
2027 NATIONAL TEAM TRY-OUT

January 3, 2026

Dear Provincial Coordinators,

Once again, we are inviting each member organization to send up to three students (chosen by whatever method you decide on) to attend the tryout tournament for selection to the 2026-2027 national team. At the tryouts, the Canadian World Schools Committee will select students to attend a week-long summer training camp that will begin the final team selection and training for the 2027 World Schools Debating Championships.

In addition to the three official provincial/territorial applicants, other students from your province/territory may apply independently for one of the very limited alternate application places at the tryouts. This year, we will select these students by way of an application process (information attached). The alternate applications are for the few exceptional applicants who for some reason were not selected as one of the three official delegates. Please distribute the application forms to your coaches for them to share with any student they feel should be considered. These alternate applications must be submitted by March 14, 2026. Alternate Application students invited to participate in the Try Out will be notified by April 10, 2026. It is not certain at this point how many places will be available for those applying through the alternate application process, but the number will be quite small.

The **national team selection tournament is scheduled for May 24 to 26, 2026, in Truro, Nova Scotia** and will consist of an introductory seminar and six rounds of World Style debating. All debaters will be interviewed by a member of the World's Committee or someone designated by them. Debaters' selection will be based on a combination of their debating performance, their capacity for improvement, an interview, and their formal application. We will do our best to contact all students as soon as possible after the tournament and inform them of our decision.

The registration fee for the Tryout will be determined at a later date. The application fee for the Alternate Tryout is \$100.00.

The debaters selected for the summer camp must commit themselves in writing to a number of requirements including a code of conduct. Students selected for the World Schools Debating Championships must commit to attending preparation sessions the week immediately prior to the World Schools tournament. The coach may try to get the team together at other points during the year, but attendance at those events is not mandatory. In addition, the coach will give the team regular assignments designed to broaden their knowledge and to keep them on top of current issues, and the selected debaters are expected to complete these assignments. Further, all team members must

commit themselves to covering all costs associated with their participation in camps and tournaments, as well as covering a portion of the coach's costs for the events. Unfortunately, there is only limited funding available to cover coach's expenses and no funding for student costs.

In order to be eligible for the team, students must be in a high school in Canada for the 2026-27 school year (in Quebec, students who will be in their first year at a CEGEP in 2026-27 are also eligible), and they must have reached their 14th birthday but not their 19th birthday by the first day of the 2027 World Schools Debating Championships. Students must debate for the country in which they go to school. Students do not have to be Canadian citizens in order to debate for Canada.

For more information, visit the CSDF website at www.csdf-fcde.ca and <https://teamcanadadebate.ca/>

The World Schools Debating Championships (WSDC) has an excellent website at <https://www.wsdcdebating.org/>. We would ask that all participants in the selection tournament go to this site and download the Notes for Adjudicators found in the Rules & Guides section. These notes give a very detailed explanation of Worlds style debating and the special responsibilities of each member of the team.

We would recommend that participants read this document thoroughly and bring it with them to the tryouts as we will be referring to it frequently during the briefing. Students might also read through the section on Definition Guidelines.

Debaters are not allowed to use cell phones, laptops or other internet enabled devices during the Tryout. We suggest you bring a stopwatch.

Coaching is not permitted during the Tryout.

Please email the names of your three provincial/territorial delegates as soon as possible and no later than March 7, 2026, to teamcanada@csdf-fcde.ca. The students are then expected to submit their completed application form by March 21, 2026. The alternate applicant candidates are asked to submit their applications and fee by March 14, 2026.

Thank you for your help with this,

Josh Judah, Chair, Worlds Committee