Guidelines and Instructions – All-Island English Oratory Competition

1. Eligibility

- Open to all students across Sri Lanka who are between 14 years and 19 years on 3rd August 2025 (Date of Birth between 4 August 2005 and 3 August 2011)
- The competition is open to students enrolled in any recognized educational institution.

2. Speech Topic: Round 1

- Prepared speech (3 - 4 minutes) on **any issue of the participant's choosing concerning international affairs**.
- Participants must submit their entry via the Google Form which opens on clicking "Click here to submit application" on the competition webpage.
- Submissions must be via the official competition portal on or before 3rd August 2025. Submissions made after midnight on 3rd August 2025 are liable to be rejected.
- The topic chosen must be approached in a reasoned, logical, and respectful manner. Emotional conviction is welcome, but the position must be supported by logical reasoning.

3. Freedom of Expression

- Freedom of thought and expression is central to this competition.
- Participants are encouraged to present original viewpoints, including those that challenge conventional opinion.
- No participant will be penalized merely for taking a controversial stance.
- However, the delivery must at all times remain respectful. Hate speech (speech vilifying others on the basis of ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or similar grounds), gratuitous personal attacks, and incitement to violence will not be tolerated.

4. Language and Delivery

- Speeches must be delivered entirely in English.
- Reading from a script is discouraged; use of brief notes is permitted.
- Clear articulation, persuasive reasoning, and confident delivery will be key judging criteria.

5. Judging Criteria

Judges will assess each speech on the following:

- Content – originality, logic, structure, relevance
- Delivery – voice, expression, pace, confidence
- Engagement – connection with audience, rhetorical impact
- Reasoning and Evidence – how well the argument is supported

8. Video Submission Guidelines

- Participants must submit a video recording of their speech.
- The video file must be under 100MB in size.

To ensure this:

- Do not record in high-definition (HD). Use standard definition (SD) settings such as 480p.
- Avoid using filters or enhancements that increase file size.
- Keep the background and lighting simple to reduce visual data load.
- Please record your submission in an environment in which there is no background noise, and ensure there is adequate lighting.
- The recording must adequately cover at least your head, face and shoulders. You may choose to sit or stand while delivering the recorded speech. However, if recording

If your file exceeds 100MB:

- Use free online video compressors
- Alternatively, you may send the video to a friend, family member or to yourself via WhatsApp and re-download it — WhatsApp automatically compresses videos and significantly reduces file size.
- If using a phone, most camera settings allow you to reduce resolution manually before recording.