



By-Laws of the “Canadian National Debating Championships” (As of April 2014)

Definitions

1. In the by-laws, unless the context otherwise specifies or requires:
 - (a) "CNDC" means the “Canadian National Debating Championships”;
 - (b) "by-laws" means the by-laws of the CNDC in force and effect;
 - (c) "CSDF" means the Canadian Student Debating Federation;
 - (d) "members" refers to the single representative of each province or territory competing in the CNDC.

Meetings of Members

2. Meetings of the members may be held at any place in Canada. Quorum for a meeting of the members is a majority of members.
3. Each member is entitled to two votes and each governor is entitled to one vote at a meeting of the members. Eligible persons’ must be present in order to cast a vote.
4. The board of Governors shall determine the date, time, place and chair for meetings of members.
5. Robert’s Rules of Order shall be used at meetings.
6. Questions arising at a meeting of members shall be decided by a majority of members voting.
7. At any official meeting of the members, one participant shall be appointed to keep minutes of the meeting, and to circulate those minutes after the meeting.
8. At the discretion of the board of Governors, issues arising between meetings may be decided by e-mail vote.

The Canadian National Debating Championships

9. The CNDC shall annually organize a debating event known the “Canadian National Debating Championships”.
10. Each year, a meeting of the members shall be held at the CNDC for the purposes of electing a Board of Governors.
11. The Board of Governors shall consist of six elected members plus the Tournament Chair for the following year.

Eligibility and Debater Representation

12. The board of directors shall determine the number of teams that may attend each year from each province. They may, at its discretion, allow the host province to enter additional teams.

13. To be eligible to attend the CNDC a debater must be enrolled in a secondary school that is a member school of their Provincial or Territorial Organization. Where such a secondary school is semestered, a debater must have been enrolled in the secondary school for at least one semester of the current academic year.

14. A debater may not attend the CNDC if he or she is registered for the Junior High Debate Nationals in the same year.

15. Provincial organizations may select their teams in any manner they choose. There are no limits on teams per school, although provinces may impose whatever reasonable limitations they decide.

16. Teams should consist of two students from the same school. With the exception of territorial delegations, in the case of a hybrid team, they are not eligible to advance to the quarter-finals, but they are eligible for individual awards.

17. The Provincial or Territorial Chaperone is responsible for dealing with chaperoning and discipline issues involving their students.

Rotation

18. The National Championships shall rotate around the country as much as possible. The rotation should be confirmed at each annual meeting.

Financial Responsibility

19. The Championships shall be the financial responsibility of the organizing committee.

Committee and Chair

20. The board of directors shall appoint a Chair for the National Championships, who shall sit on the Board of Governors as a full member and appoint an organizing committee.

21. The responsibilities of the Chair and the committee include:

(a) provide accommodation for debaters, members and officers, arrange entertainment, supply awards, recruit and instruct judges;

b) arrange transportation and food;

c) recruit judges, with the help of the Judging Director if possible;

d) provide the Tabs director with facilities needed;

e) set and collect the registration fee, manage the finances, and raise money in the name of the CNDC if necessary;

Resolutions

22. The Tournament Chair shall consult with the board about the resolutions.

23. The first two rounds shall use the prepared resolution, and teams shall debate each side. The remaining rounds shall be impromptu motions, including all break rounds except for the final round where it is at the discretion of the convener to use the motion of the prepared round.

24. Teams shall be given 30 minutes to prepare for impromptu resolutions.

Board Responsibility

25. The Board shall assist the host in running a smooth tournament, this may include approving a tabs director.

The Draw

26. For the first two prepared rounds, teams shall debate against schools from other provinces. In addition to switching sides for the prepared rounds, teams should not debate the same team twice, and should as much as possible debate against different provinces.

27. For round 3, teams shall be paired using a standard bracketing system. "The Tournament Director shall determine the pull-up policy." Sides shall be determined randomly. The decision and discretion of the Tournament Director is final. This same system shall be used for rounds 3 to 6 inclusive

28. After at least 6 rounds, there will be the quarter- finals, with the first seeded team debating the eighth, the second vs. the seventh, the third vs. the sixth and the fourth vs. the fifth. The side shall be determined on a coin toss. This round and all following rounds will be elimination rounds.

29. The winners of the quarter-finals shall advance to the semi-finals. Teams shall be reseeded for semi-finals. Side will be determined by a coin toss, with the higher seeded team given the call. Only these four teams will debate at this time.

30. For finals, the side will be determined by a coin toss, with the higher seeded team given the call.

Judging

31. An odd number of judges must always be present in a room.

a) For the National Championships, the judges have to make their decision independently from each other (no conferral judging). Conferral judging still applies for the North American Championship.

32. At least three judges shall be used for each of the quarter and semi, and five for the finals.

33. The judging coordinator is responsible for assigning the panels of judges for every round.

a) If possible, all the judges in the semi-final and the final rounds of the National Championships should be drawn from coaches whose teams are not in these rounds.

Scoring

34. All scoring is done a win-loss basis and this is the primary criteria for ranking teams. There shall always be an odd number of judges in each room, as well as for all break rounds. The win is determined by the decision of the majority of judges. Speaker points shall be the secondary criteria for ranking teams.

35. Individual speaker awards will also be given, and debaters will be ranked such that each round carries equal weight. Semis and finals have no effect on speaker's standings.

Style of Debate

36. The style of debate shall be the “Canadian National Debate Format”.

The speaking order is as follows:

First proposition Speaker Constructive Speech 8 minutes

First opposition Speaker Constructive Speech 8 minutes

Second proposition Speaker Constructive Speech 8 minutes

Second opposition Speaker Constructive Speech 8 minutes

First opposition Speaker Summary/Rebuttal 4 minutes

First proposition Speaker Summary/Rebuttal 4 minutes

37. Points of information are allowed only during constructive speeches, and not during the first and last minutes of these speeches.

38. Points of order, points of personal privilege and heckling are all prohibited.

39. The rules of debate, ballots and speaker scripts shall be approved by the board of directors and made available in advance of the Championships.

Results

40. The full results ranked by team and individually, shall be made available at the conclusion of the tournament.

Awards

41. Awards should be presented to at least the top four teams, and at least the top five individual speakers.

42. The winner of the Championship Round shall be declared “National Champions”.

43. The “Harold Kyte Award”, to be presented to the top individual speaker.

Oxford Cup Debating Championships (previously North Americans)

44. Every year the board of governors shall also organize a separate event, called the ‘Oxford Cup’, which will select the teams to participate at the Oxford Union Schools Debating Championships. This tournament will be held in British Parliamentary Format.

45. The top two teams from different provinces shall be eligible to attend the Oxford Union Schools Debating Championships, subject to being invited by the Oxford Union.

46. The winning school has the right to designate the official chaperone/coach for the Canadian delegation.

47. The board shall make available an amount of money to the official chaperone/coach that shall be collected through the tournament registration. The coach or teams shall be responsible for any expenses beyond this amount.

48. If no Oxford Cup can be scheduled, the board will use its discretion on how to select the Oxford teams.