



Manitoba Speech and Debate Association

## 2021-22 BP National Debating Championships

Dear Provincial / Territorial Coordinator:

We are pleased to invite you to enter the 2021-22 Canadian BP British Parliamentary (BP) Debating Championships. This year the Junior (grade 9 and under) and Senior (Grade 10, 11 and 12) will be hosted on different weekends. The Senior tournament will take place online from Friday, November 19, until Sunday, November 21. The Junior tournament will take place from January 7-9. The top teams at the senior event will qualify to represent Canada at the Oxford or Cambridge tournaments, if Canada receives an invitation to those events and depending on the conditions set by the hosts of those events. The top teams at the junior event will qualify to represent Canada at the International Competition for Young Debaters at either Cambridge or Oxford, again depending on receiving an invitation to that event and the conditions required by the hosts of that event.

### **Eligibility:**

Each Province or Territory is invited to enter up to 6 two-person teams in the Senior category, and up to 4 two-person teams in the Junior category. Provinces/Territories may use any method they like to select their teams. If there is space, it may be possible to accept additional teams, particularly in the junior category.

**Each team must provide a judge for all of the rounds.** Different people may split those judging duties, but each team must provide a judge for every session (the current plan is 1 session on Friday, 2 sessions on Saturday, and the break rounds on Sunday). Each session will involve 2 debates. Regrettably, teams that do not meet their judging obligations may be dropped from the tournament. Judges may be coaches, university students, or other adults. **In the junior category only**, Grade 11 and 12 students who are experienced BP debaters might be able to be judges subject to the agreement of the tournament organizers, i.e. check with us first.

Provinces are welcome, indeed encouraged, to register additional judges.

### **Format:**

All debates will use the standard BP rules with 5 minute speaking times. All debates will be impromptu with roughly 30 minutes preparation time.

The tournament will use Zoom. Coaches, debaters, and judges should make certain that they can access this and have the latest Zoom update. All students must have access to a camera and microphone. Please note that laptops, phones, or tablets may all be used, although a laptop is probably the best option. During a debate round, all participants must keep their cameras on throughout the debate. Debaters may not use internet or pre-written cases for impromptu

rounds. They may not contact coaches or anyone other than their partner during impromptu prep. More technical details will be sent closer to the tournament.

**Cost:** There is no fee for this tournament.

**Registration:**

We would ask any provinces or territories that would like to attend to fill out the provincial registration form at the links below by the deadline listed by the link. Once we have that information, we will send links for team registrations, a more detailed schedule, and additional information. We will also be able to let provinces and territories know if there will be spaces for any additional teams.

**[Senior BP Championships Registration link](#)** – registration deadline is October 31, 2021.

**[Junior BP Championships Registration link](#)** – registration deadline is November 10, 2021

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at [manitobadebate@gmail.com](mailto:manitobadebate@gmail.com)

Sincerely,

John Robinson,  
President,  
Manitoba Speech and Debate Association  
[manitobadebate@gmail.com](mailto:manitobadebate@gmail.com)