

ADJUDICATION

In many debate formats, a panel of adjudicators simply votes, and the team with the largest number of votes wins. In BP, that approach simply doesn't work because BP involves four teams and, usually, at least three adjudicators. Consequently, no team might garner enough votes to win. In addition, there is a need to rank the three teams that didn't win. As a result, decisions in BP are made by consensus. Although this can be time-consuming—and occasionally excruciating—it tends to result in decisions that have been considered from every angle. One of the advantages of the system is that the feedback given to speakers can be very detailed, and debaters should take advantage of this fact.

CHAPTER CHECKLIST

- The presence of four teams gives BP an unusual dynamic because speakers compete against both the other side of the house and the other team on their side.
 - The two teams on each side must work together, although each is trying to beat the other.
 - The second speakers for the Opening Government and Opposition should make sure their arguments are complete when they hand the case on to the second teams.
 - The third Government speaker (Member of the Government) must introduce an extension—a major new reason to support the motion as defined.
 - Concluding speakers should sum up their side's case as a whole but should place particular emphasis on their own team's arguments.
 - Adjudicators determine the winner and rankings by consensus.
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