

POLICY AND RULES MANUAL



**Last Updated March 2014
Following The AGM**

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1. LOCAL EVENTS

- 1.1 Events shall be defined as sponsored where the Association organizes the activity in cooperation with Institutional Members hosting invitational events.
- 1.2 Events shall be defined as sanctioned where the Association provides general assistance and materials to Institutional Members hosting invitational events.
- 1.3 The Alberta Debate and Speech Association shall only sanction tournaments at which the organizers agree to conduct a briefing for judges prior to commencement of competition.
- 1.4 All ADSA sanctioned tournaments shall be evaluated through the use of an Association-approved ballot or derivative thereof and these evaluations shall be recorded in an approved manner.
- 1.5 The ADSA will not recognize any University tournament or event unless approved by the Board on a case-by-case basis, annually, at the beginning of the year.

2. TOURNAMENTS

- 2.1 Schools will submit all competitors/teams that would like to participate in a given tournament, in ranked order to the host school. An equal number of spots will initially be offered to each school. Extra spots will be equally offered to schools wanting extra spots. If these cannot be equally distributed, they will be offered proportionally, based on the number of teams submitted in the original registration. Schools hosting a tournament will be given an optional gift of 5% of the rooms available, except for Provincials.
- 2.2 All tournament registrations (Debate and Speech) will go through the host school, the host school shall then compile all information on one spreadsheet and send that spreadsheet to the ADSA office, where membership will be verified before the host school can confirm registrations to their tournament.
- 2.3 At all ADSA organized events, coaches/sponsors shall gather all monies prior to the events and shall submit one payment per school for receipt purposes. Individual payments from other sources will not be accepted.
- 2.4 All entries for debate and speech tournaments must be received by the specified deadline.
- 2.5 Any team or speaker that registers for a debate or speech tournament is expected to pay the full registration fee and will receive no refund if they withdraw after the registration deadline. Competitor(s) shall not be allowed to participate in any future ADSA events until this is paid.
- 2.6 The deadline for registration in a tournament must be no more than thirty days prior to the event.
- 2.7 Except for tournaments declared to be coordinate competition, schools shall accept entries from teams, both members of which represent the same member schools, or other recognized member organizations.
- 2.8 Teams for coordinate debate competition, shall be determined by the organizers, using random selection, providing that members of each team, shall come from different Institutional Members.
- 2.9 Only teams with a full complement of Members will be allowed to participate in debate tournaments, no single debate teams will be permitted. If a single debater shows up, a swing debater can be matched up with him to maintain the draw. No wins will be allowed, but speaker points will be considered to make the draw work.
- 2.10 The Tournament organizer may refer to the ADSA office or Board Members for interpretation but shall make final decisions as to tournament organization and procedure, so long as they are not in opposition to the Alberta Debate and Speech Association "Policy and Rules Manual or By-Laws."
- 2.11 Debate Tournaments must have a minimum of 3 judges per room. Students who do not bring a judge may be wait listed until we can verify if we have enough judges.
- 2.12 An odd number of judges shall comprise the Judges' Panel in Debate.
- 2.13 Senior High students will be allowed to judge Junior High students. Preferably the Senior High students acting as judges will be ones that have exposure to the ADSA program.
- 2.14 Judges cannot come from the same divisional level as the team they are judging.
- 2.15 A debate tournament shall consist of a minimum of two rounds and shall involve at least two schools. A Speech Tournament will include 6 categories in any language and will include at least 2 rounds.

- 2.16 All debate and speech activities will have a 15 second grace period commencing from the moment the stop signal is given. At the end of the 15 seconds the Chairperson will verbally interrupt the debater or speaker and the judge shall disregard anything further that is said and, in the case of speech, the judge will penalize the violator.

3. RESEARCH

- 3.1 The Association shall produce research material and provide it on request to all Member schools for major Association sponsored events such as workshops, law seminars and Regional/Provincial Debate Championships.
- 3.2 The Association shall produce three (3) research packets each year that will be designed as self-teaching instruments that will diagram arguments and at least one of these packets will have a diction level for explanations adjusted to a grade six level.
- 3.3 The Association shall produce at least one (1) French research packet each year, designed along the same lines as the ones in Item 3.2
- 3.4 The ADSA office will create a list of 10 impromptu topics, based on current events that tournament organizers can access for the regionals or the provincials.

4. STATISTICS

- 4.1 The ADSA will have a representative(s) from their office or the board in charge of the stats room at all debate and speech tournaments. Stats teams must receive prior approval by the ADSA for all Provincial sanctioned tournaments
- 4.2 All stats for Debate and Speech Tournaments will come through the ADSA office for redistribution, they will not be considered official if they come from anywhere else. Absolutely no paper copies are to be distributed at any tournament.
- 4.3 All ballots for Debate and Speech are to be kept at the host school for 10 business days following all tournaments. If no one opposes the final results within that time, the host will shred the ballots to avoid any FOIP concerns.
- 4.4 Tournament organizers may make statistics available to all coaches before the final round. Tournament information is to be given only to coaches and not to students or parents.
- 4.5 Debate tournament ADSA approved stats teams shall:
- a) Record statistics on an official ADSA stats program and shall ensure that teams are identified by their school name
 - b) Calculate debate statistics on the basis of win/loss record first and combined speaker results second.
 - c) Enter three judges' scores in any round. Where only one judge's score is available that score shall be entered three times. Where five judge's scores are available, the scores shall be averaged and the result entered three times. In three round tournaments, the highest and lowest scores received by a debater during a tournament will be dropped to calculate the speaker average. These rules do not apply when a tournament is bracketed.
 - d) Do statistical calculations to a minimum of two places after the decimal,
 - e) Enter a bye as a win, with the speaker points for that round being calculated by taking the average of speaker points from other rounds.
- 4.6 Speech tournament organizers shall:
- a) Drop 1 high and 1 low score from every student's overall score at every Speech Tournament
- 4.7 A member of the Board and the Host (or his/her designate) shall be primarily responsible that statistics are correct and that statistics are posted after each round in a Provincial Tournament.

5. WORKSHOPS

- 5.1 The Association shall establish limits on the number of students from each school who may attend workshops.
- 5.2 In the event that a workshop has additional spaces available after the registration deadline has passed, schools will be allowed to enter an increased number of students above the limit established by Item 5.1 above.
- 5.3 Each Region shall run one judges training workshop during the "New to Debate Workshop" each year. Schools may register their new judges for this workshop. After this initial workshop, school teams are then responsible for the training of their judges prior to sending them to any tournament. All tournaments will have a briefing but judges should already have some idea of how it all works. Judges briefings are available on our website at www.albertadebate.com under online resources.

6. FRENCH LANGUAGE ACTIVITIES

- 6.1 The association fully supports the concept of French Language activities and shall make an effort to appoint a liaison officer to handle such activities.

7. AWARDS

- 7.1 At a hosts' request, no more than 24 A.D.S.A. certificates will be sent to a tournament organizer without charge, and any additional certificates will be billed at the rate of 2.00 each.
- 7.2 The Association shall award the following at the:
- a) Model Legislature:
 - The Premier's Cup to the Top Parliamentarian
 - Plaques for the Top Speaker in each party represented at the Tournament
 - b) Provincial Speech Championships:
 - A trophy for the best junior and senior class competitors of all speech, solo and duet acting classes.
 - The Mike Dorval Memorial Plaques (2) to the junior and senior high student who best exemplifies a commitment to and involvement in speech.
 - The Morris Brause Award to the Adult or Association who makes the most outstanding contribution to Speech
 - The Willis Kachuk Award Plaque for the School hosting the Speech Provincials that year
 - The Dorval Gavel to the school committing to host the follow year's Speech Provincials
 - Bev Dyan Memorial Cup for the Top Senior High Competitors advancing to Senior High Nationals, the school with the most winners hosts the cup for that year
 - The Ann Bradley Trophy (2) is awarded to a student in Junior High and Senior High who exemplifies the best Spirit towards both Debate and Speech Activities.
 - c) Provincial Debate Championships:
 - The Ellen Weber trophy to the best Beginner Team in Junior High competition
 - The Terri Kennedy Memorial trophy to the best Open Team in Junior High competition
 - The Ad-Tec Marketing trophy to the best Beginner Team in Senior High competition.
 - The Fergus Milaney award to the best Open Team in Senior High competition.
 - The Michael Dorval Cup to the best Beginner Speaker in Junior High competition.
 - The Caldwell Cup to the best Open Speaker in Junior High competition.
 - The Jane Robertson Memorial trophy for the best Beginner Speaker in Senior High competition.
 - The Patrons' Cup to the best Open Speaker in Senior High competition.
 - The Janet Garten Memorial Plaques (2) to the Junior High and Senior High debaters showing the greatest commitment and dedication to debate.
 - The John Baty Award goes to the adult or association who makes the most contribution to debate.
 - The Willis Kachuk Award Plaque for the School hosting the Debate Provincials that year
 - The Blair Ching Trophy goes to the top Junior High School in the Province using the following point system:
 - 100 Points per team in the first quartile of the ranking of the teams at the Provincials (ie: if there are 16 teams in Jr. H Open and a school has 3 of the 4 teams , that school is awarded 300 points)
 - 75 Points per team in the second quartile of the ranking of the teams at the Provincials in the Jr. H Open and Beginner categories
 - 50 Points per team in the third quartile of the ranking of the teams at the Provincials in the Jr. H Open and Beginner categories
 - 25 Points per team in the fourth quartile of the ranking of the teams at the Provincials in the Jr. H Open and Beginner categories
 - 10 Points per team participating in the regionals that did not qualify for the Provincials in Jr. H Open and Beginner categories

- The Martin Poirier Trophy goes to the top Senior High School in the Province using the following system:
 - 100 Points per team in the first quartile of the ranking of the teams at the Provincials (ie: if there are 16 teams in Sr. H Open and a school has 3 of the 4 teams , that school is awarded 300 points)
 - 75 Points per team in the second quartile of the ranking of the teams at the Provincials in the Sr. H Open and Beginner categories
 - 50 Points per team in the third quartile of the ranking of the teams at the Provincials in the Sr. H Open and Beginner categories
 - Points per team in the fourth quartile of the ranking of the teams at the Provincials in the Sr. H Open and Beginner categories
 - 10 Points per team participating in the regionals that did not qualify for the Provincials in Sr. H Open and Beginner categories
- The Ann Bradley Trophy (2) is awarded to a student in Junior High and Senior High who exemplifies the best Spirit towards both Debate and Speech Activities.

8. SPECIAL ELIGIBILITY

- 8.1** A student who completes matriculation requirements in less than three years shall be permitted to debate with their school team until the end of the third year.
- 8.2** The Board shall, under special circumstances, have discretionary power over individual participant qualifications for Regional, Provincial, Interprovincial and International Debate and Speech Championships.

9. DEBATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 9.1** The Association shall annually sponsor a Provincial Debate Championship.
- 9.2** Each region shall annually sponsor a Regional Debate Championship.
- 9.3** Impromptu Resolutions at the Regionals and Provincials, shall be picked by the VP of Debate in collaboration with the ADSA Office, and the Southern and the Northern Alumni Representative.
- 9.4** Only Members of the Alberta Debate and Speech Association shall be eligible for participation in the Regional/Provincial Debate Championships.
- 9.5** In Regional/Provincial Debate Championships, where numbers warrant, four classes of competition shall be held: Junior High Beginner and Open Class, Senior High Beginner and Open Class.
- 9.6** In a region with a single qualifying regional tournament teams wishing to compete in bilingual debate at the Provincial tournament must declare their intentions before the regional tournament. They must then pursue their declared route to the Provincials.
- 9.7** To be eligible to participate in Regional Debate Championships for advancement to the Provincial Debate Championships, debaters must have participated in a minimum of two tournaments in that region during the current year, prior to the Regional Debate Championships.
- 9.8** Teams failing to meet the requirements in Section 9.7 above may participate in Regional Championships but will be ineligible for advancement to the Provincial Championships.
- 9.9** Members in regions failing to meet the tournament requirements outlined in Item 9.7 above within their region may count competition at tournaments in different regions to fulfill the two tournament requirement.
- 9.10** The ADSA office shall determine the number of teams eligible for advancement to the Provincial Debate Championships from each region, based on distribution representing regional participation as closely as possible.
- 9.11** Formats in Regional/Provincial Debate Championships shall be listed in Classes and Formats sections of this Policy and Rule Manual.
- 9.12** The draws for the Provincial and Regional Debate Championships shall be checked by the ADSA office, or a Member of the Board, not involved with the tournament, to verify equality and randomness of the draw.
- 9.13** A school, which has not had any of its' teams qualify to attend the Provincial Debate Championship, but which is hosting the Provincial Debate Championship, shall be allowed to enter one team provided that the team participated in the Regional Debates and two other debate tournaments during the program year.
- 9.14** Only association sanctioned events that utilize ADSA sanctioned debates shall be considered as qualifying events for Regional and Provincial Debate Championships.

- 9.15** Each debate team may not debate the theme/topic designated for use at the Regional and Provincial Debates at any other event during that current year.
- 9.16** Provincial Debate regular rounds for Junior and Senior High will consist of all rounds in Canadian National Style.
- 9.17** In a given program year, any one Canadian University Tournament; Model Legislature or a recognized Model UN may be used by a student, as a qualifying event for Regionals, Provincial Debate Championships.

10. SPEECH CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 10.1** The Association shall annually sponsor a Provincial Speech Championship.
- 10.2** Each region shall annually sponsor a Regional Speech Championship.
- 10.3** Only Members of the Alberta Debate and Speech Association shall be eligible for participation in the Regional/Provincial Championships.
- 10.4** The completion of one speech tournament or three rounds is required to qualify for Regional Championships.
- 10.5** To be eligible to participate in the Provincial Speech Championship students must have participated in the Regional Speech Championships prior to the Provincial Speech Championships.
- 10.6** Regional organizations shall have the option of determining their own criteria for advancement provided that changes are not in conflict with the minimum Association requirements outlined in Item 10.4 above.
- 10.7** The number of speakers advancing to the Provincial Championships is determined by the Association on the basis of participation in Regional Championships. (50 % of candidates in each category or all medal winners).
- 10.8** Each round of presentations shall be given equal weight.
- 10.9** Students shall compete in the same category when proceeding from regional to provincial competition.
- 10.10** The top speakers in Junior and Senior High in the categories outlined in Rules for Speech, Section 1.1 shall be the Provincial Champions.
- 10.11A** A school which has not had any of its speakers qualify to attend the Provincial Speech Championship, but which is hosting the Provincial Speech Championship, shall be allowed to enter one student provided that student participated in the Regional Speech Championship and one other speech tournament during the program year.

11. CODE OF CONDUCT

Preamble: Coaches need to familiarize themselves with this code as well as the rules in the POLICY AND RULES MANUAL and formally inform their debaters, parents, and supporters about these ethics and rules prior to competition each school year.

11.1 PARTICIPANTS:

GENERAL

- a) All participants should be dressed in appropriate attire, which does not reflect school of origin (eg. No school uniforms or other identifying items).
- b) Participants shall be courteous and friendly to other competitors, judges, organizers and guests.
- c) Participants shall use language conducive to proper public speaking decorum. Profanity is unacceptable.
- d) In the event of a complaint, all participants must bring the issue to their coaches only, who will then approach the tournament organizer or ADSA on their behalf. Complaints must be lodged immediately following a round of debate or speech.
- e) Participants shall not argue with the judge or their opponents about the conduct or the result of the speech or debate. Participants shall not dispute the result of a debate or speech round in the presence of the judge(s).
- f) The Association does not approve of the use of any illicit drugs or the consumption of alcohol at Association sponsored events

DEBATE

- a) Debaters shall not seek to influence the judge by means other than evidence and argumentation during the debate.
- b) Debaters shall not listen to teams debating that they might meet on the same topic at a later time and thereby gain a competitive advantage. Coaches may, however, observe their own teams.
- c) Use of audio or visual equipment for the purpose of recording a debate may be done with the prior consent of both teams, their parents, and the organizer of the event.
- d) A team shall not seek or provide second-hand information regarding the cases of potential opponents, their personalities or any research done prior to the event.
- e) Debaters shall not breach normal courtesy by interruption, heckling, grimacing or whispering loudly while an opponent is speaking. Heckling, in an appropriate manner, in the case of Parliamentary style debating is acceptable.
- f) Debaters shall not, either by word or action, seek to belittle their opponents. Debates must be a clash of issues and not personalities.
- g) Competing teams must not collude to affect the debate in any way.
- h) Debaters must respect the personal physical space of an opponent. (Do not invade an opponent's space.)
- i) In an Impromptu style debate, debaters must define definitions in the spirit of debate. In other words, they must be defined fairly and allow for debate on both sides of the resolution.
- j) Students may not use electronic media such as computers, iPads, cell phones, or any communication technology during a round of debate. Debaters must be able to compete on their own merit and the strength of their own knowledge.
- k) A debater shall be discouraged from passing notes/cards to his/her partner when one of them has the floor, either from the constructive speech or the cross-examination. Debaters are judged on individual skills.

Debaters shall not, either by word or action, seek to belittle their opponents. Debates must be a clash of issues. Any conduct not in accordance with these codes will be grounds for disqualification in a tournament, and may include banning participants from present/future ADSA activities. Matters may be referred back to school based administrators.

11.2 COACHES:

- a) All ADSA clubs must be organized under a teacher advisor.
- b) According to the School Act, as well as School Liability, a Teacher Representative/Coach must be present at all ADSA events that their students participate in. If a Teacher Representative/Coach is not present then the school members cannot participate. If a school is not allowed to participate because of the absence of a teacher coach, that school will forfeit its right to a refund of tournament fees.
- c) In the spirit of cooperation, coaches shall actively encourage the sharing of resource materials available from public libraries and other public resource centers between teams within their own school.
- d) Coaches must demonstrate qualities of courtesy and good sportsmanship. These are evidenced by proper acceptance of officials' judgment, positive encouragement of student performance and polite interaction with tournament organizers in the event of a complaint.
- e) Coaches will support the volunteer efforts of fellow coaches and judges, and will encourage their debaters to do so as well.
- f) The Coach/Teacher, as a representative of the school, is responsible for the conduct of all personnel composing the school's team (participants, and spectators from their school). Coaches will also encourage responsible behavior from the parents. Coaches/Teachers shall make an attempt to control any negative situation, before it becomes an issue for the tournament organizer.
- g) When organizing tournaments, organizers should make an effort to ensure that students from the same school can avoid debating each other when possible and that all debate teams from a school will have a fairly even split of affirmative and negative debates. Coaches should try to assign a bye to the school with the most teams at a tournament.
- h) Coaches will not scout out teams

Any conduct not in accordance with these codes shall be grounds for the ADSA to notify the School's Administration. If behavior does not change, the ADSA will hold the right to ban coaches/teachers from attending present/future ADSA activities.

11.3 PARENTS AND SPECTATORS:

- a) Parents and spectators, both student and adult, will demonstrate courtesy and good sportsmanship by positive encouragement (before and after a debate) for their team/children.
- b) Parents and spectators will demonstrate respect towards opponents, coaches, judges and tournament organizers.
- c) In the event of a complaint, parents and spectators are only permitted to approach their team/child's coach, who will then approach the tournament organizer (in that order). Parents, spectators and coaches will not approach opposing teams, coaches or judges after a debate has been completed, unless to communicate their appreciation to the volunteers for their efforts.
- d) Parents will encourage their child to follow the rules of debate.
- e) Parents will not scout out teams.
- f) Parents and spectators will act in a supportive manner towards all volunteer personnel, who help in the development of all participants' skills, and encourage the promotion and growth of the ADSA.

Any conduct that is not in accordance with this code, shall be as grounds for ejection from a tournament, and may include suspension of participation in ADSA tournaments or interactions with the ADSA volunteers and participants.

Communications regarding debate or speech matters must be copied to the ADSA email address at contact@albertadebate.com unless strictly confidential.

1. INTERPROVINCIAL EXCHANGES

- 1.1 Except in circumstances where parents have granted permission in writing, the Association will not schedule interprovincial trips unless supervisory personnel have been located to act as chaperones. The ADSA board shall assign a chaperone for all interprovincial trips.
- 1.2 Interprovincial trips shall be organized so that participants get one full night of sleep prior to competition.
- 1.3 All delegates and representatives shall be responsible for the cost of travel, accommodation, and registration for the purposes of attending any:
 - a) Canadian Schools Debating Federation (CSDF) National Seminar
 - b) Canadian National Junior High Debating Championship (CNDC)
 - c) Canadian National Senior High Debating Championship (CNDC)
 - d) Oxford Cup Qualifier Debate Championship
 - e) Worlds Team Qualifying Tournament
 - f) Junior High National Speech Tournament
 - g) Senior High National Speech Tournament

2. THE C.S.D.F. NATIONAL DEBATE SEMINAR

- 2.1 Objective of Participation

The ADSA shall send students to the National Seminar to provide an unparalleled experience where our youth shall:

 - a) Learn and practice debating
 - b) Explore and discuss National issues
 - c) Experience new parts of Canada's many cultures
 - d) Meet a diverse cross-country peer group
 - e) Develop leadership and citizenship skills
- 2.2 Criteria for Selection of Delegation

The student delegate selection process should where possible:

 - a) Be transparent, publicized and accessible to all students in the region
 - b) Select students as individuals, with no more than one delegate selected from any school
 - c) Encourage diverse representation from and the expansion of debate within the region
 - d) Select delegates who are keen to learn more about debate, whose selection will most benefit themselves and their school, and who have no national or international debate experience
- 2.3 Eligibility for Selection of Delegation
 - a) Must be in grades 9 through 12 during the academic year of the Seminar
 - b) May not have attended a previous Seminar as a delegate
 - c) Representation must be one delegate in each of the three linguistic categories and up to three additional delegates
 - d) A report must be submitted annually to the CSDF board on how the delegates were chosen
- 2.4 Adult Delegates

The ADSA Board of Directors shall designate the official chaperone to represent Alberta at the Annual Seminar and this person shall be the voting representative speaking at all C.S.D.F. meetings. The cost of travel, accommodation and registration shall be provided by the ADSA.
- 2.5 Seminar Fees

Each delegate shall be responsible for the cost of travel, accommodation, and registration for the purpose of attending the National Seminar.

3. CANADIAN NATIONAL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL DEBATE CHAMPIONSHIP

The top three teams, as selected at the Provincial Debate Tournament, shall comprise the Alberta delegation to the Junior High National Tournament. In some cases dependent on the host, more teams may be invited to participate

4. CANADIAN NATIONAL SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL DEBATE CHAMPIONSHIP

The top two teams in Sr. Open, the top two teams in Sr. Beginner and the top bilingual team shall comprise the Alberta Delegation at the National High School Debate Championships. In some cases dependent on the host, more teams may be invited to participate.

5. OXFORD CUP QUALIFIER DEBATE CHAMPIONSHIP

The board shall organize a British Parliamentary tournament in order to select the representation at the Oxford Cup Qualifier Championship. The tournament will have four rounds bracketed. The delegation shall be of the top 4 teams in this tournament. This tournament will be held in May, or in June, September or October and will count as the qualifying tournament for the Oxford Qualifier.

6. WORLDS TEAM QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT

The board shall appoint a selection Committee that will organize a World Style Tournament in order to select the representatives from Alberta to the National Team Tryout. This tournament may be held in January, June or the beginning of September and will count as the qualifying tournament for this selection purpose only.

7. JUNIOR HIGH NATIONAL SPEECH TOURNAMENT

The top speakers selected at the National Speak Off, held at the Provincial Speech Tournament, shall comprise the Alberta delegation to the Jr. High National Speech Tournament. The number of students invited to Nationals is determined by the host school.

8. SENIOR HIGH NATIONALS SPEECH TOURNAMENT

The top speakers selected at the National Speak Off, held at the Provincial Speech Tournament, shall comprise the Alberta delegation to the Sr. High National Speech Tournament. The number of students invited to Nationals is determined by the host school.

1. GENERAL GUIDELINES

- 1.1 Students may enter one of the following categories:

| | Jr/Sr | Jr/Sr |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|
| Speaking | Oratory – 7 min | Impromptu – 5 min |
| Oral Presentation | Prose – 7 min | Poetry – 7 min |
| Acting | Solo – 8 min | Duet – 12 min |
| (Props & Accessories to be permitted only in Acting categories) | | |

- 1.2 Speech events have no specific classes other than distinguishing between Junior and Senior High levels.
- 1.3 A student is not permitted to use the same speech or presentation in future ADSA competition except when proceeding from Regional to Provincial Championships (They MAY use the same speech, but are not obligated to do so).
- 1.4 Speech competition evaluation will be based on rank ordering rather than point calculation.
- 1.5 It is recommended that invitational competitions also use rank ordering.
- 1.6 The ranking of the top 3 competitors for each category will be made public during the awards ceremony.
- 1.7 A timekeeper should be provided for each contest to notify the contestants of the amount of time remaining from their total allotted time. He/she should demonstrate to the contestants the type of time signals he/she will use. The major responsibility for keeping within the time limit rests with the contestant.
- a) Violation of time rules by the speaker shall result in being penalized in the round by the judge when visible, time signals have been given by the authorized timekeeper.
- 1.8 Speaking order shall be determined by the contest director by chance.

2. CATEGORIES

Speaking

2.1 Original Oratory

(For a full understanding of how Original Oratory operates, Members should read the ADSA document entitled Step-By-Step Speech Guide)

- The speaker must construct an original speech meant to inform, entertain, or persuade.
- Students may select any subject which is of interest to them, which will appeal to their audience, or which will have sufficient impact to change the listener's point of view.
- Not more than 10% of an oration may consist of quoted materials.
- During the delivery of an oration, if a manuscript is being used, it may be held or referred to by the contestant but there must be no obvious reading except when using quotations.
- The maximum speaking time shall be seven (7) minutes. There is no minimum.

2.2 Impromptu Speaking

(For a full understanding of how Impromptu Speaking operates, Members should read the ADSA document entitled Step-By-Step Speech Guide)

- The speaker must construct an original speech to inform, entertain, or persuade.
- Length of preparation will be five (5) minutes.
- Topics will be assigned five (5) minutes prior to the time of delivery.
- During the delivery of an impromptu address, notes may be held or referred to by the contestant, but there must be no obvious reading from those notes.
- As a contestant completes a speech, he or she will remain in the room for the remainder of the speeches.
- The maximum speaking time shall be five (5) minutes. There is no minimum.
- Violation of Rule f) shall result in being penalized in the round by the judge when visible time signals have been given by the judge or by the authorized timekeeper.

Oral Interpretation

2.3 Oral Interpretation of Poetry

a) Introduction

- A spoken introduction not exceeding 200 words is required. The introduction (and ONLY the introduction) must include the name of the poet and the selection(s) to be performed and should prepare the audience to listen to the selection(s). Content of introductions should be informative, relevant to the selection(s) and fulfill any category obligations. Introductions should be delivered utilizing the skills of good public speaking: they should be direct, personal, and informal in style with the student speaking as himself or herself. The introduction should reflect spontaneity, though it should be prepared ahead of time.

b) Style & Delivery

- The Speaker must hold the manuscript and give the illusion of reading from it. Responsive use of the body (i.e. spontaneous changes in posture, gesture and place-to-place movement) is permissible. However, this active use of the body should:
 - Be appropriate to the demands of the selection
 - Be a natural outgrowth from the literature to be performed
 - Not call attention to itself
 - Be limited in scope

c) Standards

- In selecting the material to be read in the contest, the teacher and student are challenged to explore literature of high quality and are encouraged to prepare selections of literary merit. Internet pieces will only be allowed if an official published piece exists. Selections are to be read in English translation; however, incidental use of foreign language words and phrases in any selection may be used as in the original. Sponsors will revise or reject all selections, which in any way fail to meet these qualifications, as not all material by a poet is appropriate for contest material.

d) Time Limit

- The time limit for each performance including introduction and transitional material may not exceed seven (7) minutes.

e) Violation of Rules

- Shall result in being penalized in the round by the judge when visible time signals have been given by the judge or by the authorized timekeeper.

2.4 Oral Interpretation of Prose

a) Introduction

- A spoken introduction not exceeding 200 words is required. The introduction (and ONLY the introduction) must include the name of the writer and the selection to be performed and should prepare the audience to listen to the selection. Content of introductions should be informative, relevant to the selection, and fulfill any category obligations. Introductions should be delivered utilizing the skills of good public speaking: they should be direct, personal, and informal in style with the student speaking as himself or herself. The introduction should reflect spontaneity, though it should be prepared ahead of time.

b) Style & Delivery

- The Speaker must hold the manuscript and give the illusion of reading from it. Responsive use of the body (i.e., spontaneous changes in posture, gesture, and place-to-place movement) is permissible. However, this active use of the body should:
 - Be appropriate to the demands of the selection
 - Be a natural outgrowth from the literature to be performed
 - Not call attention to itself
 - Be limited in scope

c) Standards

- In selecting material to be read in the contest, the teacher and student are challenged to explore literature of high quality and are encouraged to prepare selections of literary merit. Internet pieces will only be allowed if an official published piece exists. Selections are to be read in English translation; however, incidental use of foreign language words and phrases in any selection may be used as in the original. Sponsors

will revise or reject all selections, which in any way fail to meet these qualifications, as not all material by a poet is appropriate for contest material.

- d) Time Limit
 - The time limit for each performance including introduction and transitional material may not exceed seven (7) minutes.
- e) Violation of rule (d) shall result in being penalized in the round by the judge when visible time signals have been given by the judge or by the authorized timekeeper.

Acting

2.5 Solo Acting

(For a full understanding of how Solo Acting operates, Members should read the A.D.S.A. document entitled Step-By-Step Speech Guide.) Contestants will perform a monologue or dramatic piece that creates audience belief throughout the performance.

- a) Selections shall be taken from either a published play or adapted from a literary work. Internet pieces will only be allowed if an official published piece exists. Competitors must be able to produce either the original or a printed version of the play.
- b) The selection must be memorized and ACTED rather than RECITED. No prompting is allowed.
- c) Suggested dress may be worn. Contestants may also use simple props to be furnished by the performer. However, costumes and props will not be directly considered in the ballot.
- d) Each selection shall include an introduction, which shall set the scene and mood and include the title and author of the work. Time for the introduction shall be included in the time limit.
- e) The maximum time including the introduction shall be 8 minutes. There is no minimum.
- f) Violation of Rule f) shall result in being penalized in the round by the judge when visible time signals have been given by the judge or by the authorized timekeeper.

2.6 Duet Acting

- a) Selections shall be taken from either a published play or a literary work that has been adapted into a published play. Internet pieces will only be allowed if an official published piece exists. Competitors must be able to produce either the original or a printed version of the play.
- b) The selections shall be serious or humorous works.
- c) Time for presentation shall not be more than twelve (12) minutes.
- d) Each selection shall include an introduction, which shall set the scene and mood and include the title and author of the work. Time for the introduction shall be included in the time limit.
- e) Suggested dress may be worn. Contestants may also use simple props to be furnished by the performer. However, costumes and props will not be directly considered in the ballot.
- f) The selection must be memorized. No prompting will be allowed.
- g) Violations of Rules a) and f) will result in disqualification.
- h) Violation of Rule d) shall result in an adverse effect on the student's ranking in the round.
- i) Violation of Rule c) shall result in being penalized in the round by the judge when visible time signals by the authorized timekeeper.

1. CLASSES AND FORMATS

A region should strive to hold their tournament in the following format:

- Jr High Beginner: Canadian National
- Jr H Open: Canadian Nationals
- JR H Bilingual: Canadian Nationals
- Sr Open: Canadian Nationals with BP and Worlds Style for qualifying tournaments to other interprovincial events.

- 1.1 The following format should be used for Canadian National Style Debate: Canadian National Style Debate – Senior High Open

Canadian National Style Debate – Senior High Open

| | |
|---|-------|
| 1 st Proposition Constructive | 8 min |
| 1 st Opposition Constructive | 8 min |
| 2 nd Proposition Constructive | 8 min |
| 2 nd Opposition Constructive | 8 min |
| Reply Speech by 1 st Opposition | 4 min |
| Reply Speech by 1 st Proposition | 4 min |

Canadian National Style Debate – Senior High Beginner

| | |
|---|-------|
| 1 st Proposition Constructive | 6 min |
| 1 st Opposition Constructive | 6 min |
| 2 nd Proposition Constructive | 6 min |
| 2 nd Opposition Constructive | 6 min |
| Reply Speech by 1 st Opposition | 4 min |
| Reply Speech by 1 st Proposition | 4 min |

Canadian National Style Debate – Junior High Open

| | |
|---|-------|
| 1 st Proposition Constructive | 6 min |
| 1 st Opposition Constructive | 6 min |
| 2 nd Proposition Constructive | 6 min |
| 2 nd Opposition Constructive | 6 min |
| Break to Compile Reply Speech | 3 min |
| Reply Speech by 1 st Opposition | 3 min |
| Reply Speech by 1 st Proposition | 3 min |

Canadian National Style Debate – Junior High Beginner

| | |
|---|-------|
| 1 st Proposition Constructive | 5 min |
| 1 st Opposition Constructive | 5 min |
| 2 nd Proposition Constructive | 5 min |
| 2 nd Opposition Constructive | 5 min |
| Break to Compile Reply Speech | 3 min |
| Reply Speech by 1 st Opposition | 3 min |
| Reply Speech by 1 st Proposition | 3 min |

Canadian National Style Debate - Bilingual

| | |
|--|-------|
| 1 st Proposition Constructive in French | 8 min |
| 1 st Opposition Constructive in French | 8 min |
| 2 nd Proposition Constructive in French | 8 min |
| 2 nd Opposition Constructive in French | 8 min |
| Reply Speech by 1 st Opposition in English | 4 min |
| Reply Speech by 1 st Proposition in English | 4 min |

- 1.2 The following shall be the formats for English junior high debate which shall normally encompass participants from grades 6-9.

**Junior High Cross-Examination
(2 Person Teams)**

| | Beginner Level | Open Level |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1 st Proposition Constructive | 5 min | 6 min |
| 1 st Proposition cross-examined by 2 nd Opposition | 2 min | 3 min |
| 1 st Opposition Constructive | 5 min | 6 min |
| 1 st Opposition cross-examined by 1 st Proposition | 2 min | 3 min |
| 2 nd Proposition Constructive | 5 min | 6 min |
| 2 nd Proposition cross-examined by 1 st Opposition | 2 min | 3 min |
| 2 nd Opposition Constructive | 5 min | 6 min |
| 2 nd Opposition cross-examined by 2 nd Proposition | 2 min | 3 min |
| Break | 5 min | 5 min |
| Reply Speech by 1 st Opposition | 4 min | 4 min |
| Reply Speech by 1 st Proposition | 4 min | 4 min |

- 1.3 The following shall be the formats for English senior high debate which shall normally encompass participants from grades 10-12.

**Senior High Cross-Examination
(2 Person Teams)**

| | Beginner Level | Open Level |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1 st Proposition Constructive | 6 min | 7 min |
| 1 st Proposition cross-examined by 2 nd Opposition | 3 min | 3 min |
| 1 st Opposition Constructive | 6 min | 7 min |
| 1 st Opposition cross-examined by 1 st Proposition | 3 min | 3 min |
| 2 nd Proposition Constructive | 6 min | 7 min |
| 2 nd Proposition cross-examined by 1 st Opposition | 3 min | 3 min |
| 2 nd Opposition Constructive | 6 min | 7 min |
| 2 nd Opposition cross-examined by 2 nd Proposition | 3 min | 3 min |
| Break | 5 min | 5 min |
| Reply Speech by 1 st Opposition | 4 min | 4 min |
| Reply Speech by 1 st Proposition | 4 min | 4 min |

- 1.4 The following format should be used for Bilingual senior high cross-examination debate:

Bilingual Senior High Cross-Examination (2 person teams)

| | Beginner | Open |
|--|-----------------|-------------|
| 1 st Proposition Constructive in French (Definitions in both languages) | 6 min | 7 min |
| 1 st Proposition cross-examined by 2 nd Opposition in French | 3 min | 3 min |
| 1 st Opposition Constructive in French | 6 min | 7 min |
| 1 st Opposition cross-examined by 1 st Proposition in French | 3 min | 3 min |
| 2 nd Proposition Constructive in French | 6 min | 7 min |
| 2 nd Proposition cross-examined by 1 st Opposition in French | 3 min | 3 min |
| 2 nd Opposition Constructive in French | 6 min | 7 min |
| 2 nd Opposition cross-examined by 2 nd Proposition in French | 3 min | 3 min |
| Break | 5 min | 5 min |
| Reply Speech by 1 st Opposition in English | 4 min | 4 min |
| Reply Speech by 1 st Proposition in English | 4 min | 4 min |

- 1.5 The following format should be used for Bilingual junior high debate (both categories):

Bilingual Junior High Cross-Examination

| | (Both Categories) |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1 st Proposition Construction in French (Definitions in both languages) | 6 min |
| 1 st Proposition cross-examined by 2 nd Opposition in French | 3 min |
| 1 st Opposition Constructive in French | 6 min |
| 1 st Opposition cross-examined by 1 st Proposition in French | 3 min |
| 2 nd Proposition Constructive in French | 6 min |
| 2 nd Proposition cross-examined by 1 st Opposition in French | 3 min |
| 2 nd Opposition Constructive in French | 6 min |
| 2 nd Opposition cross-examined by 2 nd Proposition in French | 3 min |
| Break | 5 min |
| Reply Speech by 1 st Opposition in English | 4 min |
| Reply Speech by 1 st Proposition in English | 4 min |

- 1.6 The following format should be used for British Parliamentary Style Debate:

| | Preliminary Rounds | Final Round |
|---|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 st Government Team Prime Minister | 5 min | 7 min |
| 1 st Opposition Team Leader of the Opposition | 5 min | 7 min |
| 1 st Government Team Deputy Prime Minister | 5 min | 7 min |
| 1 st Opposition Team Deputy Leader of the Opposition | 5 min | 7 min |
| 2 nd Government Team Member for the Government | 5 min | 7 min |
| 2 nd Opposition Team Member for the Opposition | 5 min | 7 min |
| 2 nd Government Team Government Whip | 5 min | 7 min |
| 2 nd Opposition Team Opposition Whip | 5 min | 7 min |

- 1.7 The following format should be used for World Style Debate (3-a-side debate):

| | Final Round |
|---|--------------------|
| 1 st Proposition Speaker | 8 min |
| 1 st Opposition Speaker | 8 min |
| 2 nd Proposition Speaker | 8 min |
| 2 nd Opposition Speaker | 8 min |
| 3 rd Proposition Speaker | 8 min |
| 3 rd Opposition Speaker | 8 min |
| Opposition Reply Speech (given by 1 st or 2 nd) | 4 min |
| Proposition Reply Speech (given by 1 st or 2 nd) | 4 min |

2. ELIGIBILITY

- 2.1 Students are not required to proceed through the various levels of competition in turn.
- 2.2 Students may only compete in the Junior High Beginner category in their first program year of involvement with A.D.S.A., with the exception of Grade 7 debaters who may participate in the Junior Beginner Category regardless of experience. Only first time debaters in Grade 8 may enter as a Beginner.
- 2.3 The exception to 2.2 arises when a student has participated in only one tournament during a “first year” and did not place in the top two teams at the event.
- 2.4 A student entering debate in grade nine must debate at the Junior Open level.
- 2.5 Students may only compete in the Senior High Beginner category in their first program year of high school involvement with A.D.S.A., with the exception of Grade 10 debaters who may participate in the Senior Beginner Category regardless of experience. A student entering in grade twelve must debate at the Senior Open level.
- 2.6 A student may advance to a higher class at any time during the year but may not return to the previous class unless required to enter the higher class due to lack of entries in the beginner class.
- 2.7 Experience in junior high school competition is not counted in determining the class of competition which a student is eligible for at the senior high level.
- 2.8 Non-school institutional members can only enter a debate if the school their debaters attend does not offer an active debate club.

3. RULES

3.1 Definitions

- a) The Proposition/Government must reasonably define the essential terms of the resolution. For a prepared debate, teams will not make an impromptu definition of the resolution.
- b) The Opposition should not first accept and then later object to the definitions. Failure to challenge a definition is understood to be acceptance of it.
- c) The Proposition/Government shall not define the terms of the resolution in such a way as to give them a competitive advantage not inherent in the resolution.
- d) The Opposition should take issue with the definitions only if it feels those provided by the Proposition/Government are patently unreasonable. If this happens, the judge shall accept the definition, which is best supported through evidence and argument throughout the debate.
- e) When impromptu debate rounds are included in a prepared debate tournament, it is expected that definitions of terms be treated as definitions with prepared debates."

3.2 Plan/Counter-plan

- a) In a policy debate the Proposition/Government must present a plan for significantly changing the status quo.
- b) The Proposition/Government need not show that the plan is legal or constitutional, however, the Proposition/Government must be prepared to deal with Opposition attacks on the plan's feasibility.
- c) In any class of debate the Proposition/Government team must present at least an outline of the plan in the first Proposition/Government speech.
- d) Either team, when advocating a plan of action, must explain it early enough in the debate to give the opponent an opportunity to reply in a constructive speech.
- e) The Opposition may offer any counter-plan specific to the resolution but must show that counter-plan to be significantly different and demonstrably more desirable than the Proposition/Government proposal.

3.3 Refutation

- a) Refutation may take place at any time and is not restricted to the rebuttal sections.
- b) During an official rebuttal no new constructive arguments may be introduced except by a Proposition/Government debater exercising his/her right to reply to new arguments tendered during the final Opposition constructive speech.
- c) It is the responsibility of First Proposition to present the final rebuttal speech.

3.4 Other

- a) Questions to the opposing team may be included in either constructive or rebuttal speeches. The opposition should answer those, which are relevant to the issues being debated.
- b) Debaters participating in tournaments sponsored by the A.D.S.A. shall not have the name of their school included on the competition schedule or within the room in which the debate occurs; this is in order to provide judges with the best possible opportunity for an atmosphere of impartiality.

3.5 Proof

- a) Personal and telephone interviews are to be commended but shall not constitute evidence in a debate.
- b) Letters from authorities shall not constitute evidence in a debate.
- c) A factually unsupported statement or assertion carries no weight in a debate.
- d) The amount of proof required in a debate is generally less than is required in a court of law. The Proposition/Government is not obliged to produce "proof beyond a reasonable doubt", rather "on the balance of probabilities."
- e) Evidence must be accurate. Evidence shall not be fabricated, falsified, misquoted, distorted, or quoted out of context. If a judge feels that this is the case, he/she is justified in requesting full documentation of the material at the conclusion of the debate. The penalty for fabrication or falsification of evidence is disqualification from eligibility to win any prize or distinction during the tournament. If a judge is certain that the evidence has been deliberately falsified, he is justified in awarding the debate to the other team on this point alone.
- f) Visual aids are permissible in a debate. Once introduced, they become available for the opponents' use if desired.
- g) New evidence may be presented at any stage of the debate.

3.6 Ethics (See Code of Conduct).

3.7 Cross-Examination

- a) The examiner shall control the cross-examination. The witness, however, shall be permitted reasonable time to answer a question.
- b) The witness has the right to qualify answers.
- c) The witness must answer all relevant questions.
- d) The witness shall not ask questions unless to request clarification.
- e) A witness shall not take unnecessary time in answering questions.
- f) A witness shall answer questions honestly.
- g) A debater shall not seek assistance from his/her colleague while asking or answering questions.
- h) Judges shall penalize speech-making on the part of the examiner, lack of cooperation by the witness, stalling, irrelevance, flippancy, discourtesy, browbeating or any attempt to personally belittle or discredit an opponent.

3.8 Parliamentary Debate (Same rules as for other formats unless stated otherwise or inapplicable.)

- a) There shall be two teams of speakers, one supporting (Government) and one attacking (Opposition) the Bill (the resolution).
- b) Each team shall consist of two speakers.
- c) The order of speaking shall be as follows:

Senior High – Parliamentary Style (2 Person Teams)

| | |
|--|-------|
| Prime Minister Introduction | 5 min |
| First Opposition | 8 min |
| Second Government Speech | 8 min |
| Leader of Opposition Speech (The last three minutes of the speech will constitute the official rebuttal and must not include any new constructive arguments) | 8 min |
| Prime Minister's Official Rebuttal | 3 min |

d) Parliamentary Procedures

- The chairperson of a Parliamentary Debate is called the "Mr. /Madame Speaker" and all debaters must address themselves to the Speaker at the outset of their speeches. Participants in the debate and members of the audience are referred to collectively as the "House", while the resolution is simply termed the "Bill".
- Debaters must always refer to one another in the third person (for example, "the Prime Minister," "Leader of the Opposition," "Minister of Recreation," "Honourable Member from High River," "Second Speaker for Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition").
- Every debater desiring to speak shall rise in his/her place with his/her head uncovered and address him/herself to the speaker.
- Only one debater at a time may hold the floor of the House. As soon as another Member rises and addresses him/herself to the Speaker, an interrupted debater shall surrender the floor by sitting down. When the Speaker rises to his feet, all debaters must immediately cease speaking and resume their seats.
- Debaters shall not use any un-parliamentary language (that is, foul, profane or offensive language or words abusing the house, any Member thereof, the Queen or a government official).
- Only verbal heckling by participating debaters is permitted. This is encouraged as long as it is pertinent, humorous, brief and infrequent. While wit is welcome, it should not be used just to disrupt the delivery of an opponent and the judges will severely penalize debaters who lower the level of debate through excessive or thoughtless heckling (such as the inane use of the question, "Source?").
- Members will, at all times, be dressed in a dignified and proper manner.
- A debater may seek to question an opponent during the latter's speech by rising to his/her feet and inquiring, "Mr./Madame Speaker, will the Honourable Member entertain a question?" If the Honourable Member agrees to consider the query, the question may be posed; otherwise, it may not and the would-be questioner must resume his seat. The time taken to ask such a question, and the period required to answer it, shall be included in the speaking time of the interrupted speaker. While occasional formal questions are welcome, such questions should not be used just to disrupt the delivery of opponents, and judges shall severely penalize debaters who lower the level

of debate through excessive or thoughtless formal questions. Both questions and answers should not be more than one minute in length and each debater may ask a total of four questions per debate.

e) Bilingual Parliamentary Debate

The following format should be used for Bilingual parliamentary debate (2-speaker team style):

| | |
|---|-------|
| Prime Minister Introduction in French | 5 min |
| First Opposition in French | 8 min |
| Second Government Speech in French | 8 min |
| Leader of Opposition Speech (The first five minutes in French) (The last three minutes of this speech in English will constitute the official rebuttal and must not include any new constructive arguments) | 8 min |
| Prime Minister's Official Rebuttal in English | 3 min |

3.9 Impromptu Debate

- Impromptu Debates are at the discretion of the tournament organizers (except for the Regional and Provincial Competitions--impromptu rounds are prohibited). Prepared topics may not be squirreled.
- Tournament organizers must distinguish between Literal resolutions and Open resolutions. Literal resolutions must be defined using the term's actual definitions eg. BIRT Smoking be banned in restaurants. Open resolutions may be squirreled eg. BIRT the pen is mightier than the sword.
- Impromptu may be used in with any style of debate (eg. Cross-examination, Parliamentary, and Discussion)
- Debaters shall ensure that the resolution is defined fairly and in such a way that it remains a debatable topic.
- Squirreling shall not be used, unless the tournament organizer has approved of its use. ADSA discourages the use of squirreling at the Junior High level, as they are still learning the fundamentals of debating.
- Debaters shall not use acronyms to squirrel a topic eg. CUPID is Cupid or love etc. It may not become Communist usurping power as Independent Dictators

3.10 Seminar Debates (Strictly for "Partners in Critical Thinking" (PICT) events.)

(Same rules as for other formats unless stated otherwise or inapplicable)

- There shall be a seminar of at least one hour which will precede the similar debate tournament.
- At the seminar invited guests will be given equal opportunity to speak and produce evidence on both sides of the resolution for debate.
- The composition of the panel of invited guests at the seminar debate is at the sole discretion of the tournament organizer, but must include at least one (1) speaker for each side of the resolution.
- The remarks, opinions, facts, statistics and quotations given by the guest speakers may be used as evidence by the debaters for the tournament which follows. Judges will give this information the same consideration as other evidence presented at the debate.
- The debate format may be in the cross-examination, parliamentary or discussion style.
- The format of the seminar is at the sole discretion of the tournament organizer and may include cross-examination questions from the audience or other formats.
- There will be a moderator of the seminar appointed by the tournament organizer, who will keep order and ensure procedural fairness.

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**The ADSA is a not-for-profit
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Critical Thinking

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