



The 2026 Windhoek Debating Championship

From the National Debating League

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Build teamwork and critical thinking.



Confidence

Your debaters will overcome their fears of public speaking and become more comfortable in their own skin.

Camaraderie and Teamwork

Debates are won through the collective effort of the team, and everyone has a unique role to play.



Friendships and Social Skills

Debating is an inherently social sport. Your debaters will meet dozens of new likeminded people from their city and across the country.

Resilience

Your debaters will learn how to handle victory and loss in a supportive (but competitive) environment.





Conquer your fears.

Introduction

Greetings from the National Debating League. We work with over 220 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.

Our largest league is in Cape Town, where our top performing schools include Bishops, Elkanah House, Parklands College, Rondebosch Boys High and Wynberg Girls Junior School.

Bringing the NDL to Namibia

The NDL will launch its inaugural Windhoek Debating Championship on 12-13 September 2026. We are deeply grateful to St George's Diocesan School for making this possible.

Participation is open to teams of all skill levels. Experienced teams will be challenged and prepared for entry into our international competitions. Less experienced teams will find a supportive environment, where we all understand that great speakers are nurtured, not born.

There will be four age divisions:

Group A (Grade 10+) | Group B (Grade 8-9)

Group C (Grade 6-7) | Group D (Grade 4-5)

Schools can field multiple teams per division, and each team may consist of between 3 and 5 members.



Competition Outline

In advance of the competition, schools will receive training booklets, online resources and recordings of sample debates. This will assist educators in training their students.

Two debate topics will be released in advance. This will make it possible for teams to research the most complicated topics and prepare speeches in advance.

Three topics will only be announced at the competition. In these cases, students will need to independently formulate cases and speeches using their general knowledge and any paper-based resources they have. These debates emphasize independent and creative thinking.

We understand that some schools will want to practice their skills before arriving at the competition. To make this possible, we are open to arranging friendly matches online against our schools in Cape Town and Johannesburg.

Each competition day will run from 8am to 6pm. Teams will only compete with teams in their own age division. The first day will start with a training session for all educators and debaters, followed by 3 preliminary debates. The second day will consist of 2 more preliminary debates, a semi-final, and final. The day will end with an awards ceremony.

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.



Further Competition

We offer several avenues for further competition.

Top performing teams will receive invitations to represent Namibia at our international tournaments. The 2027 Pan-African Debating Championship will be held in Durban, South Africa. We also run international tournaments in Cape Town, Johannesburg, Luanda (Angola), and Lusaka (Zambia).

We will use the feedback we receive from Namibian schools to determine how best to deepen our presence in the country. We would like to turn this into an annual competition.

Understand new
perspectives.



**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.

Registering & Participating

Schools can handle registrations at: admin.ndl.org.za/register. Alternatively, schools may ask parents to manage payments directly with the NDL. Parents can register and pay for their children at: admin.ndl.org.za/windhoek-reg

Schools are be able to field multiple teams per division, and each team may consist of between 3 and 5 members. Each team will compete in a minimum of 5 debates throughout the competition weekend. For each team entered, the school will need to supply an educator who will join our adjudication pool. They will receive training at the event. Alternatively, the NDL can arrange external adjudicators at N\$ 1,400 per judge.

There are no registration fees for educators who judge debates. The registration fee per speaker is N\$ 1,200.

The registration fee includes participation, meals and snacks on both days, tournament merchandize, and any prizes won (medals, trophies, etc).

Join our community of over 220 schools



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Gaborone, Botswana



Althorpe College
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Amberfield College
Centurion, South Africa



American International School of Cape Town
Cape Town, South Africa



Ashford Academy
Lusaka, Zambia



Ashton International Benoni
Benoni, South Africa



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Cape Town, South Africa



BESA Leadership Academy
Johannesburg, South Africa



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Cape Town, South Africa



Blouberg International School
Cape Town, South Africa



Blouberg High School
Cape Town, South Africa



Brackenfell High School
Cape Town, South Africa



Bridge House School
Somerset West, South Africa



Bridge House School
Franschhoek, South Africa



Bryanston Primary School
Johannesburg, South Africa



Busy Bees Junior Primary School
Gcuwa (Butterworth), South Africa



Camps Bay High School
Cape Town, South Africa



Cannons Creek Independent School
Cape Town, South Africa



Cedar House
Cape Town, South Africa



Centre of Excellence
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Centro de Formação Know-How
Lubango, Angola



Charter College International High School
Johannesburg, South Africa



Childhood Joy Academy
Lusaka, Zambia



Christ Church Preparatory School and College
Johannesburg, South Africa



Christian Brothers' College Boksburg
Johannesburg, South Africa



Claremont High School
Cape Town, South Africa



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Luanda, Angola



Colégio Kalabo Internacional
Luanda, Angola



Collegiate Junior School for Girls
Gqeberha, South Africa



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Johannesburg, South Africa



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Pretoria, South Africa



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Cape Town, South Africa



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Curro Edenville High School
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Cape Town, South Africa



English Friendship Youth Club Of Angola
Luanda, Angola



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Kempton Park, South Africa



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Hoërskool Hangklip
Komani, South Africa



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Kempton Park, South Africa



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Nova Pioneer Boys High School - Tatu City Campus
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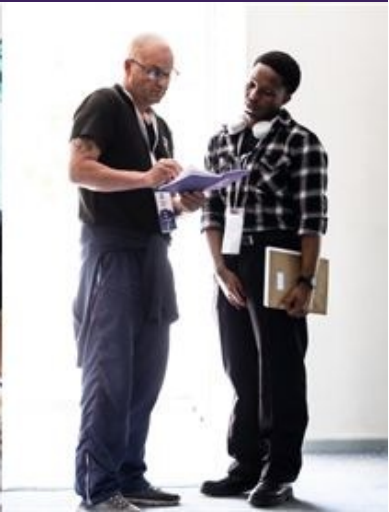
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Johannesburg, South Africa



Taal-Net Primary and High School
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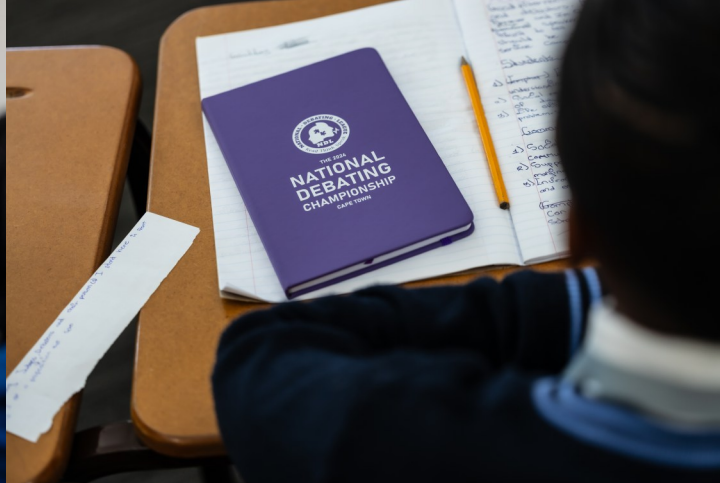


Yellow Wood Environmental Prep School
Johannesburg, South Africa



Zwaanswyk Academy
Cape Town, South Africa

We look forward to making memories with you



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