

Contest Rules and Mechanics

The Discussion: An Oral Debate Series

MMCL Cup 2025

PARTICIPANTS' ELIGIBILITY AND REGISTRATION

- Only one team per category per school may join The Discussion: An Oral Debate Series for each division:
 - First division: Junior High School (Grade 7-10)
 - Second division: Senior High School (Grade 11-12)
- Each team must be composed of four (4) bona fide Junior High School Students and/or four (4) Senior High School Students enrolled in the School Year 2025-2026.
- Each member of the team must NOT be a contestant in other academic contests (under the Knowledge Categories) of the MMCL Cup 2025.
- Registration is REQUIRED. Registration forms can be accessed via <https://bit.ly/TheDiscussionJHSRegForm> (for JHS) and <https://bit.ly/TheDiscussionSHSRegForm> (for SHS) shall be submitted through <https://bit.ly/MapuaMCLCup2025SubBin> together with the student's school ID.
- The deadline for registration is on **October 17, 2025**. Incomplete or late registration is a ground for disqualification.
- Participants, faculty advisers, and coaches will be provided with waiting rooms/areas while attending the events. Pre-registration is required.
- In order to ensure preparedness among participants, all are required to attend a Campus Tour and BlackBoard Learn (BBL) training. The MMCL CUP 2025 Steering Committee will organize this event.

SCOPE AND COVERAGE

- This competition aims to open opportunities for students to enhance their intellectual and communicative skills through analyzing social problems and delivering factual and well-constructed arguments in a professional manner.
- General topics include relevant societal problems being faced today such as:
 - Mpox Cases
 - Environmental Sustainability
 - Human vs Artificial Intelligence
 - Misinformation
 - National Budget Priorities
 - National Security
 - Cybercrime
 - Constitutional Reform (Charter Change)
 - Economic inequality

- o Electoral Reforms
- o Pedagogical Approaches in Education
- o Educational Reforms
- o Curriculum Relevance
- o Education-Employment Mismatch
- o Educational Disparities

GENERAL CONTEST GUIDELINES

- o There will be two rounds in the competition: **Preliminary and the Final Round**

Preliminary Round

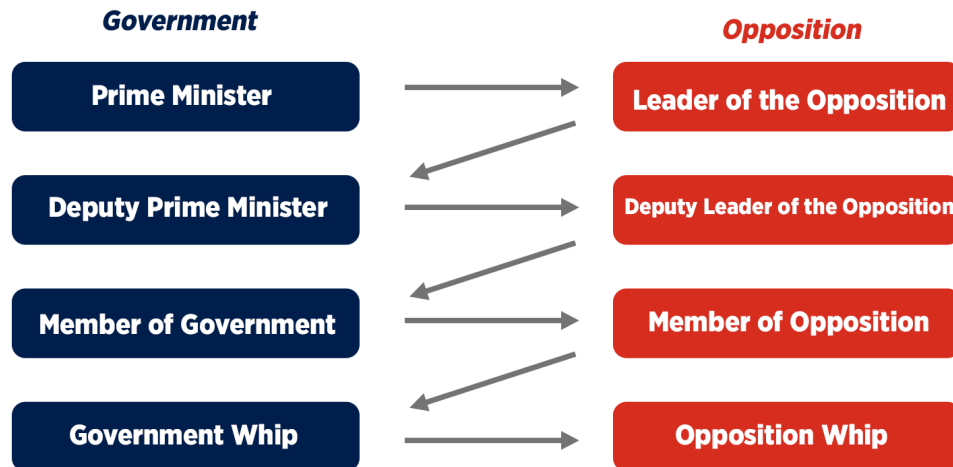
- o The preliminaries will be conducted on a Face-to-Face set-up
- o Each team should choose a team captain and have their own team name.
- o Specific topics and sides of the proposition will be given the same day of the preliminaries where participants will be given time to research information and construct their arguments regarding the topic given.
- o The competing teams will be assigned by the organizers randomly using an online randomizer.
- o The elimination will continue until 4 teams are left.
- o The last four teams to win in the Elimination Round will proceed to the Final Round

Final Round

- o The Final Round will be conducted on a Face-to-Face set-up.
 - o For this round, all four specific topics will be given to the participants on the same day.
 - o The competing teams will be randomly selected LIVE using a randomizer.
 - o Whoever wins in the online coin toss will have the advantage of picking either their proposing side or the topic they want to compete in.
 - o The first two winners in this round will compete for the 1st and 2nd place while the losing teams will compete for the 3rd and 4th place.
 - o The decision of the adjudication panel is final.
- Other provisions including policies on Raising Clarifications and Objections on the mechanics, or the conduct of the contests; and other relevant policies are stated in the General Guidelines on Registration, Eligibility, and other Information in a separate document. All contestants, coaches and advisers are required to read to fully understand the mechanics of MMCL CUP 2025 events.

SPECIFIC DEBATE MECHANICS

- This tournament adapts a modified British Parliamentary Debate Style.
- The first speakers should raise points and tackle the practicability aspects of their propositions. Important terms shall also be opened.
- Each speaker will be given 5 minutes to deliver their arguments and rebuttals.
- Point of Information can only be raised after the first minute and before the last minute of delivery of the current speaker.
- Arguments must be supported by facts from reliable sources.
- POI's shall be in the form of a question and must not last for more than 15 seconds.
- Speakers shall avoid using logical fallacies and vulgar words to their arguments. The adjudication panel reserves the right to force stop a speaker if they delivered something malicious and/or deemed inappropriate.
- Each speaker should take at least one (1) Point of Information from the opposing team
- The Whips are not allowed to open a new argument/case during their speeches.
- Speakers who will exceed the 5-minute mark will receive corresponding deductions:
 - o 1-15 seconds = 0.5 pts
 - o 15-30 seconds = 1 pt
 - o 31-45 seconds = 1.5 pts
 - o 45-above = 3 pts



CRITERIA FOR JUDGING

CATEGORIES	PERCENTAGE
Organization & Clarity Main arguments and responses are outlined in a clear and orderly way.	20%

Use of Argument Reasons are given to support the resolution	30%
Use of cross-examination and rebuttal Identification of weakness in team's arguments and ability to defend itself against attack	30%
Presentation Style Tone of voice, clarity of expression, precision of arguments all contribute to keeping audience's attention and persuading them of the team's case	20%
Total	100%

AWARDS AND PRIZES

The Top 3 schools will get a corresponding point to vie for the Overall Winners of MMCL Cup 2025.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For inquiries about event, please contact:

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