



Your Stoa Board is keeping you up to date with this Hot August Night StoaByte.

**There is a lot of great Stoa News to tell you about:**

- Stoa Registration 2015-2016 is open
- LexisNexis Registration 2015-2016 is open
- Stoa Tournament Minimums in One Place and Tournament Registration Form
- Recommendations for how to handle unusual circumstances at local tournaments?
- Speech and Debate Documents 2015-2016
- Lincoln Douglas Value Dual Resolution Debate Guidance

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### **[Stoa Registration 2015-2016](#)**

- Stoa Registration for the 2015-2016 season is open at the link above.
- Register early to keep up to date with all of the latest news from Stoa.
- All registered parents/coaches/alumni are voting members.
- Registration is \$50 for families with at least one 12-18 year old student competing at tournaments (regardless of the number of children).
  - This is the best bargain in Christian Homeschool forensics.
- Registration is \$25 for coaches/parents/alumni without their own students competing.
- Registration is \$25 for families with only junior students (less than 12 years old on Jan. 1, 2016) competing.

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### **[LexisNexis Registration 2015-2016](#)**

- Stoa LexisNexis Registration for the 2015-2016 season is open at the link above.
- Stoa is pleased to partner with LexisNexis to provide members with access to the best research tools available.
  - Stoa was the first Christian homeschool forensics organization to form an educational partnership with LexisNexis.
- Students, parents, adults, coaches, and alumni may register for LexisNexis.
- The cost is \$30 per individual.
  - Please note, this is a single user license and each individual must have their own registration with LexisNexis in order to access the research database.
    - There can be no sharing of each LexisNexis license.
  - The same content costs organizations \$2,400 per year for a single-user license!
- Get started on your speech and debate research today!

## **Stoa Minimum Tournament Standards in One Place**

and

### **Tournament Registration Form**

- Stoa leadership continues to listen and respond to member requests.
- Members asked for the Minimum Tournament Standards to be consolidated in one place to make it easier for tournament administrators to be assured they were doing all that was necessary to serve their local constituencies.
  - Previously the tournament minimums had to be cobbled together from several locations.
    - The Stoa Registration website
    - The StoaUSA website
    - Speechranks
- For 2015-2016 and beyond, Stoa leadership is committed to making the process easier for local tournament administrators by listing the Minimum Tournament Standards for local tournaments in one location.
- The Board has also created a Stoa Tournament Registration Form to come alongside tournament directors and help them in the process of posting tournaments to the Stoa Tournament Calendar.
- Stoa trusts local leaders to make the majority of decisions about their local tournaments in order to best serve the needs of their local communities.
- The documents are listed on this page of the Stoa website:
  - [Local Control and Minimum Tournament Standards](#)
- These standards are not new, being the same as in past years, they are now just easier to find.
- Tournaments meeting the minimum standards can post their tournaments to the Stoa Calendar and the tournament results to Speechranks.
  - Tournament Directors/Coordinators should download the [Stoa Tournament Registration Form](#), complete and return to [calendar@stoausa.org](mailto:calendar@stoausa.org).
    - This form can also be found attached at the bottom of this web page: [Local Control and Minimum Tournament Standards](#)
  - The Stoa Board will contact folks that have already submitted tournaments to the calendar to make the process as easy as possible.
  - The Stoa Board is pleased to be able to accommodate this member request and implement a process for this season.

### [Stoa Tournament Registration Form](#)

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### **Recommendations for how to handle unusual circumstances at local tournaments?**

- Stoa members have also asked for recommendations on how to handle any number of various situations at their tournaments.

- The Stoa Board does not tell local tournament administrators how to run their tournaments.
- The Board did want to be responsive, so it decided to put together a document with recommendations for how to handle any number of unusual circumstances that may occur at NITOC, the one tournament the Stoa Board does run.
  - This document was assembled with input from NITOC Tournament Directors, NITOC Tabulation Directors, the NITOC tabulation team, and the Speech and Debate Committees.
  - This document is meant to be a helpful resource for NITOC tournament administrators.
  - Local Tournament Directors may choose to avail themselves of the information in the document, but are not under an obligation to do so.
    - Stoa trusts local tournament directors to make decisions that will best serve their local communities and this includes “in tournament” decisions.
      - Stoa recognizes that it is often difficult to make time pressured decisions during tournaments when there may be any number of competing agendas.
      - Having this information available may help to alleviate unnecessary stress for tournament staff.
  - This document should give Stoa members an idea of the care, thought, and planning that goes into administering the National Championship tournament.
  - This document should give NITOC attendees a reasonable expectation of how issues that arise at the tournament may be handled.
  - This document is not an exhaustive list of all possible scenarios, nor is it meant to address every unusual circumstance that will occur at NITOC or other tournaments.
    - There will likely be unique situations that do not fit neatly into the scenarios presented.
    - Tournament administrators are encouraged to utilize the collective wisdom of the tournament administration team and tabulation team to work through unforeseen circumstances.
  - Lessons learned will be added to this document for future years.
  - The document is posted on the [StoaUSA website on the Tournament and Tab Help Files page](#)

[NITOC Recommendations For Unusual Occurrences.pdf](#)

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## **Speech and Debate Documents Posted to the StoaUSA website.**

- Almost all of the 80 documents that must get posted to the StoaUSA website for each season are now on the site.
  - Stoa members requested additional documents posted in multiple locations.

- Consequently documents are on posted on the main Speech and Debate pages and also on the unique event pages making it easier for the end user to find the information they need.
  - There are also Zip files available allowing users to download multiple documents at one time.
- As happens every year, sharp eyes have caught a few minor issues that needed correcting.
  - The Speech and Debate committees believe that the necessary fine tunings have been made.
  - Make sure you have the latest version of the documents.
- The final documents to be posted later this month will be the Orientation Slides for both speech and debate.
- Almost every page on the StoaUSA website is just a click away from the front page of the website resulting in fewer clicks to find important information.

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## Lincoln Douglas Value Debate Guidance

The Stoa Board of Directors is making the following decisions and recommendations

- based upon consultation with the Stoa Debate Committee.
- the educational benefits and preparation requirements of these LD resolutions.
- the LDV resolution results from the recent Stoa membership vote.
- and the Stoa principle of local control of certain elements in Stoa tournaments.

1. Resolution #1 (Resolved: In formal education liberal arts ought to be valued above practical skills.) should be run from October 1, 2015 to January 30, 2016.
2. Resolution #2 (Resolved: Developing countries ought to prioritize economic growth over environmental protection.) should be run from February 1, 2016 to April 30, 2016.
3. Local tournament directors, who are most knowledgeable of local clubs and their respective needs, may decide to run one or the other or both resolutions at any given time during the 2015-2016 competition season.
4. Stoa tournaments scheduled in April 2016 may want to consider running both LD resolutions as preparation for NITOC 2016.
5. A LDV debater may qualify for NITOC 2016 by debating only one resolution. This is not unique since debaters may currently qualify for NITOC with any resolution in any Christian homeschool forensic league, but they must then prepare to debate both of the Stoa resolutions at NITOC.
6. The expectation at NITOC 2016 is for LDV debate to follow the same format as it did at NITOC 2015. This will require all LDV debaters at NITOC to prepare for and debate both

resolutions. Please know that any changes decided on by the Stoa Board will be communicated to the Stoa membership.

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## **Let's Talk Communication!**

- Stoa is active on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter? Follow us on your favorite social media for the latest news!
  - Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/stoausa>
  - Twitter: @Stoatweets
  - Instagram: StoaUSA

## ***The Stoa Mobile App!***

- *Yes Stoa has an iPhone and Android App*
- *The App will have all the important Stoa and NITOC information*
  - Visit <http://stoausa.mobapp.at/landing/Desktop> or the App Store for your device

## ***Get Involved in the Stoa Coaches and Tournament Coordinators Loop***

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/STOACOACH/info>

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/StoaTC/info>

- *Begun as a resource by the wonderful folks in Stoa South (think Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma), these forums are a fantastic repository of information about all things Stoa.*
- *These are not official “Stoa” sites, but many of Stoa’s best coaches and tournament coordinators participate on the sites to offer counsel and advice.*

*Follow either or both of these links and click the button that says, “+ Join Group.”*

*Contact MelRae Ambs [melrae@ambchem.com](mailto:melrae@ambchem.com) if you need help or have questions.*

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## **Your Stoa Board:**

Mark Russell, John Eyth, Angela Childress, MelRae Ambs, Robert Kwong, David McKinley, and Craig Smith

Debbie Snyder (Speech Chair)

Mary Winther (Debate Chair)

**For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.**

Romans 11:36 (NASB®)