



Young Farmers'  
Clubs of Ulster

Young Farmers' Clubs of Ulster  
475 Antrim Road  
Belfast  
County Antrim  
BT15 3BD

## Competition

## Group Debating

This competition is a great opportunity for all members to showcase their group debating abilities. Competitors are required to speak on a particular topic chosen by the YFCU HQ in advance of the competition. Juniors will be given their topic in advance of the competition.

### Location and Dates

This competition takes place in October with the finals following in November. Exact dates and venues will be distributed to secretaries and leaders by HQ. The first stage takes place within area heats. The second stage, which is the final, takes place in a location determined by the Programming & Development Committee in collaboration with the YFCU HQ to ensure accessibility for all Counties.

### Stage 1

- The venue is determined by YFCU HQ based on available locations and a number of entries.
- Junior topics will be shared via Club Secretaries in advance of the competition heats.
- To facilitate a smooth-running competition, it is important that competitors arrive during the strict registration time.
- The stewards are organised by the County committees for the area heats with names passed onto the YFCU HQ to advise on timings and roles on the evening.
- Following the delivery of your group debate, all members will be awarded proficiencies.
- Those placed 1st and 2nd within each age group e.g. 12-14, per area heat will go forward to the N.I. Finals.

## Stage 2: Final

- Those who have progressed through to the final will be notified by club secretaries and announcements will be made on YFCU social media.
- Judges are arranged by YFCU HQ but all recommendations & suggestions for potential new judges are welcomed.

## Eligibility

Participants must hold a valid full or transit YFCU membership. Competitors may take part only in the Classes for which they are qualified by age. A member can compete in a higher age category; however, a member cannot compete in a lower age category.

## Preparation

- The topic for juniors will be given before the event. The senior topic will be presented on the night, and the competitors will be provided with the information and given the time to prepare the team debate.
- Juniors will get 30 minutes on the night to prepare for the debate. Seniors will get 30 minutes on the night to prepare for the debate.
- Ask your club coaches, officials, and committee for advice if you require further support. Additional training will be provided by your County should your Club Secretary ask for assistance.

Age categories are broken into the following classes:

Class	Age Group	Notes
Class A	11 - 14	For teams of 3 competitors, each aged 11 at the time of the competition or 11-13 on 31/08/2024
Class B	14 - 16	For teams of 3 competitors, each aged 14 or 15 on 31/08/2024
Class C	16 - 18	For teams of 3 competitors, each aged 16 or 17 on 31/08/2024
Class D	18 - 21	For teams of 3 competitors, each aged 18, 19 or 20 on 31/08/2024
Class E	21 - 25	For teams of 3 competitors, each aged 21 - 24 on 31/08/2024
Class F	25 - 30	For teams of 3 competitors, each aged 25 - 29 on 31/08/2023. Those turning 30 in the period 01/05/2024 - 31/08/2025 will be eligible for a further year.

A member may only act up to ONE age category. No member can participate in two debates, however, if a club has insufficient members to complete a team HQ will encourage and facilitate proposals for amalgamating with another club.

### First Speaker

Title	Score
Platform manner, general effect and use of notes	10
Voice production and delivery	20
Introduction, content and ability to present motion	35
Debating techniques and conclusion	35
	100

**Supporting Speaker** - a supporting speaker should drive home the chief points raised by the main speaker for their side and counter points made by the other side. He / She may add new points.

Title	Score
Platform manner, general effect and use of notes	10
Voice production and delivery	20
Debating techniques and conclusion	70
	100

### Junior: 11 – 14, 14 – 16, 16 – 18 age groups

- Junior members will be provided with a theme before the competition.
- 30 minutes to prepare the team debate.
- Participants must speak for no less than 1.5 minutes and no more than 3 minutes.
- The first speaker will sum up for a minimum of 1 minute and a maximum of 2 minutes.
- Scoring will remain the same as previous years with emphasis being placed on their debating techniques.
- Competitors will be given a warning when their speaking time has 30 seconds maximum time left.
- Between each speaker the next speaker will have 30 seconds to prepare before being asked by the chairperson to stand.
- They will then have 10 seconds to stand before a penalty will be enforced. A penalty of 2 points for every minute will be deducted.

- Competitors will be stopped by the chairperson when their speaking time has finished, even if this disrupts their debate.

### **Senior: 18 – 21, 21 – 25 and 25 – 30 age groups**

- The topic will be presented to the team on the night. They will be provided with the necessary resources of information and given 30 minutes to prepare for the team debate.
- Participants must debate for a minimum of 2 minutes and a maximum of 3 minutes.
- First speaker will sum up for a minimum of 1 minute and a maximum of 2 minutes.
- Competitors will be given a warning when their speaking time has 30 seconds maximum time left.
- Between each speaker the next speaker will have 30 seconds to prepare before being asked by the chairperson to stand.
- They will then have 10 seconds to stand before a penalty will be enforced. A penalty of 2 points for every minute will be deducted.
- Competitors will be stopped by the chairperson when their speaking time has finished, even if this disrupts their debate.

### **Proficiencies**

Proficiencies are awarded at the area level along with feedback.

### **Discipline**

Appoint one person in the Club who will be responsible for the Club member's behaviour during the competition.

### **Protests**

See Protests in the General Rules section.

The Executive Committee of the YFCU reserves the right to cancel or amend any of the foregoing rules as it may consider necessary.

### **Prizes**

12 – 14, 14 – 16, 16 – 18, 18 – 21 age groups receive 1st, 2nd & 3<sup>rd</sup> certificates and the 21 – 25 and 25 – 30 age groups receive a first-place cup and certificates and second and third place certificates.