



The 2026 All Boys Debating Championship

21 to 22 February 2026 @ Rondebosch Boys High School, Cape Town

By the National Debating League

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Camaraderie Mentorship Growth



Key Facts:



21 to 22 February 2026

Hosted @ Rondebosch Boys High School, Cape Town

Recommended Hotel Accommodation

@ Grand Cresta Hotel in Cape Town City Center
(Not included in registration fee)



Multiple team entries possible

Each team should consist of 3-5 members and be accompanied by an educator/adjudicator.

Recognition

Trophies and medals for top performers.
Certificates for everyone.





Conquer your fears.

Introduction

Greetings from the National Debating League. We work with over 180 schools across South Africa, Zambia, Angola, and Mozambique to run structured and competitive debating programs. With the help of over 300 educators, our tournaments give primary and secondary school students an opportunity to find their voice, learn more about the world around them, and embark on a journey of growth and camaraderie with their teammates.

2026 All Boys Debating Championship

Debating is more than just a competition — it is a powerful tool for building confidence, teamwork, and lifelong connections. With your support, the NDL is expanding debating opportunities for boys across South Africa and beyond.

At the All-Boys Debating Championship, participants embark on a shared journey: sharpening their communication skills, deepening their knowledge of the world, and forming lasting friendships across diverse communities. The event fosters camaraderie and belonging while celebrating the spirit of competition.

For experienced teams: a chance to stretch their abilities and test themselves against some of South Africa's strongest debaters.

For new teams: a supportive environment where guidance and mentorship nurture growth and confidence.

Teams of 3–5 members may register in the appropriate division. In addition, experienced debaters are invited to serve as mentors for junior teams — passing on their skills and supporting the next generation of debaters.



Find your voice.

Teams and Age Divisions

Each team should consist of between 3 and 5 members.

For each team entered, the school will need to bring a teacher who is willing to join our adjudication panels.

These are the possible age divisions for teams to compete in:

Group A: Grade 10+ (Max 8 mins per speech)

Group B: Grade 8-9 (Max 6 mins per speech)

Group C: Grade 6-7 (Max 4 mins per speech)

Group D: Grade 4-5 (Max 4 mins per speech)

Each time a team debates, they will field 3 speakers. One of their members will either serve as the chairperson or timekeeper of the debate. All teams will compete in at least 5 rounds of debate.

Preparation

Students will have 40-60 minutes to prepare their speeches before each round of debate. During this time they will not be allowed to use electronic devices, but they may use any printed material they have. We will provide teams with stopwatches.

Mentorship

Are you an experienced debater? Sign up to become a mentor to a Junior team. Impart experience, support them through the highs and lows, and share your passion.



Join a community
of passionate
educators.

Professional Development

Many of our adjudicators are teachers. Some are even school principals!

Becoming an adjudicator gives you a unique opportunity to sharpen your own professional skillset.

You will work with a co-judge in every debate. Through doing this multiple times a year, our adjudicators have become skilled at building consensus with their peer and understanding different perspectives.

Over time, our adjudicators also become exceptionally good at expressing their perspectives, giving constructive critique, and understanding where the crux of an issue can be found.

Finally, adjudication also gives you practice in listening to and comparing large volumes of information quickly.

Training Workshop

Our teacher training at the start of the event will cover the adjudication process. All judges will work in with a co-judge from another school, helping them shoulder the responsibility.

The session will also discuss the debate format in great detail, ensuring our teachers are well-equipped to give our debaters insightful feedback.

Core Skills for an Adjudicator

Our most successful adjudicators have mastered the ability to separate their personal opinions from the arguments they are listening to.

They have also become great at listening and taking notes—we can't expect the human mind to remember *everything*!



**Build ambition
and resilience.**

Awards

At the end of the championship we will recognize our top performing speakers and teams with medals, certificates and (sometimes) trophies. All recorded speakers will receive a participation certificate. All educators and coaches will receive certificates of recognition for their contributions to the community.

Registration Fees

- The standard registration fee is ZAR 3,200 per person (student, teacher, etc)
- For schools registered for an NDL local league, the fee is ZAR 2,800 per person.
- We are able to accept EFTs, SWIFT payments, and online card transactions.
- Teams should register online by 30 January 2026. Please contact us if your school requires an extension on this deadline.

The registration fee includes:

- Participation
- Lunch, snacks, and dinner on 21-22 February 2026
- Shuttles between the official hotel (Cresta Grande Cape Town) and Rondebosch Boys High on 21-22 February 2026
- Tournament merchandise
- Training Resources
- Access to event socials

The fee does NOT include:

- Transportation to Cape Town (flights, busses, etc)
- Accommodation (Bookings must be made directly with the hotel)
- Airport Shuttles (We suggest using EZ-Shuttle)

How to Register

- Info about the NDL in general: <https://ndl.org.za/>
- Info about the event: <https://ndl.org.za/tours/all-boys>
- Registration forms: <https://admin.ndl.org.za/register/>

Please free to contact Thishin using thishin@ndl.org.za or 081 343 9036.

We are ready to answer any questions you may have about how to join or prepare.

Join a diverse community



Ahmed Timol Secondary School
Krugersdorp, South Africa



Amazing Grace Private School
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Amberfield College
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Colegio Angolano de Talatona
Luanda, Angola



Collegiate Junior School for Girls
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Crawford International Lonehill
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Pretoria, South Africa



Crawford International School Tatu City
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Curro Century City Primary School
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Cape Town, South Africa



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Klerksdorp, South Africa



Curro Serengeti High School
Johannesburg, South Africa



Durban Girls' College
Durban, South Africa



Edgemoor High School
Cape Town, South Africa



Egerton Primary School
Ladysmith, South Africa



Elkanah House
Cape Town, South Africa



Erica Girls' Primary School
Gqeberha, South Africa



Fairbairn College
Cape Town, South Africa



Fairmont High School
Cape Town, South Africa



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Cape Town, South Africa



Florida Islamic School
Rondepoort, South Africa



Fred Norman Secondary School
Johannesburg, South Africa



Grace Trinity School for Girls
Johannesburg, South Africa



Greensteds International School
Nakuru, Kenya



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Johannesburg, South Africa



Hartbeespoort High School
Hartbeespoort, South Africa



Herschel Girls' Preparatory School
Cape Town, South Africa



Herzlia High School
Cape Town, South Africa



Herzlia Highlands Primary School
Cape Town, South Africa



Herzlia Weizmann Primary
Cape Town, South Africa



Hoërskool DF Malan
Cape Town, South Africa



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Komani, South Africa



Hoërskool Jan van Riebeeck
Cape Town, South Africa



Hoërskool Jeugland
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Kigali, Rwanda



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Kimberley, South Africa



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Maputo International School
Maputo, Mozambique



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East London, South Africa



Michiefeld Primary School
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Mickelfield School
Cape Town, South Africa



Milnerton High School
Cape Town, South Africa



Mokopane English Combined School
Mokopane, South Africa



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Ladysmith, South Africa



Muir College
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Polokwane, South Africa



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Newton House College
Johannesburg, South Africa



Nizamiye School Midrand
Johannesburg, South Africa



Noorder-Paarl Secondary School
Paarl, South Africa



Norman Henshilwood High School
Cape Town, South Africa



Northwood School
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Nova Pioneer Boys High School - Eldoret Campus
Eldoret, Kenya



Nova Pioneer Boys High School - Tatu City Campus
Tatu City, Kenya



Nova Pioneer Girls High School - Eldoret Campus
Eldoret, Kenya



Nova Pioneer Midrand Senior School
Johannesburg, South Africa



Nova Pioneer Ormonde Primary
Johannesburg, South Africa



Oakmeade Prep and Academy
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Cape Town, South Africa



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St David's Marist Inanda
Johannesburg, South Africa



St Dunstan's College
Johannesburg, South Africa



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St George's Diocesan School
Windhoek, Namibia



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Gqeberha, South Africa



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Cape Town, South Africa



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Cape Town, South Africa

We look forward to making memories with you



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