

North Region Junior Speechmaking Competition 2026

2026 - Format - Chair, Proposer and Opposer (Club Teams)

2027- Format – Chair, Proposer and Vote of Thanks (Club Teams)

ELIGIBILITY

1. A team will consist of three full members of any one of the Young Farmers Clubs affiliated to the Scottish Association of Young Farmers Clubs. All competitors must not have attained their 19th birthday on the date of the National final.
2. At the time of entry, it will be necessary to indicate who will carry out the duties of Chair, Proposer & Opposer. Members of the winning team of the previous National Junior Speechmaking Competition will be ineligible to compete.
3. No member of the Scottish Association of Young Farmers Clubs may represent more than one club in the Regional or National Competition in any one year

SCORING CRITERIA

The following basis will be used for scoring: Points

The Chair Points

Presence, style, voice and clarity	10	
Originality of remarks, conduct of meeting	15	25

Proposer

Composition of speech	10	
Presence, style, voice and expression	10	
Answers to questions	10	30

Opposer

Composition of speech	10	
Presence, style, voice and expression	10	
Answers to questions	10	30

General impression of team work	15	15
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Total: 100

Marks for incorrect timing will be deducted from the Chairman as follows - two marks for each full minute over or under time on the total team performance.

PROCEDURE

1. One half hour before the commencement of the competition, all club teams, who must be present in their entirety, must report to the Chief Steward at the competition venue in order that the ballot for order of appearance can be made. Failure of any team to report at this time will mean disqualification of that team.
2. All Chair's will be supplied with proforma biographic sheets. This should contain name, club, age, occupation and hobbies/interests. They must complete these as fully as possible prior to this time and hand to the Steward in charge on arrival. The Chair's proformas passed on to the Chair of the competition so that he/she can introduce the Chair of the platform team. These proformas should only be used to introduce the Chair and the chair only; no introduction to topic or teams should be discussed at this time.
3. Competitors may then join the audience but all team members will be required to report again to the Steward in charge not less than 15 minutes before they are due on the platform.
4. The Proposer & Opposer- the Proposer & Opposer will select a subject of their own choosing and will give a talk of approximately four minutes duration each. The Proposer will speak for the subject whilst the Opposer will speak for the opposite point of view.
5. The Opposer is not expected simply to use arguments to destroy the Proposer's text. In this way, both speeches will be positive and the result will be a DISCUSSION AND NOT A DEBATE.
6. Following the speeches there will be a period of questions & answered from appointed Question Masters.
7. A maximum of four minutes is recommended for completion of the questions and answers. The Chair should invite the Question Masters to put at least one question to each of the speakers.
8. The Chair— is expected to take control of the whole meeting and introduce the speakers to the audience and judges. After the speeches are finished he/she will call for the questions from the appointed Question Masters and at the end of the questions; he/she will wind up the team's performance. For all of these duties, three minutes are recommended.
9. Each team member may use brief notes, but speakers will be penalized for reading their speech. Lecterns may not be used.
10. The time allowed for each team is 15 minutes. Other times are only suggested and marking will be on total time only.
11. Marks for incorrect timing will be deducted from the Chair as follows - two marks for each full minute over or under time on the total team performance.
12. Smart phones are not permitted whilst competing other than for time-keeping purposes. If a team is caught using a smart phone during the competition for any other reason by a staff member or steward 5 points will be deducted off their overall score. Deduction will happen after judges scores have been counted.

ENTRIES

13. In the National Finals 4 teams from the West Region, 3 from the East Region and 3 teams from the North Region will be eligible to compete.
14. For the National Finals, it will be the responsibility of the two speakers to ensure that the National Office of the SAYFC is informed of the title of the subject at least 14 days prior to the date of the National Final.
15. Teams may, if they wish, change the subject of their talk for the National Final after the Regional Elimination.

JUDGES

16. The Activities Committee will appoint a panel of three judges. District and Regional Committees will appoint their own Judges.

SUBSTITUTION

17. Team members competing in subsequent rounds of any competition must comprise of at least 50% of the team competing in the previous round. Any member being substituted is not allowed to compete in subsequent rounds of that competition.

PRIZES

18. Prizes will be awarded as follows:-
SAYFC will award certificates to the First, Second and Third teams, as well as the best individual performances outwith the winning team.

Entry Deadline: Friday 23rd October

Entry Fee: £25

Competition Date: Saturday 7th November

Entry Criteria: Club or District teams to Region