**QSDA Spectator Policy**

The QSDA was created to encourage students at all levels of debating. Our goal is to create a safe space for novice debaters to test and develop their skills. This is much more difficult when members of the public are in attendance. As a result, the presence of spectators is generally discouraged at QSDA events, with the following exceptions:

* Open final rounds
* Tournaments taking place during the host school’s school hours
* Visits from school administrators

**Host School Spectators**

Tournament hosts who know that their students will be in class during rounds should notify the QSDA and visiting coaches prior to the tournament.

**Visiting Spectators**

Visiting teams who would like to bring spectators to QSDA events must:

1. Request and receive permission from the host school before bringing any spectators.

2. Guarantee to provide adequate supervision of their spectators.

Competing schools will be held responsible for the disciplining of students, competitors and spectators while on a competition site, before, during and following a QSDA event.

**Spectator Conduct**

Spectators must abide by the following rules:

1. Spectators are not permitted to interfere in any way with debaters’ preparation prior to impromptu rounds. Spectators should refrain from being within earshot of their team during preparation time, as teams who receive help during preparation are subject to disqualification.
2. Spectators must remain quiet at all times and avoid disrupting the round. Spectators are not permitted to engage in cheerleading, applause, gesturing, etc. Spectators who are disruptive will be asked to leave the room by the moderator or judge(s).
3. Spectators who enter a round are expected to stay for the duration. If they are required to leave, they should do so between speeches.
4. Cell phones or other devices must be turned off or on silent mode during the round.
5. Spectators are not permitted to enter the room once a round has commenced. The beginning of a round will not be delayed to accommodate spectators.
6. Spectators must leave the room during judge deliberations and must remain outside while judges offer oral comments to the debaters.
7. 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.

Spectators who fail to abide by these rules may be barred from watching future rounds or asked to leave the tournament.

Coaches of debaters who have a negative encounter with spectators are asked to bring the matter to the attention of the tournament host and a member of the QSDA Executive as quickly as possible.