



The Brisbane Girls Debating Association

Schools Handbook 2023



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About the BGDA

The Brisbane Girls Debating Association Incorporated (BGDA) seeks to empower young women through debating. The BGDA endeavours to bridge the gap in opportunities available to male and female debaters. Increased participation of young women in debating, with a number of BGDA participants represented in Queensland and Australian debating teams, is a testament to the success of the Association and its members.

The BGDA initially began in 2010 facilitating a small competition between a number of Brisbane metropolitan schools. In 2012 the Association was formally established when the annual Monday Competition expanded to schools throughout Brisbane. Now the BGDA facilitates a variety of competitions, workshops and training programs for both competitors and adjudicators welcoming all female, gender diverse, and AFAB students to our programs.

Although the BGDA has grown significantly since its inception, the Association remains committed to empowering young women with the communication skills they need to lead in their communities. The BGDA serves as a reminder that debating in Brisbane is a place where young women's voices belong.

The BGDA Executive is comprised entirely of volunteers who are members of the Brisbane debating community. You can get in touch with us and learn more about the competition via the following mediums:

Email us:



President: Georgia Perissinotto
Email: President@bgda.org.au



Schools' Officer: Emmett Hanley
Email: Schools@bgda.org.au

Keep up to date with us:

www.bgda.org.au



[Brisbane Girls Debating Association](https://www.facebook.com/BrisbaneGirlsDebatingAssociation)



Our Programs

Monday Competition

The Monday Competition is held across 5 rounds in terms 1 and 2, culminating in a Grand Final and Awards Ceremony where the Best Speaker for every year level will be announced. This program is open to all BGDA-eligible students in grades 7– 12 in the Grade 7, Grade 8, Grade 9, Grade 10 and Senior competitions.

Before every round a free afternoon tea gives students an opportunity to refuel and socialise with students from other schools. Following this, all students are invited to attend a Foundational, Intermediate, or Advanced training session to enhance their debating skills and ask some of the most accomplished coaches in Queensland any questions they may have about debating. All debates are conducted in short-preparation format, maximizing the opportunity for skill building and independent thought. As our competition is small, we only use highly trained and experienced adjudicators who deliver valuable feedback in an extended workshop setting.

All rounds are held at Brisbane Girls Grammar School. The two top performing teams in each year level will be invited to participate in a sixth round – the Grand Final. All teams are invited to watch these teams.

Due to the increased number of participating schools, the BGDA competition will split into **two** time slots. The first time slot beginning with training at 4 is for debaters in year 7 and 9, with the second time slot beginning at 5:15 for students in the year 8, 10 and Senior Divisions. Please see the detailed times on the next page for more details.

Registration for the 2023 Monday Competition costs **\$130 per team** in grades 7– 9 and **\$140 per team** in grades 10–12 and can be completed [here](#) before **Friday 10th February**. All schools will be required to provide proof of either payment or having requested payment by their school, by Monday 13th March. If the registration fee would present a barrier to entry for your school, please read our fee waiver policy. If you have any questions regarding registration, please get in touch at: schools@bgda.org.au



Monday Competition Schedule

Competition Dates:

Round	
1	Monday 20th February
2	Monday 6th March
3	Monday 27th March
4	Monday 24th April
5	Monday 8th May
GF	Monday 22nd May

Times:

Time	Grade 7 and 9	Grades 8, 10 and Senior
4:00pm	Arrival + Afternoon tea and training	
4:30pm	Topic Release and Preparation Begins	
5:15pm		Arrival + Afternoon tea and training
5:30pm	Debate Begins	
5:45pm		Topic Release and Preparation Begins
6:30pm	Debates Conclude	
6:45pm		Debates Begin
7:45pm		Debates Conclude for Grade 8
8:00pm		Debates Conclude for Grades 10 and Senior

Development Days

Since 2017, the BGDA has hosted its annual Development Day. This one day debating program is open to all BGDA-eligible in grades 7-12, even those who do not compete in the Monday Competition. In the following years, Development Day has grown to be an important event on the Queensland debating calendar that brings together girls from different schools and year levels to socialise, learn from each other, and share in a love of debating. Development Days will all consist of a combination of debates, training, and workshop-style adjudications. Registration for the event is totally free, with the BGDA's generous sponsors covering the costs of all meals and adjudications.

In 2023 we will be running 4 separate development days, information for which is outlined below.

Brisbane Central

Development Day will be held on Sunday 19th February 2023. Registration for Central Development Day 2023 can be completed individually [here](#). This Development Day will consist of a workshop and two debates which are suitable for all skill levels. Held at Brisbane Girls Grammar School, Central Development day 2023 will run from 9am-4pm with lunch provided free of charge.

Brisbane North

Our Brisbane North Development Day for 2023 will be held on Sunday the 12th of March. This development day is aimed towards girls in years 7-12 who want to learn and build on their foundational debating skills in a supportive, fun, participation based day. There is no previous debating experience required to participate. The day will feature a number of debates with a feedback focused workshop style adjudication session. For more information and to register please see [here](#)

Brisbane South

Our 2023 Brisbane South Development Day will be held on the 26th February in a similar fashion to the Brisbane North Development Day. Updates including venue, date, schedule and registration will be released [here](#).



Senior Excellence Day

COMING UP IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS:

Senior Excellence Day is your opportunity to gain further experience in preparation for the State Team Trials in term 4. All BGDA-eligible participants in grade 9+ are welcome to attend, even if you are not planning on trialing for the State Team.

Registration for this event is totally free, with the BGDA's generous sponsors covering the costs of all meals and adjudications. Participants register as individuals and will be assigned teams on the day.

Debates will be held in Senior A format, with 8 minute speeches, POIs and a Reply Speech given by one speaker per team. Please do not worry about not speaking to time or being confident with POIs- this event is a learning opportunity and if you speak for less time or do not want to give POIs a go yet you are welcome not to give them a miss. Similarly, Reply Speeches will be optional.

Schedule: Sunday 23rd October at Brisbane State High School.

9:00 – 10:00am: Case preparation, POI and Reply Speech workshop

10:00am – 12:15pm: Topic release and debate 1

12:15pm – 1:00pm – Lunch (provided by BGDA)

1:00pm – 3:15pm – Topic release and debate 2

Please direct any questions to president@bgda.org.au.

The link to register can be found [here](#).



Adjudicator Development

The BGDA are committed to developing the talent that exists in our community and ensuring a high standard of adjudication. As such, we have implemented a student adjudicator program to provide training opportunities for promising Grade 12 students who otherwise would not be able to participate in our Monday Program as their school is unable to enter a team. If there is not enough interest at your school to form a senior team, please get in touch as we would be happy to consider grade 12 debating students as adjudicators for the Monday Competition! Please note that this option is only open to students where their school cannot form a full team.

Additionally, we love to involve BGDA alumni in our programs as adjudicators. If you know recent graduates who were involved with BGDA that would be interested in becoming an adjudicator please ask them to send an email to our adjudications officer Trish Le at adjudicators@bgda.org.au No prior experience is required and training will be provided!



Our Alumni



"I found BDGA extremely helpful for developing my debating skills throughout high- school. The competition was well-run and both the motions and the adjudicator feedback were of very high quality. I would recommend it to anyone!"

Lauren Gunther, BGDA Participant 2017- 2018,
Queensland State Team Captain 2018,
Australian National Debating Team 2018.

"It is through the BGDA that I gained the majority of my debating knowledge and the confidence to pursue a career in Law. The supportive, encouraging and stress-free environment of the BGDA has been essential to my development not only as a debater, but as an adjudicator and coach. The competition provides debaters of all levels unmatched feedback and opportunities to improve. It is truly no over-statement to say that I wouldn't be where I am today without the BGDA!"

Mikayla O'Flynn, BGDA participant 2018-2019



"The BGDA helped to extend my understanding of debating through training sessions and comprehensive feedback from skilled adjudicators. I also felt a real sense of community and got to make friends with many debaters from other schools. I encourage all debaters to get involved in this competition as it will not only teach them about debating but also create a wonderful environment to learn in."

Lara Pruim, BGDA Participant 2018-2020,
Queensland State Team Member 2020



Sponsorship

The work of the BGDA would not be possible without the wonderful support of our program sponsors. Please see our website to learn more about how to get involved in supporting our programs.

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Stephen Bates, MP for Brisbane
The Tony and Peta Scarcella Debating
Development Fund
Rose Litigation

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Griffith

