

Canadian National Debating Championships

Remarks to judges

- Please be sure to write down your name, the number of judges, as well as the room and round number at the top of the ballot. Also be sure to get the team names and the names of the speakers correct - ask them their names if you are not sure. Often, a team code will be used instead of the actual school name.
- Objectivity is the essential quality of a judge. One must forget his / her personal opinions and feelings when judging.
- It's useful to take some notes. Some suggest a 4-square grid to jot down the back and forth arguments between the two teams.
- If you need time between the speeches, please let the moderator or speaker know.
- Although all debaters may not have the same speaking times, it is important to remember that each has a particular responsibility in the debate. Do not penalize anyone because he/she may have less speaking time.
- It is true that one team might have a tougher job than the other, but teams will have to debate both sides of any prepared round. Judge the winner of the debate based on who was more convincing in their arguments. Be sure to circle the winning team on the ballot
- Please see the attached scoring guideline for a breakdown of how to award individual scores. The mark is out of 100, but except in very rare cases the effective scoring range is 60 to 90. Please make sure the individual scores add up to give more points to the winning team! Inexperienced judges should be very careful about giving high scores in the first round. There are no individual categories to grade, only a final score is requested.
- There is no penalty per se for a shorter speech, however, it will probably lack in content or refutation. A concise speech is preferable to a repetitive one, where a speaker is obviously killing time.

Conferral Judging:

At the end of each round, the debaters will be asked to leave the room. At this point judges will discuss the debate amongst themselves, with the chair of the panel leading the discussion. After a period which should never exceed ten minutes, the judges will independently fill out their ballots and assign speaker scores. The judges need not all agree on who has won the round. The debaters will return to the room, and the chair will give the oral comments. He/she will not indicate which team has won, while trying to include thoughts from all judges in his/her remarks.