

ADSA POLICY & RULES MANUAL



Updated December 2024

1. LOCAL EVENTS

- 1.1 Events shall be defined as sponsored where the Association organizes the activity in cooperation with Institutional Members hosting invitational events.
- 1.2 Events shall be defined as sanctioned where the Association provides general assistance and materials to Institutional Members hosting invitational events.
- 1.3 The Alberta Debate and Speech Association shall only sanction tournaments at which the organizers agree to conduct a briefing for judges prior to commencement of competition.
- 1.4 All ADSA sanctioned tournaments shall be evaluated through the use of an Association-approved ballot or derivative thereof (see [Appendix A](#)) and these evaluations shall be recorded in an approved manner.
- 1.5 The ADSA Board may choose to endorse any outside tournament or event on a case-by-case basis.
- 1.6 National activities to which ADSA promotes any individual member will count as a qualifying tournament.
- 1.7 The ADSA program year is defined as July 1st to the following June 30th.

2. DEBATE TOURNAMENTS

2.1 General

- a) The Tournament organizer may refer to the Executive Director or other Board Members for interpretation but shall make final decisions as to tournament organization and procedure, so long as they are not in opposition to the Alberta Debate and Speech Association "Policy and Rules Manual" or "By-Laws."

2.2 Registration and Eligibility for Participation

- a) Institutional members will submit all competitors/teams that would like to participate in a given tournament, in ranked order to the host. An equal number of spots will initially be offered to each Institutional Members. Extra spots will be equally offered to Institutional Members wanting extra spots. If these cannot be equally distributed, they will be offered proportionally, based on the number of teams submitted in the original registration. Institutional Members hosting a debate tournament will be given an additional 2 teams above the cap for other Institutional Members, except for Provincials.
- b) Only Current Registered Members of the Alberta Debate and Speech Association shall be eligible for participation in the Regional/Provincial Debate Championships.
- c) All tournament registrations (Debate and Speech) will go through the host. The host may then verify membership using current Member lists posted to the secure area of the Alberta Debate website. For Regional tournaments, hosts will compile all registrations on one spreadsheet, and send that spreadsheet to the Executive Director for verification.
- d) At all ADSA organized events, coaches/sponsors shall gather all monies prior to the events and shall submit one payment per Institutional Member for receipt purposes. Individual payments from other sources will not be accepted.
- e) All entries for debate and speech tournaments must be received by the specified deadline.
- f) Any team or speaker that registers for a debate or speech tournament is expected to pay the full registration fee and will receive no refund if they withdraw after the registration deadline. Competitor(s) shall not be allowed to participate in any future ADSA events until this is paid.
- g) The deadline for registration in a tournament must be no more than thirty days prior to the event.

2.3 Debate Team Registration

- a) Except for tournaments declared to be coordinate competition, Institutional Members shall accept entries from teams, both members of which represent the same Institutional Members.
- b) Teams for coordinate debate competition, shall be determined by the organizers, using random selection, providing that members of each team, shall come from different Institutional Members.
- c) Only teams with a full complement of members will be allowed to participate in debate tournaments; no single debater will be registered. If one of the debaters on a team is absent for a single round, the member who is present may iron-person (give both constructive speeches), and should still be eligible for awards, advancement to elimination rounds, and advancement to other tournaments where applicable. In speaker rankings, the higher score of their two speeches should be counted. However, if a team has 2 or more rounds where a member is absent, they will no longer be eligible to advance to elimination rounds, receive team awards, or advance to other tournaments. Individual debaters should still be eligible for speaker awards, and can debate in all preliminary rounds. No wins will be allowed, but speaker points will be considered to make the draw work.

2.4 Debate Judging

- a) An odd number of judges shall comprise the Judges' Panel in Debate. Debate Tournaments must have a minimum of 3 judges per room. In exceptional cases, a single, experienced judge may serve if three are not available.
- b) Should students show up without a judge, and a tournament is short judges, the teams with no judges between two debaters will be disqualified first from the tournament, and then the teams with single judges would be in line for disqualification until the host has 3 judges per room. Coaches should be informed. Should a debater continue to register and repeatedly fail to meet judging requirements, that Individual Membership may be forfeit at the discretion of the Board.
- c) Judges for Senior High tournaments shall be individuals age 18 years or over who are not registered as students in a secondary school. Judges for Junior High tournaments shall be individuals age 18 years or over, and/or Senior High students. Normally, Senior High students judging in a Junior High tournament shall be Individual Members of the ADSA and be knowledgeable about debate. Junior High students are not eligible to judge in any tournament. Judges shall be conversant in the language(s) of the competition. The Tournament Organizer may disqualify a judge who demonstrates an insufficient proficiency in the language(s) of the competition. In special circumstances, the Board may waive any of the above requirements at its discretion. A debate tournament shall consist of a minimum of two rounds. A Speech Tournament will include at least 2 rounds in any language.
- d) All Canadian National Debate Tournaments and other two team debate format tournaments will use individual, conferral, or consensus adjudication at all levels at the discretion of the tournament host. All British Parliamentary Tournaments will use consensus adjudication to determine rank and individual speaker scores at all levels.
- e) All Championship Tournaments held in the Canadian National Debate style will use individual adjudication at all levels. All Championship British Parliamentary Tournaments will use consensus adjudication to determine rank and individual speaker scores at all levels.
- f) The debate and speech regional representatives are responsible for holding a coaches' meeting during the regional championship to begin coordinating their respective competition schedules for the next program year.
- g) For regional and provincial championships, the Board shall endorse the events prior to the release of the invitations.
- h) For events that receive the interest of multiple hosts, the hosts shall submit a bid to the Board and the Board will review and select one of the bids to endorse.
- i) Debate and speech championships should not be scheduled in such a way that more than one regional, provincial or national championship occurs at the same time, in the same division.
- j) In case a scheduling conflict cannot be resolved, the Board shall consider exempting affected students from a qualifying event. A team competing in a national or international championship tournament for which they qualified through the ADSA may be granted exemption from a regional or provincial qualifier in the case of scheduling conflict.

2.5 Online Tournaments

- a) Debate and speech tournaments run online shall be considered sponsored should they meet the same requirements as official in-person tournaments.

- b) Online tournaments must adhere to the same rules and decorum as in-person tournaments, with the exception that technology shall be permitted only for communication among debate partners.

3. SPEECH TOURNAMENTS

3.1 General

- a) The Tournament organizer may refer to the Executive Director or other Board Members for interpretation but shall make final decisions as to tournament organization and procedure, so long as they are not in opposition to the Alberta Debate and Speech Association "Policy and Rules Manual" or "By-Laws."
- b) A speech tournament will include 2 rounds, except for Regionals and Provincials, which shall be 3 rounds.

3.2 Registration and Eligibility for Participation

- a) Institutional members will submit all competitors that would like to participate in a given tournament.
- b) Only Current Registered Members of the Alberta Debate and Speech Association shall be eligible for participation in the Regional/Provincial Speech Championships.
- c) All tournament registrations will go through the host. The host may then verify membership using current Member lists posted to the secure area of the Alberta Debate website. For Regional tournaments, hosts will compile all registrations on one spreadsheet, and send that spreadsheet to the ADSA Speech Representative, and Executive Director for verification.
- d) At all ADSA organized events, coaches/sponsors shall gather all monies prior to the events and shall submit one payment per Institutional Member for receipt purposes. Individual payments from other sources will not be accepted.
- e) All entries for speech tournaments must be received by the specified deadline.
- f) Any speaker that registers for a speech tournament is expected to pay the full registration fee and will receive no refund if they withdraw after the registration deadline. NOTE: Competitor(s) shall not be allowed to participate in any future ADSA events until this is paid.
- g) The deadline for registration in a tournament must be no more than thirty days prior to the event.

3.3 Judging

- a) Each competitor must bring a judge, or they will be disqualified. Exceptions to this rule must be cleared with the ADSA Speech Rep and the host. Should that speech competitor repeatedly fail to meet judging requirements, their Individual Membership may be forfeit, at the discretion of the Board.
- b) Judges for Senior High Speech tournaments shall be individuals age 18 years or over who are not registered as students in a secondary school. Judges must judge every round or their competitor will be disqualified. Judges shall be conversant in the language(s) of the competition. The Tournament Organizer may disqualify a judge who demonstrates an insufficient proficiency in the language(s) of the competition.

3.4 Scheduling of Tournaments

- a) The speech regional representatives are responsible for holding a coaches' meeting during the regional championship to begin coordinating their competition schedules for the next program year.
- b) For regional and provincial championships, the Board shall endorse the events prior to the release of the invitations.
- c) Debate and speech championships should not be scheduled in such a way that more than one regional, provincial or national championship occurs at the same time, in the same division.
- d) In case a scheduling conflict cannot be resolved, the Board shall consider exempting affected students from a qualifying event. A team competing in a national or international championship tournament for which they qualified through the ADSA may be granted exemption from a regional or provincial qualifier in the case of scheduling conflict.

3.5 Online Tournaments

- a) Speech tournaments run online shall be considered sponsored should they meet the same requirements as official in-person tournaments.
- b) Online tournaments must adhere to the same rules and decorum as in-person tournaments.
- c) Participation in at least 1 in-person tournament is required in order to qualify for Regionals.

4. RESEARCH

- 4.1 The Association shall produce research material and provide it on request to all Institutional Members for major Association sponsored events such as workshops, law seminars and Regional/Provincial Debate Championships.
- 4.2 The Association produces research packages every year which may be used as a starting point for prepared debates.
- 4.3 The Association shall produce at least one (1) French research packet each year, designed along the same lines as the ones in Item 3.2.
- 4.4 By Request, the Executive Director may provide 5 impromptu topics to tournament organizers.

5. STATISTICS

- 5.1 Tournament hosts are responsible for assigning someone to be responsible for keeping statistics. By request, the ADSA may provide support where resources are available.
- 5.2 At Regionals, Provincials and national qualifying tournaments, the ADSA reserves the right to designate a representative to oversee the stats room and requires use of an ADSA approved stats tool.
- 5.3 All stats for Debate and Speech Tournaments will come through the office of the Executive Director for re-distribution; they will not be considered official if they come from anywhere else. Tournament hosts will submit stats to the Executive Director following the tournament, along with a list of topics and resolutions used. Absolutely no paper copies of stats are to be distributed at any tournament.
- 5.4 All ballots for Debate and Speech are to be kept by the tournament organizer for 10 business days following all tournaments. If no one opposes the final results within that time, the host will shred the ballots to avoid any FOIP concerns.
- 5.5 Debate tournament organizers may make statistics available to all coaches before elimination rounds. Tournament information is to be given only to coaches and not to students or parents. Speech statistics will only be available on Coaches' Corner after the tournament.
- 5.6 Debate tournament organizers shall:
 - a) Record statistics on an approved ADSA stats management sheet or program that reflects current national standards and shall ensure that teams' clubnames are identified in the official stats sheets.
 - b) In two-team debate formats, rank teams on the basis of their win/loss record first, average total speaker scores second, and standard deviation (lower is better) third. If teams remain tied after these procedures and that breaking these ties is materially important to the good functioning of the tournament and/or to the ADSA's activities, then the tournament organizer shall rank teams on the basis of who-beat-whom (the head-to-head results between the two teams) fourth, draw strength by total speaker score (the combined total speaker scores of opponents) fifth, draw strength by wins (the combined number of wins of opponents) sixth, and the average margin seventh. If teams still remain tied and distinguishing their rank remains relevant, the tournament organizer shall determine the higher-ranked team randomly (draw, coin flip, etc.) and publicly. In British Parliamentary debate format, rank teams by team points first, average total speaker second, and number of first places third. If teams remain tied after these procedures and that breaking these ties is materially important to the good functioning of the tournament and/or to the ADSA's activities, then the tournament organizer shall rank teams on the basis of number of second places fourth, standard deviation (lower is better) fifth, draw strength by wins (the combined number of points of opponents) sixth, and draw strength by total speaker score (the combined total speaker scores of opponents) seventh. If teams still remain tied and distinguishing their rank remains relevant, shall determine the higher-ranked team randomly (draw, coin flip, etc.) and publicly.

- c) In all debate formats, rank speakers on the basis of average speaker score first and standard deviation second. If speakers remain tied after these procedures and that breaking these ties is materially important to the good functioning of the tournament and/or to the ADSA's activities, then the tournament organizer shall rank teams on the basis of trimmed mean (high low-drop) third and speech ranks fourth.
 - d) Perform statistical calculations to exactly two places after the decimal.
 - e) Enter a bye as a win, with the speaker points for that round being calculated by taking the average of speaker points from other rounds.
 - f) Enter a win for teams facing a swing team and enter speaker scores from judges in that round. The tournament organizer shall enter a loss for swing teams and enter the lowest possible speaker score for speakers on the swing team. When possible, swing teams should be placed in the lowest bracket of a bracketed tournament and only one swing should be assigned per room.
 - g) Be empowered to make reasonable and fair decisions about stats/tabling procedures where situations arise where the ADSA rules are silent and shall detail the specific situation to the Board of Directors at the conclusion of the tournament.
- 5.7 Speech tournament organizers shall:
- a) Drop 1 high and 1 low score from every student's overall score at every Speech Tournament. If there is a tie, the tie shall be broken by counting ordinals, beginning with first place. If results are still tied, then successive ordinals shall be counted (2nd, 3rd, etc.) until the tie is broken. If the tie cannot be broken, 2 medals shall be awarded.
 - b) Statistics shall only be calculated on the approved Speech Statistics program available on the ADSA website.

6. WORKSHOPS

- 6.1 The Association shall establish limits on the number of students from each Institutional Members who may attend workshops.
- 6.2 In the event that a workshop has additional spaces available after the registration deadline has passed, Institutional Members will be allowed to enter an increased number of students above the limit established by Item 5.1 above.
- 6.3 Each Region shall run one debate judges' training workshop during the "New to Debate Workshop" each year. Institutional Members may register their new judges for this workshop. After this initial workshop, school teams are then responsible for the training of their judges prior to sending them to any tournament. All tournaments will have a briefing but judges should already have some idea of how it all works. Judges briefings are available on Alberta Debate and Speech Association's website at <https://albertadebate.com> under online resources.

7. FRENCH LANGUAGE ACTIVITIES

- 7.1 The association fully supports French language activities and may appoint a liaison officer to handle such activities.

8. AWARDS

- 8.1 It is the responsibility of tournament organizers to provide awards, or to announce on the tournament invitation that no awards will be given. Costs of awards, such as for medals or certificates, should be included in registration fees or at the expense of the host.
- 8.2 The Association shall award the following at the:
 - a) Model Legislature:
 - The Premier's Cup to the Top Parliamentarian
 - Plaques for the Top Speaker in each party represented at the Tournament
 - b) Provincial Speech Championships:
 - A trophy for the best junior and senior class competitors of all speech categories..
 - The Mike Dorval Memorial Plaques (2) to the junior and senior high student who best exemplifies a commitment to and involvement in speech.
 - The Morris Brause Award to the Adult or Association who makes the most outstanding contribution to Speech
 - The Willis Kachuk Award Plaque for the School hosting the Speech Provincials that year
 - The Dorval Gavel to the Institutional Member committing to host the follow year's Speech Provincials
 - Bev Dyan Memorial Cup for the Top Senior High Competitors advancing to Senior High Nationals, the Institutional Member with the most competitors hosts the cup for that year
 - The Junior High National Qualifier Award for the top Junior High Competitors advancing to Junior High Nationals, the Institutional Member with the most competitors qualified for nationals will host the award for that year.
 - c) Provincial Debate Championships (English Language Debate):
 - The Ellen Weber trophy to the best Beginner Team in Junior High competition
 - The Terri Kennedy Memorial trophy to the best Open Team in Junior High competition
 - The Ad-Tec Marketing trophy to the best Beginner Team in Senior High competition.
 - The Fergus Milaney award to the best Open Team in Senior High competition.
 - The Michael Dorval Cup to the best Beginner Speaker in Junior High competition.
 - The Caldwell Cup to the best Open Speaker in Junior High competition.
 - The Jane Robertson Memorial trophy for the best Beginner Speaker in Senior High competition.
 - The Patrons' Cup to the best Open Speaker in Senior High competition.
 - The Janet Garten Memorial Plaques (2) to the Junior High and Senior High debaters showing the greatest commitment and dedication to debate.
 - The John Baty Award goes to the adult or association who makes the most contribution to debate.
 - The Willis Kachuk Award Plaque for the School hosting the Debate Provincials that year
 - The Blair Ching Trophy goes to the top Junior High School in the Province using the following point system:
 - 100 Points per team in the first quartile of the ranking of the teams at the Provincials (i.e. if there are 16 teams in Jr. H Open and an Institutional Member has 3 of the 4 teams, that Institutional Member is awarded 300 points)
 - 75 Points per team in the second quartile of the ranking of the teams at the Provincials in the Jr. H Open and Beginner categories
 - 50 Points per team in the third quartile of the ranking of the teams at the Provincials in the Jr. H Open and Beginner categories
 - 25 Points per team in the fourth quartile of the ranking of the teams at the Provincials in the Jr. H Open and Beginner categories
 - 10 Points per team participating in the regionals that did not qualify for the Provincials in Jr. H Open and Beginner categories
 - The Martin Poirier Trophy goes to the top Senior High School in the Province using the following system:
 - 100 Points per team in the first quartile of the ranking of the teams at the Provincials (i.e. if there are 16 teams in Sr. H Open and an Institutional Member has 3 of the 4 teams, that Institutional Member is awarded 300 points)
 - 75 Points per team in the second quartile of the ranking of the teams at the Provincials in the Sr. H Open and Beginner categories
 - 50 Points per team in the third quartile of the ranking of the teams at the Provincials in the Sr. H Open and Beginner categories
 - Points per team in the fourth quartile of the ranking of the teams at the Provincials in the Sr. H Open and Beginner categories
 - 10 Points per team participating in the regionals that did not qualify for the Provincials in Sr. H Open and Beginner categories
 - The Ann Bradley Trophy (2) is awarded to a student in Junior High and Senior High who exemplifies the best Spirit towards both Debate and Speech Activities.
 - d) Provincial Debate Championships (bilingual – French/English)
 - The Trophée de la Faculté St-Jean is awarded to the top speaker in the Bilingual Senior High Open category

- The Trophée du Conseil Français is awarded to the top team in the Bilingual Senior High Open category
- The Prix du Président is awarded to the top speaker in the Bilingual Junior High Open category
- The Prix de la Citoyenneté is awarded to the top team in the Bilingual Junior High Open category

9. SPECIAL ELIGIBILITY

- 9.1** A student who completes matriculation requirements in less than three years, and still enrolled at school, shall be permitted to participate with their club until the end of the third year.
- 9.2** The Board shall, under special circumstances, have discretionary power over individual participant qualifications for Regional, Provincial, Interprovincial and International Debate and Speech Championships.

10. DEBATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

10.1 General

- The Association shall annually sponsor a Provincial Debate Championship.
- Each region shall annually sponsor a Regional Debate Championship.
- In Regional/Provincial Debate Championships, where numbers warrant, four classes of competition shall be held: Junior High Beginner and Open Class, Senior High Beginner and Open Class.
- In years when bilingual and English Regional Debate Championships are offered as separate events, debaters are welcome to compete in both events. In years when bilingual and English Provincial Championships are offered as separate events, debaters who qualify for both may choose to compete in both events. Otherwise, where Championships are combined and offered simultaneously at the same school, debaters must declare their route to the next level in advance by registering in their preferred competition category and may only compete at Provincials in one category. There is no opportunity to advance to a National bilingual competition at the Junior level.
- Once the number of spots available for the Provincial Championship is determined, each of the four classes of competitions shall receive an allocation of spots based on the total attendance of teams at each event. The number of spots allocated should reflect the size of each of the four classes of competition, in that the ratio of spots offered is similar to the number of teams that competed at the actual event.

10.2 Eligibility for Participation

- To be eligible to participate in Regional Debate Championships for advancement to the Provincial Debate Championships, debaters must have participated in a minimum of two endorsed events during the current year, prior to the Regional Debate Championships. To be eligible to participate in Bilingual Regional or Provincial Debate Championships, at least one of the qualifying tournaments must be bilingual or French.
- In a given program year, any one Canadian University Tournament, Model Legislature, CSDF National Seminar, a national debate tournament, or a national speech tournament with a debate element may be used by a debater as a qualifying event for Regional and Provincial Debate Championships.
- The Board may endorse additional qualifying events as suitable opportunities arise.
- Institutional Members that have hosted a tournament, but nonetheless have teams who have been unable to participate in at least two tournaments during the current year because of limited space availability, may apply to the Board with evidence of declined registrations or other special circumstances and request that the requirement to participate in two endorsed events be waived at the Board's discretion. Otherwise, those failing to meet the requirements may participate in Regional Championships if space allows, following placement of institutional members that have met the requirement. Such teams will be ineligible for advancement to the Provincial Championships.
- Debate Teams who qualify at regionals to move on to provincials must move on with the same partner they qualified with at regionals or be disqualified from attending Provincials. This is for both English and Bilingual Debate Teams and in all categories.
- The Executive Director in collaboration with the tournament host shall determine the number of teams eligible for advancement to the Provincial Debate Championships from each region, based on distribution representing regional participation as closely as possible.
- An Institutional Member that has not had any of its teams qualify to attend the Provincial Debate Championship, but which is hosting the Provincial Debate Championship, shall be allowed to enter one team provided that the team participated in the Regional Debates and two other debate tournaments during the program year.
- Only association sanctioned events that utilize ADSA sanctioned debates shall be considered as qualifying events for Regional and Provincial Debate Championships.

10.3 Debate Format

- Impromptu Resolutions at the Regionals and Provincials shall be created by the Alumni Reps, reviewed by the VP Debate and given to the team in charge of stats for that event. The VP Debate may delegate this task to another member of the Board.
- Regional/Provincial Debate Championships for Junior and Senior High will consist of all rounds in Canadian National Style.

10.4 Additional Rules of Debate Championships

- The ADSA Board shall appoint the Executive Director or a member of the Board not involved with the tournament to check the initial draws for the Provincial and Regional Debate Championships, to verify the process and the fairness of the draw. This person can continue to evaluate the fairness of the draws throughout the tournament.
- The theme/topic designated for use at the Regional and Provincial Debates must not have been used at any other event during that current year.
- Impromptu Resolutions at the Regionals and Provincials shall be created by the Alumni Reps, reviewed by the VP Debate and given to the team in charge of stats for that event. The VP Debate may delegate this task to another member of the Board.
- Break rounds at the regional/provincial championships, and in particular the final rounds shall only be judged by experienced judges. It is the host's responsibility to recruit and retain experienced judges for the break rounds.
- Debate rounds at the Senior level Regional and Provincial championships should be bracketed, at minimum, the last two rounds. All rounds shall also be closed adjudication.

10.5 Rules of the British Parliamentary Nationals Qualifiers

- The Association shall annually sponsor a British Parliamentary Nationals Qualifiers, colloquially referred to as BP Provincials.
- A U-15 and Senior Category of competition shall be held. These events can be held concurrently but should be treated as exclusively separate events
- Impromptu resolutions shall be created by the Alumni Reps, reviewed by the VP Debate and given to the team in charge of stats for that event. The VP Debate may delegate this task to another member of the Board.
- The tournament should consist of a minimum of 4 rounds, with each team ideally having the opportunity to debate in each of the four positions.
- Bracketing should be implemented for all rounds after following round 1.
- In each debate, a ranking of teams 1st through 4th must be assigned, with no ties, repeats or low-point wins.

11. SPEECH CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 11.1** The Association shall annually sponsor a Provincial Speech Championship.
- 11.2** Each region shall annually sponsor a Regional Speech Championship.
- 11.3** The completion of one in-person speech tournament or two rounds is required to qualify for Regional Championships.
- 11.4** Regional and Provincial Speech Championships shall consist of three rounds.
- 11.5** To be eligible to participate in the Provincial Speech Championship students must have participated in the Regional Speech Championships prior to the

Provincial Speech Championships. If special circumstances prevent participation in Regionals, the Board may choose to waive this requirement at its discretion.

- 11.6 The number of speakers advancing to the Provincial Championships is determined by the Association on the basis of participation in Regional Championships. (50 % of candidates in each category or all medal winners).
- 11.7 Each round of presentations shall be given equal weight.
- 11.8 Students shall compete in the same category when proceeding from regional to provincial competition.
- 11.9 The top speakers in Junior and Senior High in the categories outlined in Rules for Speech, Section 1.1 shall be the Provincial Champions.
- 11.10 A club which has not had any of its speakers qualify to attend the Provincial Speech Championship, but which is hosting the Provincial Speech Championship, shall be allowed to enter one student in each category provided these students participated in the Regional Speech Championship and one other in-person speech in-person tournament during the program year. The student shall be selected at the coach's discretion.

12. CODE OF CONDUCT

Preamble: Coaches and students must familiarize themselves with the code of conduct. Other participants at ADSA tournaments and events, such as spectators and judges, are also expected to know and abide by the code of conduct. A failure to read the code of conduct does not excuse conduct that runs contrary to the expectations laid out in this code. Coaches should make an effort to encourage their students to read the code prior to participating in any competition or event. Coaches are expected to ensure their students uphold this code.

12.1 CONDUCT OF EVENT PARTICIPANTS:

- a) GENERAL
 - i. All participants should be dressed in appropriate attire, which does not reflect school of origin (e.g. No school uniforms or other identifying items).
 - ii. Participants shall be courteous and friendly to other competitors, judges, organizers and guests.
 - iii. Participants shall use language conducive to proper public speaking decorum. Profanity is unacceptable.
 - iv. In the event of a complaint, all participants must bring the issue to their coaches only, who will then approach the tournament organizer or ADSA on their behalf. Complaints should be lodged before the conclusion of the tournament.
 - v. Participants shall not argue with the judge or their opponents about the conduct or the result of the speech or debate. Participants shall not dispute the result of a debate or speech round in the presence of the judge(s).
 - vi. The Association does not approve of the use of any illicit drugs or intoxicants at Association sponsored events.
- b) JUDGES
 - i. The ADSA recognizes that judges volunteer their time to support the development of young speakers and debaters and greatly appreciates their contribution.
 - ii. Judges must be neutral and not let their personal views or specialized knowledge influence their decisions.
 - iii. Judges shall communicate any concerns about improper conduct during a tournament to the Coach with whom the judge registered for the tournament.
 - iv. Judges shall encourage and promote the use of respectful language and respectful interactions among debaters and speakers and should demonstrate this same courtesy to fellow judges.
 - v. Judges need to attend the briefing at each tournament and must be guided in their decisions by the criteria for evaluation in debate or speech.
 - vi. Judges should at all times remember that positive encouragement of students is more formative than criticism and that younger speakers and debaters may be overwhelmed by too many constructive comments, however positive the intention.
 - vii. The ADSA understands that judging is subjective, and judges should feel confident that their perspective is valuable, provided it respects the ADSA Code of Conduct.
 - viii. Judges who register for a tournament are expected to remain for the duration of the tournament, filling their post in whichever room the tournament host has assigned.
- c) SPEAKERS
 - i. Debaters shall not seek to influence the judge by means other than evidence and argumentation during the debate competition.
 - ii. Debaters shall not listen to teams debating that they might meet on the same topic at a later time and thereby gain a competitive advantage. Coaches may, however, observe their own teams.
 - iii. Use of audio or visual equipment for the purpose of recording a competitor may be done with the prior consent of both teams, their parents, and the organizer of the event.
 - iv. A debate team shall not seek or provide second-hand information regarding the cases of potential opponents, their personalities or any research done prior to the event.
 - v. Competitors shall not breach normal courtesy by interruption, heckling, grimacing or whispering loudly while an opponent is speaking. Heckling, in an appropriate manner, in the case of Parliamentary style debating is acceptable.
 - vi. Competing teams must not collude to affect the debate in any way.
 - vii. Debaters must respect the personal physical space of an opponent. (Do not invade an opponent's space.)
 - viii. In an Impromptu style debate, debaters must define definitions in the spirit of debate. In other words, they must be defined fairly and allow for debate on both sides of the resolution.
 - ix. No dictionaries shall be used by debaters during tournaments. Debaters must be able to compete on their own merit and the strength of their own knowledge.
 - x. No electronic devices capable of transmitting and recording are to be used at debate rounds, including prep time, except by the Moderator for the purpose of timing, unless required for ADSA Board-approved purposes. Debaters must be able to compete on their own merit and the strength of their own knowledge.
 - xi. Notwithstanding (XI) above, members may use electronic devices solely for the purpose of timing themselves during a round.
 - xii. A debater shall be discouraged from passing notes/cards to his/her partner when one of them has the floor, either from the constructive speech or the cross-examination. Debaters are judged on individual skills
 - xiii. Debaters shall not, either by word or action, seek to belittle their opponents. Debates must be a clash of issues. Any conduct not in accordance with these codes will be grounds for disqualification in a tournament, and may include banning participants from present/future ADSA activities. Matters may be referred back to school based administrators.

12.2 CONDUCT OF COACHES:

Coaches serve as the liaison between the ADSA, the tournament organizers, participating students, and their parents. As such, the ADSA firmly believes that any adults designated as the Coach must be able to communicate effectively between all of the aforementioned parties in a responsible and professional manner.

- a) All ADSA institutions must be organized under an adult in the role of a Coach. An institution may designate more than one person as the coach, so long as they meet the following requirements:
 - i. The Coach has officially registered with the ADSA
 - ii. The Coach is familiar with ADSA Policies and Bylaws
 - iii. The Coach is only registered under one active member institution
- b) A Coach must be present at all in-person and online ADSA events that their club members participate in for the duration of the event. If a Coach is not present for the duration of the event, then the club members cannot participate. If a club is not allowed to participate because of the absence of a Coach, that club will forfeit its right to a refund of tournament fees.
 - i. A Coach may designate a proxy to act on their behalf, so long as the proxy meets all of the requirements under 12.2a
 - ii. A Coach may not act as a judge during an event unless specifically granted permission by the tournament organizers
 - iii. A Coach unable to demonstrate an understanding of their responsibilities may be disqualified from the role
- c) Coaches must demonstrate qualities of courtesy and good sportsmanship. These are evidenced by proper acceptance of officials' judgment, positive encouragement of student performance and polite interaction with tournament organizers in the event of a complaint.
- d) Coaches will support the volunteer efforts of fellow coaches and judges and will encourage their competitors to do so as well.
- e) The Coach, as a representative of the club, is responsible for the conduct of all personnel composing the club's team (participants, and spectators). Coaches will also encourage responsible behavior from the parents. Coaches/Teachers shall make an attempt to control any negative situation, before it becomes an issue for the tournament organizer.
- f) A Coach may not provide ideas or content to tournament participants during preparation of impromptu topics or during rounds of tournaments.
- g) Coaches will not recruit from other ADSA member clubs and may not enter teams comprised of members of different clubs except in the case of multi-school tournament format. The failure of a coach to respect the ADSA Code of Conduct will result in a warning and continued violations may result in the ADSA Board requesting a replacement coach for that Institutional Member.

12.3 CONDUCT OF PARENTS AND SPECTATORS:

- a) Parents and spectators, both student and adult, will demonstrate courtesy and good sportsmanship by positive encouragement (before and after tournament) for their team/children.
- b) Parents and spectators will demonstrate respect towards opponents, coaches, judges and tournament organizers.
- c) In the event of a complaint, parents and spectators are only permitted to approach their team/child's coach, who will then approach the tournament organizer (in that order). Parents, spectators and coaches will not approach opposing teams, coaches or judges after a tournament has been completed, unless to communicate their appreciation to the volunteers for their efforts.
- d) Parents will encourage their child to follow the rules of speech and debate.
- e) Parents will not scout out teams.
- f) Parents and spectators will act in a supportive manner towards all volunteer personnel, who help in the development of all participants' skills, and encourage the promotion and growth of the ADSA.

12.4 BULLYING & HARASSMENT

- a) Students must not bully or harass any other person(s). "Bullying" and "harassment" encompass a wide range of behaviours. If an instance or pattern of student conduct causes physical or psychological harm to others, it may constitute bullying or harassment.
- b) All coaches, parents, spectators, or adults otherwise affiliated with the ADSA, must not bully or harass any other person(s). Adults are encouraged to remember that their conduct serves as an example for students.

12.5 EQUITY

- a) Students, coaches, and all other tournament participants must not behave or speak in a manner that excludes or discriminates against others on the basis of an arbitrary aspect of their identity or their membership in a marginalized community.
- b) No motion may be set which requires students to use any form of harmful argumentation, and students must ensure that their language and conduct during speeches conforms, at a minimum, to the expectations established for their behaviour at all other times.

12.6 ENFORCEMENT

- a) At the discretion of the ADSA Board, conduct that is not in accordance with this code shall serve as grounds for action that includes but is not limited to:
 - i) Disqualification for awards or qualification for elimination rounds or further tournament qualification,
 - ii) Ejection from a tournament,
 - iii) Suspension or ban of participation in ADSA tournaments, or interactions with the ADSA volunteers and participants,
 - iv) Removal of privileges to attend non-ADSA tournaments representing the ADSA (e.g. the national Team Canada Tryouts),
- b) Tournament organizers may choose to eject or disqualify students, judges, spectators, coaches, or any other tournament participant from their tournament at their own discretion should they suspect the code of conduct or their own internal policies to have been violated.
- c) Consequences for violations of the code of conduct should seek to be proportionate to the offense, and done with the goals of:
 - i) Protecting those harmed by problematic conduct,
 - ii) Educating those that violate the code of conduct so as to prevent future infractions,
 - iii) Incentivizing compliance with the code of conduct,
 - iv) Maintaining the integrity of ADSA events

1. INTERPROVINCIAL EXCHANGES

- 1.1 Except in circumstances where parents have granted permission in writing, the Association will not schedule interprovincial trips unless supervisory personnel have been located to act as chaperones. The ADSA Board shall assign a chaperone for all interprovincial trips.
- 1.2 Interprovincial trips shall be organized so that participants get one full night of sleep prior to competition.
- 1.3 All delegates and representatives shall be responsible for the cost of travel, accommodation, and registration for the purposes of attending any:
 - a) Canadian Schools Debating Federation (CSDF) National Seminar
 - b) Canadian National Junior High Debating Championship (CNDC)
 - c) Canadian National Senior High Debating Championship (CNDC)
 - d) The Canadian National British Parliamentary Championship Qualifier Debate Championship
 - e) Team Canada Qualifying Tournament
 - f) Junior High National Speech Tournament
 - g) Senior High National Speech Tournament

2. THE CANADIAN STUDENT DEBATE FEDERATION (CSDF) NATIONAL DEBATE SEMINAR

- 2.1 Objective of Participation

The ADSA shall send students to the National Seminar to provide an unparalleled experience where member youth shall:

 - a) Learn and practice debating
 - b) Explore and discuss National issues
 - c) Experience new parts of Canada's many cultures
 - d) Meet a diverse cross-country peer group
 - e) Develop leadership and citizenship skills
- 2.2 Criteria for Selection of Delegation

The student delegate selection process should where possible:

 - a) Be transparent, publicized and accessible to all students in the region
 - b) Select students as individuals, with no more than one delegate selected from any club.
 - c) Encourage diverse representation from and the expansion of debate within the region
 - d) Select delegates who are keen to learn more about debate, whose selection will most benefit themselves and their club, and who have no national or international debate experience
- 2.3 Eligibility for Selection of Delegation
 - a) Must be in grades 9 through 12 during the academic year of the Seminar
 - b) May not have attended a previous Seminar as a delegate
 - c) Representation must be one delegate in each of the three linguistic categories and up to three additional delegates
 - d) A report must be submitted annually to the CSDF Board on how the delegates were chosen
- 2.4 Adult Delegates

The ADSA Board of Directors shall designate the official chaperone to represent Alberta at the Annual Seminar and this person shall be the voting representative speaking at all C.S.D.F. meetings. The cost of travel, accommodation and registration shall be provided by the ADSA.
- 2.5 Seminar Fees

Each delegate shall be responsible for the cost of travel, accommodation, and registration for the purpose of attending the National Seminar.

3. CANADIAN NATIONAL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL DEBATE CHAMPIONSHIP

The number of teams selected to attend Nationals is determined by the host. The top open teams as selected at the Provincial Debate Tournament, shall comprise the Alberta delegation to the Junior High National Tournament.

4. CANADIAN NATIONAL SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL DEBATE CHAMPIONSHIP

The number of teams selected to attend Nationals is determined by the host. The top open teams as determined by the English Provincial debate Championships shall comprise the Alberta delegation to the English National Senior High Debate Championship. The top bilingual teams as determined by the Bilingual Provincial Debate Championships shall comprise the Alberta delegation to the French National Senior High Debate Championship. Debaters who qualify to advance to Nationals at both English and Bilingual Provincial Championships must choose which National Championship they will attend. In cases where these National Championships are held at different times, a qualifying debater may attend both events.

5. THE CANADIAN NATIONAL BRITISH PARLIAMENTARY CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIER DEBATE CHAMPIONSHIP

The Board shall ensure there is a host for a British Parliamentary tournament in order to select the Alberta delegation to the Canadian National British Parliamentary Championship. The tournament will have four bracketed rounds. The national host determines the size of the Alberta delegation, and the top teams at the Alberta qualifier shall constitute the Alberta delegation.

6. TEAM CANADA QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT

The Board shall appoint a selection Committee that will organize a World Style Tournament with appropriately qualified judges in order to select the representatives from Alberta to the National Team Tryout. This tournament must be held prior to national tryouts and will count as a qualifying tournament.

7. JUNIOR HIGH NATIONAL SPEECH TOURNAMENT

The board shall ensure there is a host for a National Qualifier Tournament in order to select the Alberta delegation to the Jr. High National Speech Tournament. The tournament shall consist of Impromptu, Interpretive Reading, Persuasive Speaking, and Debate rounds. The number of students invited to Nationals is determined by the host, and the top speakers at the National Qualifier Tournament shall constitute the Alberta delegation. The National Qualifier Tournament will be held in September, October, or November. Qualification for Nationals is contingent on participation in at least one ADSA speech tournament, plus the Regional Speech Tournament in the same school year.

8. SENIOR HIGH NATIONALS SPEECH TOURNAMENT

The board shall ensure there is a host for a National Qualifier Tournament in order to select the Alberta delegation to the Sr. High National Speech Tournament. The tournament shall consist of Impromptu, Interpretive Reading, Persuasive Speaking, and Debate rounds. The number of students invited to Nationals is determined by the host, and the top speakers at the National Qualifier Tournament shall constitute the Alberta delegation. The National Qualifier Tournament will be held in September, October, or November. Qualification for Nationals is contingent on participation in at least one ADSA speech tournament, plus the Regional Speech Tournament in the same school year.

9. FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- 9.1 The Board will provide financial support for interprovincial activities by covering the cost of the designated ADSA chaperone(s). The Board is not responsible for the cost of travel, accommodation and registration for students or other observers.
- 9.2 In cases where students face a significant financial barrier to attend, they may request assistance from the Board by contacting the Executive Director. The Director will collect relevant information, including a demonstration of financial need and pass the request for approval from the Board. The Board will evaluate each application on a case-by-case basis and may provide financial assistance.

Rules for Speech

1. GENERAL GUIDELINES

- 1.1 Students may enter one of the following categories:

| | Jr/Sr | Jr/Sr | |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Speeches | Oratory – 7 min | Impromptu – 5 min | |
| Oral Interpretation Of Literature | Prose – 7 min | Poetry – 7 min | Self Authored Poetry – 7 min |
| Acting (Props & Accessories to be permitted only in Acting categories) | Solo – 8 min | Duet – 12 min | |

- 1.2 A speaker is not permitted to use the same speech or presentation in any future ADSA competition except when proceeding from Regional to Provincial Championships in the same year (They MAY use the same speech but are not obligated to do so).
- 1.3 Speech competition evaluation will be based on rank ordering rather than point calculation.
- 1.4 The ranking of the top 3 competitors for each category will be made public during the awards ceremony. Speech tournament hosts must ensure closed adjudication during the rounds.
- 1.5 A timekeeper should be provided for each contest to notify the contestants of the amount of time remaining from their total allotted time. He/she should demonstrate to the contestants the type of time signals he/she will use. The major responsibility for keeping within the time limit rests with the contestant.
 - a) Violation of time rules by the speaker shall result in being penalized in the round by the judge when visible, time signals have been given by the authorized timekeeper.
- 1.6 Speaking order shall be determined by the contest director by chance.
- 1.7 In categories where a published work is used, students are permitted to crop and make minor edits (small grammar changes to accommodate cropping, inappropriate language, etc.), but should avoid major edits that substantially alter the author's original work.
- 1.8 All speech activities will have a 15 second grace period commencing from the moment the stop signal is given. Speaking beyond the 15 seconds will result in a time penalty.

2. CATEGORIES

SPEECHES

- 2.1 Original Oratory Persuasive Speaking

(For a full understanding of how Original Oratory operates, Members should read the ADSA document entitled Step-By-Step Speech Guide)

- a) The speaker must construct an original speech using a problem / solution approach.
- b) Students may select any subject which is of interest to them, which will appeal to their audience, or which will have sufficient impact to change the listener's point of view.
- c) Speeches must be substantially different in content from any other speech presented in ADSA competition, except as described in bylaws when a speech may be repeated when advancing from Regionals to Provincials in the same year.
- d) Not more than 10% of an oration may consist of quoted materials.
- e) During the delivery of an oration, if a manuscript is being used, it may be held or referred to by the contestant but there must be no obvious reading except when using quotations.
- f) The use of props is not permitted.
- g) The maximum speaking time shall be seven (7) minutes. There is no minimum.
- h) Speeches must be self-authored, and must not be written by Artificial Intelligence (AI) generators.

- 2.2 Impromptu Speaking

(For a full understanding of how Impromptu Speaking operates, Members should read the ADSA document entitled Step-By-Step Speech Guide)

- a) The speaker must construct an original speech to inform, entertain, or persuade.
- b) Length of preparation will be three (3) minutes.
- c) Topics will be assigned three (3) minutes prior to the time of delivery.
- d) During the delivery of an impromptu address, notes may be held or referred to by the contestant.
- e) As a contestant completes a speech, he or she will remain in the room for the remainder of the speeches.
- f) The maximum speaking time shall be five (5) minutes. There is no minimum.

ORAL INTERPRETATION

- 2.3 Oral Interpretation of Poetry

- a) Introduction
 - A spoken introduction is required. The introduction (and ONLY the introduction) must include the name of the poet and the selection(s) to be

performed and should prepare the audience to listen to the selection(s). Content of introductions should be informative and relevant. Introductions should be delivered utilizing the skills of good public speaking: they should be direct, personal, and informal in style with the student speaking as themselves. The introduction should reflect spontaneity, though it should be prepared ahead of time. The introduction can be memorized but students are not required to do so.

- b) Style & Delivery
 - The Speaker must hold the manuscript and give the illusion of reading from it by making consistent eye contact with the text (pages). Responsive use of the body (i.e. spontaneous changes in posture, gesture and place-to-place movement) is permissible. However, this active use of the body should:
 - Be appropriate to the demands of the selection
 - Be a natural outgrowth from the literature to be performed
 - Not call attention to itself
 - Be limited in scope
- c) Standards
 - In selecting the material to be read in the contest, the teacher and student are challenged to explore literature of high quality and are encouraged to prepare selections of literary merit. Selections are to be read in English translation; however, incidental use of foreign language words and phrases in any selection may be used as in the original. Coaches will revise or reject all selections, which in any way fail to meet these qualifications, as not all material by a poet is appropriate for contest material.
- d) Time Limit
 - The time limit for each performance including introduction and transitional material may not exceed seven (7) minutes, plus grace time.

2.4 Oral Interpretation of Prose

- a) Introduction
 - A spoken introduction is required. The introduction (and ONLY the introduction) must include the name of the writer and the selection to be performed and should prepare the audience to listen to the selection. Content of introductions should be informative and relevant. Introductions should be delivered utilizing the skills of good public speaking: they should be direct, personal, and informal in style with the student speaking as himself or herself. The introduction should reflect spontaneity, though it should be prepared ahead of time. The introduction can be memorized but students are not required to do so.
- b) Style & Delivery
 - The Speaker must hold the manuscript and give the illusion of reading from it by making consistent reference to the pages. Responsive use of the body (i.e., spontaneous changes in posture, gesture, and place-to-place movement) is permissible. However, this active use of the body should:
 - Be appropriate to the demands of the selection
 - Be a natural outgrowth from the literature to be performed
 - Not call attention to itself
 - Be limited in scope
- c) Standards
 - In selecting material to be read in the contest, the teacher and student are challenged to explore literature of high quality and are encouraged to prepare selections of literary merit. Internet pieces will only be allowed if an official published piece exists. Selections are to be read in English translation; however, incidental use of foreign language words and phrases in any selection may be used as in the original. Sponsors will revise or reject all selections, which in any way fail to meet these qualifications, as not all material by a poet is appropriate for contest material.
- d) Time Limit
 - The time limit for each performance including introduction and transitional material may not exceed seven (7) minutes.

2.5 Self Authored Poetry

- a) Contestants will present an effective reading of self-authored poetry so that the audience can experience the ideas and feelings which inspired the work.
- b) Two or more separate poems may be presented if they are from an integrated theme and may be joined with a transition.
- c) A brief introduction must be given.
- d) The manuscript may be held in hand during the delivery of the selection, OR the student may present their work from memory.
- e) A student may sit or stand.
- f) Maximum speaking time will be seven (7) minutes plus grace time. There is no minimum.

ACTING

2.6 Solo Acting

(For a full understanding of how Solo Acting operates, Members should read the ADSA document entitled Step-By-Step Speech Guide.) Contestants will perform a monologue or dramatic piece that creates audience belief throughout the performance.

- a) In selecting the material to be performed in the contest, the teacher and student are challenged to explore literature of high quality and are encouraged to prepare selections of literary merit. Students' original work is not permitted.
- b) The selection must be memorized and ACTED rather than RECITED. No prompting is allowed.
- c) Suggested dress may be worn. Contestants may also use simple props to be furnished by the performer. However, costumes and props will not be directly considered in the ballot.
- d) Each selection shall include an introduction, which shall set the scene and mood and include the title and author of the work. Time for the introduction shall be included in the time limit.
- e) The maximum time including the introduction shall be 8 minutes plus grace time. There is no minimum.

2.7 Duet Acting

- a) In selecting the material to be performed in the contest, the teacher and student are challenged to explore literature of high quality and are encouraged to prepare selections of literary merit. Students' original work is not permitted.
- b) Each selection shall include an introduction, which shall set the scene and mood and include the title and author of the work. Time for the introduction shall be included in the time limit.
- c) Suggested dress may be worn. Contestants may also use simple props to be furnished by the performer. However, costumes and props will not be directly considered in the ballot.
- d) The selection must be memorized. No prompting will be allowed.
- e) Time for presentation shall not be more than twelve (12) minutes plus grace time. There is no minimum time.

Rules for Debate

1. CLASSES AND FORMATS

- 1.1 JH Debate: JH Beginner Debaters will speak for 5 minutes with 3 minute reply speeches for the whole season, including Regionals and Provincials.
- 1.2 JH Open Debaters will speak for 6 minutes with 3 minute reply speeches for the whole season, including Regionals and Provincials.
- 1.3 All JH Debaters will be allowed a 3 minute prep time before reply speeches for regular tournaments, but not at Regionals or Provincials.
- 1.4 SH Debaters will maintain their separate categories of Beginner and Open, but all SH Debaters will have the same speaking times of 8 minute speeches and 4 minute reply speeches for the whole season, including Regionals and Provincials.
- 1.5 The following formats should be used for Canadian National Style Debate:

Canadian National Style Debate – Senior High and Bilingual (Junior and Senior)

| | |
|---|-------|
| 1 st Proposition Constructive | 8 min |
| 1 st Opposition Constructive | 8 min |
| 2 nd Proposition Constructive | 8 min |
| 2 nd Opposition Constructive | 8 min |
| Reply Speech by 1 st Opposition | 4 min |
| Reply Speech by 1 st Proposition | 4 min |

Canadian National Style Debate – Junior High Open

| | |
|---|-------|
| 1 st Proposition Constructive | 6 min |
| 1 st Opposition Constructive | 6 min |
| 2 nd Proposition Constructive | 6 min |
| 2 nd Opposition Constructive | 6 min |
| Break to Compile Reply Speech | 3 min |
| Reply Speech by 1 st Opposition | 3 min |
| Reply Speech by 1 st Proposition | 3 min |

Canadian National Style Debate – Junior High Beginner

| | |
|---|-------|
| 1 st Proposition Constructive | 5 min |
| 1 st Opposition Constructive | 5 min |
| 2 nd Proposition Constructive | 5 min |
| 2 nd Opposition Constructive | 5 min |
| Break to Compile Reply Speech | 3 min |
| Reply Speech by 1 st Opposition | 3 min |
| Reply Speech by 1 st Proposition | 3 min |

- 1.6 The following shall be the format for English Junior High Cross-Examination Style debate which shall normally encompass participants from grades 6-9.

Junior High Cross-Examination Style Debate (2 Person Teams)

| | Beginner Level | Open Level |
|--|----------------|------------|
| 1 st Proposition Constructive | 5 min | 6 min |
| 1 st Proposition cross-examined by 2 nd Opposition | 3 min | 3 min |
| 1 st Opposition Constructive | 5 min | 6 min |
| 1 st Opposition cross-examined by 1 st Proposition | 3 min | 3 min |
| 2 nd Proposition Constructive | 5 min | 6 min |
| 2 nd Proposition cross-examined by 1 st Opposition | 3 min | 3 min |
| 2 nd Opposition Constructive | 5 min | 6 min |
| 2 nd Opposition cross-examined by 2 nd Proposition | 3 min | 3 min |
| Break | 5 min | 5 min |
| Reply Speech by 1 st Opposition | 3 min | 3 min |
| Reply Speech by 1 st Proposition | 3 min | 3 min |

- 1.7 The following shall be the format for English Senior High Cross-Examination Style debate which shall normally encompass participants from grades 10-12.

Senior High Cross-Examination Style Debate (2 Person Teams)

| | Beginner Level | Open Level |
|--|----------------|------------|
| 1 st Proposition Constructive | 8 min | 8 min |
| 1 st Proposition cross-examined by 2 nd Opposition | 4 min | 4 min |
| 1 st Opposition Constructive | 8 min | 8 min |
| 1 st Opposition cross-examined by 1 st Proposition | 4 min | 4 min |
| 2 nd Proposition Constructive | 8 min | 8 min |
| 2 nd Proposition cross-examined by 1 st Opposition | 4 min | 4 min |
| 2 nd Opposition Constructive | 8 min | 8 min |
| 2 nd Opposition cross-examined by 2 nd Proposition | 4 min | 4 min |
| Break | 4 min | 4 min |
| Reply Speech by 1 st Opposition | 4 min | 4 min |
| Reply Speech by 1 st Proposition | 4 min | 4 min |

1.8 The following format should be used for Bilingual Senior High Cross-Examination Style debate:

| Bilingual Senior High Cross-Examination Style Debate (2 person teams) | | |
|--|-----------------|-------------|
| | Beginner | Open |
| 1 st Proposition Constructive in French (Definitions in both languages) | 8 min | 8 min |
| 1 st Proposition cross-examined by 2 nd Opposition in French | 4 min | 4 min |
| 1 st Opposition Constructive in French | 8 min | 8 min |
| 1 st Opposition cross-examined by 1 st Proposition in French | 4 min | 4 min |
| 2 nd Proposition Constructive in French | 8 min | 8 min |
| 2 nd Proposition cross-examined by 1 st Opposition in French | 4 min | 4 min |
| 2 nd Opposition Constructive in French | 8 min | 8 min |
| 2 nd Opposition cross-examined by 2 nd Proposition in French | 4 min | 4 min |
| Break | 4 min | 4 min |
| Reply Speech by 1 st Opposition in English | 4 min | 4 min |
| Reply Speech by 1 st Proposition in English | 4 min | 4 min |

1.9 The following format should be used for Bilingual Junior High Cross-Examination style debate (both categories):

| Bilingual Junior High Cross-Examination Style Debate | | (Both Categories) |
|--|-------|--------------------------|
| 1 st Proposition Construction in French (Definitions in both languages) | 6 min | |
| 1 st Proposition cross-examined by 2 nd Opposition in French | 3 min | |
| 1 st Opposition Constructive in French | 6 min | |
| 1 st Opposition cross-examined by 1 st Proposition in French | 3 min | |
| 2 nd Proposition Constructive in French | 6 min | |
| 2 nd Proposition cross-examined by 1 st Opposition in French | 3 min | |
| 2 nd Opposition Constructive in French | 6 min | |
| 2 nd Opposition cross-examined by 2 nd Proposition in French | 3 min | |
| Break | 3 min | |
| Reply Speech by 1 st Opposition in English | 4 min | |
| Reply Speech by 1 st Proposition in English | 4 min | |

1.10 The following format should be used for British Parliamentary Style Debate:

| | Regular Rounds | Extended Round |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 st Government Team Prime Minister | 5 min | 7 min |
| 1 st Opposition Team Leader of the Opposition | 5 min | 7 min |
| 1 st Government Team Deputy Prime Minister | 5 min | 7 min |
| 1 st Opposition Team Deputy Leader of the Opposition | 5 min | 7 min |
| 2 nd Government Team Member for the Government | 5 min | 7 min |
| 2 nd Opposition Team Member for the Opposition | 5 min | 7 min |
| 2 nd Government Team Government Whip | 5 min | 7 min |
| 2 nd Opposition Team Opposition Whip | 5 min | 7 min |

1.11 The following format should be used for World Style Debate (3-a-side debate):

| | Rounds |
|---|---------------|
| 1 st Proposition Speaker | 8 min |
| 1 st Opposition Speaker | 8 min |
| 2 nd Proposition Speaker | 8 min |
| 2 nd Opposition Speaker | 8 min |
| 3 rd Proposition Speaker | 8 min |
| 3 rd Opposition Speaker | 8 min |
| Opposition Reply Speech (given by 1 st or 2 nd) | 4 min |
| Proposition Reply Speech (given by 1 st or 2 nd) | 4 min |

1.12 While the ADSA strongly encourages closed adjudication, it is at the host's discretion to have open adjudication for all regular debate tournaments.

1.13 Regional and Provincial Championships will use closed adjudication until the beginning of elimination rounds.

2. ELIGIBILITY

2.1 Debaters are not required to proceed through the various levels of competition in turn.

2.2 Debaters may only compete in the Junior High Beginner category in their first program year of involvement with ADSA, with the exception of Grade 7 debaters who may participate in the Junior Beginner Category regardless of experience. Grade 8 debaters may only enter as a Beginner if they have no prior year ADSA debate experience.

2.3 The exception to 2.2 arises when a student has participated in only one tournament during a "first year" and did not place in the top two teams at the event. Such students may compete again in the Beginner category.

2.4 A student entering debate in Grade 9 must debate at the Junior Open level.

2.5 Students may only compete in the Senior High Beginner category in their first program year of high school involvement with ADSA, with the exception of Grade 10 debaters who may participate in the Senior Beginner Category regardless of experience. A student entering in Grade 12 must debate at the Senior Open level.

- 2.6 A beginner debater may advance to the Open class at any time during the year but may not return to the Beginner class unless they were placed in the Open class at a particular tournament for organizational reasons.
- 2.7 Experience in junior high school competition is not counted in determining the class of competition which a student is eligible for at the senior high level.
- 2.8 Non-school institutional members can only enter a debate if the school their debaters attend does not offer an active debate club.
- 2.9 In cases where a club size numbers fewer than four (4) paid ADSA members in a single competition category, the coach may apply to the Board on behalf of a debater without any partner, for permission to form a hybrid team with a debater from a different club. Such teams may not advance in competition beyond the level of a Regional Tournament. An Institutional Member may not seek this permission for more than one debater in a single category.
- 2.10 In cases where one debater from a team is unable to attend the event the registered for, or are unable to complete the event due to an unforeseen emergency, the remaining debater may request to participate at the event with a substitute. In such cases a hybrid team will be allowed for the duration of the event. Each of the debaters who participate in this hybrid team will be recognized as having competed for the sake of Regionals qualification. This point applies only to pre-regional events.

3. RULES

3.1 Definitions

- a) The Proposition/Government must reasonably define the essential terms of the resolution. For a prepared debate, teams will not make an impromptu definition of the resolution.
- b) The Opposition should not first accept and then later object to the definitions. Failure to challenge a definition is understood to be acceptance of it.
- c) The Proposition/Government shall not define the terms of the resolution in such a way as to give them a competitive advantage not inherent in the resolution.
- d) The Opposition should take issue with the definitions only if it feels those provided by the Proposition/Government are patently unreasonable. If this happens, the judge shall accept the definition, which is best supported through evidence and argument throughout the debate.
- e) When impromptu debate rounds are included in a prepared debate tournament, it is expected that definitions of terms be treated as definitions with prepared debates.”

3.2 Plan/Counter-plan

- a) In a policy debate the Proposition/Government must present a plan for significantly changing the status quo.
- b) The Proposition/Government need not show that the plan is legal or constitutional, however, the Proposition/Government must be prepared to deal with Opposition attacks on the plan's feasibility.
- c) In any class of debate the Proposition/Government team must present at least an outline of the plan in the first Proposition/Government speech.
- d) Either team, when advocating a plan of action, must explain it early enough in the debate to give the opponent an opportunity to reply in a constructive speech.
- e) The Opposition may offer any counter-plan specific to the resolution but must show that counter-plan to be significantly different and demonstrably more desirable than the Proposition/Government proposal.

3.3 Refutation

- a) Refutation may take place at any time and is not restricted to the rebuttal sections.
- b) During an official rebuttal no new constructive arguments may be introduced except by a Proposition/Government debater exercising his/her right to reply to new arguments tendered during the final Opposition constructive speech.
- c) It is the responsibility of First Proposition to present the final rebuttal speech.

3.4 Other

- a) Questions to the opposing team may be included in either constructive or rebuttal speeches. The opposition should answer those which are relevant to the issues being debated.
- b) Debaters participating in tournaments sponsored by the ADSA shall not have the name of their club included on the competition schedule or within the room in which the debate occurs; this is in order to provide judges with the best possible opportunity for an atmosphere of impartiality.
- c) All debate activities will have a 15 second grace period commencing from the moment the stop signal is given. At the end of the 15 seconds the Chairperson will verbally interrupt the debater and the judge shall disregard anything further that is said.

3.5 Proof

- a) Personal and telephone interviews are to be commended but shall not constitute evidence in a debate.
- b) Letters from authorities shall not constitute evidence in a debate.
- c) A factually unsupported statement or assertion carries no weight in a debate.
- d) The amount of proof required in a debate is generally less than is required in a court of law. The Proposition/Government is not obliged to produce "proof beyond a reasonable doubt", rather "on the balance of probabilities.”
- e) Evidence must be accurate. Evidence shall not be fabricated, falsified, misquoted, distorted, or quoted out of context.
- f) Visual aids are not permissible in a debate.
- g) New evidence may be presented at any stage of the debate.

3.6 Ethics (See Code of Conduct).

3.7 Cross-Examination Style Debate

- a) The examiner shall control the cross-examination. The witness, however, shall be permitted reasonable time to answer a question.
- b) The witness has the right to qualify answers.
- c) The witness must answer all relevant questions.
- d) The witness shall not ask questions unless to request clarification.
- e) A witness shall not take unnecessary time in answering questions.
- f) A witness shall answer questions honestly.
- g) A debater shall not seek assistance from his/her colleague while asking or answering questions.
- h) Judges shall penalize speech-making on the part of the examiner, lack of cooperation by the witness, stalling, irrelevance, flippancy, discourtesy, browbeating or any attempt to personally belittle or discredit an opponent.

3.8 Parliamentary Style Debate (Same rules as for other formats unless stated otherwise or inapplicable.)

- a) There shall be two teams of speakers, one supporting (Government) and one attacking (Opposition) the Bill (the resolution).
- b) Each team shall consist of two speakers.
- c) The order of speaking shall be as follows:

Senior High – Parliamentary Style (2 Person Teams)

| | |
|--|-------|
| Prime Minister Introduction | 5 min |
| First Opposition | 8 min |
| Second Government Speech | 8 min |
| Leader of Opposition Speech (The last three minutes of the speech will constitute the official rebuttal and must not include any new constructive arguments) | 8 min |
| Prime Minister’s Official Rebuttal | 3 min |

d) Parliamentary Procedures

- The chairperson of a Parliamentary Debate is called the "Mr. /Madame Speaker" and all debaters must address themselves to the Speaker at the outset of their speeches. Participants in the debate and members of the audience are referred to collectively as the "House", while the resolution is simply termed the "Bill".
- Debaters must always refer to one another in the third person (for example, "the Prime Minister," "Leader of the Opposition," "Minister of Recreation," "Honourable Member from High River," "Second Speaker for Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition").
- Every debater desiring to speak shall rise in his/her place with his/her head uncovered and address himself or herself to the speaker.
- Only one debater at a time may hold the floor of the House. As soon as another Member rises and addresses himself or herself to the Speaker, an interrupted debater shall surrender the floor by sitting down. When the Speaker rises to his feet, all debaters must immediately cease speaking and resume their seats.
- Debaters shall not use any un-parliamentary language (that is, foul, profane or offensive language or words abusing the house, any Member thereof, the Queen or a government official).
- Only verbal heckling by participating debaters is permitted. This is encouraged as long as it is pertinent, humorous, brief and infrequent. While wit is welcome, it should not be used just to disrupt the delivery of an opponent and the judges will severely penalize debaters who lower the level of debate through excessive or thoughtless heckling (such as the inane use of the question, "Source?").
- Members will, at all times, be dressed in a dignified and proper manner.
- A debater may seek to question an opponent during the latter's speech by rising to his/her feet and inquiring, "Mr./Madame Speaker, will the Honourable Member entertain a question?" If the Honourable Member agrees to consider the query, the question may be posed: otherwise, it may not and the would-be questioner must resume his seat. The time taken to ask such a question, and the period required to answer it, shall be included in the speaking time of the interrupted speaker. While occasional formal questions are welcome, such questions should not be used just to disrupt the delivery of opponents, and judges shall severely penalize debaters who lower the level of debate through excessive or thoughtless formal questions. Both questions and answers should not be more than one minute in length and each debater may ask a total of four questions per debate.

3.9 Impromptu Debate

- Impromptu Debates are at the discretion of the tournament organizers. Prepared topics may not be defined contrary to the spirit of the debate ("squirrelling" the debate).
- Tournament organizers must distinguish between Literal resolutions and Open resolutions. Literal resolutions must be defined using the term's actual definitions e.g. BIRT Smoking be banned in restaurants. Open resolutions may be squirreled e.g. BIRT the pen is mightier than the sword.
- Impromptu may be used in with any style of debate (e.g. Cross-examination, Parliamentary, and Discussion)
- Debaters shall ensure that the resolution is defined fairly and in such a way that it remains a debatable topic.
- Squirreling shall not be used, unless the tournament organizer has approved of its use. ADSA discourages the use of squirreling at the Junior High level, as they are still learning the fundamentals of debating.
- Debaters shall not use acronyms to squirrel a topic e.g. CUPID is Cupid or love etc. It may not become Communist usurping power as Independent Dictators

3.10 Rules for Bilingual Debate

- Bilingual debates are held at the discretion of tournament organizers, except for the ADSA Bilingual Regionals and Provincial tournaments, where this format is mandated. Though these rules are written with English and French in mind, should a bilingual tournament be held using another pair of languages, the rules below shall be followed substituting the selected languages into the rules.
- At the Junior level, constructive arguments of a speech shall be given in French, and clash/rebuttal will be offered in English. Official reply/rebuttal speeches shall be delivered in English.
- At the Senior level, debaters shall be free to determine which components of their speech they will deliver in English and which will be delivered in French. Within a single speech, however, a debater shall only change the language once. The overall balance between English and French in the speech shall be relatively even by time (ideally 50:50 and no more than 60:40 by time), except for debaters who are delivering official reply/rebuttal speeches, where the overall balance between English and French in both their speeches combined shall be relatively even (no more than 60:40) by the combined time of both speeches.
- At both the Junior and Senior levels, a Point of Information shall be answered in the language in which the point was asked. If before the Point of Information was asked the debater was speaking the other language than that in which the Point was asked, the debater shall return to that original language after having answered the Point.
- In Bilingual Cross-Examination debates, debaters shall ask approximately half of their questions in each language. Debaters cross-examining shall only change language once during the cross-examination. Debaters being cross-examined shall answer questions in the language they were asked.
- Judges shall penalize the speaker scores of a debater who noticeably falls outside of the language rules and balance for their level, except where this is caused only due to answering a Point of Information. Judges shall harshly penalize the speaker scores of a debater whose approach to the debate is contrary to the spirit of bilingual debate.

Appendix A: Association-Approved Ballots

- [Speech ballots](#)
- [Canadian National Debate JH ballot / Canada Bulletin National JH Juges](#)
- [Canadian National SH ballot / Canada Bulletin National SH Juges](#)
- [British Parliamentary Debate ballot](#)
- [Worlds School Debate ballot](#)