

NITOC 2017 Debate Timing Guidelines

The NITOC 2017 staff and your Stoa Board are doing our best to ensure that NITOC 2017 will be a fantastic experience for every Stoa competitor, family and volunteer. To that end, this is another in a series of communications to help make this the Best NITOC Ever.

A Simple Idea

Stoa is proud to have some of the finest debaters in the country. We appreciate the excellence and integrity that you bring to our forensics. However, in the last year, we have observed an increasing trend of debaters going over time in speeches, by ten to even sixty seconds. If a team consistently takes an extra 15 seconds per speech, they gain an additional two minutes, with the judge, during the round. We all know what an advanced debater can do with an extra minute or two of speaking time in a round.

A Simple Truth

Stoa has very few rules, by design. We want you to have the greatest possible latitude to explore your topic and develop your argumentation. But time limits on speeches are one of the few things specifically set out in the Stoa rules. They ensure the competitive equity in the round.

Here is the text from the Stoa rule which is the standard for NITOC.

Once time is expired at the end of a speech or cross-examination, a speaker may be allowed to complete a sentence, but should not start a new thought.

A Smart Plan

In addition, please take note of the following self-timing policy for all forms of debate at NITOC 2015.

Debaters are required to be prepared to self-time. They should set the timer to time down and to provide an audible alarm when time is over. You may not turn off the timer and continue talking.

Opponent(s) may also set a timer and are encouraged to do so. The opponent(s) timer can also be set to countdown mode and may have an audible alarm.

Debate Rounds will have timers assigned in outrounds as follows:

Parliamentary Debate starting in Outround 3 through Final Round.

Team Policy and Lincoln Douglas Debate starting in Outround 7 through Final Round.

Please help us make NITOC conflict free by observing speech time limits in your rounds.

We are looking forward to seeing some amazing debate in Jackson!