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QSDA Policy Regarding COVID-19 Protocols and In-Person Debating Tournaments

The Quebec Student Debating Association is committed to the health and safety of all of our constituents including debaters, coaches, judges, and the many volunteers that make high-school debating possible.

For the 2021-22 school year, the QSDA will be organizing some in-person tournaments in our attempt to return to a normal debating schedule. Debating is classified as a non-essential educational activity similar to sports. Therefore, participants of in-person, interscholastic debating events **MUST** be vaccinated according to Quebec regulations. In order to do this, the following rules will be enforced for all official QSDA tournaments:

1. All participants, including debaters, coaches, judges, and volunteers must have received two COVID-19 vaccinations, and waited for the appropriate amount of time for those vaccinations to be effective.
2. All participants must have Quebec-certified, verifiable proof of Adequate Protection along with government issued identification. Legitimate proof consists of the QR codes that are available from INSPQ upon vaccination. These codes will be checked via the VaxiCode app or paper copies. The vaccination proof and identification will be checked upon entrance to the debating venue. It is the responsibility of coaches to ensure that all participants have their identification and proof ready for verification upon arrival at the venue, as any participants who do not have complete identification or verification will be turned away at the door.
3. All participants must wear medical face masks while the tournament is in session.
4. No outside spectators of any kind will be allowed at any in-person tournaments.
5. It is the responsibility of the tournament organizers and the members of the QSDA to enforce these rules.

The QSDA will also continue to host online events to provide convenience and accessibility for all debaters. Naturally, the vaccination and face mask rules do not apply to these tournaments.

The QSDA does not condone in-person interprovincial tournaments, or in-person tournaments that allow for students from different provinces to mix for the time being.

All of these policies will change as rules change and new tools become available.

If there are any questions or clarifications needed for these policies or this document, please contact Jonathan Bracewell, President of the QSDA, at president@qsda.org