

Join CIDS today!

Colombo Independent Debaters' Society
is a **free & open** forum for any debating
enthusiast to join and debate.

It is a place to learn, improve & have fun! :)

Any student is free to join without any fee or payment (No registration fee, membership fee, annual fee or any sort of charging). Students are free to join any number of practice sessions without any cost. CIDS is a free project and it is open for anyone.

Online practice sessions on every Sunday
at 6.30pm (on Zoom)

Frequently Asked Questions

- What are the benefits of joining CIDS?

You get to debate with students from different schools and get feedback from local and foreign adjudicators. Every practice session is followed by a constructive feedback session. This would help you to improve as a debater. We try out different debating formats, different motion themes and different team line ups with students from different schools and countries teaming up together. Altogether, it is a great learning experience and you get to make friends from different communities.

- Can anyone join CIDS?

Yes, CIDS is an open and free platform for anyone. Any student is allowed to join as a private freelance member and allowed to take part in training. Even university students are allowed to join the platform to improve their adjudicating and coaching skills.

- Can schools join CIDS as well?

Yes. If a school wishes to join, CIDS could help them with the training and coaching of their debating teams. We do help schools to establish debating teams and as well as to restart inactive debating teams.

- How does the CIDS training work?

CIDS is a platform where members help each other to improve. Our general training sessions focus on normal debate practices. However when tournaments are coming up, specific training sessions can be arranged upon the request of members. Specially when SLSDC (Law Facs) or any other important DC tournaments come up, students arrange more practice sessions. Most of the CIDS students as well as CIDS adjudicators are regular participants in DC tournaments, hence CIDS becomes a busy platform during the debating season.

- Does CIDS organize debating tournaments?

The Sri Lankan debating circuit has many quality standard WSDC format school tournaments organized by the Debater's Council of Sri Lanka. Since DC has already covered that aspect well, we like to try out different formats for a change for the students.

Hence we mostly organize tournaments on uncommon formats such as British Parliamentary, Premiere League style etc.

Additionally, we do provide support to our member schools to organize intra school (within school) tournaments such as inter house debating comps etc.

- Does CIDS provide opportunities to take part in foreign tournaments?

Yes. CIDS has a network of international members, who are located in India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Philippines, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, UK, UAE & Australia. CIDS has already established branches in India, Nigeria & Philippines. (Currently working on establishing branches in other countries) Therefore, we receive many opportunities to take part in foreign tournaments. If students are interested and capable, CIDS could coordinate and facilitate such opportunities. We have already taken part in many prestigious debating tournaments in Universities such as Oxford, Cambridge, Yale, New South Wales and many more.

(Please note that the Debater's Council handles the selections and the coordination with regard to international level debates of WSDC. Hence CIDS does not have any affiliation with WSDC international tournaments. We coordinate with foreign entities as an independent debating society and focus on tournaments in formats other than WSDC such as Asian Parliamentary, British Parliamentary, Austral format etc.)

- Are all these foreign tournaments happening online?

Most of them are, and we prefer those since they do not cost much other than the registration fee. However, we do have opportunities to fly and physically take part in foreign tournaments as well. Students can join as long as they are accompanied by a parent.

- Do you have to pay to CIDS at any point?

A payment could only be applicable only under two circumstances. Number one, if any school wishes to recruit a coach from CIDS for full time services and the school is willing to pay the coach a salary. *(In which case it is a transaction between the school and the relevant coach, and no payment has to be made to CIDS.)*

Number two, if a student wishes to take part in a tournament through CIDS, organized by an outside party (mostly international tournaments) which has a registration fee. *(In such case the registration fee should be paid to the organizers of the relevant tournament. Similar to before, no payment has to be made to CIDS.)*

So yes, you do not have to pay CIDS at any point. We are purely a non profit organization.

- What qualification do you need to join CIDS?

You have to be a debating enthusiast, that is all.

You could be an absolute beginner or an expert debater, you could be a middle school student or a university student, you could already be debating in tournaments or you could be someone who just wants to give debating a try and see. As long as you are someone who would enjoy debating and enjoy leaning, CIDS will be a place you would not mind being around.

Oh and one more qualification,

CIDS is a place we help each other and enjoy working together. We have members coming from different schools, communities, races, religions, ages & genders. We want everyone to feel welcome and comfortable in our forum. So you have to be very respectful to other members and be humble to work with others. No one is specially privileged or specifically discriminated in CIDS based on their school, community, race, religion, age or gender. We all work together and learn together and progress together.

So as long as you a cool person with a decent personality and a passion to debate,
CIDS is open for you :)

If you are interested in joining, let us know

<https://forms.gle/ecuxfj5LThYMFfQT6>

Link is in our Instagram bio @cids_srilanka

Or contact us –

Gimhan Sooriyabandara (*President*) +9471 322 3916

Aqeelah Wahid (*Vice President*) +9472 770 9460

Dinuka Perera (*Vice President*) +9476 783 8448

Sanumi Gamage (*Secretary*) +9477 479 4447