



# Parents and Visitors Code of Conduct

All audience members in attendance at Gold Coast Debating events must comply with the following rules:

**Respect for All Participants:** All are expected to treat all participants, including parents, debaters, adjudicators, and staff/volunteers, with respect and dignity. This includes refraining from any form of harassment, bullying, or discriminatory behaviour.

**Supportive Environment:** All are encouraged to create a supportive environment for all participants. This includes showing respect for the opinions and viewpoints of others, avoiding negative comments, and encouraging positive and constructive feedback.

**Sportsmanship:** All are expected to exhibit good sportsmanship and respect the rules and decisions of the competition. This includes avoiding unsportsmanlike conduct such as laughing, booing, taunting, or using inappropriate language.

**Noise:** Audience members are asked to keep noise levels to a minimum and avoid disrupting the proceedings of the competition. This includes refraining from using electronic devices during debates, and avoiding conversations until the adjudicator permits it.

**Disruptions:** Audience members arriving late or leaving early are asked to wait until **the current speaker has finished their speech** before entering or leaving the room.

**Appropriate Behaviour:** All are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that is appropriate for a high school setting. This includes avoiding the use of alcohol or drugs, and refraining from engaging in any behaviour that is offensive or disruptive.

**Compliance with Rules:** All are expected to comply with all rules and regulations of the competition. Please remember that **debaters cannot interact with anyone outside their own team until the debate is declared closed, and only debaters may approach adjudicators.**

**Respect for Property:** All are asked to respect the property of the host school and its facilities, and to dispose of any waste in the appropriate manner.

**Reporting Concerns:** Audience members are encouraged to report any concerns or incidents of inappropriate behaviour to either the Venue Coordinator or a member of the Gold Coast Debating Committee.

By following this code of conduct, parents and visitors can help to create a positive and supportive environment for all participants in Gold Coast Debating.