

Program Overview

The **Student Pairing Program** of the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (SDRCC) was offered for the first time in 2016 on the occasion of the SDRCC Annual Mediator and Arbitrator Conference in Vancouver, more specifically on the day of the public sessions. The objective of the program was to provide a meaningful networking and enhanced learning opportunity for students registered as participants in the public conference, by pairing them with current SDRCC roster members for the lunch break. Student participants were thereby encouraged to gain insight into the world of sport ADR and network with some of the leading experts in this field. The SDRCC matched registered students with arbitrators and mediators based on their interests and, as much as possible on geographical location and/or linguistic group, to stimulate meaningful interactions. Since the Vancouver edition, the SDRCC has organized the **Student Pairing Program** at every conference.

Based on the successes of this program, the SDRCC is pleased to offer it again at its next annual conference. Building from the suggestions received by participants in the program evaluations, students will be “introduced” to their assigned arbitrator or mediator via email prior to the conference. A formal meeting in person will then be facilitated by an SDRCC staff member at the time of onsite conference registration. During breaks in the conference program and during lunch, students will have time to interact one-on-one with their respective partners, who may also introduce them to other SDRCC arbitrators and mediators.

Requirements for Participating Students

A limited number of spaces, to be allocated on a first-come first-served basis, will be available for students to register, at a special rate, to attend the **public portion** of the SDRCC Mediator and Arbitrator Conference. Eligible student registrants must be enrolled in a full-time law, ADR or sports-related academic program at the time of the conference. Proof of full-time enrollment in a recognized college or university program may be requested by the SDRCC upon registration. Register as soon as possible to make sure you get access to the program. The conference program, as well as information on registration fees and timelines, are available on the SDRCC website.

Requirements for Participating SDRCC Roster Members

Arbitrators and mediators who volunteer to participate in the pairing program will commit to interacting at least once prior to the conference with their respective assigned students, either by email or by telephone. During the registration period of the public conference, they will report to the SDRCC staff so that participating students can be formally introduced to them. Participating roster members will be required to sit with their assigned students during the lunch. As much as possible throughout the day, roster members will also be encouraged to include their assigned students in discussions with peers and to introduce them to colleagues and friends at the conference in order to provide a one-of-a-kind learning and networking opportunity for the students.