

2023 Canadian Junior National Debating Championships

Toronto, Ontario

Friday, May 12 – Sunday, May 14, 2023

<https://osdu.org/junior-nationals-2023/>

National Debating Championships – Spectator Policy

Debating is an activity that takes place between teams of two debaters, and is adjudicated by officials appointed by tournament organizers to judge the debate. Any kind of interference in the process of the debate, either during the preparation, during the actual debate, or after in terms of questionable communication with the judges is not acceptable. Debaters have spent a great deal of time preparing for this event, and they expect the competition will take place with certain basic standards in place in order to guarantee the integrity of the tournament and in a safe environment.

Spectators, whether they be coaches, school officials, friends, family, etc. are allowed to observe rounds of debate with the consent of everyone participating in the debate, as long as they adhere to the following code of conduct (whether registered at the tournament or not):

- in no way is anyone allowed to interfere with debaters, or help with, the preparation for any debate rounds. Debaters are required to prepare for rounds by themselves, and spectators should physically distance themselves from preparing debaters.
- spectators must, during the debate, remain quiet and discreet at all times and in no way should disturb the debate, or in any way distract any of the debaters. It is inappropriate, for example, to make positive or negative facial gestures at teams, to “signal” debaters when they make a good point, or when it is time to move on to a new point, to “applaud” or gesture in a way that is clearly meant to intimidate the other team, or to in general do anything that makes any debaters uncomfortable or makes any kind of noise. Observers are expected to be quiet and do just that, observe the debate. Any kind of active involvement or engagement with the debaters or judges is unacceptable and will be addressed.
- any spectator who does not abide by the code of conduct, may be warned by the head judge, and if it is a further issue, head judges are authorized to ask spectators to leave the room if the integrity of the debate is in question. Further steps may be taken by the organizers, should the behaviour continue.
- spectators, in order to minimize disruptions, may only enter at the beginning of the debate, and leave at the end. Judges reserve the right to decide where everyone sits in the room.
- spectators must leave the room during judge deliberations, and **ONLY THE DEBATERS themselves are allowed in the room for judge’s comments**. The event is closed adjudication, meaning that judges will not reveal who has won or lost.
- 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.
- debaters, or their coaches in their place, who have a negative encounter with spectators are asked to bring the matter to the attention to the adjudication team. Those who have behaved in a manner that is inappropriate could be barred from observing future rounds, or be asked to leave the tournament site.

The rules apply equally to rounds on all days, however, for the break rounds on Sunday, quarter-finals to finals, anyone is welcome to freely observe these rounds.