



CSDC Policy Paper Junior Development Squad

A program in which the competence, attitude and interpersonal relations of Canterbury Schools Debaters are enriched.

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Preamble

This initiative pertains to the implementation of a Junior Development Squad (JDS) by CSDC, in which noticed debating talent, primarily from year nine to twelve students, is fostered.

Junior development is an aspirational subject CSDC has alluded to in the past, but never extensively addressed, this policy changes that. Development of debaters from the ground up is a fundamental aspect of the executive's responsibility that has been neglected, and is intimately linked to a lower quality of debates that we see relative to other regions, namely Auckland and Wellington.

Schools previously have not dedicated enough resources to improving young debaters, and thus, to compete at a National level, CSDC must take on this responsibility. Additionally, interschool socialisation through debating is almost non-existent, therefore, the implementation of a development program would also focus on creating a cohesive community, which students enjoy spending time in.

Overall, the development of junior debaters through CSDC would be mutually beneficial to debaters and the CSDC executive regarding the future of debating in Canterbury, and cannot afford to be forgotten yet again.

Purpose

Objectives

The purpose of the Junior Development Squad is divided into three objectives, listed hierarchically, which are intended to be mutually inclusive:

1. To increase the general standard of schools debating in Canterbury, and in turn make the regional teams more competitive at Nationals. This is in response to the proposal to revoke one of Canterbury's teams at the tournament.
2. To create a sense of an interschool community between debaters.
3. To increase morale and engagement with CSDC and its events.

Indicators of Progress

Progress on these objectives respectively can be measured by the following indicators, among others:

1. An increase in the mean speaks per debate over time, the performance of regional teams at Nationals and/or the perceived standard of debate by experienced adjudicators.
2. The implementation of any social events whatsoever, and beyond this, attendance at such events. This could be modelled similarly to the growth of clubs like 'DebSoc' at Universities.
3. An increase in the number of teams entering into the general competition, more engagement on social media, and/or greater initiative of schools in creating events such as Bishop Lyons (although not intending to surpass events run by CSDC)

Implementation

The Role of the CSDC Executive

The CSDC Executive must for this initiative to succeed, be willing to expend time and resources into providing quality coaching for prospective talent, and creating a desirable environment through social events.

The Development Officer

A large portion of the logistics behind the implementation of the JDS will be covered by the Development Officer. The rest of the executive will play a role only through delegated tasks in the orchestration of events, and their attendance at such events is ideal.

Development of Skills

Regarding serious coaching for young talent, it is justified that contributing CSDC Executive members, or externally contacted contributors, are compensated accordingly (either financially or through non-monetary means) for their service. This provision is justified as schools are not able to provide a service for these students at the required level, with most debating coordinators being teachers who are unfamiliar with the required concepts. Subsequently, CSDC and other contributors should be adequately compensated for their time and, more importantly, their expertise. To prevent abuse of this provision, and to protect the non-profit nature of the organization, all coaching hours must be approved unanimously by CSDC.

Building a Community

Regarding social events, these could be integrated into development workshops, as extended lunch gatherings provided by CSDC and like events, or could be held entirely separately as events like camps/retreats, cocktail nights (obviously not including alcohol) or show debates. The aim of these events is to bring the debating community closer together, the event itself is simply a mechanism to achieve that. The cost of such events would need to be funded by CSDC, so spending should be kept at a minimum through utilizing public and university resources, whilst being conscious of budgeting.

In summary, we essentially require the executive's time, the Council's money and commitment, however, the expenditure of the is justified in the outcomes we should receive.

The Junior Development Squad

Selection

A debater will qualify for selection into the JDS if they meet any of the following criteria;

1. They have been named in an official CSDC development squad in the past. This is to ensure that these debaters are not neglected after being promised a service from CSDC.
2. They have attracted the attention of the CSDC Executive or an official CSDC adjudicator, and have the general confidence of the aforementioned groups as a contributing member to the JDS.
3. They have a noticeably high mean speaks in the CSDC competition, justifying their talent.

A debater will not be permitted a place in the JDS if they;

1. Hassle or repeatedly contact any CSDC Executive members or official CSDC adjudicators regarding acceptance, or any inappropriate communication whatsoever.
2. Have mean speaks below the average amongst members of the CSDC competition.
3. Have been excluded from the squad for any reason whatsoever in the past.

Conclusion

Overall, CSDC owes it to debaters in Canterbury to follow up on promises of the past, in providing a proper development program for young debaters. The cost of such a scheme is certainly justified in its intended outcomes, and is likely to enhance Canterbury's reputation in the National debating community. Thus, CSDC plans to facilitate the growth of the JDS initiative.