



2019 Canadian Junior and French National Debating Championships

Montreal, Quebec

Thursday, May 23 – Sunday, May 26, 2019

<http://www.qsda.org/jrfr2019>

National Debating Championships – Spectator Policy

Debating is an activity that takes place between teams of two debaters, and is adjudicated by officials appointed by tournament organizers to judge the debate. Any kind of interference in the process of the debate, either during the preparation, during the actual debate, or after in terms of questionable communication with the judges is not acceptable. Debaters have spent a great deal of time preparing for this event, and they expect the competition will take place with certain basic standards in place in order to guarantee the integrity of the tournament and in a safe environment.

While locally we tend to discourage, and in some cases prohibit, spectators from watching debaters, we realize as a national competition this is not the standard and that a number of people have travelled a great distance to watch students debate. So, we will of course allow spectators, whether they be coaches, school officials, friends, family, etc. but we expect everyone will adhere to the following code of conduct (whether registered at the tournament or not):

- in no way is anyone allowed to interfere with debaters, or help with, the preparation for any debate rounds. Debaters are required to prepare for rounds by themselves, and spectators should physically distance themselves from preparing debaters.
- spectators must, during the debate, remain quiet and discreet at all times and in no way should disturb the debate, or in any way distract any of the debaters. It is inappropriate, for example, to make positive or negative facial gestures at teams, to “signal” debaters when they make a good point, or when it is time to move on to a new point, to “applaud” or gesture in a way that is clearly meant to intimidate the other team, or to in general do anything that makes any debaters uncomfortable or makes any kind of noise. Observers are expected to be quiet and do just that, observe the debate. Any kind of active involvement or engagement with the debaters or judges is unacceptable and will be addressed.
- any spectator who does not abide by the code of conduct, may be warned by the head judge, and if it is a further issue, head judges are authorized to ask spectators to leave the room if the integrity of the debate is in question. Further steps may be taken by the organizers, should the behaviour continue.
- spectators, in order to minimize disruptions, may only enter at the beginning of the debate, and leave at the end. Judges reserve the right to decide where everyone sits in the room.
- spectators must leave the room during judge deliberations, and **ONLY THE DEBATERS themselves are allowed in the room for judge’s comments**. The event is closed adjudication, meaning that judges will not reveal who has won or lost.
- spectators must refrain from speech or behaviour that is disruptive, aggressive, threatening, offensive, discriminatory or that detracts from the spirit of collegiality of the event.
- debaters, or their coaches in their place, who have a negative encounter with spectators are asked to bring the matter to the attention to the adjudication team. Those who have behaved in a



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manner that is inappropriate could be barred from observing future rounds, or be asked to leave the tournament site.

- there may be a very limited number of debate rooms that are not full size classrooms for which we may have to require that no spectators be allowed to enter. There will not be many, and they will be clearly marked, but this is beyond our control because spectators would intrude upon the personal space of debaters and judges.

As well, the following are more general notes and apply to **non-registered participants** who may wish to observe the debate tournament:

- there is no food available at any time – only registered delegates may eat any of the meals.
- there is no transportation provided at any time. The buses are full to capacity and spaces were counted carefully. Only paid participants may use the buses, and others will need to make their own transportation to and from Lower Canada College on the Friday or Saturday.
- you may be required to sign in as a visitor at the school.
- we are also going to need to take what may seem an extraordinary measure, but is necessary due to the number of participants who registered and the size of the hotel facilities, and that is that **NO observers are allowed at any time at any of the hotel venues**. In particular, access to the banquet hall, debating rooms, and areas where the debating will take place on Sunday, May 26th is closed to all non-registered participants. There is simply not enough physical space and we are already stretching the capacity of the hotel.
- we will have people carefully checking for name tags to ensure adherence to these points.

We thank you in advance for your understanding and for the making the environment as comfortable as possible for all participants.