

BRAINBALL

CODE OF

ETHICS

Brainball Cameroon
2026 Edition

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Preamble: The competition's code of ethics enables all stakeholders to work harmoniously and contribute to the creation of **an open, honest, supportive, enterprising, and tolerant society**. The competition's code of honor is "BRAINBALL: RESPONSIBILITY-COMMITMENT-TOLERANCE."

RESPONSIBILITY: Each stakeholder must assume responsibility for the success of BRAINBALL, both locally and nationally, with a view to creating an enlightened, enterprising, and prosperous community. The training received and skills acquired must be put at the service of the communities.

COMMITMENT: Stakeholders commit themselves voluntarily, full-time or part-time, to promoting BRAINBALL and its values, in the hope of contributing to the creation of a new class of leaders, pillars of the New Cameroonian Civil Society, serving citizenship and the nation.

TOLERANCE: Despite their differences, stakeholders accept each other in a spirit of diversity and tolerance: religious tolerance, ethnic tolerance, cultural tolerance, tolerance of opinion, tolerance of orientation, etc. No participant should be judged, abused, marginalized, or ostracized because of their identity, affiliation, beliefs, orientation, or opinions, in accordance with Cameroonian law.

10 Fundamental Principles

1. **Integrity:** While respecting their commitments, participants must be honest and transparent [**give a true account**] in clubs, in preparation, in public performance, and in their relationship with the organizing committee and its partners. Any mismanagement is subject to sanctions.

2. **Impartiality:** Judges and co-organizers must be impartial and not favor any participant. Failure to comply with this principle will result in disciplinary sanctions, up to and including formal exclusion from all championships on national territory.

3. **Equity:** All speech categories and all social strata (educated, uneducated, internally displaced persons, refugees, etc.) must be considered in the implementation of BRAINBALL. Each social stratum should have equal opportunities to access or participate in the competition and its international circuit.

4. **Diversity:** BRAINBALL encourages diversity of opinion, diversity of languages, diversity of genders, and diversity of expression, etc. The diversity factor, if possible with quotas, must be integrated into the project implementation process before, during, and after the competition. Particular emphasis will be placed on promoting the diversity of local

identities or cultural expressions, including **local languages**.

5. **Mutual respect:** Participants must comply with all competition rules (see Terms and Conditions) and respect other stakeholders. No participant is superior to another based on social class, origin, privilege, or position.

6. **Confidentiality:** Documentation, public performances, training sessions, or audiovisual productions produced as part of the competition, whether regional or international, are the property of BRAINBALL. No information may be made public until BRAINBALL has made it public (website, platforms, media, official documentation, press releases, email, etc.). Stakeholder data is confidential, and BRAINBALL reserves the right to communicate about participants in accordance with their rights.

7. **Loyalty:** Participation in BRAINBALL is subsidized. In return, participants (speakers, judges, coaches, regional partners, and national or international partners) should not engage in similar work, i.e., work of the same scope or in competition with BRAINBALL. However, local initiatives that extend BRAINBALL are strongly encouraged.

8. **Solidarity:** Stakeholders undertake to show solidarity with each other, within the limits of their capabilities and prerogatives. Depending on circumstances, social solidarity initiatives may be carried out in favor of

beneficiaries or the wider public speaking community in Cameroon or public speaking communities in other brotherly or friendly countries.

9. **Cohesion:** Participants must **work in accordance with the principles of coexistence** advocated by the State of Cameroon. They are encouraged to step outside their comfort zone and break down linguistic, cultural, religious, geographical, or tribal barriers in a spirit of fair play and community engagement, by setting up social cohesion activities, projects, and programs that promote dialogue, peace, reconciliation, community integration, and peaceful coexistence.

10. **Commitment:** In accordance with their resolutions, BRAINBALL winners at the regional and national levels commit to leading local, sectoral, national, or international initiatives in support of BRAINBALL, its values, public speaking, or any other related activity. National BRAINBALL winners must work to promote BRAINBALL for a **minimum** period of **two (02) years**, a commitment that will be rewarded with recognition (a prize if possible) and an official decoration at the end of their term.

Conduct to be avoided

1. **Use of unauthorized material:** Participants must not use unauthorized material (see RIS) in accordance with the internal rules specific to each sub-discipline.

2. **Plagiarism:** Participants are encouraged to cite sources in their performance in as much detail as possible. Furthermore, in terms of public speaking, it is recommended that participants constantly strive for innovation rather than repeating previous speeches.

3. **Use of offensive language:** Participants must avoid any offensive, discriminatory, or abusive language in their performances, failing which they will be penalized.

4. **Intimidation of judges:** Participants must not attempt to influence judges or other members of the organizing committee, under penalty of sanction.

5. **Point trading:** No favoritism or point trading will be tolerated during the competition, whether at the national or regional level. Any violation of this principle will result in penalties.

6. **Lack of knowledge of the rules:** Organizers must train judges on the principles of the rules. Participation in this session is mandatory for speakers, judges, coaches, and regional partners.

7. **Sexual harassment:** No romantic or sexual relationships are permitted within the framework of BRAINBALL, which is intended to be an exclusively professional activity. Stakeholders who engage in **sexual harassment** (see United Nations definition) are at high risk of receiving the most severe sanctions. Romantic or sexual relationships are prohibited between speakers, between speakers and any other stakeholders (coaches, judges,

partners, organizers, guests, etc.). A toll-free number will be provided to participants in case of sexual harassment or abuse.

8. Corruption of judges or the committee: Any proven attempt to corrupt judges, the judging panel, or the organizing committee will be subject to legal proceedings.

9. Trafficking of influence: Any use of public relations for the selection of speakers, favoritism, or selection of the national team is subject to legal proceedings.

10. Violation of the Rules: The BRAINBALL National Committee and Regional Committees must ensure strict compliance with the application of the BRAINBALL rules in force. Failure to apply the rules by a partner or committee member will result in sanctions.

Sanctions

1. **Breach of collaboration contract:** This mainly concerns regional, national, and international partners. Such a breach, which must be duly justified, may occur without prior notice.

2. **Loss of points:** Minor infringements may result in the loss of points for the participant.

3. **Disqualification or expulsion:** Serious offenses may result in the disqualification of the participant or the expulsion of the partner.

4. **Suspension:** This may be temporary or permanent, depending on the decisions of the Adjudication Panel.

5. **Legal proceedings:** In certain cases, including assault, theft, rape, embezzlement, corruption, fraud, leakage of confidential data, etc., participants may be subject to legal proceedings.

Link to register for the competition:
<https://debatecameroon.org/brainball/brainball-2026/>