

NITOC Balloting Guidelines

Speech and Debate

I. Procedure:

A. Judges should wear their official NITOC name tag given to them at check-in. B. In debate, a blind Ballot Push procedure will be followed in which a ballot will be turned over in front of the potential judge and confirmed for no club or personal conflict. C. In speech, Stoatrax “flags” ballots from your club so a different ballot may be found.

For a more detailed explanation of the Ballot Push procedures, please see the *NITOC Balloting Procedures* under NITOC 2024 Documents.

II. General Judge Eligibility:

- A. Judge must be at least age 18 by January 1, 2024.
- B. Judge must not have competed in high school forensics during the 2023-2024 tournament season.
- C. Judge must be a high school graduate.

III. General Judging Guidelines:

A. Judges MAY:

- 1. Judge students from their own state or region
- 2. Judge the same student in multiple speech events
- 3. Judge the same debate student/team in different debate events

B. Judges MAY NOT:

- 1. Judge students from their club, their own children or relatives
- 2. Judge students they have personally coached
- 3. Judge the same student more than once within the same speech event
- 4. Judge a debate student/team more than once within each form of debate

C. A reminder to all judges:

- 1. Do not disclose speech results to anyone during the tournament
- 2. Do not disclose debate decisions to anyone during the tournament

IV. Judging Limitations Guidelines for Outrounds:

A. When these additional guidelines apply:

- 1. Parliamentary debate: quarterfinals onward
- 2. Team policy debate: outround 5 onward
- 3. Lincoln Douglas debate: outround 5 onward
- 4. Speech: semifinals onward

B. Judging limitations:

1. Parents may not judge events in which their child is still competing
2. Alumni may not judge events in which their sibling is still competing
3. Coaches, parents, and alumni may not judge events in which a student they coach is still competing

V. Additional Guidelines for Parliamentary Debate

- A. Coaches, parents, and alumni may assist teams during preparation time and then judge other teams for the same debate round until quarterfinals
- B. Coaches, parents, and alumni may not judge during the quarterfinal, semifinal, or final rounds if they help any team during preparation time

VI. Judge Panel Size

A. Debate:

1. Prelims: One (1) judge panel
2. Early outround: Three (3) judge panels, primarily parents, but community and alumni as available
2. Semifinals (or outround 8): Seven (7) judge panels
3. Finals: Nine (9) or more panels

B. Speech:

1. Speech Prelims: Three (3) judge panels
2. Quarterfinals: Three (3) judge panels
2. Semifinals: Five (5) judge panels
3. Finals: Seven (7) judge panels

VII. Preferred Panel Composition

A. 5 Judge Panels:

- 1 parent
- 1 alumni
- 1 community
- Additional two judges not specified

B. 7 Judge Panels:

- 2 parents
- 2 alumni
- 2 community
- Additional judge not specified

C. 9 or more Judge Panels:

- 3 parents
- 3 alumni
- 3 community
- Additional judges not specified