



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 4th 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
		50
Panel	Quality, relevance & range of discussion	20
	Each question: Co-operation and team work	15
	35 x 3	105
Panel	General deportment and style	15
Overall	Audibility	10
	Overall impression of team	20
		45
	TOTAL	<u>200</u>

- 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 1st will be awarded **Ministry of Agriculture Cup** and Prize Cards
- 8.1.2. Teams placed 2nd and 3rd 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)