



# 2012 Canadian Senior and Junior National Debating Championships

Montreal, Quebec

Wednesday, April 25 – Monday, April 30, 2012

<http://www.nationals2012.ca>

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## CLARIFICATION OF RULES REGARDING IMPROMPTU TOPICS PREPARATION

To all National Championships Participants:

This letter is to clarify the rules regarding preparation for the impromptu rounds at the National Debating Championships. The rule applies to both the senior and junior championships. The rules are in effect for all impromptu rounds, which includes rounds three to six for everyone on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, and for the break rounds on Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, from quarters right through to the finals.

For all impromptu rounds, **preparation must be done without any materials or resources, print or electronic, and without assistance of anyone other than your debate partner.**

This means, for example, that you may not use a laptop, Iphone, or any other electronic device, to access stored or online materials, nor can these devices be used to contact anyone by text, phone call or other means. In fact, they should not even be visible to anyone during the preparation period. You also **may not** have any print materials such as magazines, newspapers, dictionaries, thesauruses, almanacs, books of quotes, etc. You also are not allowed to have any previously debated cases with you that have been written out or typed, which you may have prepared or debated previously. **Anything other than blank paper and a pencil / pen is strictly prohibited.** You must also be sure to note that you may not prepare with other teams from your school; you may prepare only with your specific debate partner. Needless to say, consulting your coach, parents, or provincial representative is strictly against the rules. However, in the unlikely event of some confusion over the meaning of terms in an impromptu motion, you may **ONLY** ask a member of the Adjudication Team for clarification of the terms. This is the only exception.

However, while you are strictly forbidden from using devices such as cell phones and Ipods during the preparation period, we will allow you to use them as **timing devices only** for your own speech during the actual round if you wish. In terms of laptops, there is no reason to have them, so they are also strictly forbidden. In fact, please leave your laptops at the hotel to ensure they are secure.

Please be sure you follow these rules carefully. The spirit of these rules should be crystal clear to everyone. The preparation periods will be monitored and any violations of the rules will be dealt with harshly, and may include disqualification. Please do not put the organizing committee and national board of directors in the awkward position of having to deal with such incidents.

Thank you very much, and if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,  
Chris George  
National Championships Chair