

Stoa USA Minimum Tournament Standards



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 is committed to making the process easier for local tournament administrators by listing the minimum tournament standards for local tournaments in one location.

- These standards are not new, being the same as in past years, they are now just easier to find. There are two minimal exceptions that reflect changes that Speechranks has implemented.
 - Parliamentary debate now requires six rounds of competition to maintain consistency with all other forms of debate.
 - A debate event must have a minimum of 7 teams participate to ensure that no team must debate another team more than once during six preliminary rounds.

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.

Stoa trusts local tournament administrators to:

- Choose a location.
 - What city or locality?
- Pick the venue.
 - Church, school (public or private), community college, university, etc.
- Select which events to offer.
 - All speech and debate events, speech only, debate only, TP only, LDV only, platform only, interp only, etc.
- Decide the length of the tournament, e.g. number of days.
 - One day, one and a half day, two day, three day, etc.
- Set the tournament structure, e.g. number of prelim and outrounds.
 - Tailor the preliminary round and outround structure to fit local needs.
- Determine the tournament schedule.
 - Choose when to start and finish you day and plan your social time.
- Handle the money entirely at the local level.
 - Stoa does not interact with local funds.
 - Use your local funds to donate to a ministry, scholarship the students to NITOC, etc.
- Plan extra activities and socials.
 - Have fun by offering engaging social activities.
- Add additional events, novice events, junior events (these are not eligible for NITOC, but fun and helpful activities).
- Administrate the tab files locally and transparently.
- This is not an exhaustive list, but a sampling of ways in which local leaders exercise local control.

Tournament Application



Stoa USA hosts only one tournament per year (NITOC), but individual tournaments are run throughout the country as "Stoa Tournaments." This means they utilize tournament aids, ballots, rules, orientation slides, and other resources.

The following is required for posting to the StoaUSA calendar and uploading to Speechranks:

Date

- Oct 1 through Apr 30.
- All tournament results must be uploaded to Speechranks by May 1.

Tournament Application

- Submit application to Stoa Calendar Administrator no later than six weeks prior to tournament.
 - *If the 6 week deadline can't be met, please contact us to request an extension*

Participation

- Age - Competitors shall be ages 12 to 18 on October 1.
- Open to participants from across the country.
- Must involve at least two clubs.

Speech Events

- When speech is offered, at least three rounds must be completed at the tournament. All students do not need to compete this many rounds as some students may be eliminated during the course of the tournament.
 - *Students in the top 40th percentile will earn a Green Check Mark on Speechranks*
 - *Three students are required for one student to earn a Green Check Mark; five students are required for two students to earn a Green Check Mark, etc.*
- Follow Stoa event rules. <http://www.stoausa.org/speech-events>
 - *Only exception* - Script Submission requirement is under local control.
 - *Script submission is required at NITOC*

Debate Events

- When debate is offered, at least six rounds must be completed. (Minimum of four preliminary rounds).
 - All students do not need to compete this many rounds as some students may be eliminated during the course of the tournament.
 - No student/team should receive more than one bye in prelims recorded as a win.
 - Byes should be determined by the tabulation software. *This means the tabulation software will assign byes to both the random and power-matched rounds.*
- Follow Stoa event rules. <http://www.stoausa.org/debate-events>
- Use Stoa resolutions.
- Minimum number of 7 debate teams participating day(s) of tournament
 - *Teams = students in LDV debate and IP debate (IP debate is not a NITOC event.)*

Tabulation

- Stoa Transparent Tabulation Policy.
- Inform tournament attendees in writing on the tournament registration site of any variation from published Stoa tabulation recommendations before registration opens. *Read this document for recommendations: [Stoa Joy of Tournaments Tabulation Instruction Manual](#)*
- A representative from at least two clubs must staff tab room.

Judges

- Must be physically present in the room.
- A student may not compete and judge within the same competition season.
 - *Judges at NITOC shall be age 18 or older on January 1.*

Tournament Application

The Tournament Director must be a Stoa Member.

To the best of your current knowledge, please provide the following tournament details to help the Stoa Calendar Administrator easily post your basic information to the calendar:



1. Tournament Name:
2. Dates:
3. Facility Name & Address:
4. The following Stoa debate events will be offered:

5. The following Stoa speech events will be offered: *(place an X in the box)*
 No speech events Some speech events All speech events
**Additional instruction for speech & debate events should be included on registration website.*

6. The following other events will be offered:

Other Event Information: _____

7. Contact information for Tournament Director
 - Director's name
 - Email Address
 - Phone Number
 - Hosting Club

If this is your first time to host a Stoa tournament, or you are hosting with a new approach and would like a Stoa board member's input, please email us. We would love to provide help and encouragement:
<http://www.stoausa.org/about/leadership>

8. Link to Registration:
(or submit asap to Stoa Calendar Administrator for inclusion on tournament entry)

I agree that the above information is correct and this tournament will be in compliance with the minimum standards listed on page 2 (copied from the Stoa USA website). I understand that failure to abide by these guidelines can result in the loss of privilege to post to the Stoa USA tournament calendar and/or Speechranks.

Tournament Director's Name
Stoa Minimum Tournament Requirements

Date