



OPEN TRIAL FOR WIDPSC 2023 TEAM

Date: January 7, 2023 8am - 4PM

Venue: Diocesan Boys' School

We cordially invite students to participate in an open trial to represent Hong Kong at the World Individual Debating and Public Speaking Championship 2023.

Competitors will compete in 4 categories to decide who will be a member of Team HK at the WIDPSC 2023, held in Durban, South Africa from March 26 to April 2.

Dates to note:

Registration deadline: Monday, December 12

Deadline for Payment: Monday, December 26

Tentative Schedule on January 7

Morning session:

- 8:15 - Registration
- 8:30 - Welcome & Competitor Q&A
- 8:45 - Release of motions for debating round
- 8:50 - 9:20 - Briefing for judges
- 9:30 - 10:30 - **Debating**
- 10:40 - 11:50 - **Persuasive / After-dinner Speaking**
- 11:50 - 12:50 - Lunch break
(Students should bring their own lunch)



Afternoon session:

- 12:50 - 13:05 - Briefing for judges
- 13:10 - 14:00 - **Interpretive Reading**
- 14:10 - 14:45 - **Impromptu Speaking**
- 14:45 - Tabulation of results
- 15:30 - Announcement of results
& Prize-giving Ceremony

Each school is invited to nominate **up to 4 students** to enter the trial. **

Each competitor's scores will be tabulated after 4 events and the top 10 competitors will qualify to become part of Team Hong Kong at the WIDPSC 2023. Should a competitor decide not to join the national team, their place goes to the next highest positioned competitor (i.e. 11th place).

** *Schools must supply one adjudicator, who must be an adult or a former national team member, for every two participants. (Three participants will require two adjudicators.)*

Please note:

- Competitors should prepare either a Persuasive or After-dinner speech, not both.
- No props are allowed for any of the speech categories.
- **Dress code:** Competitors should dress formally.
- To find out more about these categories, there are many exemplars on Youtube. Simply search for 'WIDPSC'. Or watch the 2015 WIDPSC finals held in Hong Kong: https://youtu.be/_AZdiMvB8q0
- **TO REGISTER, go to: <https://forms.gle/bfFtQDwUHBLW6Jn8>**
- For queries, email the HK WIDPSC team at: widpsc.hk@gmail.com
 - We also welcome any unaffiliated judges who are interested in judging. Please email us.

Registration Deadline: December 12

The Speech Categories

Persuasive Speaking

Competitors will present a problem/solution speech between 7 to 9 minutes in length. This speech is designed to persuade and must be on a serious topic of interest to a contemporary audience. This speech must have both a clearly identified problem and solution(s). The proportion of time given to the problem and the solution are entirely at the discretion of the speaker as long as both are present. Different styles and approaches are acceptable. Competitors are expected to have memorised their speeches but may use a single, double-sided note card as a prompt [10cm x 14cm].

After-dinner Speaking

Competitors will present a speech of between 5 to 7 minutes. The speaker has to deliver a speech that must entertain but also inform. The speech should be designed to be delivered from the top table after a dinner. The speaker will have chosen the company, corporation, society or group of diners which will be his/her audience and the judges will assume the role of this imaginary audience. There must therefore be a sound connection between the nominated audience and the content of the speech. Speakers are encouraged to use wit and humour but a comedy routine of one-liners must be avoided. Speeches should be humorous but should have some underlying moral point/criticism. Again, competitors are expected to have memorised their speeches but a single cue card is allowed.

Interpretive Reading

Competitors will read a passage of prose or poetry of their own choosing, lasting between 7 to 9 minutes. The material should have some literary merit, and not be the competitor's own writing. Only the quality of the reading performance & interpretation of the author's intentions will be assessed by the judges. The competitor must give an introduction to their chosen piece of up to one minute in length, and this can be given anywhere during the performance. In terms of the introduction, the competitor is free to decide what information would best help the judges and audience to connect with the reading. The passage/poetry should be read from print, and not be a fully memorised recital. Please note that plays and passages from non-fiction texts e.g. (auto)biographies are not allowed in this event.

Parliamentary Debating

In debating, the speaking times and order of speaking are:

- First Speaker Proposition- 6 minutes
- First Speaker Opposition- 6 minutes
- Second Speaker Proposition- 9 minutes
- Second Speaker Opposition- 9 minutes
- First Speaker Opposition- 3 minutes
- First Speaker Proposition- 3 minutes

Contestants will work with a partner from a different school to propose and second, or oppose and second a motion. The motion will be presented to the teams approximately 45 minutes before the start of the debate. Teams will spend no more than 10 minutes agreeing on a definition, and the remainder of the time preparing their speeches. Teams must agree on the definition before the debate; definitional challenges/parallel debates must be avoided.

Debaters will be judged on the quality of the speakers' arguments and their rebuttals, the organisation/structure of their speech, the clarity and persuasiveness of their speaking style and whether they deployed arguments in a strategic way to win the debate. Points of Information (POIs) should be offered by all speakers at relevant times in the debate. There will be protected time for the first and last minute of the 6 and 9 minute speeches; no POIs can be offered during this time. No POIs can be offered in the 3 minute speeches. Barracking (repeated and aggressive attempts to ask POIs) is strongly discouraged.

Impromptu Speaking

Competitors will be asked to draw, at random, a selection of three unseen topics. They will then be given 2 minutes preparation time before speaking for between 3 and 5 minutes on the topic of their choice from the three provided. The topics will comprise: a word or noun phrase, a short statement, proverb or aphorism a quotation. The competitor may make notes during the two minutes preparation time but must leave all writing on their desk when they perform. They may keep hold of the original topic list while they speak. The speech must be impromptu, and not memorised; it must not be plagiarised from other candidates or from their own Persuasive/After Dinner speech. It can be delivered in any style or format, and can range from serious to humorous. Speeches which have good structure, coherence and meaningful content are encouraged. The topic can be identified at any point in the speech, either explicitly or implicitly, and the chosen topic will be announced by the chairperson at the end of the performance.