

NATIONAL SPACE SOCIETY

# SPUN DEBATES

Rule Book



The **spUN** Debates



# Space Policy & UNiversalization (spUN) Debates

## Rulebook



**Updated Aug. 2024**

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## spUN Debater Code of Conduct

spUN Debate Program participants consent and agree to follow the NSS Code of Conduct. Core values of NSS Code of Conduct within NSS are:

1. Act with integrity, honesty, and respect, in all matters.
2. Demonstrate mutual respect, teamwork, and civility in all Society activities.
3. Conduct open and honest discussion of differences in viewpoint without resorting to \*ad hominem attacks.
4. Adhere to the following NSS policies which may be amended from time to time:
  1. The NSS Nondiscrimination Statement
  2. The Diversity Statement in the NSS Corporate Policies
  3. NSS Policy Regarding Harassment and Discrimination
  4. NSS Conflict of Interest Policy.
5. In connection with any NSS activities, discourage actions or behaviors which are contrary to the core values of the Society as expressed in this Code. Such behaviors would include but are not limited to racial bias, harassment of any kind, intimidation, bigotry, or other nonprofessional behaviors. Refer to your signed copy of the NSS Code of Conduct forms for the complete version.

## spUN Debater Qualification & Eligibility

Applicants for the High School Debate Program must be 14-18 years old by the final date of the competitive tournament. Students who wish to debate at the University Level must be enrolled in a college/university for the academic year of the Debate Program. No prior experience is required to apply to the spUN Debates. There may be a maximum number of entries allowed per school based on the volume of applications. Each applicant is required to fill out an application, in which certain questions are used to score and short-list the applicants.

## spUN Debate Online Course

spUN Debate applicants who are short-listed may be assigned to an online course. If assigned, the debater is required to participate in an online course that helps them understand the basics of debating, the concept of universalization, leadership in debate, and other important skills to help prepare for the tournament. Only applicants who complete the course with satisfactory grades are eligible to participate in the tournament. Participants are then assigned to diverse teams by the organizing committee. Assessments of the online course provide information for the team assignments and coach focus.

## Debater Expectations in a spUN Debate Team

spUN Debater expectations are as follows. Note that all debaters have agreed to the expectations before starting to work with their teams.

1. Meet with your team no less than 80% of the scheduled times (mutually acceptable times will be set by you and your coach). Most coaches meet once/week with the team and there is individual preparation required to fully participate as a great team member (average 1 - 2 hours/week outside of your meeting with the coach) unless the absences are deemed as permissible by the spUN coach.
2. Show a high caliber of involvement and contribution to the team efforts, meeting your coach's requirements in assignments, engagement, etc.
3. Follow the NSS spUN Debate Program Code of Honor (to be provided by your coach).
4. Be available for the debate tournament as noted in the Debate Program Schedule as seen on [spacedge.nss.org](http://spacedge.nss.org)



5. The final round with the last two remaining teams is tentatively scheduled for a virtual debate taking place during the NSS International Space Development Conference.

## Video/Photo Release Forms

spUN Debates participants, including coaches, debaters, and moderators, are required to sign the NSS Video/Photo Release forms. The form, in essence, lists that all spUN Debates may be recorded and used for ANY NSS USE which may include but is not limited to:

- Presentations
- Courses
- Online/Internet Videos
- Media
- News (Press)

The NSS Video/Photo Release forms will be provided to debaters and coaches after participation selection.

## Practice Tournament

Practice tournaments are organized so that the teams get a chance to get comfortable with the rubric, adjudication sheet, and format. It helps them assess their strengths and weaknesses.

Practice debates may use a completely different resolution, but will follow the exact same rubric, adjudication sheet, and format. Instructions for the practice tournament are as follows.

- Participation in the Practice Tournament is not mandatory; however, all of the team debaters must be present in order for the team to participate.
- Rubrics and format must be followed, do not take extra time, and do not speak while someone else is speaking.
- Maintain proper dress and behavior etiquette and treat your team and opponents with respect.
- This tournament is purely conducted to help the debaters practice and learn; hence the judge feedback is final and cannot be challenged.





## Double-Elimination Tournament Bracket

spUN Debates follow a double-elimination bracket. Every team is allowed two losses before they are eliminated. Refer to the SpacEdge Academy website for updates and other information. ([spacedge.nss.org](http://spacedge.nss.org), query 'spUN Debates')

## Roles & Responsibilities During the spUN Debate Tournament

The spUN Debate Program embraces the tenants of the Universalization concept in action and arguments. See [spacedge.nss.org](http://spacedge.nss.org), query 'spUN Debates' for more information on universalization.

- Debater –
  - Strictly follow the guidelines, rulebook and debate rubric.
  - Give all teammates equal opportunity to present.
  - Treat everyone with respect.
  - Remember- the spUN Debates is a co-opetition and not a competition.
- Moderator –
  - Check everyone's technical systems (Internet connectivity, microphone, etc).
  - Maintain the time and flow of the debate.
  - Ensure the spUN Debate format rules are followed.
  - Ensure that the spectators do not cause any disturbance to the debate.

Refer to the potential challenges section for guidelines to handle issues that may occur during the tournament.

## spUN Debate Format

The format for spUN Debates 2025 is available at the SpacEdge Academy website ([spacedge.nss.org](https://spacedge.nss.org), query 'spUN Debates').

Note that each member of the team should have a role to avoid disqualifications. For example, if your team is Affirmative or AFF, each debater will have a role as AFF 1, AFF 2, AFF 3, etc. and they are required to follow their role as listed in the format. Ensure that you have completely understood the format to avoid complications during the tournament. Contact your coach or an organizer if your team requires further clarity.

## spUN Adjudication Sheet

The Adjudication sheet is used by judges to grade debaters in the tournament. Debaters are expected to be familiar with the various categories part of the adjudication as they prepare for the tournament. Find the complete adjudication sheet in the SpacEdge Academy website ([spacedge.nss.org](https://spacedge.nss.org), query 'spUN Debates').

Contact your coach if you have any concerns, or an organizer if your team requires further clarity.



## Potential Challenges

The spUN Debate Program is completely virtual and there may be unavoidable challenges that come up with technology or otherwise. Here are some solutions to potential problems. spUN organizers will resolve unanticipated issues as they appear.

### 1. **Technical issues in the middle of a debate:**

Give the person a minute or so to reconnect and continue, otherwise, a teammate picks up where the interruption happened. Should a teammate be unavailable during the debate due to a technical or personal issue, proof of the technological/personal issue needs to be submitted to spUN organizers as soon as possible after the debate session. If valid proof is not provided, the team may face consequences such as taking a loss or disqualification.

### 2. **Team Participation:**

During the debate **session**, all debaters who are present must participate. Note that you will not be penalized for having a member short, but you will be penalized if it is observed that all present members are not participating.

### **Other concerns**

If you have any concerns throughout the spUN Debates program, reach out to an organizer and they will help as soon as possible. You may reach out to them via email or some other spUN Debate Program accepted communication platform.

## Penalties

If any of the above rules mentioned in this book is broken, the debater may be penalized based on severity; they may be removed from the team immediately or disqualified from participating in any of the spUN Debates. The spUN Debate Program Team will ensure that all concerns are resolved as effectively and judiciously as possible.



## Updates to the spUN Debate Program Rulebook

The Rulebook may be updated, and a notification will be sent to all the participants of the spUN Debates with any future updates. Rulebook updates will also be available on [spacedge.nss.org](http://spacedge.nss.org) (query 'spUN Debates').