



**Stoa trusts local leaders to make the majority of decisions about local tournaments in order to best serve the needs of their area.** Here is a sampling, but not an exhaustive list, of ways in which tournament directors exercise local control.

- Choose a location: city and state
- Pick the venue: church, school, 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: 1 day, 1.5 days, 2 day, 3 days, etc.
- Set the tournament structure: number of preliminary rounds and outrounds.
- Determine the tournament schedule: choose when to start and finish each day.
- Manage all money: Stoa does not interact with local funds. Excess tournament funds may be donated to a ministry, NITOC scholarship fund, local clubs, etc.
- Plan extra tournament activities and socials.
- Offer additional events such as novice or juniors. These are not eligible for NITOC, but fun and helpful activities.
- Administrate the tab files locally and transparently.

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

**1. Date**

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

**2. Tournament Application**

- Submit application to Stoa Calendar Administrator ideally 6 weeks prior to tournament.
- If the 6 weeks deadline cannot be met, please contact us to request an extension.
- Announced nationally by posting to the Stoa calendar.

**3. Participation**

- Age: competitors shall be ages 12 to 18 on October 1st of the competition year.
- Open to participants from across the country.
- Must involve at least two clubs.

**4. Speech Events**

- When speech is offered, at least three rounds must be completed at the tournament.
- All competitors do not need to compete in all three rounds, as some competitors may be eliminated during the course of the tournament.

- competitors in the top 40th percentile will earn a “green checkmark” on Speechranks.
- Three competitors are required for one competitor to earn a “green checkmark”; five competitors are required for two competitors to earn a “green checkmark”, etc.
- Follow Stoa speech rules. Only exception: Script Submission requirement is under local control. Script submission is required at NITOC.

#### 5. **Debate Events**

- When debate is offered, at least six rounds must be completed. Minimum of four preliminary rounds.
- All competitors do not need to compete in all six rounds as some competitors may be eliminated during the course of the tournament.
- No competitor/team should receive more than one bye 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 debate rules.
- Use Stoa resolutions.
- Minimum number of 7 debate teams participating: Teams = competitors in LDV debate and IP debate. (IP debate is not a NITOC event.)

#### 6. **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. For recommendations read: [\*Stoa Joy of Tournaments Tabulation Instruction Manual\*](#)
- A representative from at least two clubs must staff the tab room.

#### 7. **Judges**

- Must be physically present in the room.
- A competitor may not compete and judge within the same competition season.

#### 8. **Tournament Director:** must be a Stoa member.