

The Canadian National British Parliamentary Championships

Every year, there will be a tournament called the “Canadian National British Parliamentary Championships” which will select teams to participate in;

1. Oxford Schools Debating Competition (held at Oxford University),
2. Cambridge Schools Debating Competition (held at Cambridge University),
3. International Competition for Young Debaters (held at Cambridge & Oxford University in alternating years)

Provinces will select the top U15 and Senior teams through a provincial round to attend the CNBPC. The specific number of teams will be determined by the tournament host’s capacity.

Resolutions

All rounds shall be impromptu motions, including all break rounds.

Teams shall be given 15 minutes to prepare for impromptu resolutions.

The Draw

For round 1, the draw should be random, prioritizing that students will not debate against teams from their school or province (can be decided by the discretion of the Tabs Director).

For round 2 onwards, teams shall be paired using a standard bracketing system. It is advised that the Tabs Director use TabbyCat with the WUDC presets. Teams must debate in each role once during the preliminary rounds.

After at least 6 rounds, there will be a semi-finals. Only teams with members from the same school are eligible to break. The rounds will include the following teams;

1. First, fourth, fifth and eighth-seeded teams,
2. Second, third, sixth and seventh-seeded teams

The positions will be blindly drawn in the break order. This round and all following rounds will be elimination rounds with the top two from each round advancing to the finals (the semi-finals need not be ranked).

For the final, The sides will be drawn in the break order.

The judging panel in the finals must rank the four teams from 1st to 4th.

Judging

For the National BP Championships, the judging will be conferral judging with one ballot.

At least three judges shall be used for all break rounds.

The tabs director is responsible for assigning the panels of judges for every round.

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

Scoring

All scoring is done a points basis and this is the primary criterion for ranking teams. The ranking of teams shall be determined and agreed upon by the judges. Speaker points shall be the secondary criteria for ranking teams and, again, must be agreed upon by all judges on the panel.

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 the speaker's standings.

Style of Debate

The style of debate shall be the "British Parliamentary Format".

The speaking order is as follows:

1. Prime Minister (PM) Speech: 5 minutes,
2. Leader of Opposition (LO) Speech: 5 minutes,
3. Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) Speech: 5 minutes,
4. Deputy Leader of Opposition (DLO) Speech: 5 minutes,
5. Member of Government (MG) Speech: 5 minutes,
6. Member of Opposition (MO) Speech: 5 minutes,
7. Government Whip (GW) Speech: 5 minutes,
8. Opposition Whip (OW) Speech: 5 minutes

Points of information are allowed in all speech, and not during the first and last 30 seconds of these speeches.

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

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

Results

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

Awards

Awards should be presented to at least the top eight teams, and at least the top 10 individual speakers and the top speaker from each province

The winner of the Championship Round shall be declared "Canadian British Parliamentary National Champions".

The "Steven Penner Shield", to be presented to the top team.

Qualifying

Canada is given a certain number of spots to each of the following tournaments for teams to advance to from the Senior Category;

1. Oxford Schools Debating Competition,
2. Cambridge Schools Debating Competition,

Teams must attend the same school to qualify for advancement. A choice will be given to the top teams of the tournament as to which tournament they would like to attend. The next qualifying teams will be given a choice (if there is one) or assigned tournaments based on remaining spots. The top 4 teams will be determined in the final by the judging panel. The teams that made semi-finals will be ranked based on break order.

The top teams from the Junior Category will advance to the International Competition for Young Debaters based on the rankings from the final round. Teams must attend the same school to qualify for advancement.

The coordination of advancement should occur between the tournament host, team coaches, and the Canadian liaisons to the 3 tournaments.