

CANADIAN JUNIOR HIGH SPEECH NATIONALS

TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES

Founded in 2012 by Webber Academy, Calgary AB, the Canadian National Junior High Public Speaking Championships was intended to offer junior high students an opportunity to showcase their public speaking talents. Based on the same events that exist at the Senior High Speech Nationals, this tournament welcomes students from all provinces with active debate and speech associations. After two years at Webber Academy, the championship was looking for another host school in order to continue its existence, therefore it was moved to West Point Grey Academy, Vancouver BC, where it will continue to be hosted in future years. In order to clarify the structure and format of the tournament, the following guidelines have been created:

Participation

- 1.) All provinces and territories with Speech and Debate associations will be invited to send a delegation of 6 students to the tournament.
- 2.) Provinces and territories may select their delegates in any way it wishes. If the province chooses, it may hold a qualifying competition involving the events in the Nationals, but this is entirely up to each province/territory. The only restrictions on their selection is that participating delegates should be in grades 7, 8 or 9 and at least 3 of the selected candidates should be first time participants at this event.
- 3.) After the provincial delegates have been selected, the host school may also allocate additional spots to eligible candidates in order to facilitate the running of the tournament.
- 4.) The host school is also permitted to include up to 3 students from the home school in order to balance the draw.
- 5.) Participating provinces must send an adult delegate with the student delegation. If provincial delegations are unable to send a chaperone for a student delegation, they must get permission from the host school in order to attend without an adult chaperone. This is strongly discouraged. Additional adult chaperones can attend with the permission of the host.
- 6.) The host may invite participants from other countries to participate.

Event Guidelines and Descriptions

All competitors must enter all four categories; competitors will be marked for individual performances throughout the championships.

In each category there will be two regular rounds after which the top 3 to 8 will advance to the finals. If there are less than three competitors in a category, the host can elect to hold a showcase performance for the top competitor after the preliminary rounds instead of holding a final round. Competitors must use the same persuasive speech and the same reading in all rounds. There will be time penalties for speeches that do not fall within the time limits.

Category 1

Impromptu Speaking: **Preparation Time: 2 minutes** **Speaking Time: 3 – 5 minutes**

Speakers will draw three topics, which may be a word, a quotation, a phrase or anything not related to current events. They must choose one of them and then prepare within two minutes. They may write notes but may not bring them up when they speak. The speech must last from three to five minutes. Speakers may speak in favour of, against, in favour of and against, or about the topic. It should be the sort of speech that would be delivered if the speaker were asked to speak on short notice to a general audience on the topic given. They may interpret it within reason, including treating it as a metaphor but must speak about the topic that they have been given. It is strictly understood that competitors will not use prepared material for this event. Wit, humour, logic, philosophy and sentiment are all equally welcome. Judges will be looking for agility of thought, substance, organizational ability and, above all, the ability of each speaker to communicate with style and originality. Points will be scored for adherence to statement of topic, organization, interest, and delivery.

Specific restrictions in this category:

The interpretation of the topic and the speech should correlate in a meaningful way.

‘Canned’/‘rehearsed’/‘reworked’ impromptus will be penalized.

Hate speech of any kind is unacceptable.

No props of any kind are permitted.

No notes of any kind, other than the topic paper are permitted during the speech.

Category 2 (ONE of either solo acting or interpretive reading)

Solo Acting

5 - 8 minutes

Each participant should perform a memorized selection from plays which are of literary merit, and which have been published and may not have been written by the performer. The competitor must provide an appropriate introduction to his/her performance which shall set the scene and mood and include the title and author of the work. As well, the introduction should provide some indication of the particular interest or appeal of the selection. In rare cases, the selection may be from short stories, novels or essays of literary merit. The selection must be memorized with no prompting allowed. **A simple costume and props are permitted** but are not mandatory. The performance may be humorous or serious in nature, and one is not considered better than the other. The maximum speaking time, including the introduction, is (8) eight minutes, and the minimum (including introduction) is (5) five minutes. All performances will have a 15 second grace period commencing from the moment the stop signal is given. At the end of the 15 seconds, the Chairperson will verbally interrupt the performer, and the judges shall disregard anything further that is said.

Interpretive Reading:

5 – 8 minutes

Each participant should read a passage of prose or poetry (or a collection of poems), serious or humorous, with an appropriate brief introduction. Competitors must select their piece(s) prior to the

tournament. The piece(s) must have been published and may not have been written by the reader. Students may read from the published text or from word processed pages in a folder. Choices of text may include anything from Dr. Seuss to George Orwell. Judges will be assessing how much the reader's voice and presentation add to the material rather than with the talent of the author. Please note that this is a reading, not a dramatic presentation. Competitors may stand or sit but should not move around excessively. The time limits are from five to eight minutes, which includes the brief introduction. Judges will be considering the quality and helpfulness of the competitor's introduction, ability to overcome the manuscript, understanding of the selection, voice (pace, timing, enunciation) and its overall appeal.

Category 3

Persuasive Speaking:

5 – 10 minutes

This speech is designed to persuade and must be on a serious topic, although this does not mean that humour might not be useful at points in the speech. A problem/solution approach must be taken, i.e. speakers must identify a problem (it need not be an earth-shattering one) and propose, or at least examine, one or more solutions to it. Speeches should be prepared beforehand (i.e. prior to arriving at the competition) and should be from five to ten minutes in length. The same speech should be used throughout the competition. Speakers may use note cards, although judges are often more impressed by speakers who do not use any notes. Participants' speeches are scored on the analysis of the problem, on the persuasiveness of the discussion (logic, appeal), on interest and on delivery.

Category 4

Debate: CNDF style

This is coordinate CNDF debating. Each competitor will debate with a partner from another school. Teams will be given three topics, one team chooses the topic and one team chooses the side. The Resolution will be selected 30 minutes prior to the debate and the government must reveal the definition to the opposition 20 minutes before the debate. Resolutions must be defined in a way that a reasonable person might interpret the resolution and should be in keeping with the intent of the resolution. The tournament organizer will settle disputes about definitions. No other material (previous case notes/internet) should be used during the preparation time.

Each speaker will have 6 minutes for their major speeches and the first speaker on each side will deliver a 3 minute rebuttal. In this style, the first Opposition delivers the first summary followed by the first proposition. Points of information are allowed and encouraged. Points of order, points of privilege and heckling are not. Plans/Models are not required but may be useful. The tournament will use the CNDF Rules found on the CSDF website. However please note that there is a greater emphasis on public speaking and delivery, given this is a public speaking competition. No one should be getting caught up in the intricacies of debate, and should focus on delivery, persuasion, content, and organization. Students are permitted use notes/papers that they prepared their cases on but should not be reading from them.

