**Typical Oxford Debate format**

1st Affirmative (constructive speech) **5 minutes**

1st Negative (constructive and rebuttal speech) **8 minutes**

2nd Affirmative (constructive and rebuttal speech) **8 minutes**

2nd Negative (constructive and rebuttal speech) **8 minutes**

3rd Affirmative (constructive and rebuttal speech) **8 minutes**

3rd Negative (constructive and rebuttal speech) **8 minutes**

1st Affirmative (rebuttal speech) **3 minutes**

*Complaints of rule violations, misquotations, etc. by either team can be raised at any time. See below for details.*

This can be modified to shorten the segments if desired. (e.g. usually 3 and 5 minute segments)

The procedure for raising a Point of Information is simply to stand and say, “Point of Information.” The interrupted debater can respond by:

1. refusing to entertain the Point and cutting off the opponent and asking him or her to

sit down; or

(b) accepting the Point immediately; or

(c) deferring the Point (indicating that it will be dealt with later during the speech).

If more than one opponent raises a Point at the same time, the interrupted debater may refuse to entertain any of them or may accept one.

A debater whose Point is not accepted must immediately sit down; however, this does not prevent him or her from attempting to raise another Point later on.

If a debater speaks for more than one minute less than his or her maximum speaking time, any

opponent who has not raised a Point of Information is permitted to raise it at the conclusion of the speech. To do so, the debater seeking to raise the point should stand and say, “Mr./Madam Moderator, may I raise my Point now? The honourable member spoke for more than a minute less than his/her allotted time.”

Judges are instructed to penalize the raising of excessive Points of Information.

The practise of “barracking” (team members raising Points simultaneously to disrupt or intimidate their opponent) is not encouraged.

Judges are also instructed to penalize debaters severely for failing to raise, or for refusing to

accept, Points of Information.