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Wellington

24 February 2011

Dear coaches and students,

Welcome to the Senior Premier B Grade for 2011. I hope you're looking forward to another fun and challenging year of debating in the Wellington region. My name is Udayan and I will be convening the grade this year.

Times and Venues:

All rounds will be held on Tuesday nights throughout the year. For all debates except for the final, we will be starting the debating at 7pm, so I'd ask that you make an effort to arrive at the host school by 6.45pm so we can get underway promptly. Though the exact venues haven't been finalised yet, the majority of rounds will be held in central Wellington.

I appreciate that this might be a bit of a hassle for some, but the reason for this is mainly to make it easier for the university students to volunteer their time to come and judge the grade. The feedback which these adjudicators provide is a great asset of this competition and has seen the overall quality of competition dramatically increase and is a distinctive feature of the grade which we think is worth preserving.

Grade Details

There are twenty-two teams which have entered the grade this year. The grade will be run in a similar fashion to previous years. There are five preliminary rounds of debates. The first two debates will be prepared debates, and the topics are attached with the schedule below. The other three will be limited preparation, with the general topic area being announced in advance but the actual motions only announced 30 minutes before the debates.

The draw for this year will be power-paired. This means that the team pairings for the first round will be randomised, and then in every subsequent round the draw will match up teams of similar strength, on the basis of their number of wins as well as the strength of their draw.

Knockout Rounds

After the five rounds, the top eight teams will progress to the quarter-finals. Quarterfinalists will be determined by applying the following criteria:

1. Number of wins;
2. Strength of opposition (ie, 'who beat whom');
3. Win points (total wins of opposition teams);
4. Coin Toss.

The quarter-finals will be limited preparation debates. The semifinals and final will both be prepared debates. Topics for those will be released at a later date.

Communication

I will be communicating extensively by email so please ensure that you check your inbox regularly and pass on any relevant information to your teams. I will also keep the WSU website updated with draws, results and topics throughout the year so remember to check www.wsu.co.nz for information as well.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me, now or throughout the year. My contact details are below and I check my email regularly and will reply to any queries within 1-2 days. Thanks very much for entering a team and I'll see you all at Round 1!

Yours sincerely,

Udayan Mukherjee
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Premier B Debating 2011

The Draw

Round 1: Tuesday 22 March

Venue: TBC

Time: 6.45pm for 7pm start

Topic: This House supports the partial floating of State-Owned Enterprises on the New Zealand Stock Exchange

Affirmative

HIBS
St Bernard's College
St Catherine's College
Tawa College
Samuel Marsden
Heretaunga College
St Oran's College
Wellington East Girls' College
Hutt Valley High School
St Patrick's College
Wellington Girls

Negative

Sacred Heart College
Paraparaumu College
Wellington College
Queen Margaret College
St Mary's College
Scots College
Taita College
Onslow College
Wellington High School
Chilton St James
Upper Hutt

Round 2: Tuesday 17 May

Venue: TBC

Time: 6.45pm for 7pm start

Topic: That all states should have the right to develop nuclear weapons

Round 3: Tuesday 31 May

Limited Preparation Debate

Venue: TBC

Time: 6.45pm for 7pm start

Advised Topic Area: Crime and Punishment

Round 4: Tuesday 14 June

Limited Preparation Debate

Venue: TBC

Time: 6.45pm for 7pm start

Advised Topic Area: Religion

Round 5: Tuesday 28 June

Limited Preparation Debate

Venue: TBC

Time: 6.45pm for 7pm start

Advised Topic Area: Censorship

Quarterfinals: Tuesday 9 August

Limited Preparation debates

Venue: TBC

Time: 6.45pm for 7pm start

Advised Topic Area: Middle East Politics

Semifinals: Tuesday 23 August

Venue: TBC

Time: 6.45pm for 7pm start

Topic: To be announced

**Premier B Final for the Fred McComish Trophy:
Tuesday 13 September**

Venue: Turnbull House

Time: 7:30pm

Topic: To be announced