 2 minutes for the first rebuttal.
- The second intervention of each team lasts 2 minutes for the second rebuttal.
- The third intervention of each team lasts 2 minutes to summarize and conclude the team's argument. It is not allowed to introduce new questions or arguments during this third intervention.

	Opening Statements	Rebuttals		Conclusion
<b>Team A</b>	The team will have 4 minutes to conduct the “pro” opening statements.	1st speaker has 2 minutes to present arguments and start rebuttal.	2 <sup>nd</sup> speaker has 2 minutes for rebuttal and to introduce new points.	3rd speaker has 2 minutes for rebuttal and summarize the arguments.
<b>Team B</b>	The team will have 4 minutes to conduct the “con” opening statements.	1st speaker has 2 minutes to present arguments and start rebuttal.	2 <sup>nd</sup> speaker has 2 minutes for rebuttal and to introduce new points.	3rd speaker has 2 minutes for rebuttal and to summarize the arguments.

### 3.9 The Final Match

Should the Final (and Semi-Final) Round be held in person, this part of the Tournament will be hybrid. If the conditions for the organization of the match with the presence of the finalist teams in person are satisfactory, the Final match will take place in The Hague, Netherlands.

## **4. Evaluation & Scoring**

### **4.1 Criteria of Evaluation**

Several elements will be considered for the appreciation of the performance of each match, among them: eloquence, accuracy of knowledge (facts, dates, data, and theories), use of law and relevancy of law used, persuasion, presentation, and demeanor.

Matches are organized to assess each team's oral argument but also their creativity and anticipation of the opposing team's arguments.

Participants should remember that the Tournament is a debate competition. For this reason, a perfect argument does not mean a good performance if it is not well presented. Likewise, eloquence based on weak arguments cannot be a good performance.

Reading while speaking is not forbidden, however, points penalty in the judges' scoring sheet may occur. The deduction for reading is decided at the discretion of the judges.

### **4.2 Scoring sheet**

To compare results between matches and throughout the competition, a rating and scoring system is established to evaluate teams during each match. This system is based on a scoring sheet.

The maximum total score for each team is 300 points, maximum 100 points by each of the three judges. The scores determine the winning team of each match to follow up on the addition of the scores given by each judge of a match. The scores awarded by the judges may be used to determine the best teams at the end of the group stage in the situation of a tie between two teams with the same number of points in the standings.

During the Final and the Match for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, the number of judges may increase to an uneven number of judges (for example, 7, 9 or 11). Therefore, for these two matches, the maximum score of each team depends on the number of judges.

Each team will receive only their scoring sheets along with the results of their match. Should the teams want to compare their scoring sheets, this is up to an individual agreement between the teams. The Organizing Team will not provide this information nor arrange such exchange.

### **4.3 Jury**

The jury for each match may be made up of professionals from a participating institution (professors, lecturers), PhD students and external professionals in the faculty network of the participating institutions or qualified alumni. For a match, the judges cannot be alumni or lecturers in the same institution as either of the participating teams, nor shall they have a same country affiliation as either of the two institutions.

Before the beginning of the Tournament, each judge shall indicate potential conflict of interest to the Organizing Team. The Organizing Team shall take this into account and apply the distribution of matches accordingly.

Every match shall have 3 judges, with the exception for the friendly matches, Semi-Final Round and Final Round. In the latter two, more judges can be called on to evaluate the teams (so long as the number of judges is uneven). Members of the jury can be selected and contacted by the Organizing Team, proposed by the participating institutions (in lieu of administrative fee for participation in the competition) and the Supervisory Committee, or they may volunteer their time themselves.

The criteria for evaluating the performance of the teams during the match by the members of the jury are those listed in the scoring sheet.

### **4.4 Evaluation time**

As the jury members and participating teams are likely to be in a different time zones, judges have up to 2 days to submit the relevant scoring sheets after the match took place.

### **4.5 Sanctions**

Teams whose members break these Rules & Regulations, or that conduct themselves during the Tournament with an inappropriate behavior (in communication with organizers, during accompanying events or during the match(es)) may be disqualified. Such teams will be first given a written notice to correct their actions prior to disqualification being enforced.

Participating teams whose members, in the opinion of the Supervisory Committee or the Organizing Team, act in a way that would cause them or the Tournament to lose its good reputation, may be disqualified. Such teams will be given written notice to correct their actions prior to disqualification being enforced.

#### **4.6 Throwing the match**

Failure to be present during the match or to arrive on time (maximum 15 minutes after the host has called the match) may result in the match being thrown. Team that threw the match may apply for an exemption and request that the match be rescheduled no later than 6 hours after the match. Should the reason be deemed as a valid one by the Organizing Team, the match may be rescheduled only if the other team agrees and is available. In such case, the team that threw the match may have to bear the time burden of accommodating the team that was present. Should such postponement interrupt the next debate round, the Organizing Team will be unable to allow it.

At least two members of each team must be present for a match to take place, to not declare the defeat for the team without two or more members present and victory for the team with at least two members.

In the Group Phase, any team that wins a match without having played it shall receive the score out of 300 for that match that is equal to the average score obtained in all matches played by the team in the Group Phase. This score will be confirmed at the end of the Group Phase only.

The team that loses a match without having played it receives zero points. Any team that refuses to have a match with another team shall be disqualified from the entire competition. The Tournament is a competition where everyone agrees to meet and talk with everyone. It is also a competition that promotes friendship between students from different parts of the world and between knowledge institutes that are universities and law schools. It also offers other accompanying networking events, therefore the teams should always strive to ensure that the dialogue should always remain open.

#### **4.7 Disputes and Complaints**

Judges have full authority, independence, and sovereignty in their decisions of point allocation during each match. Any complaint against this authority during the contest must be written with objective, clear and detailed arguments to the organizers and submitted via email ([competitions@coraxfoundation.com](mailto:competitions@coraxfoundation.com)).

The reason for this procedure is to inform the Organizing Team of possible difficulties during the Tournament. The organizers shall then notify the Supervisory Committee if the reasoning provided by the complaining team is objective and supported by evidence or upon their discretion should such evidence not be present. The decision taken by the Supervisory Committee on a match may change solely because of obvious and exceptionally significant injustice. There is no exception to the previous sentence. Such a decision is final.

The Supervisory Committee may decide, after deliberation with the judges of the match, to authorize the return of a disqualified or eliminated team, if the number of participating teams for the following round of the competition is not sufficient.

Should the complaint arrive after the deadline set by these rules (see clause on Supervisory Committee), the matter will be dismissed.

#### **4.8 Rules of Courtesy and potential suspended participation**

The Tournament is an event where fair play is the general spirit. Collaboration, discussion, mutual aid in a team must be paramount for the participants and in the communications between the teams, the organizers, the supervisory committee and with the judges. The guarantee of the Organizing Team is that

all participants of the edition are given the environment and opportunity to be evaluated solely on their performance during the debates.

Should the circumstances before the formal start of the edition of the competition not allow a such a fair participation chance to a registered team and should the Organizing Team be unable to guarantee the environment and opportunity for such evaluation that no discrimination (be it positive or negative) apply to the affected participants, the team will be informed of suspended participation in that edition. Should an administrative fee be paid by the affected team, this shall be reimbursed without delay. Should a judge be nominated in lieu of administrative fee, the judges will have the option to choose to remain in the Tournament should they wish to. The Organizing Team strives to provide equal and even participation opportunities to all interested participants.

#### **4.10 Acknowledgement of the Present rules**

Participating in the competition includes fully accepting the present rules, the framework, and the development of the organization of the Tournament.

By registering to participate in the Tournament, all participants consent to the rules contained in this document and to the authority of the Organizing Team and that of the Supervisory Committee to change and apply the rules where necessary to maintain the spirit and continuity of the Tournament.

Participants have been informed in advance that visual recordings will be taking place throughout the competition as a n integral part of the Tournament and by participating they reaffirm their understanding that photos, videos, information, and recordings of matches will be taken during the Tournament and that such images and information may be used by the organizers, participating institutes, and partners of the organization of the competition for marketing, public information and invitation needs. The participating students may request that their names be removed from such recordings.

The organizers have the right to mention the names of the Tournament participants and the materials created during, and/or in relation to the Tournament (be it debate matches or articles) without giving the right to remuneration or other benefit for the students or their universities.

By participating in the Tournament, the participating students understand and agree that their work may be reused in part or in whole, solely for the promotion of the competition. Their names and date of the match as well as institution affiliation may be mentioned with the text in all use. The participants may request that their name and study year be removed from such materials.

## 5. Online Rounds

### 5.1 Platform(s)

Online platform for active team participation is WebEx.

Other platforms like Zoom, Teams, Google Meets or similar may be considered if necessary. The criterion of choice for one platform rather than another is the quality of the image and the sound during the use of the platform, the access with an invitation by email or by a link with a password, the stability technique for broadcasting, recording and the possibility of broadcasting the content on YouTube (and when applicable on other platform(s)).

The online streaming and recording platform is primarily YouTube Live, with the option to consider similar platforms like Facebook Live or Twitch.

### 5.2 Publicity of Matches

All official matches are broadcasted and recorded on YouTube and then published via social media. The matches are public and can be viewed by participating institutions, students, and partner organizations. They can be used for the advertising purposes of the participating universities.

Sometimes the match may not be broadcasted publicly. This could be due to technical issues (such as internet connection issues) or due to other concerns. The decision will be duly communicated to the affected teams.

Announcements by the Organizing Team may be made to invite students, judges, faculty members, partner organizations, guests, and the public, to view the matches. The announcements can be relayed by the faculties of the participating institutions on their own intranet, their social media accounts, websites, and similar marketing and/or communication instruments.

The public watching the match does not influence the outcome of the match.

### 5.3 Technical difficulties and connection issues

After the start of the Tournament, and then once again prior to the start of the match, the participating teams will be informed in a timely matter the process of the online match, technical requirements and recommended best practices. Whilst the duration of the match is 30 minutes, it is recommended that all participants reserve 60 minutes to accommodate technical check and potential connectivity issues.

Where a team or a team member is experiencing technical problems prior to the start of the match, they must inform the Organizing Team *immediately* of the problem and the expected time it may take to resolve the issue.

Teams are responsible to ensure they have access to software and hardware, including a stable Internet connection, that allows them to participate in the Tournament.

## **6. Awards**

### **6.1 Awards**

All students participating in the Tournament shall receive a certificate of participation in this year's edition, signed by the Directors and the Chairperson of the Supervisory Committee of the Tournament and emailed to participating institutions and available for download from the official website until the end of July 2023.

- The Finalist Team of the Tournament receives the Finalists' Trophy.
- The Winner of the Inter-University Tournament received the Winner's Trophy of the Tournament.
- The Best Oralist of the Final receives the Best Oralist of the Final's Trophy.

Additional rewards may be announced after the start of the Tournament, should the Tournament sponsors and partners wish to offer specific rewards for the participating students. These may include the Fair Participation Award.

### **6.2 The Best Oralist's Trophy**

During the Final Match, the judges shall choose by vote the Best Oralist of the Final, from the speakers of the match. The student that receives the majority of the votes shall be declared the Best Oralist of the Final. The Organizing Team reserves the right to include the participants of the Match for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, should the audience of the matches be the same and the matches take place on the same day and in the same location. This inclusion is not guaranteed and will be communicated to the affected teams in the timely manner.

### **6.3 Academic Credits**

It is not the role of the Supervisory Committee or the Organizing Team to decide whether academic credits should be awarded to students participating in the Tournament or in the internal selection. This decision rests solely with the participating institutions. The Organizing Team is open to provide confirmation of participation should it be so requested by the participating students.

### **6.4 Miscellaneous**

The winning teams are required to provide a postal address to which any awards can be sent no later than one business day prior to the Final Match.

## **7. Assistance**

### **7.1 Communication**

All correspondence is made by email. Video calls with participating institutions may be held should the teams request it, or Supervisory Committee recommend it. The public is informed through announcements on social networks, websites, and intranet before and after matches

The Tournament is an online competition in its organization with the possibility of having some of the elimination phase matches in person, should the epidemiological and administrative conditions make it possible. All matches are broadcasted and recorded online for evaluation of the teams for the purposes of the Tournament, provision of information, and invitation for the next editions and related activities.

### **7.2 Mentors**

The teams participating in the Tournament are free to receive assistance from their faculty in the preparation of each match. Workshops and training related to the framework and rules of the Tournament can be organized and made available to participating institutions for students during the internal selection and before the Inter-University Tournament. During the Inter-University Tournament and for the preparation of matches, teams are encouraged to seek advice from their professors, lecturers, or expertise external to the faculty.

It is recommended that each participating institution assigns a coach (mentor) for the representative team.

During the official match of the Tournament (and during the friendly matches should they take place), the teams cannot communicate with the coach or any other person that is not a registered member of the team.

### **7.3 Mentor Network**

The Organizing Team may, upon timely request by the registered institution, propose a potential coach for the registered team from its network. After the introduction facilitated by the Organizing Team, the teams and the connected mentor are then responsible for further coordination and communication.

Each institution may also choose to propose a member of their faculty or senior student body (such as a previous participant) to act as a coach for their or a different team.

### **7.4 Internal license**

Should the institution request it, the Organizing Team shall approve the license for an officially recognized internal selection that formally confirms that the internal selection chosen by the participating institution to select their representative team is recognized by Corax Foundation and that the internal organizers follow the official format of the Tournament.

As the license is the only paid aspect of the support provided by the Organizing Team, the Organizing team shall also provide organizational support by providing themes for the internal selection that correspond to curriculum requirements for each institution, coordinate schedules of the matches to fit with the

relevant academic agenda and provision of materials such as assessment forms, feedback rounds, or relevant manuals.

### **7.5 Debate Workshops**

All participating institutions will be given the invitation to participate in debate workshops prior to the start of the Tournament. Such workshops are scheduled to take place prior to the official start of the Group Phase. All participants will be given timely notification of their schedule.

### **7.6 Friendly Matches**

All participating institutions will be given the option to participate in a friendly match prior to the start of the Tournament. Such matches are scheduled to take place prior to the official start of the Group Phase. All participants will be given timely notification with the potential dates for the debate matches.

The friendly matches are dependent on the availability of at least 2 teams that opted to participate. Should specific participation rules apply, the teams that opted to participate in such matches will be given the information in a timely matter.

### **7.7 Possibility to be published**

All participating teams will be given the option to submit for publication a written article pertaining to the debate statement of the match that they participated in after the match results have been announced. Any such submission shall have no effect on the result of the match and is entirely voluntary. Should specific publication requirements apply, all teams will be given the information in a timely matter.

## **8. Contact Details**

All communications in regard to the Tournament should be sent by email to the Organizing Team via [competitions@coraxfoundation.com](mailto:competitions@coraxfoundation.com).