



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

TTSEC

NATIONAL INVESTING DEBATE COMPETITION

RULES AND GUIDELINES

Theme: “Our Virtual Assets”

Aligned with Ministry of Education (Trinidad and Tobago) Education Competition Standards

1. GOVERNANCE AND APPROVAL

- 1.1 The competition is conducted with the approval of the Ministry of Education (MoE), Trinidad and Tobago.
- 1.2 All official communication with schools shall follow MoE protocols through Principals and District Offices.
- 1.3 The TTSEC shall comply with MoE requirements on safeguarding, data protection, and reporting.

2. ELIGIBILITY

- 2.1 Eligible participants:
 - Students/Debate Teams of Government and Government-Assisted Secondary SchoolsNote: Each institution may register up to two (2) teams unless otherwise approved.

3. TEAM COMPOSITION AND SUPERVISION

- 3.1 Each team shall comprise:
 - At least three (3) student Debaters
 - One (1) supervising teacher or lecturer
- 3.2 The supervising teacher is responsible for student supervision, conduct, and liaison with organizers, in accordance with MoE standards.

4. REGISTRATION

- 4.1 Registration must be completed via the official form during the announced registration period by the TTSEC.
- 4.2 Late or incomplete registrations will not be accepted.
- 4.3 Upon registration, teams will receive official rules, schedules, and approved educational resources.

5. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

- 5.1 The Debate Competition consists of:
 - Preliminary Round
 - Semi-Final Round
 - Final Round
- 5.2 Debates shall follow a standardized format including opening statements, rebuttals, and

closing arguments.

5.3 Motions and time allocations will be communicated in advance.

6. CONDUCT, SAFEGUARDING, AND ETHICS

6.1 All participants must adhere to:

- The MoE Code of Conduct
- Institutional rules/regulation
- Principles of respect, fairness, and professionalism

6.2 Academic dishonesty, disruptive or unsafe behaviour may result in disqualification.

6.3 Student welfare and supervision shall be always maintained in accordance with MoE safeguarding standards.

7. USE OF SOURCES/RESOURCES

7.1 Students are encouraged to use credible academic, regulatory, and policy sources/resources.

7.2 All information must be accurate, properly represented, and appropriately cited.

8. JUDGING AND ASSESSMENT

8.1 Judges shall be independent professionals with expertise in education, finance and investing, regulation, or communication.

8.2 Assessment criteria (MoE-aligned):

- Knowledge & Understanding – 25%
- Analysis & Critical Thinking – 25%
- Argument Development & Rebuttal – 20%
- Communication & Presentation – 20%
- Use of Evidence & Research – 10%

8.3 **Judges' decisions are final.** In the event of a tie, higher scores in Analysis & Critical Thinking shall prevail.

9. EQUITY AND INCLUSION

9.1 All eligible schools shall have equal opportunity to participate.

9.2 Reasonable accommodations may be made in accordance with MoE inclusion policies.

10. AWARDS AND DATA PROTECTION

10.1 Awards shall be granted in accordance with MoE approval, TTSEC policy, and sponsorship agreements.

10.2 All student data and media use shall comply with MoE and TTSEC data protection requirements.

11. ACCEPTANCE

Participation in the competition constitutes acceptance of these Rules and Guidelines.

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