

# COUNTY PUBLIC SPEAKING 2026 RULE BOOKLET

## Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Northern Stars Academy Trust, Harrogate High School, Ainsty Road, Harrogate, HG1 4AP  
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**Closing date for all YFYFC competitions:**

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025**



### Club and District Notes for Competitors:

- We recommend you read the rules carefully and decide on the competitions you would like to enter.
- Please enter the competitions via your Club Secretary.
- Junior Reading, Junior Public Speaking, Brainstrust and Debate are a District entry and qualifiers need entering by your District Secretary after your District round. All other competitions (Ten-Minute Speech, Member of the Year, Situations Vacant) are a direct entry from Club and need entering by your Club secretary regardless of if you have done the competition at your District Public Speaking competition.
- Your District will host a district competition, and qualifiers will then go onto compete in the County Competition on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at Harrogate High School.

### County Notes for Competitors:

- **Public Speaking Dress Code: SMART.**
- Junior Member of the Year direct entry from Club, please return your synopsis (preferably typed up) to County Office by 11:59pm **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2025**. Please email your presentation to County Office by Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026, so we can prepare for the judge. Please see Part 2 of the NFYFC rules (presentation and formal interview) for further information.
- Senior Member of the Year direct entry from Club, please return your synopsis (preferably typed up) to County Office by 11:59pm **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2025**. Please see Parts 2, 3 and 4 of the NFYFC rules (formal interview and questions) for further information.
- The book title for Junior Reading will be circulated to competitors (21 days before the competition) on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December 2025.
- Both Situations Vacant competitions are a direct entry to County, please return the job advert, covering letter and CV to County Office by 11:59pm **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2025**.
- Topics for Brainstrust teams will be provided on the competition's day.
- Mace Debate topics will be circulated to competitors (21 days before the competition) on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December 2025. Please note the revised fine for this competition, any team withdrawing 3 weeks (21 days) before the competition will be fined £60 and must find a scratch team. This is due to the number of other teams they impact once they have received the topics and is in line with the new ruling brought in by NA from 2024.
- All competitors aged **under 18** will need to present a signed parental consent form on the competition day, along with their current digital membership card.
- All competitors aged **over 18** will need to present a second form of ID (driving licence, passport, etc) on the competition day, along with their current digital membership card.
- Qualifiers at the County Competition will then compete at the Northern Area Weekend date to be confirmed hosted by County Durham FYFC.
- Qualifiers from the Northern Area Weekend will then head to National to compete in the NFYFC Competitions Weekend on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2026 in Staffordshire, with the exception of Junior and Senior Member of the Year, whose final is in April 2026, date to be confirmed.



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# STAY FOCUSED

Good luck to all those taking part in (and organising!) this year's competitions.

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## **GENERAL RULES: 2025 - 2026 NFYFC COMPETITION RULES**

### **1. Eligibility & Representation**

- 1.1. Check the Eligibility & Representation rules that are recorded in individual competition rules.
- 1.2. For further information see papers on Eligibility & Representation in the Competitions resources online.
- 1.3. All competitors will be required to produce on the day of each round of the competition their **current digital or printed NFYFC membership card** that has the member's photograph attached. A valid card will state the number of the County for which the member is able to compete for.
- 1.4. All competitors must be registered on the NFYFC Silo Database on or before the County Round of any competition they compete in. This rule applies to any substitutes that are used at any round of a competition. ***In the absence of a County Round, members must be signed up on the NFYFC Silo Database prior to the first round that the member/team competes in a competition.***
- 1.5. This rule also applies to members in their last year of competition, where the NFYFC Final falls into the following year. Associate members, although not eligible to compete in 2025-26 competitions, must hold a 2025-2026 membership card to compete in the NFYFC Finals held on or after 1 September 2025 for the competition they competed in the previous membership year.
- 1.6. Failure to produce a membership card on the day of a competition will require the member to pay a £20 fine and prove their ID. Members aged 18 or over will need to confirm their ID using another form of official photo-ID and members under 18 will be identified via another form of photographic ID or the parental consent forms submitted prior to the competition. For all 2025 - 2026 competitions a second form of Photographic ID (i.e., Passport, Driving License, Shotgun certificate etc) will be required at all NFYFC Competition Finals for all members aged over 18, members must present their identification when booking in.
- 1.7. A Member who fails to produce their card on the day of a competition must, within 7 days of the competition, confirm that they are a member of a YFC Club affiliated to the NFYFC. If this is not confirmed to the NFYFC Competitions desk ([post@nfyfc.org.uk](mailto:post@nfyfc.org.uk)), the competitor/the whole team will be automatically disqualified from the competition and marks will be re-awarded accordingly.
- 1.8. The NFYFC competitions steering group reserves the right to ask all YFC competitors to show another form of official photographic identification that clearly states the competitors date of birth.

### **2. Health & safety & safeguarding**

- 2.1. All competitions carried out at every level must comply with Health and Safety and Safeguarding legislation and meet the relevant safety standards.
- 2.2. All competitors must be a paid-up member of the County they are representing, with a valid membership card for insurance purposes.
- 2.3. All members aged under 18 must complete a NFYFC Parental Consent form (in the form of a JotForm). The Parental Consent form must be completed and signed by a Parent/Guardian & the responsible person over the age of 18 who is present on the day of the competition. The parental consent form is required for any competition or Presentation of Awards Ceremony.
- 2.4. It is the responsibility of the County Federation to ensure these forms are completed and returned to NFYFC no later than 10 working days prior to the competition.
- 2.5. It is recommended that members under the age of 18 carry a copy of the completed Parental Consent form with them on the day of the NFYFC Final.

***Please Note: NFYFC will not accept responsibility for any members under the age of 18 who have not produced their Parental Consent Form either in advance to NFYFC or on the day of the NFYFC Final. If the relevant forms are not received by the time of the NFYFC Final then, in accordance with the Federation's Safeguarding Policy, members will not be allowed to take part.***

### **Dual Membership (member of more than one County)**

### **3. Spirit of fair competition within YFC - Conditions applied to the NFYFC competitions programme for members that join more than one club.**

#### **3.1. Joining more than one club in the same county federation**

- 3.1.1. A county policy is used to manage this and the points awarded for county trophies (which club is awarded points) – to be prepared and decided by the county federation.
- 3.1.2. This does not affect the Area or NFYFC rounds of competitions – *county federation* teams enter these rounds.
- 3.1.3. No action required by the NFYFC Council.

#### **3.2. Joining more than one club in different county federations**

- 3.2.1. **A member with more than one membership may represent each club they belong to in the NFYFC competitions programme with the following conditions.**
  - 3.2.1.1. **They may compete in each NFYFC competition just once – e.g. if they participate in the county round at county A, they cannot compete at any other county round in the same competition.**
  - 3.2.1.2. For example they may participate in the Show Choir competition at the county round of the Home County or at the Visiting [and so on], once competed, they cannot compete in the Show Choir at any other county round.
  - 3.2.1.3. They can compete at another county for **another (different)** competition in the programme that year. For example Tug of War for Home County but not their Visiting County – however, they could take part in Performing Arts for their Visiting County.



- 3.2.1.4. At NFYFC finals, a member **may participate in one final only on each day of competition with the following exceptions.**
- 3.2.1.5. Competitors may compete in
  - 3.2.1.5.1. YFC member of the Year 18 & over
  - 3.2.1.5.2. YFC member of the year 17 & under
  - 3.2.1.5.3. Situations Vacant, Clay Pigeon Shooting, Auctioneering, Cube Exhibit
  - 3.2.1.5.4. and **one other final being held on the same day.**
- 3.2.2. To assist with monitoring this, **the NFYFC entry forms must be used and the NFYFC will adjust entry form templates for the 2025/26 competitions programme to show when a person holds membership in more than one club.**
- 3.2.3. Timetabling will be a consideration for County/Area/Wales rounds of competitions, and County Federations, Area Committees and Wales FYFC will prepare the necessary rules for each day of competitions.
- 3.2.4. The NFYFC Competitions Year runs from the 1<sup>st</sup> September – 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2026.
- 3.2.5. A County Federation may enter a composite team at any round of the competition, provided all competitors are signed up on the NFYFC Silo Database on or before the date of the County final or first round they compete at. This applies to home or visiting County.

***Please Note: Area Committees may apply to the NFYFC Competitions Steering Group Chair for a special dispensation, to allow an Area Composite Team (made up of County Federations within that Area only) to compete in an NFYFC Final, if there are no County teams taking part in an Area Final. No NFU Trophy points can be awarded to an Area Composite Team.***

#### **4. Participation in NFYFC competition finals**

- 4.1. Competitors may take part in competitions as follows: -
  - 4.1.1. English Winter Fair - **one** competition per competition day
  - 4.1.2. Competitions Day - **one** competition per competition day\*\*
  - 4.1.3. Sports Championships- **one** competition per competition day
  - 4.1.4. Great Yorkshire Show (Dairy judging & Sheep Shearing)- **one** competition per competition day
  - 4.1.5. Tug of War finals - **one** competition per competition day
  - 4.1.6. Stockjudging Weekend - **one** competition per competition day
  - 4.1.7. Malvern Autumn Show - **one** competition per competition day

***\*\*Competitors entering the national finals at the Competitions Day will be able to stage a static exhibit, but this must be done prior to all other competitions booking-in times. Competitors entering the Situation Vacant, Clay Pigeon Shooting, Auctioneering, Cube Exhibit, Junior Member of the Year National Final will be able to take part in one additional competition on the same day. To note: Competitors taking part in the Disco Dancing OR Show Choir may compete in ONE additional competition, a maximum of two competitions per member. This only relates to these two competitions. To Clarify: - Competitors may take part in both the Disco Dancing and Show Choir as their two chosen competitions on Competitions Day. Please see below for clarification.***

***i.e. Competitor A – Can compete in Choir and Commercial Dance***

***Competitor B – Can compete in Commercial Dance and one other competition***

***Competitor C – Can compete in show Choir and one other competition***

***This applies to the Commercial Dancing and Show Choir Competitions only and still means that competitors will be limited to a maximum of TWO competitions on the day.***

- 4.2. NFYFC is an inclusive organisation that encourages and supports the participation of all our members. If you require any additional support or resources to participate effectively in any element of the competitions, please contact the competitions department three weeks prior to the competition final to allow us to work with you so that specific arrangements can be made. This can include up to 50% extra time. If you would like any extra time to prepare for the competition, this can be arranged. Further information or advice to prepare for a competition can be sought from Dyslexia West Midlands at [info@dyslexiawestmidlands.com](mailto:info@dyslexiawestmidlands.com).
- 4.3. Some NFYFC competitions require members to compete within a specific gender category (for example Men's or Ladies' Tug of War). Where a member would like to compete in a gender different to their biological sex assigned at birth, they will be required to notify NFYFC with a formal request received a minimum of 28 days prior to competition. NFYFC works in partnership with all associated sports' National Governing Bodies (NGBs) and diligently follows their rules and guidelines. Members' requests will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, liaising with the relevant NGB and in some cases medical information may be required. NFYFC will work with the member and the NGB to reach a decision on the request. If a member's request is not approved the member will still have the opportunity to compete in the gender associated with their biological sex assigned at birth.

#### **5. Fines & Late Withdrawal of Entries (including Parental Consent Forms)**

- 5.1. No deposits will be required prior to the NFYFC final.
- 5.2. **However**, withdrawals or cancellations made in the two (2) weeks before the day of the final will result in a fine of **£25**
- 5.3. Teams will be fined £100 for withdrawing within 48 hrs of the competition final
- 5.4. Individuals will be fined £40 for withdrawing within 48 hrs of the competition final
- 5.5. Competitors that fail to submit their parental consent form 48 hrs before the competition final will receive a fine amounting to £40. Entire teams that fail to submit their parental consent form 48 hrs before the competition final will receive a fine amounting to £100.
- 5.6. All fines are invoiced to County Federations and not the team/individual.
- 5.7. This rule applies to ALL Competitions at NFYFC Semi-finals and finals.
- 5.8. Area Finals held within the fine period will be subjected to the charges.
- 5.9. Fines will be imposed if the Area final is within the fine period



- 5.10. A fine of £75 will be imposed on those teams withdrawing from Fence Erecting on the day of the competition to cover the cost of the fencing materials
6. **Judges' decisions and complaints**
- 6.1. The Judges' decision is final.
- 6.2. Written notification of **intention to lodge a complaint or to dispute the result must be received by the Chief Steward on the day of the competition no later than 1 hour of the results being announced**
- 6.3. Following the above, the detail of the complaint or dispute of the results must be received in writing at the YFC Centre, Stoneleigh Park **within 3 working days of the competition final**. Email [post@nfyfc.org.uk](mailto:post@nfyfc.org.uk)
- 6.4. Official complaints or disputes can be made by Competitors (finalists) or County Chair's only.
7. **Amendments**
- 7.1. The NFYFC reserve the right to amend or cancel any of the rules.
8. **Expenses**
- 8.1. The NFYFC is not responsible for any expenses incurred by competitors or for arrangements for accommodation or travel.
9. **Behaviour and Material Content**
- 9.1. Unacceptable behaviour by competitors or supporters of teams which brings YFC into disrepute; or which may be deemed to adversely affect other competitors/performances will be penalised.
- 9.2. YFC Members are reminded that material of a questionable nature should not appear in any performance or speech. Material of a questionable nature and characters to the extreme will be penalised. Judges reserve the right to disqualify teams/members they perceive to be offensive or discriminatory.
- 9.3. Filming of any competition is not permitted without prior consent from NFYFC and all competing teams
- 9.4. Mobile Device (Phone, Tablet, Laptop etc) use during any competition is strictly prohibited.
- 9.5. The NFYFC Competitions Winning Behaviour Policy is available on the NFYFC Website for reference.
10. **Awards**
- 10.1. All NFYFC Competitions will carry points towards the NFU trophy unless otherwise stated.
- 10.2. Members will be disqualified if they are not at the Presentation of Awards without prior permission being granted. County Organisers must submit an Absentee Form to NFYFC prior to the event.



## NATIONAL FEDERATION OF YOUNG FARMERS' CLUBS

### Competitions Programme 2025-2026

#### NFYFC Member of the Year

17 years & under

#### RULES

##### Competition Aim

To encourage junior YFC members to record and evaluate their YFC, educational and community contributions and achievements over the past year via a Curriculum Vitae, Presentation, and Interview.

##### Learning outcomes

Reflection, Self Evaluation, Communication, Presentation, and Interview skills

REMINDER: Please read these rules in conjunction with **NFYFC General Rules** and familiarise all competitors with the **Fine System in place for withdrawal from competitions.**

Further information can be found at <https://nfyfc.org.uk/competition-organisers-resources>

All finalists in the junior member of the year competition are automatically offered a place on the NFYFC Youth Forum group. The group is one of the five steering groups of NFYFC and all its members are aged under 21. The Youth Forum works to improve the YFC membership for younger members by ensuring the voices and opinions of those members are heard and acted upon at a national level.

#### 1. DATE AND VENUE

- 1.1. After Area Eliminators, the National Final will be held at Competitions weekend on ~~Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> July 2026~~ at ~~the County Showground Stafford~~. **The Competitions Committee have requested that this Competition is moved to go with the Senior Member of the Year and Performing Arts Weekend – the dates would then be Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> or Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April or Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> or Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026. Theatre TBC.**

#### 2. REPRESENTATION

- 2.1. Counties may enter one competitor per 600 members or part thereof in Area Eliminators.
- 2.2. Areas will be represented by one competitor in the Final competition. (Northern Area 1, Eastern Area 1 and East Midlands 1, West Midlands Area 1, South West Area 1, South East Area 1 and Wales 1)
- 2.3. Member of the Year (17 & under) competitors are eligible to compete in a second NFYFC final on the same day if applicable.

#### 3. ELIGIBILITY

- 3.1. The competitor must be 17 years or under on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025 and a full member of a Club affiliated to the NFYFC.
- 3.2. If the competitor through to the National Final must withdraw from the competition, then the next highest placed competitor will represent the Area.
- 3.3. **All substitutes must have been eligible to compete in the County Final.**

#### 4. PROCEDURE

##### 4.1. PART 1 – SYNOPSIS FORM

- 4.1.1. 28 DAYS prior to the National Final competitors will be required to submit to the Competitions Department at NFYFC a completed synopsis form (attached) to be no more than **2 sides of A4**, detailing their YFC activities. It is recommended that this form be used at County and Area level. (Special emphasis should be placed on their involvement at Club level).

##### 4.2. PART 2 – PRESENTATION & FORMAL INTERVIEW

- 4.2.1. The Competitor is requested to prepare a presentation using Microsoft power point software to include their experiences gained at YFC Club, County, Area, and National. They should also include activities outside of YFC.



- 4.2.2. The presentation should be based on experiences gained in the 12 months before the competition final. Competitors are therefore expected to build on the presentations they give at the Area round of the competition held earlier in the year.
- 4.2.3. This presentation is to complement your Synopsis Form
- 4.2.4. Timing – no less than 3 and no more than 10 minutes.
- 4.2.5. The presentation will be made to the judges only.
- 4.2.6. On completion of the presentation judges will ask questions on the Synopsis Form, on the competitor's knowledge of YFC and/or current issues or news relating to young people.

5.4 At the NFYFC National Final a laptop and projector will be provided. Area Finals should organise and provide their own equipment.

#### 5. SCALE OF MARKS (At the national final)

Synopsis Form	30
Presentation to judges (activities inside & outside YFC)	30
Formal Interview	30
Appearance	10
<b>TOTAL MARKS</b>	<b>100</b>

Penalties: Time deductions are one mark for each half-minute (or part thereof) over or under the allocated time of the presentation. The judges may also deduct marks if the timings are below half of what is expected.

#### 6. AWARDS

- 6.1. **Di Chennells Trophy** and NFYFC Prize Card to the winner.
- 6.2. NFYFC Awards cards to competitors placed 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> with all other competitors receiving 4<sup>th</sup> place cards
- 6.3. NFYFC Certificate of Achievement awards to all those taking part in the National Final

#### 7. NOTES

- 7.1. Competitors are reminded to dress appropriately for the competition (smart clothing - suitable for an interview scenario)

# YFC MEMBER OF THE YEAR 2026 (17 years & under)

## Synopsis Form

Name:	
YFC Membership Card No:	
Name of YFC Club:	YFC County Federation:
Year first joined YFC:	

### YFC History

### YFC Involvement (including posts held and any other aspects of the YFC movement)

### Proudest moment in YFC (so far!)

### Ambitions in YFC



<b>Ambitions outside YFC</b>
<b>Hobbies and interests outside of YFC</b>
<b>Highlight of your year</b>



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## NFYFC

### “How to” Guide – Junior Member of the Year

#### 1. Part One - The Synopsis Form

The Synopsis Form is your opportunity to document your achievements during your Young Farmers' Club membership. Take the time to reflect on the past twelve months and make a note of any events or accomplishments you are particularly proud of. There are seven sections for you to fill with your achievements and ambitions; these are:

- **YFC History** – record the posts you have held from Club to National Level.
- **YFC Involvement** – let us know what activities you have participated in. Include competitions, events, club nights and anything else you feel is relevant.
- **Proudest moment in YFC (so far!)** – what are you most proud of achieving whilst being a YFC member? Use this section to explain what you did and why it made you proud.
- **Ambitions in YFC** – What do you hope to attain as a YFC member? Do you want your club to win the most county competitions? Do you want to raise the most money for your county? Do you want to be national chair of council? Tell us about your aims and how you plan to get there.
- **Ambitions outside YFC** – What do you hope to achieve outside of YFC? This could be your future career goals, school success, home life including ambitions for the family farm. Think big – what do you hope to achieve in the future and how are you going to do it?
- **Hobbies and Interests outside YFC** – Use this section to document any hobbies or interests you think might be relevant to the competition.
- **Highlight of the Year** – Which moment stands out to you from your past year in YFC?
- **Additional information** – This space should be used to add in any information you feel is important and relevant to the competition, that does not necessarily come under the previous headings.

**When writing your form, imagine how it will come across to the Judge.**

Top tips:

- Try to use concise language, keep it interesting and get to the point – do not ramble on as the reader will lose interest.
- Use short paragraphs or bullet points in each section, this avoids large blocks of text and is easier for the reader to follow.
- Typing your answers onto the form opposed to handwriting the document is preferred. Use an easy-to-read font (pick a clear font such as Arial or Calibri and aim for 11/12 font size).
- Spelling and Grammar Check! Ensure your 'spell checker' is turned on whilst completing your synopsis form and double check it yourself for errors. Have a friend or guardian read through the form to check for spelling or grammatical errors – someone else may spot something you have missed.
- Keep within two sides of A4 (this is the maximum size allowed in the national final).
- Check the deadline for submission. When is the national final? Remember that your synopsis form must be submitted at least 28 days before the date of the final.





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**Where to send your synopsis form:**

**Send via email:**

**Subject: JMOTY – Synopsis Form**

**To (for the NFYFC Final Only):**

**[Margaret.Bennett@nfyfc.org.uk](mailto:Margaret.Bennett@nfyfc.org.uk)**

**Send via post to:**

**FAO: Competitions Department,**

**YFC Centre,**

**10th Street,**

**Stoneleigh Park,**

**Kenilworth,**

**Warwickshire CV8 2LG**

**2. Part Two – Presentation and National Final**

At the national final you will present your achievements over the past twelve months to a panel of judges. The judges will have received your synopsis form prior to the competition final so make sure the achievements in your presentation complement those you have recorded on the form.

• **Presentation tips**

- Create the presentation using a reliable programme. Microsoft PowerPoint is a good choice.
- Keep the slides simple, use relevant images and minimal text. The judges have read your synopsis form already, they now want to hear you speak and hear the emotion and passion in your voice when detailing your achievements and ambitions.
- Have a practice run (or two!) at home to get used to using the slideshow feature and presenting your content to an audience. Ask family members or friends if they could act as an audience and offer constructive criticism to help prepare you for the national final.
- Prepare for questions – following your presentation the judges may ask you some questions, be ready for this by including it in your practice run. Have your friends think of a question to ask at the end of the presentation – ensure that you are not told them beforehand, this will help create that real interview feel.
- Dress smart. How would you dress for a job interview? Or a day at sixth form/ college? Apply that dress code here.
- Engage your audience. Remember you are not reading a script; you are telling a story and the aim is to keep your listeners interested in that story.
- Smile and make eye contact with the judges. There is usually at least one (if not more) ex-young farmers on the panel who share your enthusiasm for the organisation and have likely competed themselves.

***Dress smart, smile and breathe! Enjoy the experience.***

***Good Luck!***



# NATIONAL FEDERATION OF YOUNG FARMERS' CLUBS

Competitions Programme 2025 - 2026

## NFYFC Reading

14 & under

### RULES

#### COMPETITION AIM

To encourage members aged 10-14 to demonstrate their presentation and communication skills by working as a team to read selected passages to an audience

#### LEARNING OUTCOMES

Reading and communication skills including expression, diction, clarity and sense, teamwork and presentation.

REMINDER: Please read these rules in conjunction with **NFYFC General Rules** and familiarise all competitors with the **Fine System in place for withdrawal from competitions**.

Further information can be found at <https://nfyfc.org.uk/competition-organisers-resources>

#### 1. DATE AND VENUE

- 1.1. After Area Finals, the National Final will be held on Competitions Day, **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2026** at Staffordshire Showground.

#### 2. REPRESENTATION

- 2.1. Counties may enter one team per 600 members or part thereof in Area Finals.
- 2.2. Areas will be represented in the final by one team per 3,000 members or part thereof. (Northern Area 2, Eastern Area 1 and East Midlands 1, West Midlands Area 1, South West Area 2, South East Area 1 and Wales 2)

#### 3. ELIGIBILITY

- 3.1. A team shall consist of **three (3)** members, each of whom must be 14 years of age or under on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025 and full members of a Club affiliated to the NFYFC.

#### 4. SUBSTITUTION

- 4.1. **All substitutes must have been eligible to compete in the County Final.**

#### 5. PROCEDURE

- 5.1. The title of the book (including ISBN number) to be used will be notified to each team three weeks prior to the day of the competition Final.
- 5.2. The team of three members will be required to read aloud a passage selected and provided by the Judge, in English and in front of an audience.
- 5.3. The passages to be read will be given to finalists by the Chief Steward **on the day of the final**.
- 5.4. A draw will be made for the order of appearance prior to the competition.
- 5.5. All teams will be held in the preparation room until it is their turn to compete to avoid an unfair advantage as all teams are reading the same text. Therefore, competitors and their trainer will not be allowed into the room where the competition is taking place before competing.
- 5.6. Competitors have the choice to read from the book or from the card provided or from an electronic device such as a Kindle supplied by the competitor.
- 5.7. Competitors to note that the passages will be printed off on white card with a black typeface. If required, competitors are requested to provide their own coloured overlays.
- 5.8. The Chairmen to introduce the team and give a brief background about the book. Each member of the team (including the Chair) will be required to read a different passage from the book, but each team will read the same



set of passages as the other teams. **Teams may choose the order that competitors read the passages, however, the passages must be read in the same order as the book.**

- 5.9. NFYFC is an inclusive organisation and if any members wishing to take part require additional time etc. then please speak to either the County, Area or NFYFC who are organising the relevant finals for help and guidance.
- 5.10. Teams will be given 30 minutes before they compete to read through the passages with their trainer in the preparation room. Only one Trainer per team is allowed into the preparation room.
  - 5.10.1.1. Members may read through their given passages in the preparation room.
  - 5.10.1.2. Books are allowed in the preparation room beforehand.
  - 5.10.1.3. A Trainer is only allowed to train one team (i.e. if a Club qualifies with more than one team, different trainers must be used for each team).
  - 5.10.1.4. Teams will be penalised for using distasteful jokes or bad language. Teams are reminded that this is a Public Speaking Competition and marks are awarded for speeches - characters to the extreme will be penalised. Judges reserve the right to disqualify teams/members they perceive to be offensive or discriminatory.

## 6. TIMING

Chair (opening)

**2 minutes**

Penalties: Time deductions are one mark for each half-minute (or part thereof) over the allocated time.

Members reading will not have an allocated time.

***For Clarification** - Depending on who the team choose to read the first passage, will mean the timing of the Chair's introduction will stop either when the chair stops speaking about the book/team introduction to pause and take breathe before the commencement of the first word of the first passage (if they are reading first) OR when the chair stops speaking about the book/team introduction and hands over to a fellow team member to begin the first passage (if chair is not the first reader)". To note that the Chair does not need to read the first passage - it is up to each team to choose the order in which passages are read.*

## 7. SCALE OF MARKS

Chair – Introduction	<u>15</u>	<b>15</b>
<b>READING OF PASSAGE</b>		
Teamwork/Overall Presentation/Appearance	<u>15</u>	<b>15</b>
<b>READER 1:</b>		
Diction	10	
Clarity	10	
Sense & Expression (dramatic meaning)	<u>10</u>	<b>30</b>
<b>READER 2:</b>		
Diction	10	
Clarity	10	
Sense & Expression (dramatic meaning)	<u>10</u>	<b>30</b>
<b>READER 3:</b>		
Diction	10	
Clarity	10	
Sense & Expression (dramatic meaning)	<u>10</u>	<b>30</b>
<b>Total marks</b>		<b><u>120</u></b>

## 8. AWARDS

### 8.1. NFYFC Final

- 8.1.1. At the NFYFC Final the team placed 1<sup>st</sup> will be awarded **a Trophy** and Prize Cards
- 8.1.2. Special awards will be presented to the members voted 'Best Chair' and 'Best Reader' on the day.
- 8.1.3. Teams placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> will be awarded Prize Cards
- 8.1.4. NFYFC Certificates of Achievement will be awarded to all members at the National Final

## 9. NOTES

- 9.1. Filming of the competition is not permitted without prior consent from NFYFC and all competing teams
- 9.2. Mobile Device (Phone, Tablet, Laptop etc) use during the competition is strictly for timekeeping purposes only. Mobile device use in Prep Room is prohibited.
- 9.3. Competitors are reminded to dress appropriately for the competition (smart clothing – no jeans!)

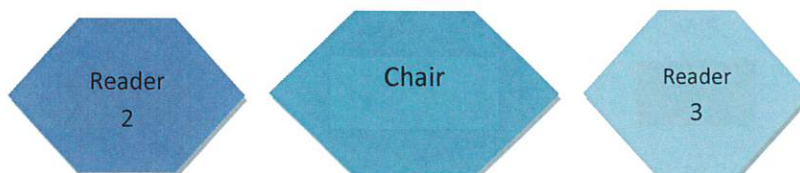
## NFYFC

### “How to” Guide – Reading

In the example below we have chosen the Chair as Reader 1 – However it is up to each team as to which order each team member reads in. The Chair does not have to be the first reader."

Remember: This is a guide to how the competition could be run and Teams may wish to change the order competitors read their passages. To note that all passages should be read in the order of the book.

- 1.1. **The Team** – Note different shapes/colours for different team members.  
The team are to sit together at a table at the front of the room in front of an audience.



- 1.2. **Format-**

Reader 2	Chair/ Reader 1	Reader 3
	Welcome & introduction to yourself and your team. Give an overview of the book (2 minutes)	
	First passage of book is read (No time limit)	
	Chair to introduce Reader 2	
Second passage from the book is read (No time limit)		
	Chair to thank Reader 2 and introduce Reader 3	
		Third passage from the book is read (No time limit)
	Chair to thank Reader 3, thank the audience for listening (No time limit)	
	END	

- 1.3. **Role descriptions**

Chair:



The Chair – welcome the audience and ensure your team’s entry runs smoothly.

(There are time penalties if the Chair goes over 2 minutes in Opening speech, this is the only part of the competition which has the potential to accrue time penalties.)

- You will have an air of authority – keep the audience relaxed.
- In your introduction you have 2 minutes to set the scene for the audience –first introduce yourself and your team, then introduce the book and give a brief background of the story
- During the competition introduce each reader before their passage, thanking them with a brief comment when they have finished
- Chair Concludes - add your final comments and thank the audience for listening

#### **Reader 2:**

Reads their passage after the Chair – no time penalties

- You are to read your given passage from the book
- Keep your voice clear and audible to the whole room – without shouting
- Allow your speech to convey the drama and emotion in the text you are reading
- Thank the audience when you have finished reading your passage

#### **Reader 3:**

The final competitor to read their passage – no time penalties

- You are to read your given passage from the book
- Keep your voice clear and audible to the whole room – without shouting
- Allow your speech to convey the drama and emotion in the text you are reading
- Thank the audience when you have finished reading your passage

#### **1.4. Pre-Competition Time: 30 minutes**

- The team are to spend 30 minutes with their trainer prior to the competition. In this time your team will receive three passages and will be allocated one each to read
- Use this time to run through the passage and practise reading aloud
- When your team is competing, the other teams will not be in the room. Once your team has competed you may watch the other readers
- Passages may be read from the printed sheets, the book itself or an electronic device (such as a Kindle)



## NATIONAL FEDERATION OF YOUNG FARMERS' CLUBS

Competitions Programme 2025 - 2026

NFYFC Public Speaking

16 & under

### RULES

#### COMPETITION AIM

To encourage members aged 10-16 to think clearly, speak persuasively and listen to the opinions of others critically and constructively. (Taken from the English-Speaking Union)

#### LEARNING OUTCOME

Public speaking skills; effective listening, knowledge of subject, confidence and communication skills

REMINDER: Please read these rules in conjunction with **NFYFC General Rules** and familiarise all competitors with the **Fine System in place for withdrawal from competitions.**

Further information can be found at <https://nfyfc.org.uk/competition-organisers-resources>

#### 1. DATE AND VENUE

- 1.1. After Area Finals, the National Final will be held on Competitions Day, **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2026** at Staffordshire Showground.

#### 2. REPRESENTATION

- 2.1. Counties may enter one team per 600 members or part thereof in Area Finals.
- 2.2. Areas will be represented in the final by one team per 3,000 members or part thereof. (Northern Area 2, Eastern Area 1 and East Midlands 1, West Midlands Area 1, South West Area 2, South East Area 1 and Wales 2).

#### 3. ELIGIBILITY

- 3.1. A team shall consist of **three (3)** members, each of whom must be 16 years of age or under on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025 and full members of a Club affiliated to the NFYFC.

#### 4. SUBSTITUTION

- 4.1. **All substitutes must have been eligible to compete in the County Final.**

#### 5. PROCEDURE

- 5.1. The team shall consist of a Chair, Speaker and Proposer of the Vote of Thanks. Competitors before and after competing may be admitted to the Competition Room.
- 5.2. The procedure will follow that of a formal meeting.
- 5.3. Fifteen minutes (15) before his or her team is due to compete; the Chairmen will be introduced to the speaker.
  - 5.3.1. The Speaker will provide written notes giving the subject chosen and personal background (e.g. school, special interests, YFC membership, Club Offices held, activities within the Club, etc.). These notes to be handed to the Chief Steward at the beginning of the competition and will be **available** for the Chair and Judges. To note that Power Point\* may be used as a visual aid for the Speaker, but they are not to be used for the whole speech and can only be used to enhance the speech. I.e. this is **NOT** a business presentation competition. \*If you wish to use a projector, please make sure the organisers of the round are aware in advance.
  - 5.3.2. The Speaker, who will be the guest of another team, will choose his/her own subject. The Speaker will then answer a question put by the Proposer of Vote of thanks and then a question from the judging panel. There is to be no questions asked from the floor/audience. A total of two questions will be asked.



5.3.3. The chair will invite the judges to put one question to the speaker who will then respond.

5.3.4. The Proposer will be seated in the body of the hall. He/she will take up some point in the Speaker's address, comment, agree or disagree and ask one pertinent question on the subject matter of the address. He/she will give the Vote of Thanks to the Speaker after all questions have been dealt with.

5.4. No communication, written or verbal between any of the team members, or the audience, will be permitted, and to do so will result in **immediate disqualification**.

5.5. Competitors may take notes FOR REFERENCE on to the platform as long as these notes are written on POSTCARDS. However, excessive, and obvious use of notes will be penalised. No other reference books or papers may be used by teams while on the platform, except for visual aids intended to add to the understanding of the subject by the audience.

5.6. Teams will be penalised for using distasteful jokes or bad language. Teams are reminded that this is a Public Speaking Competition and marks are awarded for speeches - characters to the extreme will be penalised. Judges reserve the right to disqualify teams/members they perceive to be offensive or discriminatory.

5.7. **Speakers are asked to be mindful of the topic chosen for their speeches as this is a junior competition.**

6. NFYFC is an inclusive organisation that encourages and supports the participation of all our members. If you require any additional support or resources to participate effectively in any element of this competition, please contact the competitions department two weeks prior to the competition final to allow us to work with you so that specific arrangements can be made.

## 7. TIMING

Chair (opening)	2 minutes
Speaker	6 minutes
Proposer of Vote of Thanks (question)	no time limit
Proposer of Vote of Thanks (thanks)	1 minute and 30 seconds

Penalties: Time deductions are one mark for each half-minute (or part thereof) over the allocated time by any member of the team. The judges may also deduct marks if the timings are below half of what is expected.

## 8. SEATING

8.1. Stewards are to make sure that competitors are seated as a team and in a designated area, separate from parents and supporters, throughout the competition.

## 9. SCALE OF MARKS

Speaker	Presentation of speech and ability to speak	20
	Content of speech and knowledge of subject	20
	Answer to questions	10
		<b><u>50</u></b>
Chair		30
Proposer of Vote of Thanks		20
<b>TEAM TOTAL</b>		<b><u>100</u></b>

## 10. AWARDS NFYFC FINAL

10.1.1. At the NFYFC Final the team placed 1<sup>st</sup> will be awarded **Case IH Trophy** and Prize Cards

10.1.2. Teams placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> will be awarded Prize Cards

10.1.3. NFYFC Certificates of Achievement will be awarded to all members at the National Final

10.1.4. At the NFYFC Final individual trophies will also be awarded to the Chairmen, Speaker and Vote of Thanks who have received the highest marks on the day of the final.

## 11. NOTES

11.1. Filming of the competition is not permitted without prior consent from NFYFC and all competing teams

11.2. Mobile Device (Phone, Tablet, Laptop etc) use during the competition is strictly for timekeeping purposes only. Mobile device use in Prep Room is prohibited.

11.3. Competitors are reminded to dress appropriately for the competition (smart clothing - suitable for an interview scenario)



**Fun, Learning and  
Achievement**

## NFYFC

### “How to” Guide – Public Speaking

**Remember: This is an example as to the to how the competition could be run and is not strict rules.**

#### 1.1. **The Team** – Note different shapes/colours for different team members

The Chair and Speaker to sit at the Table at the front of the room and the Proposer to the Vote of Thanks sits in the body of the hall (normally in the front row)



#### 1.2. **Format**

Timing	Chair	Speaker	Proposer to the Vote of Thanks
Start	Welcome & introduction of Speaker (2 minutes)		
02:00		Speaks on a topic (6 Minutes)	
08:00	Thanks Speaker & explains procedure for questions Introduces Proposer (approx. 1 minute)		
09:00			Summarises Speakers Speech with comments & asks a Question to the speaker (approx. 2 minutes)
11:00	The question does not need to be repeated.		
11:30		Speaker answers Question (approx. 1 min)	
12:30	Asks for further questions and takes a question from the judges (approx. 1 min)		
13:30		Speaker answers Question (approx. 1 min)	
14:30	Introduces the vote of thanks (approx. 30 seconds)		
15:00			Delivers vote of thanks to the speaker (1 minute 30 seconds)
16:30	Chair concludes (approx. 30 seconds)		
17:00	END		



### 1.3. Role descriptions

#### **Chair:**

The Chair – set the scene and ensures it all runs smoothly.

(Time penalty if Chair goes over 2 minutes in Opening speech, rest of Chair duties not timed.)

- You will have an air of authority – but keep the panel and audience relaxed, remaining in control and attentive throughout
- In your introduction you have 2 minutes to set the scene for the audience – the event they are attending
- Briefly introduce yourself the proposer of the vote of thanks and the main speaker
- Work out a skeleton introduction for your Speaker – make them sound as interesting as possible
- During the competition introduce each speaker in turn, thanking them with a brief comment when they finish
- Chair Concludes - add your final comments and close the meeting.

#### **The Speaker:**

The Speaker has 6 minutes to talk on any topic – it's their choice!

(Time penalty if speaker goes over time)

- You are to give a speech on a topic of your choice
- Keep the wording of your speech simple and natural as if in conversation
- Allow as much of your personality to show as possible – give ideas, opinions and views
- The speech should be a mixture of humour and fact where possible
- End your speech by thanking the audience and the chair

#### **Proposer of the Vote of Thanks:**

Have two key roles – Comment with question & Vote of Thanks

##### Comment with question

- Proposer to comment on the Speaker's address, agree or disagree and ask one pertinent question on the subject matter of the address

##### Vote of Thanks (Time penalty if over 1 minute 30 seconds)

- Prepare a skeleton speech so you have a rough idea of what you want to say – comment on the speaker's speech to show you have listened
- Thank the guest speaker for their speech sincerely

### 1.4. Pre-Competition Time: 15 minutes

- Chair to gain information from the speaker in order to introduce them correctly and give a brief overview of their speech
- Use any remaining time to run through individual speeches
- Speaker to give the Chief Steward their written notes giving the subject chosen and personal background. The written notes to be available to the Chair and Judges

*Note: sharing information is usually beneficial to both parties*



## NATIONAL FEDERATION OF YOUNG FARMERS' CLUBS

Competitions Programme 2025 -2026

NFYFC Braintrust (21 & Under)

### RULES

#### COMPETITION AIM

Team, public speaking competition. To encourage members aged 21 and under to actively discuss chosen topics on rural affairs and general knowledge, answer questions on that topic and summarise accordingly.

#### LEARNING OUTCOMES

Public speaking skills; effective listening, confidence and communication skills including relevance, range of discussion.

REMINDER: Please read these rules in conjunction with **NFYFC General Rules** and familiarise all competitors with the **Fine System in place for withdrawal from competitions.**

Further information can be found at <https://nfyfc.org.uk/competition-organisers-resources>

**Rules to be read in conjunction with the 'How to' Guide – available from NFYFC.**

#### 1. DATE AND VENUE

- 1.1. After Area Finals, the National Final will be held on Competitions Day, **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2026** at Staffordshire Showground.

#### 2. REPRESENTATION

- 2.1. Counties may enter one team per 600 members or part thereof in Area Finals.
- 2.2. Areas will be represented in the final by one team per 3,000 members or part thereof. (Northern Area 2, Eastern Area 1 and East Midlands 1, West Midlands Area 1, South West Area 2, South East Area 1 and Wales 2)

#### 3. ELIGIBILITY

- 3.1. A team shall consist of 4 members, each of whom must be 21 years of age or under on 1 September 2025 and full members of a Club affiliated to the NFYFC.

#### 4. SUBSTITUTION

- 4.1. **All substitutes must have been eligible to compete in the County Final.**

#### 5. PROCEDURE

- 5.1. The team shall consist of a Chair and a panel of three members. Draw for order of appearance will be made prior to the day. All competitors must be present 20 minutes before going onto the platform; the Chair will be given a choice of sealed envelopes. One will be chosen which will contain six question topics, three of a general knowledge and three on rural affairs, from which he/she will select three for discussion by the team. One question must be selected from each section plus one other. The Chair will have no prior communication with the team about the questions he/she has selected to be discussed. ***No written communication on the topics to be discussed may be given to the Panel or any use of a mobile phone at any time.*** The penalty will be automatic disqualification.
- 5.2. The Chair will be responsible for introducing the panel to the audience, putting each question to the panel, summarising their answers, concluding the meeting, timing, control of the panel and coverage of each question.
- 5.3. The competition should be treated as a formal meeting.
- 5.4. Competitors may make their own notes FOR REFERENCE on the platform, but excessive and obvious use of notes will be penalised. No other reference books or papers may be used while on the platform.
- 5.5. Teams will be penalised for using distasteful jokes or bad language. Teams are reminded that this is a Public Speaking Competition and marks are awarded for speeches - characters to the extreme will be penalised. Judges reserve the right to disqualify teams/members they perceive to be offensive or discriminatory.



## 6. TIMING

- 6.1. Twenty (20) minutes will be allowed each team from the commencement of the Chair's introduction and the teams will be expected to keep to the timing stated.
- 6.2. Time penalties: Time deductions are one mark for each half-minute (or part thereof) over the allotted time.

## 7. SCALE OF MARKS

Chair	Opening introduction & handling questions	10
	Handling of panel including timing	15
	Summing-up of discussions	10
	Closure of Meeting	5
	Ability and style	10
		<b>50</b>
Panel	Quality, relevance & range of discussion	20
	Each question: Co-operation and team work	15
	35 x 3	<b>105</b>
Panel	General deportment and style	15
Overall	Audibility	10
	Overall impression of team	20
		<b>45</b>
	TOTAL	<b><u>200</u></b>

- 7.1. The judges will have before them a duplicate copy of the question topics from which the selection was made for the team that is competing.

## 8. AWARDS

### 8.1. NFYFC Final

- 8.1.1. At the National Final the team placed 1<sup>st</sup> will be awarded **Ministry of Agriculture Cup** and Prize Cards
- 8.1.2. Teams placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> will be awarded Prize Cards
- 8.1.3. At the NFYFC Final, Prize Cards will be awarded to the Best Chair and Best Panelist.
- 8.1.4. NFYFC Certificates of Achievement will be awarded to all members at the National Final

## 9. NOTES

- 9.1. Filming of the competition is not permitted without prior consent from NFYFC and all competing teams
- 9.2. Mobile Device (Phone, Tablet, Laptop etc) use during the competition is strictly for timekeeping purposes only. Mobile device use in Prep Room is prohibited.
- 9.3. Competitors are reminded to dress appropriately for the competition (smart clothing - suitable for an interview scenario)

## NATIONAL FEDERATION OF YOUNG FARMERS' CLUBS

### “How to” Guide – Brainstrust

**Remember: This is a guide to how the competition could be run and is not strict rules.**

- 1.1. **The Panel** made up 4 team members – *(advisable that the Chair does not sit amongst the panellists)*



- 1.2. **Format**

Timing	Chair	Panel Member 1	Panel Member 2	Panel Member 3
Start	Welcome & introduction of Panellists (approx. 2 minutes)			
02:00	Introduce First Question to the panel, repeat the Question & invite Panel Member 1 to comment			
02:10		Thanks Chair & responds to Question 1 (approx. 30 seconds)		
02:40	Chair thanks Panel Member 1 for contribution & asks Panel Member 2 the same Question			
02:50			Thanks Chair & responds to Question 1 (approx. 30 seconds)	
03:20	Chair thanks Panel Member 2 for contribution & asks Panel Member 3 the same Question			
03:30				Thanks Chair & responds to Question 1 (approx. 30 seconds)
04:00	Chair thanks Panel Member 3 for contribution & then on the same question will ask further secondary questions to different panel members to keep the flow of the question alive and ensure the panel debate the Question (approx. 2 minutes)	*might be asked a secondary question to answer – important that all panellists don't agree best when 2 agree and 1 disagrees		
06:00	Chair calls Question 1 to a close – thanks each panellist for their contribution & summarises by drawing a conclusion (approx. 1 minute)			



07:00	Introduce Second Question to the panel, repeat the Question & invite Panel Member 2 to comment – repeat Q1 format	*3 <sup>rd</sup> to comment	*1 <sup>st</sup> to comment	*2 <sup>nd</sup> to comment
09:00	Chair thanks Panel Member 1 for contribution & then on the same question will ask further secondary questions to different panel members to keep the flow of the question alive and ensure the panel debate the Question (approx. 2 minutes)	*might be asked a secondary question to answer – important that all panellists don't agree best when 2 agree and 1 disagrees		
11:00	Chair calls Question 2 to a close – thanks each panellist for their contribution & summarises by drawing a conclusion (approx. 1 minute)			
12:00	Introduce Third Question to the panel, repeat the Question & invite Panel Member 3 to comment – repeat Q format as before	*2 <sup>nd</sup> to comment	*3 <sup>rd</sup> to comment	*1 <sup>st</sup> to comment
14:00	Chair thanks Panel Member 2 for contribution & then on the same question will ask further secondary questions to different panel members to keep the flow of the question alive and ensure the panel debate the Question (approx. 2 minutes)	*might be asked a secondary question to answer – important that all panellists don't agree best when 2 agree and 1 disagrees		
16:00	Chair calls Question 3 to a close – thanks each panellist for their contribution & summarises by drawing a conclusion (approx. 1 minute)			
17:00	Chair's Final remarks with summary, thank all panellists & bring the meeting to a close (approx. 2 minutes)			
19:00	END	*Maximum of 20 minutes – the above timings are a guide - time penalties apply if you go over time		

### 1.3. Role descriptions

#### Chair:

The Chair ensures the meeting flows and are responsible to keep to time.

(No individual time penalties but if the team go over 20 minutes in total then time penalties will apply)

**Prior to Competition** – Ensure that you keep abreast of Rural and General Affairs in the news

- 20 minutes before the competition you will pick an envelope and be asked to choose the three questions you will ask the panellists during the competition. When picking your questions think carefully about your team members (panellists) and their strengths and weaknesses as the questions could be key to how well you score on each debate
- You will be kept separate from your team. Use this time to plan some potential secondary questions for each main question. This will help you to keep the debate flowing well if the panel give short answers during the competition

### **The Competition**

- You will have an air of authority – but keep the panel and audience relaxed, remaining in control and attentive throughout
- In your introduction you have approx. 2 minutes to set the scene for the audience – the event they are attending and why, briefly introduce yourself and the Panel Members in the order they are sat and make them feel welcome
- Introduce the questions to the panel, always repeating the question to give the panel time to think before requesting an answer from each member in turn
- Keep the flow of the questions moving – ensure you have secondary questions ready to ask to ensure the debate on each question is healthy. Can interact with panel members but must not put own views across for any question
- At the end of time for each question bring the question to a close by summarising the key points from each panel member, don't be afraid to interrupt the panel if deep in discussion as timing is key to this competition and the questions should be debated for a similar length
- At the end of all three questions summarise all three for the panel. Thank each panel member for their contribution add your final comments and formally close the meeting

### **The Panellists:**

(The three Panellists have no individual timings and all contribute to the overall timing of the meeting)

**Prior to Competition** – Ensure that you keep abreast of Rural and General Affairs in the news  
**The Competition**

- You are a panel member for the evening to take part in debating some points (questions) that are asked to you by the Chair
- It is important to have done some research prior to the competition as the questions asked will be topical and relevant – either rural affairs or general current affairs
- Allow as much of your personality to show through as possible
- Give ideas, opinions and views and take a stance on the question – either agree with the point or disagree with the point, but in both cases ensure you have reasons why
- Ensure that at least one panel member disagrees with the point each time as this will create debate between those who have differing opinions (this is where you can score well). This can mean that you will have to put forward a view on a point that is the opposite view to your personal opinion
- Where possible link your response to relevant other news that you know, personal stories or possible examples
- Remember to listen to your Chair – if you are in the throes of a heated debate the Chair may need to stop your mid flow to ensure you keep to time, listen to them and stop as it may cost you if you don't

*Note: if you have never seen anything like this before a good example of a strong Chair and Panellist initial thoughts to questions, watch Question Time BBC1 10.45pm on a Thursday. (Not always the best example of how panellists should act during debates though)*





**Fun, Learning and  
Achievement**

Final  
July 2025  
Area Eliminator

## **NATIONAL FEDERATION OF YOUNG FARMERS' CLUBS**

**Competitions Programme 2025-2026**

### **NFYFC Situations Vacant**

16 to 21 years

22 to 28 years

#### **RULES**

##### **Competition Aim**

To encourage YFC members to work as an individual to prepare a Covering Letter and CV for their chosen job advert.  
Prepare and take part in a competency-based interview.

##### **Learning outcomes**

Communication, planning, presentation and personal development skills.

REMINDER: Please read these rules in conjunction with **NFYFC General Rules** and familiarise all competitors with the **Fine System in place for withdrawal from competitions.**

Further information can be found at <https://nfyfc.org.uk/competition-organisers-resources>

#### **1. VENUE**

1.1. After Area Finals, the National Final will be held at the Competitions Day on **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2026** at the County Showground Stafford.

#### **2. REPRESENTATION**

2.1. Counties may enter one competitor per 600 members or part thereof in the Area Eliminator.  
2.2. Areas will be represented in the Final by one competitor per 3,000 members or part thereof. (Northern Area 2, Eastern Area 1 and East Midlands 1, West Midlands Area 1, South West Area 2, South East Area 1 and Wales 2)

#### **3. ELIGIBILITY – To note that there are now two age groups to this competition – treat as two separate competitions.**

3.1. Competitors must be between the ages of 16 years of age and 21 years of age on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025 and full members of a Club affiliated to the NFYFC. This means competitors have attained their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025 and may be 22 on the day of the national final.  
3.2. Competitors must be between the ages of 22 years of age and 28 years of age on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025 and full members of a Club affiliated to the NFYFC. This means competitors have attained their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025 and may be 29 on the day of the national final.

#### **4. SUBSTITUTION**

4.1. If the original winner at area final is unable to go to the national final, then the next highest placed competitor will represent the Area.  
4.2. **All substitutes must have been eligible to compete in the County Final.**

#### **5. PROCEDURE**

5.1. The Competitor will be required to choose their own job advertisement to apply for, which is relevant to them. The advert must have been advertised within the last 12 months prior to the County final. All Applicants must submit the original job advertisement with a reference as to where and when the advert was published together with a CV and covering letter.  
5.2. The CV must not be more than 2 sides of A4 paper.  
5.3. The Covering Letter must not be more than 1 side of A4 paper

5.4. For the National Final, applications must be submitted to NFYFC no later than Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2026.

5.5. The Competitor will then be requested to attend an interview which will consist of specific questioning about the job being applied for and relevant requirements relating to the advertisement. Questions will also focus on life experiences and will be structured around the form "Tell me about a time when you ....." (E.g: "Tell me about a time when you had to meet a deadline). Applicants should consider the Situation (What was happening), Task (What was required), Action (What did YOU do) and the Result (What was the outcome) when answering.

6. **SCALE OF MARKS –**

CV	50
Covering Letter	40
Relevance and Quality of Advert	10
Interview	100
• Knowledge of the Industry/Organisation	
• Ability to answer questions concisely	
• Overall Impression / Appearance / Presentation	
<b>Total marks</b>	<b>200</b>

7. **AWARDS**

7.1. **Trophy** and NFYFC Prize Card to the winner.

7.2. NFYFC Prize Cards to competitors placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

7.3. NFYFC Certificates of Achievement will be awarded to all competitors.

8. **NOTES**

8.1. Competitors are reminded to dress appropriately for the competition (smart clothing - suitable for an interview scenario)



## NFYFC

### “How to” Guide – Situation Vacant

#### 1. Find a Job Advert

Look for a job advert relevant to a career path that you would enjoy. What are your hobbies and Interests? You should look for vacancies related to these as you will be judged on both the relevance and quality of the advert. When you have found an advert make sure you can obtain multiple copies (take a photo, scan or download the advert). Record where you found the advert and when it was published. Remember– adverts must have been published in the 12 months prior to Competitions Day!

Examples of where to look for job adverts:

- **Online:** [wwwIndeed.com](http://wwwIndeed.com) (general jobsearch site), [www.healthcareers.nhs.uk](http://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk) (health and social care positions), [www.careers.jobsinagriculture.com](http://www.careers.jobsinagriculture.com) (agricultural, mechanical and land management jobs), social media such as Facebook or Twitter
- **In-print:** Newspapers – Local and National, Magazines (Farmers Weekly, for example, has a good selection of careers in agriculture), Local Noticeboards
- **In-person:** A Jobs Fayre, Local Job Centre, University/College careers advisor, Word of Mouth (ask friends and family members for adverts they may have seen)

#### 2. Prepare your CV

A CV (short for curriculum vitae) is required when applying for a job; it is a personal marketing document used to sell yourself to potential employers. Your CV should tell the employer about you, your career history and your skills, abilities and achievements. Ultimately, it should highlight why you are the best person for the job!

Sections to include in your CV:

- **Name & Contact details.** These should be positioned at the top of the page. Include an email address and phone number. It is not necessary to state your full address – the Town & County will suffice.
- **Personal profile.** This is a short paragraph that sits underneath your name and contact details giving a brief overview of who you are and what you can offer the company.
- **Your experience and employment history.** List your experiences in reverse chronological order with your most recent employment at the top. Remember to include your key responsibilities, skills and achievements. Choose examples of achievements relevant to the job you are applying for.
- **Education and other Qualifications.** Include the name of the School/College/University you attended and the course studied. Include your highest qualification level and any other relevant qualifications you may have (First Aid at Work Certificates for example).
- **Additional Sections.** If there is room you can include key skills, hobbies and interests you have, that are relevant to the job advertised. Avoid listing hobbies/interests that are irrelevant. **Remember – Your CV must not be more than 2 sides of A4 paper.**
- **For more information on building your CV visit:** The NFYFC Website and access our Competitions pages. Alternatively, visit [CV Library 'How to write a CV'](#)

#### 3. Write your Covering Letter

The covering letter introduces you to the employer and asks them to consider your application. Keep it short, 3 to 5 paragraphs, and attach it to the front of your CV. When writing your covering letter, remember to:

- Make sure it is targeted toward the specific job you are applying for. Address it directly to the company recruiter and make sure the company name and recruiter's details are correct. You can use the company website to confirm their details. Remember to show you have done your research into the job and the company.

- Use the same font and font size you used for your CV. Be clear and to the point, 3 to 5 paragraphs will suffice. Double check your spelling and grammar before you send it, have a friend or relative check it for you!
- **Remember – the covering letter must not be more than one side of A4 paper.**
- For more tips on writing your Covering Letter [Click Here](#)

#### 4. Send your documents to NFYFC!

Documents can be sent via post or email and are **due one month before the date of the NFYFC Final**. Please check the Competition Rules for the specific date. Please ensure you leave plenty of time for the documents to arrive if sending via post.

Items to include:

- Job Advert (Make sure it is stated when and where the advert is from)
- Your Covering Letter
- Your CV

<p><b>For the National Final send via email:</b></p> <p><b>Subject: Situation Vacant Documents</b></p> <p><b>To:</b> <a href="mailto:Margaret.Bennett@nfyfc.org.uk">Margaret.Bennett@nfyfc.org.uk</a></p>	<p><b>For the National Final send via post to:</b></p> <p><b>FAO: Competitions Department,</b> <b>YFC Centre,</b> <b>10th Street,</b> <b>Stoneleigh Park,</b> <b>Kenilworth,</b> <b>Warwickshire</b> <b>CV8 2LG</b></p>
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#### 5. NFYFC Final

On the day of the final you will attend an interview where you will be asked questions about the job you have applied for, the job advert and the requirements specified in the advert. Dress appropriately for the situation. Smart, business dress would be suitable for the interview

Questions will also be asked about your own life and previous work experiences relevant to the job. Expect questions such as: *"Tell me about a time when you had to meet a deadline"*

Try to answer your questions using the [‘STAR’ method](#) to highlight qualities and skills relevant to the job that you have gained from past experiences.

**Situation** (What was happening)

**Task** (What was required)

**Action** (What did YOU do)

**Result** (What was the outcome)

***Remember to bring a copy of your CV, Covering Letter and Job Advert with you on the day of the final. Dress smart, smile and breathe! Enjoy the experience.***

***Good Luck!***





**Fun, Learning and  
Achievement**

*Final  
July 2025  
Area Eliminator*

## **NATIONAL FEDERATION OF YOUNG FARMERS' CLUBS**

**Competitions Programme 2025-2026**

**NFYFC Member of the Year**

**(18 years & Over)**

### **R U L E S**

#### **COMPETITION AIMS**

To encourage YFC members to share their experiences as a Young Farmer, reflect and evaluate their contributions and achievements in YFC and the wider community through an application and interview process.

#### **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Communication skills, presentation skills and personal development skills

REMINDER: Please read these rules in conjunction with **NFYFC General Rules** and familiarise all competitors with the **Fine System in place for withdrawal from competitions**.

Further information can be found at <https://nfyfc.org.uk/competition-organisers-resources>

1. **DATE & VENUE** – Venue to be confirmed dates TBC Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> or Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April or Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2026 – Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026 and the results will be given during the Entertainments Competition Finals on Saturday evening.
2. **REPRESENTATION**
  - 2.1. Counties may enter one competitor per 600 members or part thereof in Area Eliminators.
  - 2.2. Areas will be represented by one competitor in the Final competition.
  - 2.3. Member of the Year competitors are eligible to compete in a second NFYFC final on the same day if applicable.
3. **ELIGIBILITY**
  - 3.1. The competitor must be 18 years or over and 28 years or under on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025 and a full member of a Club affiliated to the NFYFC.
  - 3.2. If the competitor through to the National Final must withdraw from the competition, then the next highest placed competitor will represent the Area.
  - 3.3. **All substitutes must have been eligible to compete in the County Final.**
4. **PROCEDURE**
  - 4.1. **PART 1: 28 DAYS prior** to the National Final competitors will be required to submit to the Competitions Department at NFYFC a completed synopsis form (attached) to be no more than **3 sides of A4**, detailing their YFC activities. It is recommended that this form be used at County and Area level. (Special emphasis should be placed on their involvement at Club level).
  - 4.2. **PART 2:** Competitors will be interviewed by a panel of Judges. The interview will be formal, but will be in a supportive atmosphere with the opportunity for competitors to demonstrate why they should be Senior Member of the Year; prior to the Performing Arts competition.
  - 4.3. **PART 3:** Competitors will be required to attend the Performing Arts Final during which they will be asked two questions on stage, one previously asked in the interview stage, and another based on the competitor's experience to the YFC movement.
  - 4.4. **PART 4:** Results and Presentation of Awards will be made during the Performing Arts Final.
5. **OBJECTIVES**

- 5.1. The objective of the competition is to select a member who has shown that they are involved in all aspects of the YFC Movement and who can be an ambassador for YFC. Judges will be looking for:
- Involvement at Club level throughout the period of membership
  - Overall YFC involvement (i.e., Club, County, Area **or** National)
  - Specific involvement in activities in the previous 12 months (environment conservation, competitions, recruitment, programming, charity, sport, club officer)
  - General commitment to YFC - awareness of other members' interests in YFC and objective view of the future of the organisation
  - Knowledge of the YFC movement at Club, County, Area and National levels and to share that knowledge over the 12-month period following the final

6. **SCALE OF MARKS – Total 100 marks from Formal Interview and Stage Interview (Table below for guidance only)**

Synopsis Form	20
Ability to Answer Questions	20
YFC Knowledge	10
YFC experience	10
Appearance & enthusiasm	10
Other knowledge and experience	10
On Stage Interview	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

7. **AWARDS**

- 7.1. *Total Butler Fuels Plaque* to the winner.
- 7.2. NFYFC Prize Cards awarded to competitors placed 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> all other competitors will be awarded = 4<sup>th</sup>

8. **NOTES**

- 8.1. Competitors are reminded to dress appropriately for the competition (smart clothing - suitable for an interview scenario).



**Fun, Learning and  
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**YFC MEMBER OF THE YEAR 2025-2026 (18 years & over)  
Synopsis Form**

Name:

YFC Membership

Card No:

Name of YFC Club:

YFC County Federation:

Year first joined YFC:

**YFC History – posts held:**

**YFC Involvement (please record YFC activities you have participated in)**  
**Club**

**County**

**Area/Wales**

**National**

**Proudest moment in YFC (so far!)**

**Ambitions in YFC**

**Ambitions outside YFC**

**Hobbies and interests outside of YFC**

**Additional Information**





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Achievement**

## NFYFC

### “How to” Guide – Senior Member of the Year

#### 1. Part One - The Synopsis Form

The Synopsis Form is your opportunity to document **your** achievements during your Young Farmers' Club membership. Take the time to reflect on the past twelve months and make a note of any events or accomplishments you are particularly proud of. There are seven sections for you to fill with your achievements and ambitions; these are:

- **YFC History** – record the posts you have held from Club to National Level.
- **YFC Involvement** – let us know what activities you have participated in. Include competitions, events, club nights and anything else you feel is relevant.
- **Proudest moment in YFC (so far!)** – what are you most proud of achieving whilst being a YFC member? Use this section to explain what you did and why it made you proud.
- **Ambitions in YFC** – What do you hope to attain as a YFC member? Do you want your club to win the most county competitions? Do you want to raise the most money for your county? Do you want to be national chair of council? Tell us about your aims and how you plan to get there.
- **Ambitions outside YFC** – What do you hope to achieve outside of YFC? This could be your future career goals, school success, home life including ambitions for the family farm. Think big – what do you hope to achieve in the future and how are you going to do it?
- **Hobbies and Interests outside YFC** – Use this section to document any hobbies or interests you think might be relevant to the competition.
- **Additional information** – This space should be used to add in any information you feel is important and relevant to the competition, that does not necessarily come under the previous headings. You are encouraged to use this space.
- Your synopsis form should be used to sell yourself to the judges – this is the first opportunity to promote yourself.

**When writing your form, imagine how it will come across to the Judge.**

Top tips:

- Try to use concise language, keep it interesting and get to the point – do not ramble on as the reader will lose interest.
- Use short paragraphs or bullet points in each section, this avoids large blocks of text and is easier for the reader to follow.
- Typing your answers onto the form opposed to handwriting the document is preferred. Use an easy-to-read font (pick a clear font such as Arial or Calibri and **aim for 11/12 font size**).
- Spelling and Grammar Check! Ensure your 'spell checker' is turned on whilst completing your synopsis form and double check it yourself for errors. Have a friend or guardian read through the form to check for spelling or grammatical errors – someone else may spot something you have missed.
- Keep within three sides
- of A4 (this is the maximum size allowed in the national final).
- Check the deadline for submission. When is the national final? Remember that your synopsis form must be submitted at least 28 days before the date of the final.
- Think about how you can make your form stand out without using gimmicks.



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**Where to send your synopsis form  
FOR THE NATIONAL FINAL ONLY:**

<p><b>Send via email:</b></p> <p><b>Subject: SMOTY – Synopsis Form</b></p> <p><b>To:</b> <a href="mailto:Margaret.Bennett@nfyc.org.uk">Margaret.Bennett@nfyc.org.uk</a></p>	<p><b>Send via post to:</b></p> <p><b>FAO: Competitions Department, YFC Centre, 10th Street, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 2LG</b></p>
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**2. Part Two – Interview at National Final**

At the national final you will be interviewed on your achievements over the past twelve months by a panel of judges. The judges will have received your synopsis form prior to the competition final so make sure the achievements you mention during the interview complement those you recorded on the form.

• **Interview tips**

- Prepare for questions –the judges will ask you questions related to the topics on your synopsis form, be ready for this by including it in your practice run. Have your friends think of questions the judges may ask – ensure that you are not told them beforehand, this will help create that real interview feel.
- Dress smart. How would you dress for a job interview? Or a day at sixth form/college? Apply that dress code here.
- Engage your audience. Remember you are not reading a script; you are telling your story and the aim is to keep your listeners interested in that story. The judges are going to want to know more about your YFC history and future goals, along with your achievements and goals outside the organisation.
- Make sure you answer the question that has been asked and try not to waffle, but you also need to ensure you give the judges enough in your answer for them to see you and why you should be Member of the Year.
- Try to answer questions using the 'STAR Method':
  - **Situation:** Set the scene and give the necessary details of your example.
  - **Task:** Describe what your responsibility was in that situation.
  - **Action:** Explain exactly what steps you took to address it.
  - **Result:** Share what outcomes your actions achieved.
- Smile and make eye contact with the judges. There is usually at least one (if not more) ex-young farmers on the panel who share your enthusiasm for the organisation and have likely competed themselves.





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### **Part 3 – The Stage Interview**

The final part of the competition (prior to the announcement of results!) is the stage interview. Usually held during the finals of the Performing Arts Competition, the interview takes place as part of the interval when competitors are invited onstage to answer two questions. One of these questions will have already been asked during the interview with the judges, the second question will be a brand-new question based on your YFC experience.

- **Stage Interview Tips**

- Have a practice run (or two!) at home to get used to being interviewed and presenting your achievements to an audience.
- Get used to speaking in front of groups of people. Ask family members or friends if they could act as an audience and offer constructive criticism to help prepare you for the national final. You could also organise a club night where YFC members ask you questions, and you answer those in front of the whole club.
- Smile and let your enthusiasm show whilst answering the questions, engage with the audience and thank the steward for the questions they ask when you have finished giving your answers.

***Dress smart, smile and breathe! Enjoy the experience.  
Good Luck!***





# NATIONAL FEDERATION OF YOUNG FARMERS' CLUBS

Competitions Programme 2025 - 26

Status Final  
July 2025  
Area Eliminator

## NFYFC Mace Debate

Adapted from English Speaking Union rules

### 28 & under

### RULES

#### Competition Aim

To encourage members aged 28 or under to work as a team and develop their debating skills.

#### Learning outcomes

Develop knowledge of controversial issues and world affairs, while enhancing speech writing, public speaking, analytical thinking skills and confidence.

REMINDER: Please read these rules in conjunction with **NFYFC General Rules** and familiarise all competitors with the **Fine System in place for withdrawal from competitions.**

Further information can be found at <https://nfyc.org.uk/competition-organisers-resources>

#### 1. DATE AND VENUE

- 1.1. After Area Finals, the National Final will be held on Competitions Day, **Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> July 2026** at Staffordshire Showground.

#### 2. REPRESENTATION

- 2.1. Counties may enter one team per 600 members or part thereof in Area Finals.  
2.2. Areas will be represented in the final by one team per 3,000 members or part thereof. (Northern Area 2, Eastern Area 1 and East Midlands 1, West Midlands Area 1, South West Area 2, South East Area 1 and Wales 2)

#### 3. ELIGIBILITY

- 1.1. A team shall consist of **FIVE (5)** members, who must all be 28 years of age or under on 1 September 2025 and full members of a Club affiliated to the NFYFC.

#### 4. SUBSTITUTION

- 4.1. All substitutes must have been eligible to compete in the County Final.

#### 5. PROCEDURE

- 5.1. The team will comprise of a Chair, two speakers for the Proposition and two speakers for the Opposition.  
5.2. The teams will be split so that the Chair from Team A will work with the two propositions from Team B and the two oppositions from Team C.  
5.3. Debating subjects in the NFYFC Finals will be provided by the NFYFC twenty-one days prior to the competition. Area rounds will debate subjects provided by the Area Committee twenty-one days prior to the competition.  
5.4. The Chair and Debaters must be available to meet each other at least thirty minutes before competing time, to enable the Chair to prepare his/her introductory notes.  
5.5. The Vote shall be taken by a show of hands.  
5.6. The Chair shall announce the result of the Vote and declare the meeting closed.

6. Further guidelines on this competition can be found from the NFYFC 'How to Guide' or following the link to the English Speaking Union (ESU) Link to MACE guidelines: <https://www.esu.org/competitions/> entitled School's Mace.

## 7. SCALE OF MARKS

<b>Chair</b>	<b>30</b>
Expression and delivery (5)	
Organisation and prioritisation (5)	
Accuracy of timing (10)	
Overall control of debate (10)	
<b>First Proposition - Main Speeches (1<sup>st</sup> Speaker)</b>	<b>40</b>
Expression and delivery (10)	
Organisation and prioritisation (10) (includes timing – 1 mark deducted per 30 seconds over or part thereof)	
Reasoning and evidence (10)	
Listening and response (10)	
<b>First Opposition - Main Speeches (1<sup>st</sup> Speaker)</b>	<b>40</b>
Expression and delivery (10)	
Organisation and prioritisation (10) (includes timing – 1 mark deducted per 30 seconds over or part thereof)	
Reasoning and evidence (10)	
Listening and response (10)	
<b>Second Proposition - Main Speeches (2<sup>nd</sup> Speaker)</b>	<b>40</b>
Expression and delivery (10)	
Organisation and prioritisation (10) (includes timing – 1 mark deducted per 30 seconds over or part thereof)	
Reasoning and evidence (10)	
Listening and response (10)	
<b>Second Opposition - Main Speeches (2<sup>nd</sup> Speaker)</b>	<b>40</b>
Expression and delivery (10)	
Organisation and prioritisation (10) (includes timing – 1 mark deducted per 30 seconds over or part thereof)	
Reasoning and evidence (10)	
Listening and response (10)	
<b>Opposition Summary Speech - Summary Speeches</b>	<b>20</b>
Expression and delivery (5)	
Organisation and prioritisation (5) (includes timing – 1 mark deducted per 30 seconds over or part thereof)	
Reasoning and evidence (5)	
Listening and response (5)	
<b>Proposition Summary Speech - Summary Speeches</b>	<b>20</b>
Expression and delivery (5)	
Organisation and prioritisation (5) (includes timing – 1 mark deducted per 30 seconds over or part thereof)	
Reasoning and evidence (5)	
Listening and response (5)	
<b>Total per team</b>	<b>230</b>
<b>(Includes Chair, 2x Opposition Speakers 2x Proposition Speakers and 2 x Summary Speeches)</b>	

## 8. NFYFC Final

- 8.1 At the NFYFC Final the team placed 1<sup>st</sup> will be awarded *the Novartis Trophy* and Prize Cards
- 8.2 Teams placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> will be awarded Prize Cards
- 8.3 NFYFC Certificates of Achievement will be awarded to all members of teams
- 8.4 At the NFYFC Final an individual Prize Card will also be awarded to the Best Chair, Best Proposer and Seconder and Best Opposer and Seconder.
- 8.5 Filming of the competition is not permitted without prior consent from NFYFC and all competing teams
- 8.6 Mobile Device (Phone, Tablet, Laptop etc) use during the competition is strictly for timekeeping purposes only. Mobile device use in Prep Room is prohibited.
- 8.7 Competitors are reminded to dress appropriately for the competition (smart clothing - suitable for an interview scenario)





## NATIONAL FEDERATION OF YOUNG FARMERS' CLUBS

Status Final  
July 2025

### “How to” Guide – Mace Debating

**Remember: This is a guide to how the competition could be run and is not strict rules.**

1.1. **The Panel** made up 5 members:



1.2. **Format**

Timing	Opposition 2	Opposition 1	Chair	Proposition 1	Proposition 2
Start			Welcome & introduces the debate, teams & 1 <sup>st</sup> Proposition Speaker (approx. 2 minutes)		
02:00	(Opposition can interject with Points of Information during the unprotected time of the Proposition speech)			Defines motion, outlines proposition case, delivers own arguments and summarises proposition case (6 minutes)	
08:00			Introduces 1 <sup>st</sup> Opposition Speaker (approx. 30 seconds)		
08:30		Outlines opposition case, rebuts proposition arguments, delivers own arguments and summarises opposition case (6 minutes)		(Proposition can interject with Points of Information during the unprotected time of the Opposition speech)	
14:30			Introduces 2 <sup>nd</sup> Proposition Speaker (approx. 30 seconds)		
15:00	(Opposition can interject with Points of Information during the unprotected time of the Proposition speech)				Rebuts, recaps, outlines, delivers own arguments and summarises (4 minutes)



19:00			Introduces 2 <sup>nd</sup> Opposition Speaker (approx. 30 seconds)		
19:30	Rebuts, recaps, outlines, delivers own arguments and summarises (4 minutes)			(Proposition can interject with Points of Information during the unprotected time of the Opposition speech)	
23:30			Invites speakers from the floor (not questions but points or queries to be used in summary speeches) (up to 5 minutes)		
28:30			Introduces summary speaker for opposition (approx. 30 sec)		
29:00	One of the members of the opposition team summarises, referring to own case and floor debate (4 minutes)				
33:00			Introduces summary speaker for proposition (approx. 30 sec)		
33:30				One of the members of the proposition team summarises, referring to own case and floor debate (4 minutes)	
37:30			End of Debate: Conducts votes on motion, thanks speakers and concludes the debate (approx. 2 minutes)		
39:30	End				

### 1.3. Role descriptions

#### Chair:

- The chair is responsible for inviting speakers to deliver their speech, thanking them and calling on the next speaker, calling on audience members to make points during the floor debate and maintaining good general order. Taking the vote (show of hands – those for the motion, those against and any abstentions) and concluding the debate.
- The chair is also responsible for time keeping, giving audible signals indicating when a speaker is in protected time (1 minute at the beginning and end of each speech) or unprotected time (middle section of each speech) and indicating when a speaker's time is up. The chair should record the length of each speech and give the timings to the judges after the debate.
- 30 minutes planning time before competition – Chair if they can gather information from each participant so they can be introduced correctly and see if can gather any information about what they are planning to cover.

*Note: Good practice is to use a bell to signify the timings*

#### Proposition:

##### First Speaker 1:

*(Max 6 minutes – time penalties will incur if over time)*

- Define the motion the Chair gives
- Outlines the arguments the proposition will make towards the motion

- Set up the debate in terms of what the proposition wants to debate
- If the opposition interject with a point of information (POI) the speaker has to choose whether to accept it or not. If accepted listen to the POI and respond and then continue with your speech as though the POI never happened
- Keep within the time and remember that time taken in dealing with Points of Information are included in the overall time for the speech.
- To offer Points of Information (POI) to other speakers when they are in unprotected time

### **Second Speaker 2:**

*(Max 4 minutes – time penalties will incur if over time)*

- Rebut the argument made in the First Opposition's speech
- Expand on the arguments made by team member (speaker 1)
- Introduce new arguments that expand on the motion or introduce a new angle of the argument and develop it fully
- If the opposition interject with a point of information (POI) the speaker has to choose whether to accept it or not. If accepted listen to the POI and respond and then continue with your speech as though the POI never happened
- Keep within the time and remember that time taken in dealing with Points of Information are included in the overall time for the speech.
- To offer Points of Information (POI) to other speakers when they are in unprotected time

### **Proposition Summary Speaker (can be either 1 or 2):**

*(Max 4 minutes – time penalties will incur if over time)*

- To use the full range of arguments made in the debate to their advantage, reminding the audience and judge of the Points of Information their team made and why they exposed the flaws in the proposition case
- Refer to the floor debate and draw on points or queries from the audience to their advantage
- Convince the audience and adjudicators that their case was better
- The summary speech should not contain any new material not raised in the main speeches or the floor debate
- No Points of Information can be given in the summary speech

### **Opposition:**

#### **First Speaker 1:**

*(Max 6 minutes – time penalties will incur if over time)*

- Rebut the arguments made in the First Proposition speech
- Outline all the arguments to be made by Opposition
- Make a substantive case for the opposition instead of just denying what the proposition have said
- If the proposition interjects with a point of information (POI) the speaker has to choose whether to accept it or not. If accepted listen to the POI and respond and then continue with your speech as though the POI never happened
- Keep within the time and remember that time taken in dealing with Points of Information are included in the overall time for the speech.
- To offer Points of Information (POI) to other speakers

#### **Second Speaker 2:**

*(Max 4 minutes – time penalties will incur if over time)*

- Rebut the arguments made in the Second Proposition speech
- Expand on the arguments made by team member (speaker 1)
- To use the full range of arguments made in the debate to their advantage
- Introduce new arguments that expand on the case or to introduce a new angle of the argument and develop it fully
- If the proposition interjects with a point of information (POI) the speaker has to choose whether to accept it or not. If accepted listen to the POI and respond and then continue with your speech as though the POI never happened
- Keep within the time and remember that time taken in dealing with Points of Information are included in the overall time for the speech.
- To offer Points of Information (POI) to other speakers

### **Opposition Summary Speaker (can be either 1 or 2):**

*(Max 4 minutes – time penalties will incur if over time)*

- To use the full range of arguments made in the debate to their advantage; reminding the audience and judge of the Points of Information their team made and why they exposed the flaws in the proposition case
- Refer to the floor debate and draw on points or queries from the audience to their advantage
- Persuade the audience and adjudicators that their case was stronger
- The summary speech should not contain any new material not raised in the main speeches or the floor debate
- No points of information to be given in the summary speech

### **30 minutes before Competition:**

- Chair and Opposition and Proposition members get together in room to share information. Chair will want information to be able to introduce you during the competition.
- Be careful what you share as you don't want to give away too much.

## **TERMS DEFINED**

### **Protected Time:**

- The first minute and the last minute of each main speech
- All of the Summary Speeches are protected
- Protected time signalled by Chair

### **Unprotected time:**

- After the first minute and before the last minute of a main speech
- Unprotected time signalled by Chair

### **Rebuttal**

- Addressing the other side's arguments during your own speech is known as rebuttal
- The aim of rebuttal is to undermine the opposition's case and leave your own case looking stronger
- Rebuttal can be at any time during the speech but make sure the audience and adjudicators are clear that you are addressing the other sides arguments

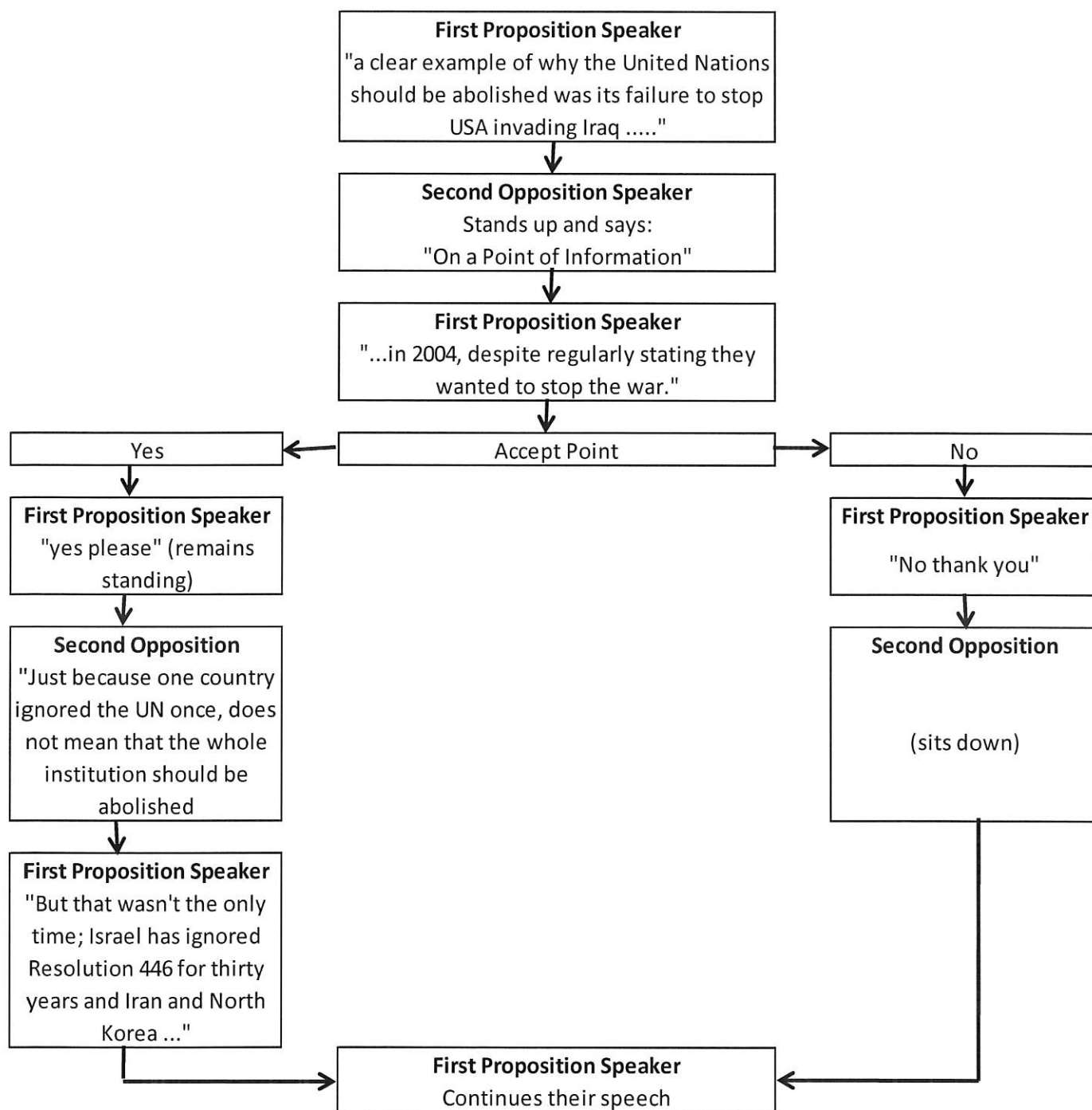
### **Points of Information:**

- A formal interjection which may be made during an opposing speakers' speech. A POI is offered when a speaker stands up and addresses the current speaker saying, "on a point of information" or "on that point". POI may be accepted or declined by the current speaker, if declined, the speaker offering the POI must resume their seat. If accepted the speaker offering the POI may make a **brief** point after which they must resume their seat, and the current speaker continues with their speech. **Please note that POIs are up to the debating members to manage at no point does the Chair manage POIs. If the point becomes too long, it is up to the interrupted speaker to interrupt and carry on with their speech.**
- Further information can be found from the English Speaking Union (ESU) -
- These are central to the interactivity of the debate and demonstrate ability to engage in arguments (approx. 25% of the teams' marks are for listening and response)
- These cannot be made during the first and last minute of the main speeches or during the summary speeches, this time is known as protected time.
- Points of Information are included in the time limit



### An example of Point of Information:

#### Example of Points of Information



#### Mark Scheme Explanation (Judges and Competitors Guidance)

**Reasoning and Evidence Features:** Relevancy of arguments, relevant empirical evidence to support ideas, analysed arguments from premise to conclusions. Speeches that score highly for reasoning and evidence are highly relevant and well-constructed, providing logical and persuasive arguments for their side. They work through from basic assertions to well justified conclusions, making use of evidence that supports their case. Arguments are not only relevant and well analysed, but also must have their importance demonstrated, and a weight given in reference to other material in the debate.

Reasoning is about the content of the individual arguments each speaker makes and how well they are explained.

**Revisited material**

Did the speaker choose the most powerful examples and analogies to revisit in their summary speech?

**New material**

New material is only permitted if it elaborates – or responds to – material already mentioned by another speaker in the debate. A small amount of interesting relevant new material of this type can be rewarded. Totally new material should be penalised.

**Clarity and logic**

Are the arguments explained clearly and logically?

**Examples and analogies**

Are the arguments supported by a sufficient number of examples and analogies? Facts, statistics, case studies, new stories, historical or scientific references and other evidence should be relevant and have a credible source.

**Links to the motion**

Are the arguments relevant to the motion? The higher mark for first proposition reflects the particular importance of setting up a strong proposition case and a clear debate. A sensible, concise comprehensive definition of motion should be rewarded.

**Organisation and Prioritisation Features:** Marked out arguments, signposted ideas, internal structure, ranking of most relevant ideas, preference best ideas. Speeches that show strong organisation and prioritisation are exceptionally clear in communicating ideas. They introduce the most relevant ideas and make use of them, without rushing through or introducing every possible relevant argument. Arguments are signposted well, and it is clear when a speech moves from one idea to the next.

**Choice of arguments**

There is not time to summarise every argument raised in the debate. Summary speakers should concentrate on the main points of contention that are key to winning over the audience.

**Team Structure**

Did the team's speeches complement each other?

Did the first speaker outline a clear case which the team followed?

Were the arguments in the case arranged such that the most important arguments were given appropriate emphasis?

**Individual structure**

Was each individual speech well-structured and easy to follow?

Were individual arguments grouped into a logical and coherent speech?

Were the most important arguments emphasised?

**Adaptability**

Did the speakers show that they were able to reorganise their material if developments in the debate necessitated it?

**Timing**

Was the allotted time used wisely, with sufficient time being given to a discussion of each major area of clash in the debate?

Did the speakers speak for approximately their allotted time? Did they divide their time sensibly between their different points?

**Listening and Response Features:** Rebuttal and points of information, relevance to arguments, level of response given, prioritization. Speeches that score well in terms of listening and response show an incisive ability to engage with the very roots of the case presented by the opposing bench. Rather than tackling simply examples or evidence, they undermine the principles or concepts on top of which arguments are built. Speakers will aim to undermine the most important material in both rebuttal, points of information, and also their main constructive material. They will be flexible in their approach to the debate and will weight their own ideas in reference to the opposing bench.

### **Own team**

Has the speaker listened to their own team, reflecting what was actually said rather than what was planned beforehand?

### **Rebuttal**

Has the summary speaker listened carefully to their opponents and shown why they disagree with the key arguments?

### **Floor debate**

Were key points referred to?

### **Rebuttal**

Have speakers been listening carefully to their opponents and shown, in their own speeches, why they disagree?

**Points of Information are not allowed in summary speeches;** the speaker's ability in this area is assessed as part of their main speech.

### **Points of Information**

Speakers show listening skills through taking and making Points of Information. Speakers should not be penalised if no points are offered to them or if they offer enough points, but none are accepted.

### **Making Points of Information**

Have speakers made good Points of Information, showing they have been listening and picking out important points to challenge as a point of information rather than to use as a rebuttal? Have they made their Points of Information brief?

### **Taking Points of Information**

Have speakers handled the Points of Information offered appropriately? Where a Point of information has been accepted has it been answered promptly and capably?

**Expression and Delivery Features:** Eye contact, hand gestures, stance, emotive language, rhetorical devices and questions, pacing. Speeches that score highly on expression and delivery demonstrate a clear awareness of rhetoric and attempt to engage an audience. They make use of tools such as eye contact, hand gestures, and some emotive language to engage with the judges. They may make use of notes, but as a prompt, rather than to rehearse or read the speech.

Expression and delivery focuses not on what is said, but how it is said. The mark is for how much they engage the audience, including:

#### **Use of Notes**

How effective is the speaker's use of notes? Speakers should have some notes from which they speak fluently. Speakers should be penalised for reading speeches which they have written out in full beforehand or for reciting memorised speeches, which have been learnt by note.

#### **Use of Voice**

Are the speakers audible and clear, while varying speed, volume and intonation to keep their speeches interesting and to add conviction and authority?

#### **Use of Words**

Is language varied, persuasive, appropriate and precise?

#### **Use of body language**

How effective are hand gestures, eye contact and facial expressions?

#### **Rhetoric and humour**

Is there an appropriate level of rhetoric and relevant humour?

### **Scoring**

**Teams' total scores therefore consist of 230 points: 30 points for the Chair; 40 points for the proposer; 40 points for the opposer; 40 points for the second proposer; 40 points for the second opposer; 20 points for the opposition summary and 20 points for the proposition summary.**

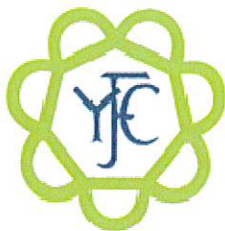
### **Judges' Feedback**

It is imperative criticism is delivered in a constructive manner. Judges are to be professional, courteous, and focus on the positive aspects of what a competitor did during the debate. Volunteer Judges should remember that the majority of the competitors do not progress beyond the Regional Final. It is therefore essential that judging is of as high a quality as



possible at this stage in the competition to give all participants a sense of achievement and the awareness of having learned valuable skills from their experience. Competitors will want to know what criteria they were marked on. Feedback is of two types: general and individual. The first must happen, the second can and should occur if time allows. General Feedback happens after you have deliberated on your decisions and returned to the auditorium and BEFORE you announce the winners. This is your chance to offer constructive feedback and advice to all of the participants. This is often done by dividing up the feedback areas between the judges, a division of labour that should be sorted out before the performances start. For example: 'We felt that teams were generally good at constructing strongly evidenced arguments, but at times needed to be more forthcoming with points of information. Whilst we judge on the basis of all four criteria, we felt that the difference between teams could be most keenly seen in the quality of listening and response'.

# YORKSHIRE FEDERATION OF YOUNG FARMERS' CLUBS



## OPEN INDIVIDUAL TEN MINUTE SPEECH COMPETITION

### For the Geoffrey Clapham Memorial Award

Competitors must be members of a Club affiliated to the Yorkshire Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs and be 28 years of age or under on 1st September 2025.

Direct entry two members per club.

The Trophy will be held for one year.

Competitors will be required to give a Ten Minute Prepared Speech on a subject of their choice from an empty platform. Half a minute is allowed either way (under or over), after which one mark will be deducted for each minute over or under the time set.

The Judge will be invited to ask questions.

Excessive use of notes will be penalised.

### SCALE OF MARKS:-

Choice of Subject	10
Content of Speech	50
Style and Delivery	30
Diction and Clarity	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

**This competition does not go any further.**



# Yorkshire Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs

## Parental Consent Form

### Section 1 – Event Details – (This section to be completed by the event organiser)

<b>Event Name:</b>	COUNTY PUBLIC SPEAKING 2026		
<b>Event Date:</b>	Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> January 2026		
<b>Event Location:</b>	Harrogate High School, Ainsty Road, Harrogate, HG1 4TH		
<b>Event Start Time:</b>	See timetable	<b>Event Finish Time:</b>	4.00pm approx.
<b>Event Costs:</b>	Free entry. Please bring money for drinks and snacks.		
<b>Event organiser:</b>	YORKSHIRE FEDERATION OF YOUNG FARMERS' CLUBS		
<b>Event organiser contact details:</b>	County Office 01423 546170		
<b>Additional information for the parent/guardian to be aware of?</b> Members to organise their own transport.			

### Section 2 – Member Details (This section should be completed, signed by parent/guardian and returned to the event organiser)

<b>Member Name:</b>	
<b>Club Name:</b>	
<b>Digital Membership Number:</b>	
<b>Transport Arrangements:</b>	
<b>Additional information for the event organiser to be aware of?</b> (Please detail any medical needs, disability, SEN needs, specific dietary requirements or any other relevant information that may require our consideration).	

EMERGENCY CONTACTS				
<b>Name: (Parent/Guardian)</b>	<b>Tel (home):</b>		<b>Tel (work):</b>	
	<b>Mobile:</b>			
<b>Name: (Parent/Guardian)</b>	<b>Tel (home):</b>		<b>Tel (work):</b>	
	<b>Mobile:</b>			
In the event of the parents or guardians above being unavailable, please provide details of an alternative emergency contact				
<b>Name:</b>	<b>Tel (home):</b>		<b>Tel (work):</b>	
	<b>Mobile:</b>		<b>Relationship to child</b>	

### Section 3 – Photography Consent

Please complete the details below to indicate your consent for your child to be photographed and for these images/films or audio to be used by ..... YFC, YORKSHIRE FEDERATION OF YOUNG FARMERS' CLUBS.

I understand that my child may be photographed/filmed taking part in YFC activities and the resulting images or footage may be used by ..... YFC, YORKSHIRE FEDERATION OF YOUNG FARMERS'S CLUBS or NFYFC in printed or digital (website and social media) format.	<b>YES/NO</b>
I consent to my child's name* accompanying their photograph/images.	
* in accordance with our Safeguarding Policy, only first names of children will be published where consent is given for the use of names.	<b>YES/NO</b>
If you would like to discuss your child's photography permissions, please tick the box. (you will be contacted by a representative of ..... YFC)	

**I have noted the information and give permission for my child to participate in the above event. I also confirm that the information provided on the Annual Parental Consent Form (on the digital membership system) is current and correct unless updated above.**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



Map of venue:



Harrogate High School

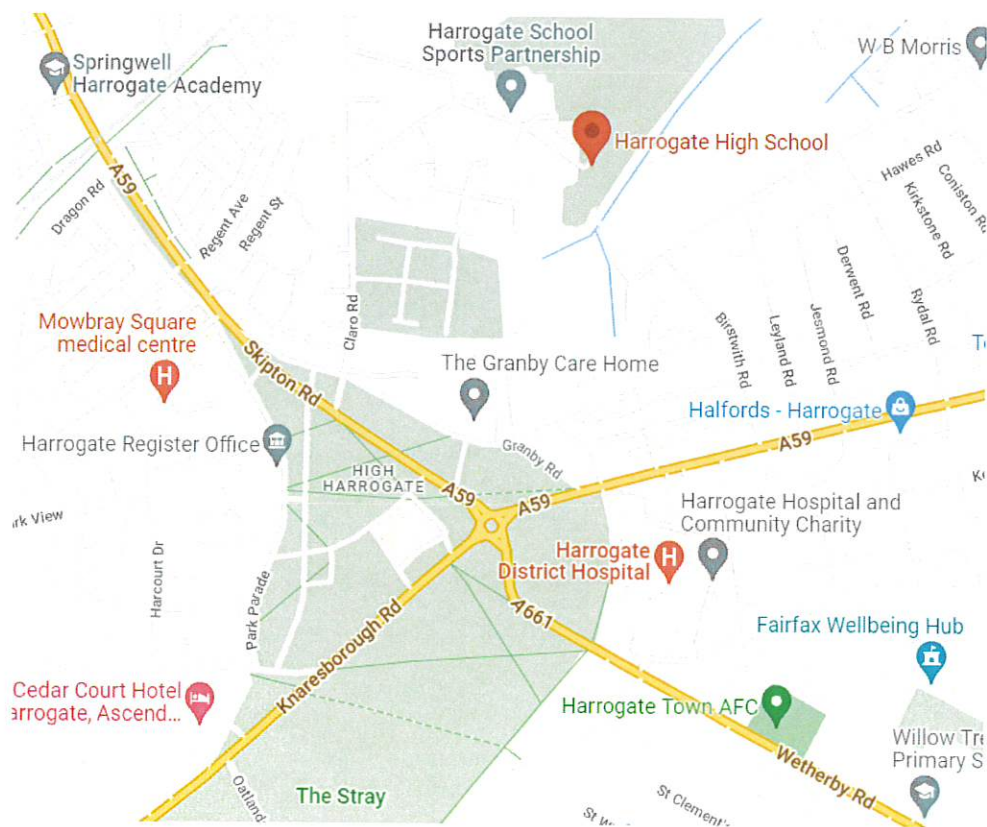
Ainsty Road

Harrogate

HG1 4TH

What3words: mint.spare.slam

Directions: From A59 in Harrogate, turn down Claro Road, then right onto Ainsty Road.



**Left blank for your own notes:**

**Left blank for your own notes:**





## **Yorkshire Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs**

Regional Agricultural Centre  
Railway Road  
Great Yorkshire Showground  
Harrogate  
HG2 8NZ

office@yfyfc.org.uk  
01423 546170

**Follow Yorkshire (YFYFC) on:**

[www.yfyfc.org.uk](http://www.yfyfc.org.uk)



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