



## CANUDC<sup>1</sup> – RULES AND REGULATIONS

### I- Participation to « Cameroon National Universities Debating & Public Speaking Championships »

Cameroon National Universities Debating and Public Speaking Championships (CANUDC) is a citizenship competition opened to students from both public and private Cameroon as well as sub-regional universities. The main goal is to bring together a large number of young students for this giant argumentation and rhetoric championship. Only enrolled students can participate. Students willing to debate should build teams of two as recommended in the British Parliamentary Debate Format. Moreover, it is always better to build teams with respect to gender equality and multidisciplinary approach. Registrations will be done online via the Cameroon Debate Association website: [www.cameroondebate.org](http://www.cameroondebate.org) and registration fee should be deposit in a bank account. The amount of this registration fee will be fixed by the joint Organising Committee – Cameroon Debate Association and Université des Montagnes. Only master and doctorate students can register as adjudicators or observers.

### II- The championship

The targeted population of this students challenge is the educational community, the Cameroon civil society and TV-viewers.

#### 1- Debate format

The « British Parliamentary Debate Format » is the one adopted and use during CANUDC. Here, for a debate match, we need two or three adjudicators and four teams of two debaters each. It is worth saying that debaters as well as adjudicators will be competing during the whole championship. The public will be listening and clapping when happy or convince to do so; we shall use the applause meter.

#### 2- Teams

The British Parliamentary Debate Format becomes very simple when rules are mastered. Stakeholders of a match are teams, adjudicators and the public.

There are four teams, each team has two speakers.

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<sup>1</sup> This is just a summary of CANUDC constitution. For more details, have access to CANUDC Charter.

- 02 teams debate for the proposition
- 02 teams debate for the opposition

Debaters for the proposition are called « government team »: the first team is the « Opening Government » or « Opening Proposition » or « First Government/proposition »; meanwhile the second one is the « Closing Government » or « Closing Proposition ».

Debaters for the Opposition or against the proposition are known as « Opposition Team » or « Negative »: the first team here is known as the « Opening Opposition » and the second one is the « Closing Opposition ».

### 3- Table of teams

Proposition			Opposition		
Teams	speakers	Abbr.	Teams	speakers	Abbr.
Proposition : <i>Opening government</i>	1st speaker	<b>OG1</b>	Opposition : <i>Opening Opposition</i>	1st speaker	<b>OO1</b>
	2 <sup>nd</sup> speaker	<b>OG2</b>		2 <sup>nd</sup> speaker	<b>OO2</b>
proposition : <i>Closing government</i>	1st speaker	<b>CG1</b>	Opposition : <i>Closing Opposition</i>	1st speaker	<b>CO1</b>
	2 <sup>nd</sup> speaker	<b>CG2</b>		2 <sup>nd</sup> speaker	<b>CO2</b>

### 4- Rules of each speaker

**Common tasks:** Every speaker must:

- Build his case ;
- Organise, structure and deliver his speech respecting the allocated time
- Rebut arguments from opponents
- Manage Points of Information

- Work in team

**Specific tasks according to the order of appearance:**

- Define key words and explain the motion
- Present and defend his arguments and the position of his teammate
- Reopen the debate by bringing in new materials
- Summarise the debate and justify the position of his team

Teams		Title	Abbr.	Role
Proposition	Opening Government	Prime minister	OG1	He/she introduces the debate, defines the motion, shares tasks, develops his arguments and concludes
		Deputy prime minister	OG2	He/she introduces his/her speech, support the OG1, rebuts arguments from OO1, presents his/her arguments and conclude for the team
	Closing government	Government Member	CG1	He/she introduces his/her speech, rebuts arguments from the Opposition, provides an extension with new materials or arguments and concludes his/her speech.
		Government Whip	CG2	He/she introduces his or her speech, rebuts the case presented by CO, summarises the most important given rebuttals, summarises arguments from the proposition, does not bring in new arguments, conclude the debate for his side
Opposition	Opening Opposition	Opposition Leader	OO1	Introduces his or her speech, accepts, rejects or clarifies the definition as presented by the OG1, shares tasks, presents his arguments and concludes
		Deputy Opposition Leader	OO2	Presents his or her introduction, summarizes OO1 arguments, rebuts arguments from

				OG2, defends his or her arguments and conclude for his team
	Closing Opposition	Opposition Member	CO1	He/she introduces his/her speech, rebuts arguments from the Government, provides an extension with new materials or arguments and concludes his/her speech.
		Opposition Whip	CO2	He/she introduces his or her speech, rebuts the case presented by CG, summarises the most important given rebuttals, summarises arguments from the Opposition, does not bring in new arguments, conclude the debate for his side

## 5- Points Of Information (POI)

Points of information (POIs) constitute a fundamental difference between structural debate (namely, the British parliamentary debate) and other forms of debate

POI's are used in structural debates rather than counter interrogatory observed in other forms

We offer them when our opponent in a debate presents his argumentation

As in the court « objections » are made, such are POI's in a debate. The slight difference comes from the fact that, they are directly asked to the orator that can accept or reject them

When a POI is accepted, the author has a maximum of 15 seconds to either point out a contradiction on his opponent's speech or ask a pertinent question still with the intend to disprove the speaker.

An orator who accepts POI has the obligation to give answers or back up himself within an appropriate time. An adjudicator is not recommended to comment on POIs unless the debate is over

Adjudicators should take note of the arguments advanced by the orator to answer POI. It is also thanks to these arguments that they evaluate debater's performances.

It is only during the unprotected time that POI should be asked or accepted.

## FEW RULES ON POIS

### How to answer POI?

- Not taking at least one POI, testifies of the orator's weakness. Nevertheless, it becomes dangerous if a speaker takes so many POIs
- It is up to the speaker to decide on who to choose if at all many hands are raised to ask a question
- Attitudes to adopt while refusing or accepting POIs:

**Refusing POIs:** just say "No thanks"; "I won't take you now"; "I'll come to you later". You can simply make a "hand gesture".

**Accepting POIs:** you can say, “Yes I take you”; “let me get your point”; or you make a “hand gesture”

**Importance of POI**

It is important for teams to ask POIs when any of the opponents has the floor. Teams that abstain from asking POIs can be penalized on the ground that they don’t actively participate in the debate.

POIs at times help to destabilize the opponent. But, asking so many POIs repeatedly without any breathing space can be seen as a form of disturbance which could be sanctioned.

Whatever be the case, it is forbidden to speak when the orator has not yet accepted POI.

**6- preparation time**

Contrary to other debates, the British parliamentary debate does not give much time for debaters to prepare their arguments. During competitions, immediately the motion is given and teams’ positions known, debaters have only 15 minutes to work and decide on who amongst them passes in the first position.

**Time management**

It is advisable to use a stop watch while debating. It is for a debater’s advantage to well manage his time. Each orator has 7 minutes to present his or her speech. The first minute is main for introduction and known as a protected time. The last minute is for conclusion and is also protected. That’s why no question is allowed during these periods. The five minutes between the first and the last minutes are not protected and questions can be asked.

The time keeper is in charge of indicating when these times elapse by:

- hitting once to indicate that the first minute has elapsed
- hitting once to indicate that the sixth minute has elapsed
- Hitting twice to indicate that the orator is out of time

1 <sup>st</sup> minute	5 <sup>th</sup> minute	1 minute (last minute)
Protected time (reserved for introduction; forbidden to ask questions)	Unprotected time (reserved to present arguments; questions can be asked)	Protected time (reserved for conclusion; forbidden to ask question)

**III- THE JURY**

A jury is normally made up of 3 persons:

- the main adjudicator

-assistant adjudicator

-a time keeper

But in an international competition, the jury could comprise 4 persons. That is, a trainee plus those sited above.

It is not advisable but not impossible to assist in a case where only one or two persons judge a debate match due to some circumstances.

After each round in a tournament, adjudicators are called upon to determine which team wins the round and justify their decision. Judging a debate is not an easy task. That is the main reason why it is important for adjudicators to seriously pay attention. Adjudicators should be **neutral** and **impartial**, reason why adjudicators rarely judge, in an international competition, institutions from their country. They should therefore endeavour to put aside their personal and religious beliefs. Adjudicators also have the obligation to fill the match form given to them before the debate. They have the power to solve problems that might arise during the debate. Actually, during a competition, adjudicators are also judged by debaters who do so basically on the following: adjudicator's punctuality, his attitude in the hall, and his reasons for making a team win or lost a round. Best adjudicators are selected to go in for the next round of the tournament. It is therefore capital for an adjudicator to get access to the final so as it is for a debater to be a finalist.