

Dear members of the international debating community,

The Slovak Debate Association would like to invite you to the eleventh edition of the international **Bratislava Schools Debating Competition**. The tournament will take place from **the 16th to the 19th of October 2020** in Slovakia's capital city, Bratislava.

Basic information about the tournament

Chief Adjudicator & Debating format

We are pleased to announce that after Derek Lande, Kalina Basli, Rocío Abril and Sharmila Parmanand, our chief adjudicator for this year will be **Miha Andrić**.

The tournament will be held in **World Schools format**. For more information on this format, you may consult resources of [WSDC](#).

Rounds, motions, and pairing

BSDC will consist of **6 preliminary rounds**, **2 elimination rounds** and the **Grand Final**. Preliminary rounds consist of **two impromptu motions** and **two prepared motions** (debated from both sides by each team). Elimination rounds will be debated on impromptu motions and the Grand Final will be debated on one of the prepared motions from the preliminary rounds. **The prepared motions will be announced at least 1 month prior to the start of the tournament** on our [Facebook](#) and [website](#). **Round 1** will be seeded randomly; subsequent rounds will be **power-paired**.

Travel, visa & COVID-19 related information

Bratislava is easily accessible through Bratislava, Vienna, and Budapest airports which all have direct transport to Bratislava. Visa may be required for some countries. Please [check](#) here for more information.

For up to date information about travel restrictions for foreign nationals arriving to Slovakia related to COVID-19, **please check the [website](#) of the Slovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs**.

Registration

Teams should consist of three to five members. **Every delegation needs to come with at least one judge or observer who is over 18 years old**. This person will be **responsible for the team, and all the communication** with the organizers.

The tournament applies **N-1 rule**. Every delegation needs to send at least as many judges as number of teams sent minus one (i.e. 1 team – 1 judge/observer; 2 teams – 1 judge; 3 teams – 2 judges; etc.). If the delegation is unable to provide sufficient number of judges, the delegation must pay an **additional fee of 150€**.

Fees

Debater	150€
Judge	100€
Observer	200€
N-1 fee (for each missing judge)	150€

The Head of Delegation will receive the invoice details after finishing the registration.

The fee covers meals from Friday dinner till Monday breakfast. It also covers accommodation throughout the whole tournament in [Hotel Astra](#).

Delegations will be required to **pay registration fees in full by September the 5th**. Any delegation that fails to make payment by then will be struck from the tournament and its place will be re-allocated.

In the event of any of your teams being struck from the tournament due to full capacity all registration fees for said team will be refunded in full. **A full refund will also be provided shall we be forced to cancel the tournament due to an unfavourable epidemiological situation related to COVID-19.**

How to register

Start by filling the delegations registration which can be found [here](#) and **then proceed to register the individual teams, judges and observers** [here](#). Please, do not delay the registration of neither delegations nor the judges or observers. You will be given information about the registration process continuously throughout the registration period. After the registration closure you will receive an email with further information.

Selection key

We do not foresee any issues with the capacity of the tournament, but since we want BSDC to be as diverse as possible, a selection process will be adopted to remain on the safe side. While registering, you should **state your preference** by adding a **letter behind the name of the team** (e.g. Slovakia A, Slovakia B, etc.).

We will use the following key to assign places to international teams:

1. Preference to teams will be given according to the rank with which they were registered. As such, every country will be guaranteed a spot for their first team. (we firstly register all A teams, then B teams, C teams etc.)
2. Preference is given to teams from delegations that are able to bring a higher number of their own adjudicators. (It means that the C team from delegation that has registered 3 judges will be preferred to the C team from delegation that has registered 2 judges)
3. If there are more teams than free spots remaining, spots will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Dress code

Business casual attire is allowed for all preliminary rounds. However, the elimination rounds especially **the Grand Final of the tournament will require business attire.**

Tentative Schedule

	Thursday		Friday		Saturday		Sunday		Monday
12:00	Arrivals & Free Program	9:00	Optional sightseeing	9:00	Breakfast	9:00	Breakfast	8:30	Breakfast
		13:30	Judges briefing	9:30	Prep time for	9:30	Prep time	9:00	Departure to the finals venue
20:00	Judges Social	14:35	Opening of the tournament	10:30	Impromptu debate	10:30	Impromptu motion debate	10:00	Finals
		14:45	Prepared motion I debate	12:30	Lunch	12:30	Lunch	12:00	Closing Ceremony
		17:15	Prepared motion II debate	14:00	Prepared motion I debate	14:00	Prep time quarterfinals	13:00	Departure
		19:15	Dinner	16:00	Break	15:00	Quarterfinals debate		
				17:00	Prepared motion II debate	16:30	Break		
				19:00	Dinner	17:00	Prep time semifinals		
				20:00	Optional social	18:00	Semifinals debate		
						20:00	Dinner & Break night party		

Contacts

You will find more information about the Slovak Debate Association, the organizing team and venues of BSDC 2020, as well as travel information at our [website](#) or [Facebook](#).

In case of further questions, please do not hesitate and email us at bsdc@sda.sk.

If you have friends that would be interested in this tournament, please forward them this invitation letter or let them know about us on Facebook.

We hope to see you in Bratislava!

Best regards,

BSDC 2020 Organizing Team
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