



Brisbane Girls
Debating Association
Guidelines for
Awarding Best Speaker
of each Year Level

Present Edition: 24/10/2014

Besides for awarding a Champion Team in each year level, the BGDA Inc. (Brisbane Girls Debating Association Incorporated) also awards a Best Speaker for each year level. This document explains how the Best Speaker shall be awarded. For the official guidelines for awarding Best Speaker, please refer to the Competition Rules.

In order to be eligible for the award, a participant must have spoken in at least three debates in the competition. This takes into account the eventualities of a team of five speakers or the forfeiting of an opposition team.

Given that adjudicators have subtly variable scoring systems, for the purpose of ensuring fairness in the awarding of Best Speaker, the scores in each debate shall be converted to a rank system where 6 Best Speaker Points is awarded for the 'Best Speaker' in the room down to 1 point for the lowest scoring speaker. Given that the draw is formulated on a 'bracket folding' model, speakers who consistently top their rooms are likely to also win debates and verse other teams who have speakers that consistently top their rooms.

In the event that speakers receive the same point score (for example two speakers earn 76 which is the second best score in the room), both shall be awarded an equal number of Best Speaker Points (in this case 5 points). This example is shown below:

Speaker	Speaker Score	Corresponding Best Speaker Points	Speaker	Speaker Score	Corresponding Best Speaker Points
1 st Affirmative	77	6	1 st Affirmative	77	6
2 nd Affirmative	76	= 5	2 nd Affirmative	76	= 5
1 st Negative	76	= 5	1 st Negative	76	= 5
2 nd Negative	75	= 3	2 nd Negative	75	= 3
3 rd Affirmative	75	= 3	3 rd Affirmative	75	= 3
3 rd Negative	74	1	3 rd Negative	74	1

If a team forfeits, each participant in that team will automatically be awarded a '0' for that week. Those speakers opposing a team that forfeited shall not be awarded any score. For senior level debates, reply speeches shall not be considered when awarding Best Speaker, only the six substantive speeches of the debate.

The speaker who **is eligible and has the highest average at the conclusion of the rounds** shall be awarded Best Speaker at the final night of the competition. In the event there is a tie for Best Speaker after the preliminary rounds, the award will go to the participant whose team makes it into the Final. However, if both speakers in contention participate in the Final, the award will go to the participant who ranks the highest in the Final. If speakers tie in the Final, it shall be based on a majority vote of the adjudicator of the Finals as to who Best Speaker should be awarded to.