



COORDINATOR'S GUIDE
2026

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2026 Fees

QDU is a not-for-profit, registered charity, and all fees collected are used to ensure the running of our program. Fee increases are to ensure we can continue to successfully run the QDU program, support outreach initiatives, improve our resources, and support all students to be able to access debating in QLD.

Please note that all fees are exclusive of GST.

Toowoomba Registrations Fees (per team)

Year 7-10 - \$230

Seniors - \$270

Brisbane Registration Fees (per team)

Year 5-6 - \$180

Year 7-12 - \$270

Senior A - \$350

Third team registered in year level - \$30

Fourth or more team registered in year level - \$40

Postponement Fees

Before due date - \$20

After due date (if approved) \$50

Forfeit Fines

Within 24 hours of debate- \$100

No notice - \$200

All forfeits must be completed through the CMS. If the notification of the forfeit is before 24 hours before the debate, no fine will be imposed. A forfeit request will be confirmed by email by the Program Manager. If the team you are versing forfeits, a member of QDU will contact the listed school coordinator by phone or email.

Withdrawal of a Team (5 business days after the closing of registration)

\$150 per team withdrawn from the competition

Postponement Process

With the introduction of the rolling draw and the CMS, a new postponement system was introduced in 2024. Following feedback and reflection, the QDU Executive have decided to overhaul this system. This new process hopes to decrease the burden on schools, reduce confusion and streamline our administrative processes.

Postponement requests will be submitted using these forms:

Round One and Two: [Postponement Request Round One and Two 2026 – Fill out form](#)

Round Three and Four: [Postponement Request Round Three and Four 2026 – Fill out form](#)

Accepted Reasons to Request a Postponement

- A whole year level event (e.g. camp)
- A whole school event

A postponement can only be requested if there is no possible way to substitute team members. Sickness, individual team events or preference are not an acceptable reason to request a postponement.

Process for Postponements

A request can be made by filling out the linked form.

Postponements for Round One and Two must be submitted by February 22nd (end of Week Four).

Postponements for Round Three and Four must be submitted by April 5th (end of Week 10).

A \$20 postponement fee will be incurred for each team requested to be postponed.

Postponement requests after this date must be submitted by email to the QDU Program Manager, for a decision to be made by the VP of Schools or the QDU Management Committee. A late notice postponement fee of \$50 will be incurred for all late request postponements, if accepted.

Notice of Postponement Dates

Where possible debates will go ahead on the assigned night by pairing teams up that who had an opposition postpone.

If the above is not possible, the debate will occur on the next available postponement night (dates noted in the 2026 calendar in hot pink).

Notice of postponements for Round One and Two will be provided by Week 5 of Term One and notice of postponements for Round Three and Four will be provided by Week One of Term Two. The notice of postponements will coincide with the rolling of the draw.

If the team your school is versing requests a postponement, you will be notified by email when the draw becomes available. If your team is unable to attend the postponed debate, please notify the QDU by responding to the notification email. The draw will automatically reflect confirmed postponements when it rolls.

Attendance of Postponement Debates

If the postponing team are unable to attend the postponement date, a forfeit win is awarded to the opposing team.

If the opposing team are unable to attend the postponement date, a win-win is awarded to both teams.

Substitution of Team Members

In order to debate, each team must have 3 team member present at the start of the debate. If less than three speakers are present after 15 minutes from the debate start time, a forfeit is awarded to the opposing team.

To avoid forfeiting or postponing debates, substitutions are allowed. The following substitutions are acceptable:

- A speaker from a younger year level can debate in a higher year level debates.
- A speaker from the same year level can debate in another team, if they only participate in one debate per round (e.g. a speaker cannot debate in an early debate and then speak in the later timeslot).
- Non-debaters are welcome to speak in a debate, if they are in or below the year level of the registered team.

The specific rules regarding substitution can be found in Section 7 of the QDU Rules.

If you have concerns regarding a team's ability to participate, please contact the QDU Program Manager for support at admin@qdu.org.au

Rolling Draw

The rolling draw was introduced into the QDU competition, when the new CMS was rolled out. The rolling draw means that the time and opposition for each round will only become available after the previous debate has occurred. The rolling draw ensures an equitable competition, by pairing teams based on the outcomes of previous debates.

Coordinators will be notified once each rounds draw is live for each year level. Please note that the draw is only considered final, once email communication has been sent by the Program Manager. Prior to this, any versions are not final.

Topics and Style of Debates

Year Level	Round One	Round Two	Round Three	Round Four
Year 7	Long Prep	Short Prep	Long Prep	Short Prep
Year 8	Long Prep	Short Prep	Short Prep	Short Prep
Year 9	Long Prep	Short Prep	Short Prep	Short Prep
Year 10	Long Prep	Short Prep	Short Prep	Short Prep
Year 11	Long Prep	Short Prep	Short Prep	Short Prep
Year 12	Long Prep	Short Prep	Short Prep	Short Prep
Senior A	Long Prep	Short Prep	Short Prep	Short Prep

Please note that year 7 will be the only year level to do two long preparation debates. All other year levels will do one long preparation debate and three short preparation debates.

Venues

QDU venues are selected based on the generous offering to host by schools and staff. Venues are chosen based on the availability of the venues in each geographical area. Information about each venue can be found through the *Venues* page on our website - <https://www.qdu.org.au/venues>. Please provide this information to your school community, as this can ensure students are able to arrive on time.

Offering to Venues

As a gesture of appreciation, QDU offers the below to all venues who offer to host in the 2026 season. If you would like to be a venue, please notify the QDU Program Manager. All hosting venues in 2026 will receive a hosting guide to help support them on the night.

Reduction in Registration Costs

For each year level hosted (all four rounds), a venue will receive the registration costs of one team for free.

Free Training

In addition to the above, a school will be entitled to 2 (with up to two presenters) hours free training, per year level hosted. Two training sessions can be run concurrently for multiple year levels. This can be used at any point in the season, and the session will be customised to the requests of the hosting school. Requests for training must be made to the QDU by the host school. These training hours can be used in conjunction with QDU OnDemand.

If a school wishes to forfeit the above training, they will be offered 50% off the registration of a second team.

Debate Etiquette

QDU has a zero tolerance for bullying, aggressive or abusive behaviour towards an QDU volunteer, staff, or community member. Inappropriate behaviour by any member of the community will be reported directly to the school and disciplinary action may include suspension, bans, or disqualification.

QDU adjudicators are considered registered volunteers, and they all commit to providing the best possible support and encouragement to all students. Please remind all coaches, staff and supporters that they are not to approach the adjudicator at the conclusion of the debate to challenge their decision. Students are welcome to seek feedback, but this must be done in a respectful way. Any feedback regarding the adjudicator can be made through our feedback form.

Each community, whether a debater, staff or supporter, are considered to representing the school in which they are associated with. Please be mindful of this when participating in debates.

Complaints and Feedback

QDU values the feedback of our community, and we encourage positive feedback on our adjudicators. A QR code can be found on the door sign to submit feedback. Or accessed through the feedback page on our [website](#). All feedback will be reviewed by the appropriate QDU Executive, and a response will be provided if necessary. Students are not allowed to submit feedback through this portal. Students are encouraged to speak to their coach or coordinator, and feedback may be submitted on behalf of student by an appropriate adult. Any feedback received by a student will not be responded to.

Any negative feedback can also be submitted through the form, but we ask all community members to be respectful when completing it. We understand the competitive nature of this academic pursuit but strongly encourage the consideration of the main goals of the QDU is to empower the voices of young people and builds their skills and capabilities.

Contacts and Escalation

For all non-urgent enquiries, please email the QDU Program Manager at admin@qdu.org.au.

If you or a member of your school community requires assistance at a venue, please locate the venue coordinator in the first instance. Please be mindful that venue coordinators are often teachers volunteering their time to support all students in debating, so please be respectful. QDU Executive members will often be located at a range of venues on debate nights, they can be identified by their QDU shirts and badge.

Our program manager, Tony, is also available to be contacted on debate nights on 0422 022 237.

Our President, Bec, can also be contacted in emergencies on (0492 993 904). Majority of our executive will be adjudicating, coaching or coordinating on debate nights, so may limit their immediate availability.

Appeals

Appeals must be submitted using the appeals document located on the QDU website ([APPEALS DOCUMENT](#)) and submitted by a school coordinator to the QDU Program Manager via email. Appeals must be based on a breach of a rule or specific debating principle, and not a matter of opinion. Appeals must be submitted within 7 days of the debate occurring.

Appeals will be reviewed by the QDU Executive, and the outcome will be notified by email. Any appeal submitted by an individual who is not the school coordinator or does not use the appropriate form, will not be considered.

Adjudicator Buddying

QDU aims to ensure our adjudicators are sufficiently trained and to do this we employ a buddying system. The buddying process involves a senior adjudicator sitting in on a debate to support the assigned adjudicator. The role of the mentor is to support, not decide the debate. The buddy and adjudicator may step outside following the debate (prior to the decision), to discuss the debate and help formulate the oral adjudication. The buddy will not persuade or alter the assigned adjudicator's decision.

Resources

QDU offers a range of resources to support our community in developing their skills.

QDU OnDemand

QDU OnDemand is a paid service where a school can book a senior QDU presenter for any given time to present a workshop at their school. The content is completely customisable and can be requested at any point throughout the school year.

State schools are entitled to 2 hours free training per year. For QDU OnDemand requests please contact the QDU Program Manager or use the link found on the website. Further details and costs can be found on our website - <https://www.qdu.org.au/qdu-on-demand>.

QDU YouTube

A range of short videos can be found on the QDU YouTube channel and focus on specific debating skills - youtube.com/channel/UCgjjqj00xaHhJB1hCHVamgQ.

QDU Academy

QDU Academy is an online workshop run by senior QDU adjudicators for each round of every year level. The dates of each QDU Academy can be found on the 2026 calendar - <https://www.qdu.org.au/calendar>. Links to access the workshops will be sent by the QDU Program Manager and can be found on our website <https://www.qdu.org.au/qdu-academy>. Recordings of these sessions will be uploaded to the YouTube channel prior to the debate.

QDU thanks each member of our community, in particular the school coordinators for all the work that they do and the commitment to supporting all students. We look forward to another positive year of debating. If you have any questions or concerns, please email Tony, Program Manager, at admin@qdu.org.au or Bec, QDU President, at president@qdu.org.au.