

Debate New Brunswick

Mission Statement: Debate New Brunswick is a collective of teachers, coaches and judges which aims to create opportunities for students to hone their skills in public speaking, logic, analysis and civic discourse through debate. Debate New Brunswick has its common goal to encourage youth in the organization and implementation of debate activities within the school system and in the community at large. In doing so DNB places the emphasis on learning rather than competition, although fair and honest competition will be provided through the attached guidelines.

Responsibilities and Programs:

Debate New Brunswick will facilitate communication between debate clubs and teams to promote the activity. This includes managing the scheduling of tournaments, providing the rules and guidelines for the styles of debate used within these tournaments, as well as a means to evaluate debate at these tournaments.

Debate New Brunswick will provide rankings for students, both by tournament and as determined in the New Brunswick Provincial Cup Tournament. These will in turn be used to guide decisions regarding qualifications for national tournaments. These decisions will be made in an open and transparent manner with all member school coaches (in good standing) able to contribute.

Students selected to represent New Brunswick at National Student Debating Seminars and other inter-provincial events must be part of a debate school in good standing. It is understood that there are common goals of ensuring as wide a regional representation, and as large a number of participants, as possible.

A school shall be in good standing provided the school's representative (s) participates in Debate New Brunswick activities, abides by the guidelines, and is up to date on the annual membership fee of \$100. This fee may be changed through a democratic process involving the member schools. Fees will be kept as low as possible. The revenue from these fees will be used to serve the student debaters through providing registration for coaches accompanying students representing the province.

Debate New Brunswick may take part in activities organized by the Canadian Student Debate Federation and its allied organizations. Debate New Brunswick may only do so as a member in good standing, thus paying from the revenue above the requisite CSDF membership fee. This cost is paid from Debate NB membership dues.

The fee for Debate NB membership is \$100, as it has been for more than a decade. Annual costs are as follows: maintenance of the webpage, a CSDF membership fee (as approved by DNB members), and a contribution to a coach / chaperone for Nationals and for National Seminar.

As Debate New Brunswick has less than a dozen active schools and coaches at this point, decisions are made using consensus, and whole group voting on issues. Concerns, issues or changes to rules or policy may be proposed by members to the coordinator, who will then raise these points during in person meetings or via email meetings.

Tournament and Event Coordinator

Financial Director

Coordinator of Resources & Outreach

Communications Director

Active Member Schools:

Harbour View High School Kennebecasis Valley High School Leo Hayes High School

Moncton High School Rothesay Netherwood School Saint John High School

Affiliates:

Bernice McNaughton High School Fredericton High School Harrison Trimble High School

Miramichi High School Oromocto High School

Tournament Procedures in Determining Top Debaters

In regular season tournaments, winners will be pronounced in terms of teams with the highest scores over all rounds. Announcement of the top teams and top debaters will be done. Prizes are at the discretion of the host school.

In the Debate NB Provincial Cup Debate, winners will be calculated according to both win –loss and high score over all rounds. This will determine the school awarded the trophy.

For ranking and for purposes of individual team winners, winners of the Provincial Cup tournament will be determined by score over three rounds. Debater will be congratulated on a top three finish as a team, as well as the top three debaters overall.

Decisions of judges shall be final and not subject to any appeal.

Debaters and coaches shall not publicly question or criticize the decision of a debate judge; contravention of this policy will result in automatic suspension from further participation in DNB programmes. Any issues regarding judges should follow the protocol outlined in the coaches' and host responsibilities guide section.

Score Sheets may be destroyed once 30 days have elapsed after the tournament in which they are marked. The score spread will be accessible to the coaches of each tournament within three days.

Specific rules regarding the hosting of tournaments, particularly the match composition and basic rules of conduct are outlined in the Tournament Hosting Guide.

National Seminar Candidate Selection

All member schools are asked to approach potential candidates based on their performance at the previous Provincial Cup Debate and / or in regular season competition. Schools are to choose debaters who represent the 'future' of their team based on the scores but also on interest and dedication. Coaches should be sure that candidates they propose are prepared to attend the seminar and able to incur any costs or missed school time, before submitting a student's name for consideration.

The Debate Coordinator will then compile a list of candidates to be shared among all coaches for the purpose of choosing a delegation that meets both the linguistic and regional requirements. It is the goal of Debate New Brunswick to send as many students as possible within the allocation given by the CSDF.

The chaperone will also be chosen. It is understood that said chaperone will apply for NBTA or District funding as possible. Depending on rising costs schools sending a delegate may need to make a

contribution towards the costs of the chaperone. Should the majority schools be unwilling or unable to do so, a vote will be held regarding participation in the National Seminar / CSDF for the year.

Debate New Brunswick may disqualify any student selected to attend a National Debating Seminar on the grounds that his or her conduct, preparation or suitability constitute a danger to the credibility of the debating programme.

National Debate Championship Participants

Eligible candidates for any National Debate Championships will be determined by placement of teams based on their overall score in the previous Debate NB Provincial Cup Debate.

Top teams will have first right of refusal. Should an eligible team choose not to attend, the next team in line will have an opportunity to attend. This shall only go beyond the standard number of eligible teams by two places.

The official chaperone will be determined in a similar fashion; the coach of the top ranking team attending will have the option of being the official chaperone. Should that coach be unable to attend, or unwilling to assume the responsibilities of the official chaperone, the position will be offered to the coach of the second highest ranking team, and so forth.

The official chaperone for Sr Nationals will be granted \$300 from Debate NB towards his or her individual expenses in attending the championships. It is understood that this will not cover all expenses, so the chaperone will need to actively seek other possible funding opportunities. In addition schools sending a team may be asked to contribute to any shortfall in funding, provided the chaperone has attempted to find funding. Again, if the expenses cannot be paid, and a chaperone not provided, teams may not be able to participate.

Students will be responsible for their own expenses, and are encouraged to fundraise and apply for funding from their school and district.

National Team Try-Outs

Selection for this at this time, will be based on individual placement scores from the previous Provincial Cup Debate. Those students not ranking in the top quarter may use the application process provided by the CSDF to earn candidacy.

Students will be responsible for their own expenses, and are encouraged to fundraise and apply for funding from their school and district.

Coaches' Responsibilities

Rules & Style

Coaches are responsible for teaching students the rules of debate as per the provincial association's guidelines. These rules are posted on the website, but sent to each coach personally by e-mail, and are available from the Debate NB coordinators should they need to be resent. Coaches should be cognizant that rules may alter depending on style and province.

- a) The rules as defined and used in provincial debates within New Brunswick are those that support the aims as stated in the mission statement.
- b) The two styles used in formal competition within New Brunswick are Canadian Parliamentary and Cross Examination

Coaches are to ensure students follow the rules and accepted norms such as : doing their own research, creating their own cases, and not consulting outside sources during debate competitions.

Coaches may not coach their students in terms of content, cases or strategy during a debate tournament.

Debate NB Membership

Each school is expected to pay its \$100 membership fee to remain in good standing for ranking purposes, and to be eligible for those events to which debaters representing the province are sent. These would include, but are not limited to: National seminar, Oxford Cup, Junior and Senior Nationals.

- a) It is the responsibility of the coach or school advisor to see that this is done by the deadlines set. If this is not done, it is expected that the coach or advisor will make any explanations needed to concerned staff, debaters and parents before a representative of Debate NB is called on to do so.

Managing Competition

Coaches are expected to ensure that debaters pay their individual tournament fees, and follow polite respectful behavior at a debate competition.

- a) Coaches are to comply with the coach -student protocols regarding travel, guardianship and supervision as set out by each school and school district. It is the coach's responsibility to be aware of, and to follow, these guidelines.
- b) Should students have special requirements for the debates, it is the responsibility of the coach to make this known to the organizer with sufficient notice (a week). The organizer will discuss and coordinate with the coach regarding the request, according to the nature of the desired accommodation, to help if possible.
- c) Coaches should respond to tournament invitations regarding attendance as per the stipulations of the invitation. Should a coach be late with this, it is the decision of the tournament organizer to allow a school to attend or not.
- d) Should there be a concern about a judge, the coach should approach the organizer privately first; the organizer will then contact the appropriate debate NB coordinator. Most judges simply require clarification on the role of judge, or a small rule which may best be handled by the organizer who arranged the judge. The coach will be made aware of any action that may be taken.
- e) Coaches will be sent or have access to the score spreadsheets / results. Please notify the organizer if there appears to be an error. It will be checked and corrected if necessary. This may also require changes to be made to rankings.
- f) In regards to access to student scores, it is the coaches who determine how the scores will be presented to their students. Coaches should be mindful of students' privacy as set out in most school and district guidelines.
- g) Coaches are expected to attend meetings and the judges' briefing at tournaments so that basic information can be passed along.
- h) Similarly, coaches are expected to follow the rules of professional conduct with students and other coaches. In that, coaches will be role models of the respectful behavior expected of our debaters.

Hosting Events

Members in good standing with Debate NB are, within two years of operation, strongly encouraged to hold some debate event either for the local debate community or the full provincial debate community. These events are designed to help debaters practice and hone their skills.

- a) Upon holding a (full) debate event, organizers will invite all eligible Debate NB members, dependent on the nature of the event.
- b) Organizers will clearly stipulate the nature of the event: style, time, cost, date and registration cut off date.
- c) Organizers will be responsible for arranging (including any payments for) of the event venue, materials , and judges.

While debates in which all debate schools are invited are important, not every school would be able to schedule one. Other smaller, “starter” events might be :

a debating workshop (basic, advanced or specialized)

an informal debate between local schools

a debate evening

role play, squirrelable, or “magic wand’ debates (debaters are paired with those of other schools)