

Rules for SAARC Debate Contest

1. The Contest will be held in English on a given topic. Two debaters from each SAARC member State will take part in the Contest. One debater will speak in favour of the topic while other will speak against it. First three top position holders will be given cash prizes.
2. Each speaker will be given 5 minutes. First bell will sound after 4 minutes from the start of the speech and the second after 5 minutes. On the second bell, the speaker shall have to leave the rostrum. Excess time taken will lead to negative marking by deducting 5 marks per minute.
3. There will be a panel of 3 Judges for the Debate whose decision shall be final.
4. The Judges can disqualify any speaker, if found using un-parliamentary language, giving personal remarks or consulting papers/notes.
5. Debaters from member States shall be called in ALPHABATIC order of the name of the country.
6. Payment of TA/DA to the participating students and the Coordinator coming with them will be paid by the SAARC countries while the local hospitality would be the responsibility of the host country.
7. 1st, 2nd and 3rd top position holders will be given a cash prize of US\$1,500/-, US\$1,250/- and US\$1,000/- respectively along with a certificate and a Shield as memento of his/her participation in English & Urdu debates.
8. Local female debater will be allowed to bring her mother/sister, etc. if she so likes. but they would have to share accommodation with the debater herself. The guests will be given hospitality for three nights only and anyone staying beyond that period would have to pay for the lodging/boarding himself/herself.
9. Every SAARC member State is expected to hold debates at their national level and select the two top English debaters for the SAARC Debate Contest to be held in the capital city of the member country in December every year on rotation basis. First such contest will be organised by Pakistan in its Capital City of Islamabad.
10. Every SAARC member State will send two debaters and one Coordinator.