

Canadian Junior National Debating Championships
General Rules of Debate

1. All rounds in “Canadian National Debate Format” will be decided primarily on win-loss records, then by speaker points as the secondary criteria.
2. The first two rounds of “Canadian National Debate Format” will have random pairings, and teams will debate once on each side of the motion, and will debate only against other provinces.
3. For all remaining rounds of “Canadian National Debate Format” pairings will be done using a standard bracketing system. Attempts will be made to debate other provinces, and not to debate the same team twice, but this cannot be guaranteed.
4. Attempts will be made to give each team three rounds as Proposition, and two as Opposition, but this also cannot be guaranteed.
5. During the six rounds of “Canadian National Debate Format”, all students **must debate in all four speaking positions**. This will be checked carefully, and teams not abiding by this regulation will not be allowed to break to the quarter-finals.
6. The Discussion Style rounds will be coordinate style and count towards individual speaker standings, but not team standings. Students will debate both sides of the prepared motion with different partners.
7. The six rounds of “Canadian National Debate Format” are the only ones that count towards the team standings. After five rounds of this format, the top eight teams will break to the hidden quarter-finals. This round, and all subsequent rounds, are elimination rounds.
8. Only the top four teams advance to the semi-finals. The sides will be determined by a coin toss. The top two teams will advance to the Championship Round. The semis and finals do not affect speaker standings.
9. Definitions: The Proposition / Affirmative team is expected to use definitions that would occur to a person of ordinary intelligence. No definition may unduly favour one team over another. Please do not engage in a debate over definitions. The Proposition / Affirmative teams are expected to present reasonable definitions and the Negative / Opposition teams are expected to work with those definitions. Negative or Opposition teams should accept the definitions presented, unless they are truly outrageous. Any team that does this will be severely penalized, and any Negative / Opposition team will be compensated in the scoring.
10. A moderator / timekeeper shall be present at each debate. It will be indicated to debaters how much speaking time they have remaining. When a debater has exhausted his or her speaking time, and a 15 second grace period, the timekeeper / moderator shall require the debater to terminate his/her speech.
11. All debates will be judged by an odd number of judges. The winner of the debate is determined by the majority of the judges, not on speaker points. Judges will confer for each round, for no more than 10 minutes, but need not reach consensus.
12. Debaters may not introduce any visual aids or other real evidence.
13. Debaters shall prepare for impromptu topics without assistance from their coaches.
14. No laptop computers or electronic devices are allowed during any debates.