

# Canadian Junior National Debate Championships

## Constitution

(Current post the May 2011 Nationals in Estevan, SK)

- 1) This document sets out the rules for the Junior High National Debating Championships. It may be modified by a two-thirds majority of the membership, although consensus would be preferable.
- 2) The members are the representatives of those provinces and territories that attend the Junior High National Debating Championships. Each province or territory attending is entitled to one vote.
- 3) Provinces and territories may choose their delegations in any way that they wish to. The only requirement is that participating students should be in grades seven, eight or nine.
- 4) A National Coordinator for the Junior High National Debating Championships will be appointed annually at the tournament. His/her job will be to act as a resource person for the next tournament organizer. If there is not a host for the next year's tournament, the National Coordinator shall endeavor to find a site for the event.
- 5) Participating provinces must send an adult chaperone along with their student delegation. If they wish to send students without an accompanying adult, they must get specific permission from the tournament organizer. Such requests are strongly discouraged. Additional adults may be sent if the tournament organizer agrees.
- 6) The following are the Guidelines for the event.
  - a) Each province or territory will be invited to send a team of 8 students and a chaperone/coach to the competition, although in unusual circumstances, and with four months advance notice, the number might be reduced to 6. The host province may send a larger delegation roughly double in size, but should be careful not to overwhelm the other provinces with numbers. Students will be accommodated in hotels or billeted.
  - b) The host may invite teams from other countries to participate.
  - c) The first two rounds of prepared debates shall be random and arranged so that students do not debate against teams from their own province nor against the same team twice and they must debate both sides of the resolution.
  - d) There will be at least one but no more than two prepared resolutions. There may be any number of impromptu resolutions. The competition will be in the Canadian National Debate Style "(although the speaking times may be reduced).
  - e) Given that the rules for the styles of debate vary from province to province, the host should endeavor to send the rules that the competition will operate under to the participating teams.
  - f) If possible, there should be seminars presented to explain the various styles of debate to the participating students.

- g) Awards should be arranged so that there is at least one award given to at least one student from each province.
- h) Calculations of scores should be done by at least two individuals according to a fair and equitable tabulating system as determined by the host school.
- i) All other things being equal, the tournament organizer should use the following guidelines when selecting judges. Ideally, all of the judges would come from the first group , i.e. adults, but if insufficient adults are available, then the organizer should turn to the second group, then, if necessary, to the third, etc..
- First, adults
  - Second, high school debaters from schools other than those participating in the tournament
  - Third, high school debaters from schools participating in the tournament
  - Fourth, coaches of participants (they must not judge their own students)
  - Fifth, parents and older siblings of participants (they must not judge their relatives)
- j) If possible, there should be at least three judges per room
- k) If possible, no student should be seen by the same judge twice
- l) The host has the option of having a bilingual section but is not required to. The bilingual competitors would be in addition to the minimum 6 debaters per province.
- m) The judges shall not reveal the results at the end of the round although they may make comments. The overall results shall not be announced until the end of the tournament.