



ALBERTA DEBATE AND SPEECH ASSOCIATION

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ADSA Online Competition Guidelines for 2020-21 Calendar Year

1. ADSA events for the 2021-22 season will continue to be hosted online until it is evident that the majority of students, parents and coaches are available to attend in-person events safely
 - a. Inter-school speech competitions will resume online
 - b. Inter-school debate competitions will resume online
 - i. All debate events should be made available to all regions. Hosts are still welcome to set a cap on the number of teams.
 - c. Hosting requirements are suspended for the 2021-22 calendar year.
 - i. All institutional members are encouraged to help co-host or volunteer for at least one event this year
 - ii. Institutional members who are participating in online events on a significant level (multiple teams at every event) are asked to seriously consider hosting/cohosting an event to help alleviate and share the responsibilities of this season.
 - d. Coaches are not required to be present for the entire duration of the online events. Coaches still need to remain accessible by their debaters or the tournament organizers in case of a major issue i.e. they can be contacted in a reasonable timeframe
 - i. Supervision: This is no longer required as students are debating from their homes
 - ii. Equity Issues: Tournaments are asked to designate a member of the organizing committee as the equity officer to mediate equity complaints as they arise, debaters should be notified of who the equity officer is at the start of the tournament. Coaches may still be contacted by the equity officer to help mediate the situation.
2. The deadline to register for institutional membership will be extended to October 31st (and later if necessary)
3. All online events will continue to follow all rules and policies of the ADSA
 - a. If the rules and policies cannot be upheld or are in direct conflict with the operations of an event, organizers should seek an exemption from the Board. All exemptions must be documented and reported to all event participants
 - b. Notable exemptions to the above policy

- 1) Digital communication tools can be used during an event, exclusively for communication and speech preparation between partners; this applies to both prepared and impromptu rounds. i.e. Google Docs, Skype, Google Meets, Discord.
- 2) One experienced judge may replace the requirement for a minimum of three judges in each debate room
 - i. An experienced judge is defined as an adult who has any one of the following criteria:
 - Judged at more than two ADSA tournaments in the specific style of the tournament
 - Has competitive debate experience and have judged at, at least one ADSA tournament
 - Passed the ADSA online judge training and certification program (additional details to follow in the following weeks)
 - ii. For the Jr Division, in addition to the above criteria, a high school debater who has competed at more than two ADSA tournaments can be considered an experienced judge
- 3) In the event only an even number of judges can adjudicate a debate, the more experienced judge in the room will be designated as the chair and receive the tie-breaking vote.
- 4) Impromptu preparation time is minimum 15 minutes, more time may be assigned
4. For online debate events, a technical guide, a tournament set-up guide, and a Tabbycat guide have been prepared by the ADSA
 - a. The officially endorsed and supported platforms for online events will be Zoom for hosting the debate tournament and Tabbycat or ChuTabs for managing stats.
 - b. Hosts wishing to implement other solutions, need to provide a technical guide and compelling reasons to be approved by the Board
5. Schools without teacher sponsors/coaches
 - a. Are encouraged to continue and participate, either by:
 - i. having the school administration approve student participation under the guidance and supervision of another adult(s), parent(s) or alumni *and* continuing to register the school as an institutional member
 - ii. setting up an umbrella organization coordinated by parent(s) *and* becoming a new institutional member as a non-school based organization i.e. Blues Club is a parent organized debate club, exclusively for Vernon Barford students.

Please note, all of the above guidelines are subject to review and change during the year