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Virtual EPC 2020 – Rules of the Road (12/26/2021)

1. Timing and breakout rooms

- There will be at least 4 breakout rooms for the Zoom event. The number of breakout rooms may vary depending on the number of contestants in each level. In general, four breakout rooms include:
 - Elementary
 - Middle School
 - High School
 - Poster and Multimedia
- The speech times will remain at 3 to 8 minutes as below:
 - 3 min (Level 1);
 - 4 min (Level 2);
 - 5 min (Level 3);
 - 6 min (Level 4);
 - 7 min (Level 5);
 - 8 min+ 2 min Q&A (Level 6)
- A maximum of 2 minutes will be allowed in between speeches.
- **TIMING SUMMARY:** (a) speech: up to 3 or 8 minutes; (b) cross examination: up to 3 minutes; (c) interstitial time (between the cross examination period and the next speech): up to 2 minutes.
- **CAVEAT:** The judge of each debate is the ultimate arbiter of time.
- **NOTE:** At the end of the hour allotted for each debate, all breakout rooms will automatically close and everyone will be routed back to the main room.

2. Communication

- The Zoom chat window should not be used for non-EPC related matter.
- Just like an in-person presentation, no help is to be provided to a speaker while they are speaking.
- Under no circumstances should speaker receive instruction from coaches, parents, or anyone else while the speech is in session.

[Virtual EPC Rules of the Road – subject to change](#)

3. Zoom/Virtual Etiquette:

- All speakers will be required to have their webcam turned **on** when speaking.
- Everyone signed into the EPC 2021 Zoom meeting must follow the following name designations (*cf.* “Logistics”, below).
 - Speakers
 - In the **main room**: Name + Level (e.g. “Sadia Siddiqui, Level 1”)
 - Non-Speakers: Name + Function + Level you would like to accompany (if applicable) (e.g. “Abul Kalam, Judge”; “Sara Rahman, Coach, Level 3”; “Hosam Estwani, Spectator, Level 5”).
- Everyone who is not speaking must be on MUTE.
- Everyone should keep their cameras ON prior to event commencement and turn their cameras OFF, except for the speaker(s) and judge(s).
- CAMERA SUMMARY: (a) everyone (including spectators) has their camera ON prior to the event; (b) once event commences, everyone turns their camera OFF, except the speaker(s) and judge(s).
- Speakers will stand when speaking and face the camera.
- Virtual backgrounds that have any motion are prohibited.
- Speakers will be dressed modestly the same way they would at an in-person tournament.
- No chats will be permitted during the event in the Zoom chat window (*cf.* “Communication,” above).
- Judges will use the Zoom “clap” feature 1 minute prior to stop time and will call time at stop time.

4. Logistics

- Device audio/video must be verified and cross-checked prior to the event day. For example, the coaches or parents can check devices or the speakers can check each other’s devices (*cf.* “Internet Interruption”, below).
- Everyone **must stay in the Zoom meeting for the whole event**. If someone leaves the meeting by mistake, they can rejoin by using the Zoom link and will be directed to where they want to go (*cf.* “Level 2 for example”, above).
- Name designation must be strictly observed (*cf.* “Zoom/Virtual Etiquette”, above).
 - Speakers

- In the **main room**: Name + Team (e.g. “Sadia Siddiqui, MUNA 1”)
 - Non-Speakers: Name + Function + Team you would like to accompany (if applicable) (e.g. “Abul Kalam, Judge”; “Sara Rahman, Coach, Level 3”; “Hosam Estwani, Spectator, Level 2”).
- Each speaker should login using a unique address that is not shared by others.
- To improve bandwidth, limit internet usage by others in the home as much as possible (e.g. avoid streaming of video, gaming, etc. on other devices by others in the home).

5. Internet Interruption

- In the event that a speaker’s speech drops or becomes incomprehensible because e.g., the speaker’s device malfunctions or because of Wi-Fi/internet connection issues, the speaker should immediately call into the EPC 2021 Zoom meeting and will be directed back to their breakout room to complete their speech. Call-in information will be made available in advance.
- In the event the speaker is unable to call into the Zoom meeting, or if it takes too long, they may take other measures such as calling someone who may put them on speakerphone to complete their speech and respond to cross examination (if applicable).
- Please note that others may **not** speak on behalf of the dropped speaker.
- The speaker may **not** get an extension in speaking time in case of interruption.
- The judges will determine their score based on what the speaker could communicate comprehensibly.
- To avoid such issues to the greatest extent possible, each speaker should cross check their device audio/video prior to tournament day and minimize parallel internet usage within the home (*cf.* “Logistics”, above).