

## SCORING RANGES

The SADA scores debates according to the national guidelines set by the Australian Debating Federation. This guide is intended to briefly outline the permissible ranges for debating scores. More information on how scores are awarded can be found in the *SADA Guide to Adjudicating* and the *Australia-Asia Debating Guide*.

### 1. Individual Speaker Scores

The range of individual speaker scores that may be awarded in a debate is set out below; adjudicators may not award scores outside of this range:

Category	Average	Lowest	Highest
<i>Manner</i>	30	26	34
<i>Matter</i>	30	26	34
<i>Method</i>	15	13	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>85</b>

In practice, it would be very rare for scores to be below 70 or above 80.

### 2. Margins

Adjudicators should be mindful of the margin by which the debate is to be awarded when awarding individual scores. The acceptable range for margins is set out below:

- 1-4 points: a close debate
- 5-9 points: a clear debate
- 10+ points: an overwhelming win

### 3. Points of Information (POIs)

POIs may be offered to speakers in Intermediate A, Senior B and Senior A Grade debates. The scoring of POIs is different depending on whether the speaker is offering or responding to them.

#### 3.1 *Offering Points of Information*

The speaker offering the POI will have their performance reflected in the POI column of the score sheet.

##### 3.1.1 Senior A Grade

The range of scores for Senior A Grade debates is from -2 (very poor) to +2 (exceptional). Scores may not be awarded outside of this range.

##### 3.1.2 Intermediate A and Senior B Grade

The range of scores for Intermediate A and Senior B Grade debates is from 0 (very poor to average) to +2 (exceptional). Scores may not be awarded outside of this range.

#### 3.2 *Responding to Points of Information*

##### 3.2.1 Senior A Grade

Responding to POIs is part of a speaker's speech. Accordingly, a speaker's responses to POIs will be reflected in the matter, manner and/or method categories of their individual speaker score.

##### 3.2.2 Intermediate A and Senior B Grade

As in Senior A Grade, responses to POIs will be reflected in an individual's speaker score. Unlike in Senior A Grade, speakers cannot be penalized for poor responses to POIs in their speaker scores. However, good responses to POIs can result in a speaker improving their speaker score.