

# FAQ: DEBATING WITH TAMPERE DEBATE SOCIETY

## WHY SHOULD I DEBATE?

First of all, because it's loads of fun! Second, by debating you develop a bunch of really useful skills, such as:

- argumentation
- critical thinking
- language skills
- public speaking

You also get to make new friends (we are a surprisingly entertaining bunch!) and have interesting conversations on pretty much every imaginable topic on Earth.

## WHERE AND WHEN DO YOU MEET?

We hold weekly debates on Tuesdays at 5pm in Pinni B room 5078, which can be found on the 5th floor of the building.

## WHAT HAPPENS AT THE WEEKLY DEBATES?

We usually begin with a short presentation or exercise related to some aspect of debating, such as how to build strong arguments or how to structure your speech in a way to make sense. This is then followed by the actual debate (more information on our debate format on the next pages), after which we head to a pub – usually O'Connell's – to eat, drink, chat & be merry.

## WHAT DO YOU USUALLY DEBATE ABOUT?

Anything! Current events, politics, animal rights, human rights, space and aliens, some funny stuff as well... You name it, we debate it. The common theme in our topics is that no special knowledge about the subject is needed. You can also suggest a topic you'd like to debate about.

## DO I HAVE TO PREPARE FOR THE WEEKLY DEBATES BEFOREHAND?

No, there's no need to prepare – just bring yourself, and preferably a pen and some paper as well.

## **WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE ANY EXPERIENCE IN DEBATING?**

It doesn't matter if you've never debated before – just come to one of our weekly debates, and we'll be happy to introduce you to debating

## **I'M INTERESTED IN DEBATING BUT I'M FEELING NERVOUS / INSECURE.**

It's natural to feel nervous when speaking in front of other people, especially at the beginning. Just remember that the main purpose is to have fun and that nobody expects you to be perfect! Participating in debates is voluntary, so if you feel like it, you can simply sit back and watch.

## **WHAT IF I CAN'T PARTICIPATE EVERY WEEK?**

No problem, simply come by when you feel like it and when you have the time! Obviously, the more weekly debates you are able to attend, the more you learn about debating though!

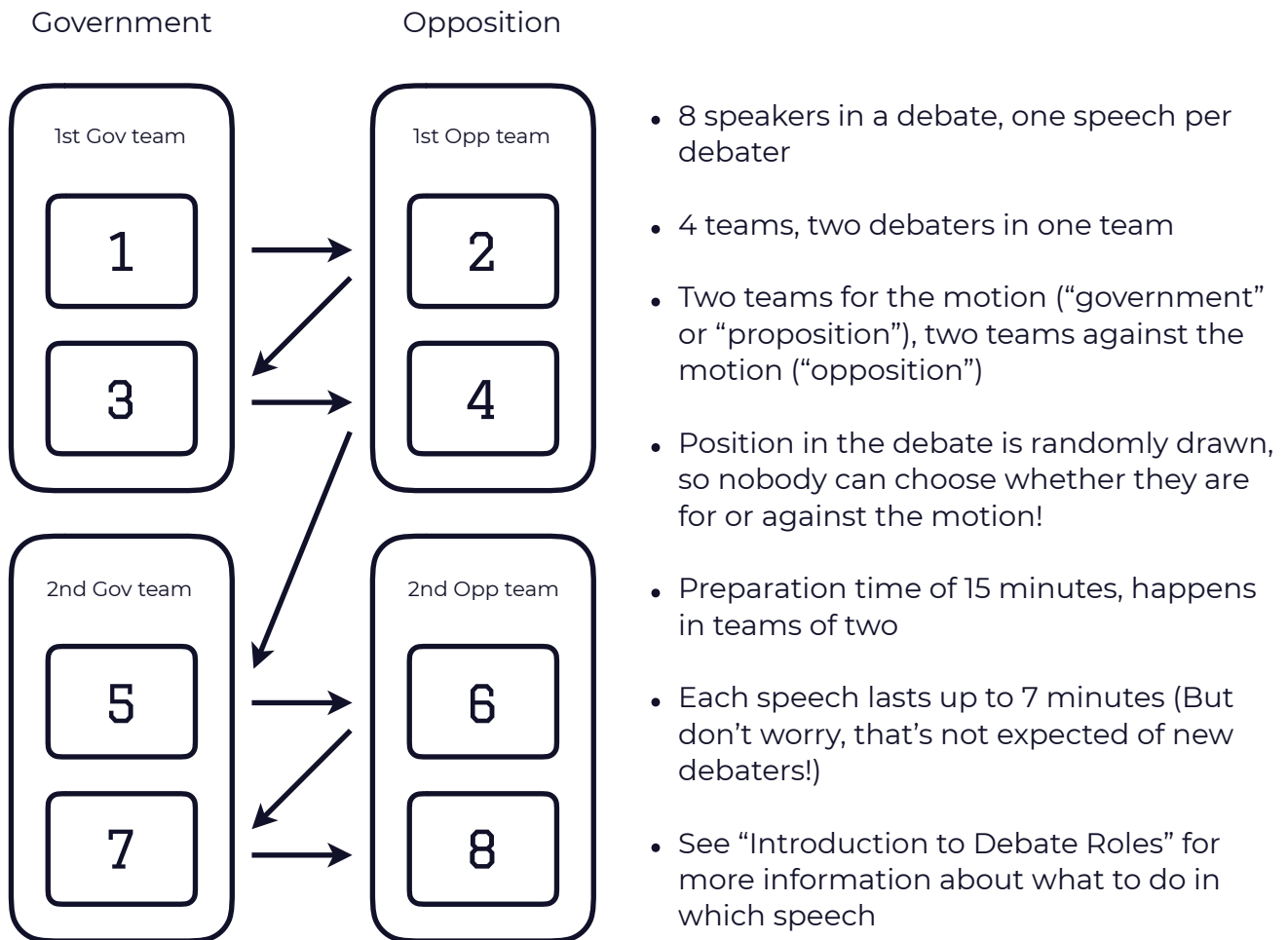
## **WHAT ELSE DOES TAMPERE DEBATE SOCIETY DO?**

We arrange other debate-related activities, such as debate workshops and visiting other debate societies or welcoming them to Tampere. We also arrange sauna evenings & other informal get-togethers. Some of our members also like to take part in different debate tournaments taking place in Finland or abroad.

Obviously, all of our activities are voluntary, so no worries if the thought of attending a debate tournament makes your skin crawl – just pick the activities you like best and be happy!

# WORLD UNIVERSITIES DEBATE CHAMPIONSHIP (WUDC) FORMAT

## INTRODUCTION TO WUDC DEBATE FORMAT



### POINTS OF INFORMATION:

- Debaters on the other side can offer ‘Points of Information’ to the speaker **after the first and before the last minute of the debate speech**
- Pol’s can be questions or comments
- Pol’s should be asked and answered very quickly, max 15 seconds
- When someone wants to offer a Pol, they should stand up
- The speaker has the right to refuse the Pol being offered, in which case
- the person offering it must sit down
- Everyone should offer many Pol’s during the debate and
- Everyone should **accept two of them** during their speech

# INTRODUCTION TO DEBATE ROLES

