

I. Introduction

DebateCraft is a Debating and Mafia platform. The goal is freedom of political speech for all with certain legal and other restrictions and enforcement tools that make the community feel safe.

Administrators and moderators retain the power to adjust this Code of Conduct at any time by a majority vote. However, admins and moderators will typically appeal to the community first before making any major change or adjustment. The site owner, airmax1227, has the final say in all administration and moderator decisions.

II. Account Rules

- Minimum age: 13 yrs old
- Maximum active accounts: 1. Can close and start fresh at any time.
- Usernames and profile pictures may not contain:
 - Impersonations of DebateCraft, an administrator or moderator, and celebrities (exception for satire).
- Accounts reasonably believed to be bots.
- No Vote trading.

III. Core Conduct Rules

These rules govern the basic standards that we hold everyone accountable to. The purpose of these rules is not to show who we respect and who we don't.

DebateCraft allows a wide range of content. While mods will not intervene every time a user says something bad, site members are strongly encouraged not to be jerks to each other or be a headache for the mods. This is not to say that "being a jerk" is against the rules if it doesn't stray into posting prohibited content, but we'd rather that the free speech on this site is seen as something we can be proud of and not a necessary evil. Users are encouraged to attack the argument and not the arguer and to not start or ignite flame wars.

Prohibited Conduct and content

The following conduct is prohibited and could result in sanctions up to and including a permanent ban from the site:

- Conducting (not just advocating) but conducting illegal activity (Inciting violence, Illegal sexual activity, Intellectual property infringement, doxing or threatening to dox, malware, phishing among others are examples).
- Commercial advertising.
- Spam (defined as exceeding 20 topics created over a 4 day period).

IV. Formal Debate Rules

DebateCraft offers three formal debate formats:

1. Unrated debates: Do not affect Elo ranking.
2. Rated debates: Do affect Elo ranking.
3. Random debates: You are given a randomized (topic, side to argue, and opponent). In order to participate in random debates you must:
 - a. Obtain the topic and voter badges by going to your profile
 - b. Opening Badges
 - c. Take the voter and topic quizzes.
 - d. Get 3 (voters and topic points)

The purpose of these rules is to protect the integrity of formal debates and outline expectations that we have for voters and debaters.

Use of AI in Formal Debates

- Undisclosed reliance on AI-generated argumentation may invalidate debates, result in debate removal, or trigger enforcement actions as defined in the enforcement tools section.

AI Use	Legality regardless of debate type
Research	Unrestricted
Reviewing arguments	Disclosure required
Grammar or spelling review	Unrestricted
Light editing (e.g., rephrasing 1-2 sentences)	Disclosure required
Writing full arguments	Prohibited

As a Voter

The role of voters is to grade arguments objectively, analysing the logic of each side to determine which debater defends their side more effectively. It is not simply to say which arguments they personally like better or which side they agree with.

In order for a vote to pass moderator review in rated or random debates, the reason for decision (RFD) must at minimum:

- Votes solely based on relative strength of arguments made in the debate, and analysis of these arguments by the debaters, including relevant responses and weighing analysis.
- Explains why the arguments analyzed are enough to determine the outcome, not ignoring key arguments that could change the outcome.
- Displays neutrality, making clear that any personal opinions mentioned do not affect how arguments are weighed.
- Votes based on the scope set by the debate resolution and rules.
- Votes based on a framework provided in the debate, or, if none was given, weighs arguments case by case.
- If disagreeing with the debate's framing, the voter clearly establishes why their interpretation is more faithful and how it influences their vote
- If giving weight to material introduced in the final round when there is no room for the other debater to respond, addresses how this material was (a) seeded earlier in the debate such that the point was implied, or (b) addresses why this point could not have been made earlier (i.e. it's responding to a newly introduced point by the other debater in the final round)

- If giving weight to material introduced in the final round when there is still one more chance for the other debater to respond, addresses how this material meets (a) or (b) above, or (c) does not dominate so much of their final round that having to respond to this amount of new material puts an undue burden on the final round debater.

For a more detailed guide visit [Voting rubric](#)

In order to vote on random debates, you must take and pass the voter quiz: [Voter quiz](#)

Using AI to create an RFD the following conduct is prohibited and will result in moderation action:

Note that if multiple votes in 48 hours are removed due to insufficient RFDs the moderation team will temporarily revoke voting permissions for 1 week.

The following debates will not be moderated for votes:

- Troll debates
- Inherently subjective debates (i.e. rap battles, music battles, etc.)
- Full forfeit debates (unless you vote for the side that forfeited). A full forfeit is defined when a debater forfeited all rounds in a debate, or, in debates with 3+ rounds, all rounds except one.
- Mutual full forfeit debates where neither side makes an argument will be deleted.

V. Enforcement Tools

The moderation team has multiple methods to enforce this code of conduct.

Bans

Bans are reserved for repeated violations where other corrective measures have failed or are clearly insufficient. The minimum ban length is 3 days.

Warnings

Warnings may be issued privately or publicly. Public warnings clarify expectations for others and do not imply greater severity than private warnings.

Loss of Privileges

Privilege restrictions are directly tied to the offense and will always be preceded by a warning. These include, but are not limited to:

- Repeated bad-faith voting or posting a series of insufficient RFDs.
- Repeated creation of spam threads
- Repeated creation of spam posts.

Editing or Removal of Content

Moderation may edit or remove content in the following circumstances:

- Debates
 - Spam debates will be deleted
 - Abandoned debates with no arguments will be deleted
- Votes
 - Votes in violation of the voting policy will be deleted.
- Forum posts and content
 - Content that violates the code of conduct may be edited, removed, or marked as offensive by the moderation team
 - Direct attacks and slurs against users may be curated.

No Action Merited

The actions listed here are some examples of content that would not warrant moderator action when in isolation:

- Vague, satirical, or non-literal calls for violence (e.g. “Politicians should be shot” or “We need more rioting”) provided such statements do not become specific, targeted, or serious.
- Defense of civilian casualties in war, provided no hostility is directed at victims.
- References to statistics that paint groups in a negative light when presented with neutrality and without personal attack

Users may not be sanctioned for conduct that did not violate an applicable rule when it occurred. Amendments apply prospectively from their effective date

Public Moderation Decisions

In order to maintain trust between moderation and users, all major moderation decisions will be made public. This includes bans, permission losses, and major changes to the COC. These changes shall be logged in the public moderation thread viewed here:

[Public Moderation Log](#)

VI. Community Ballot Initiatives

Community members are permitted to petition for a site-wide referendum concerning moderation policies, COC provisions, or other subjects relevant to community moderation.

A petition that receives the required number of valid signatures shall trigger a referendum. Once the moderation team verifies the signatures are valid, they shall create an official thread and send a global announcement to all users informing them about the referendum.

Currently, 9 signatures are required to trigger a referendum. For a signature to be valid, the account must have been active for at least 30 days with some prior site participation.

VII. Appeals

Users who are not banned can appeal moderator sanctions by directly contacting a member of the DebateCraft moderation team on DebateCraft or on Discord. Banned users must contact the moderation team through [Discord](#), because banned accounts cannot send messages on DebateCraft.