



COCAM



GENERAL RULES OF PROCEDURE

Cameroon Nationals

2025 Edition

Article 1: Nature and aims of the competition

Created in 2023 by **Samuel Binyou**, the Cameroon Nationals (COCAM) is a national debate & speech competition that helps to **educate** young Cameroonians and **raise their awareness** on current world issues. It aims to develop an endogenous Cameroonian public speaking culture and to structure the public speaking sector with a view to improving the education system and professional and public speaking practices.

Article 2: Scope of the competition

Section 1: This competition is open to Cameroonians of all ages and is divided into three categories and five modular sections (see Terms of Reference). Citizens of other nations

may take part under an official invitation as "Guest country" or on their own initiative.

Section 2: The competition, through the various disciplines of the oral arts, addresses all the issues linked to sustainable development (SDG) in correlation with the themes YOUTH-ART-CULTURE-EDUCATION.

Section 3: The competition also aims to support the national laureates in their socio-professional integration, as well as contributing to the development and structuring of the sector of orality in Cameroon.

Article 3: Organisation of the competition

Cameroon Nationals (COCAM) is organised by the Cameroon Debate Association (CDA), the legal

representative of the Cameroon Federation of Oral Arts (*“Fédération Camerounaise des Arts de la Parole”* FECAAP), in partnership with the International Network for the Promotion of Arts and Orality (RIPAO) and other strategic partners. The umbrella organisation's mission is to find a co-host to host and co-organise the competition. Ideally, the first choice is universities, the second choice is secondary schools and the last choice is any other type of establishment capable of hosting and co-organising the competition.

Article 4: Date and venue of the competition

Paragraph 1: COCAM takes place over a period of **six months**, ideally from October to March in Yaoundé or Douala. In certain cases (disasters, national events, mergers with international events, etc.), the date and venue of the competition may be moved. The regional competitions start in **October**, according to the calendar proposed by each regional federation in line with the national action plan for the current year. The final phase takes place at a major academic institution partnering the competition, ideally **between February and March**.

Section 2: The regional phases take place on the premises of COCAM's regional partner establishments (secondary schools and universities) under the supervision of the national COCAM. The venue

for the regional finals is approved by the Central Committee of COCAM following a proposal from the regional federation at least 30 days before the event.

Article 5: Conditions of participation

Section 1: Registration

Individual registrations are free and exclusively online and open in October on the www.debatecameroon.org website.

All pupils and students wishing to take part in the competition must submit their application by the deadline indicated on the online platform. All applications submitted after the deadline will be rejected, unless there is a compelling reason to do so.

Section 2: Types of application

Individuals may enter the competition under the colours of a school (secondary or university), a debate/public speaking club or any other organisation, institution or company wishing to take part. Collective entries are accepted if they are duly signed by the partner institution. However, participants in the competition recommended by their institution should always register on the online platform mentioned in article 5: 1.

Section 3: Participant training

COCAM is also a platform for strengthening the skills of its beneficiaries. Training costs are subsidised by the CDA and its

INPAS network. The symbolic contribution to training is estimated at **two thousand francs (2,000 FCFA)** per candidate. The candidate's training fees are paid only after validation of registrations, confirmed by an official list published by the CDA. Fees are paid into a Mobile Money/Orange Money account provided by the CDA Treasury.

Section 4: Accreditations

COCAM entitles you to three types of accreditation: Regional Accreditation, School Accreditation and Media Accreditation.

- **Regional Accreditations:** These are awarded to the regional partners responsible for organising the competition in their region. These partners act as COCAM's legal representatives in the region. Their term of office is one year, renewable. Applications are made online in October.
- **School Accreditation:** 20 schools (secondary schools, universities, etc.) per region will be selected to take part in COCAM. In order to remain in the competition the following year, these schools will have to pass an accreditation exam, which will allow them to remain in the competition circuit and benefit from COCAM's prerogatives. One of the major points of accreditation is the creation

and running of a debate/public speaking club within the establishment, recognised by CDA. The number of accredited establishments may increase in line with the success of the annual accreditation exams. The number of accreditations is increased **at least every five years.**

- **Media Accreditation:** Medias are free to cover COCAM in regions. However, to cover the finals medias must either have **an official invitation** or accreditation (if the media has not received an official invitation).

Article 6: Practical organisation of the competition

Section 1: The competition is organised in several languages, several categories and several sections.

Section 2: The official languages of COCAM are French and English. Linguistic integration into the competition will be gradual. Priority will be given to the major fields of the African Confederation of Speech arts "*Confédération Africaine des Arts de la Parole*" (CAAP). It is possible that other languages may be included in the competition. The *story-telling* category will be done using quotes from local languages. A charter and sector-specific rules

of procedure give more details about the languages of the competition.

Section 3: The COCAM competition is organised into **several dozen categories**. This year, the competition is open exclusively to the following five main categories:

- ❖ Public speaking ;
- ❖ Debate
- ❖ Moot court
- ❖ Tales or *Storytelling*
- ❖ Slam-poetry

New categories will be added or deleted each year, depending on the need of (1), the partners (2), the budget (3) or the international circuit (4). A charter and sector-specific rules of procedure provide further details on the competition's headings.

Section 4: The COCAM competition is organised into **several dozen categories for speakers**. This year, the competition is exclusively open to three categories:

- ❖ Masters (regional) ;
- ❖ Seniors (regional + final) ;
- ❖ Juniors (regional + final)

In addition to these, **judges, coaches, schools** and **regional partners** are also competing. Registrations can only be made online.

Article 7: Awards

Section 1: The regions

Medals and trophies are awarded at regional level. Prizes may also be

awarded. Cash or in-kind prizes may also be awarded, depending on the level of involvement of the regional federations. The best speakers also receive certificates. Other participants may receive certificates of participation at their request. However, these are not compulsory. **COCAM fully or partially covers the expenses of the two (02) best speakers at the national finals.** The other participants in the national finals are responsible for covering their own expenses.

Section 2: The national final

Well-defined prizes, awards and certifications (see COCAM brochure or Term of Reference) will be awarded to the winners of the final phases. In addition, COCAM reserves the right to select appropriate speakers from among them for the international competition circuit, at the expense of COCAM and its partners.

Article 8: Arbitration, disputes and claims

COCAM is overseen by the Chief Adjudication Committee body of the competition's, the Adjudicating College, which manages arbitration, complaints and recommendations relating to refereeing.

During competitions, any potential complaint may be made by each candidate by completing a complaint form, which will be made available.

Complaints may relate to a judgement deemed valid by the candidate but not considered by the jury. They must be submitted to the jury to be addressed before deliberation. Claims made after deliberations are not admissible.

The regional partners may also express any objections or complaints. This time they should be sent directly to COCAM headquarters, or if not satisfactorily resolved, they can send via the FECAP platform.

Article 9: Announcement of results

Before announcing the results, the jury must respond to each complaint and give reasons for its decision.

The final phases are supervised by an odd-numbered panel made up of jurors from various professions, with or without a close link to the discipline being judged.

Yaoundé on 05.10.2024

For COCAM

FECAP