



The 2025 All Boys Debating Championship

05 to 07 March 2027 @ King Edward VII School, Johannesburg, South Africa

By the National Debating League

Thishin@ndl.org.za / +27 81 343 9036 / ndl.org.za



Camaraderie
Mentorship
Growth



05 to 07 March 2027

Hosted @ King Edward VII School, Johannesburg

Key Facts:

Official Hotel Accommodation

@ Holiday Inn Sunnyside Park



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 200 schools across South Africa 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.

2027 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 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.

Find your voice.



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.

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*!

Join a community
of passionate
educators.



Schedule Overview

The full schedule will be available at:
<https://ndl.org.za/tours/all-boys/schedule>.

In summary:

Friday, 05 March 2027:

14:00 — Hotel Check-in Opens

18:30 — Opening Ceremony/Dinner/Ice Breakers

Saturday, 06 March 2027:

08:00 to 15:00 — Rounds 1 to 3

15:00 to 18:00 — Sightseeing Tour

18:00 — Dinner

Sunday, 07 March 2027:

08:00 to 18:30 — Rounds 4 & 5, SF/Finals, Awards

18:30 — Dinner

Explore.



**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 for Out-Of-Town Teams

If your school is traveling into Johannesburg for this competition, the registration package will include:

- Participation;
- Return airport transfers (from OR Tambo International);
- Room bookings at the Holiday Inn Sunnyside Park from 05 to 08 March 2027;
- All meals starting with dinner on 05 March to breakfast on 09 March;
- Tournament merchandize;
- A sightseeing trip;

Pricing is *per person* and depends on how many occupants you allocate to a room.

When individuals share rooms, the price is ZAR 7,000 per person. When an individual has a room to themselves, it is ZAR 10,000 per person.

Registration for Johannesburg-based

Joburg-based teams pay a lower registration rate per person. Their package excludes accommodation and some meals.

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We look forward to making memories with you



Contact Thishin Moodley

+27 81 343 9036

thishin@ndl.org.za

<https://ndl.org.za>

