

Senior Speechmaking Competition 2025-2026

- 2026** - Chair, Proposer, Opposer & Arbiter (Club Team)
2027 - Chair, Speaker, Question Master & Vote Of Thanks (Club Team)
2028 - Chair and Three Panel Members (Mixed Team)
2029 – Chair, Speaker & Vote Of Thanks (Club Team)
2030 – Chair, Proposer, Opposer & Arbiter (Club Team)

ELIGIBILITY

These rules apply to Regional and National competitions however, it is encouraged that districts and clubs adopt them where possible

1. A Team will consist of four members of any Young Farmers' Club affiliated to the Scottish Association of Young Farmers' Clubs, one of which may be an Associate. All of these members must not exceed the age limit by the date of the National Final.
2. The Club entry will consist of four members: a Chairman, Proposer, Opposer & Arbiter. These members will compete in Club Teams.
3. 50% of the winning team from the previous National Senior Speechmaking finals is eligible to compete.
4. Once a competitor has represented a qualified team, they can not represent at National for another qualified team at this competition in the same year.

SCORING CRITERIA

Marks for incorrect timing will be deducted from the Chairman as follows :-

Points			
	The Chairman		
	Presence, style	5	
	Voice and Clarity	5	
	Originality of remarks, conduct of meeting	<u>20</u>	30
Proposer			
	Opening Speech	15	
	Presence, style, voice & expression	5	
	Reply	<u>10</u>	30
Opposer			
	Opening Speech	15	
	Presence, style, voice and expression	<u>5</u>	20
Arbiter			
	Presence and Style	5	
	Voice & Clarity	5	
	Composition and content of arbitration	<u>10</u>	20
	General Debate and Balance of Team Work		20
TOTAL MARKS			<u>120</u>

Two (2) marks for each full minute over or under time on the total team performance.

PROCEDURE

1. One 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 the order of appearance will be made. Failure of any team to report at this time will mean disqualification of that team.
2. Competitors may then join the audience but all team members will be required to report again to the steward in charge not less than 20 minutes before they are due on the platform.
3. All Chairmen will be supplied with proforma biographic sheets. They must complete these as fully as possible prior to this time and hand to the Steward in charge 30 minutes before they are due on stage. The Chairman's proformas passed on to the Chairman of the competition so that he/she can introduce the Chairman of the platform team.
4. Fifteen minutes before the team is due on the platform, a list containing five subjects: - Agriculture 2, General 2 and Domestic 1 will be handed to the team, with the exception of the Arbiter.
5. The team will be allowed to choose one of the subjects and to discuss it together for a period of five minutes. They shall then be separated for a further period of 10 minutes.
6. The Chairman - The Chairman is expected to take control of the whole meeting. Whilst on the platform the Chairman shall be allowed two minutes for all of the introductory duties.
7. The Proposer/Opposer - The Proposer shall speak initially for three minutes and the Opposer for three minutes. The Proposer shall then be allowed to reply for two minutes. A period of three minutes shall then be allowed for general debate between the Proposer and Opposer.
8. The Arbiter - The Arbiter shall have no contact with the team prior to the performance. The Arbiter shall give, in his/her own opinion, the merits and demerits of the arguments and a decision in favour of one side or the other, and for this, he/she is allowed a period of two minutes.
9. Teams should note that this is not a Vote of Thanks
10. The total time allowed for each team will be 15 minutes. Other times are only suggested and marking will be on total time only.
11. The recommended times for each individual team member/element are as follows:

Chairman	2 minutes	Proposer	3 minutes & reply 2 minutes
Opposer	3 minutes	General Debate	3 minutes
Arbiter	2 minutes.		
12. There should be 3 timekeepers - 2 back stage to supervise the preparation time and 1 front of stage to record individual and total performance time.

13. On stage each team member may use brief notes but speakers will be penalised for reading their speech. Lecterns may not be used.
14. No pre-prepared notes will be permitted by team members with the exception of the Chairman and Arbiter who are permitted skeleton notes only.
- 15. Smart devices will not be permitted unless under special circumstances and approved by organising staff member.**

ENTRIES

The National Finals of this Competition will be held at the date shown at the foot of these rules, when 4 teams from the West Region, 3 teams from the East Region and 3 teams from the North Region will be eligible to compete.

National Competition Date: **Saturday 28th February 2026**

Entry Fee: **£25**

Entry Deadline: **Friday 13th February 2026**

Entry Criteria: **Region to National**