

*The Stoa National Invitational  
Tournament of Champions  
NTIOC*

## **I. PHILOSOPHY**

Stoa believes in the educational value of Christian homeschool competitive forensics and thus seeks to encourage and build student participation in every state.

Stoa believes a national tournament that invites and brings together as many as possible of the best Christian homeschool speakers and debaters in the country is a valuable experience that will strengthen competition, build relationships, and enhance the educational value for all students.

Stoa believes its invitational process should allow for the greatest number of students to participate, regardless of league affiliation, while maintaining the integrity of competition.

Stoa believes a public record of student performance, calculated by a mathematical model, will allow for clarity and transparency in the invitational process.

## **II. THE DILEMMA and THE SOLUTION**

In keeping with the philosophical goals outlined above, Stoa desires to implement an invitational model that fairly represents all states, those with abundant student participation and those with minimal student participation in Christian Homeschool Forensics. Stoa has sought and received input from leaders of the Christian Homeschool Forensics community throughout the nation and continues to do so. Reconciling the differences in student participation has proven difficult, and no strictly mathematical model has worked. Stoa has turned to the wisdom of our Nation's Founding Fathers who struggled with this same dilemma (although on an admittedly more profound scale) and who were inspired to create the bicameral legislature to reconcile the representational needs of the large states with those of the small states. Stoa has drawn upon that inspiration for the general philosophy of its bicameral invitational model: a National Invitational Model and a State Invitational Model.

### III. THE NATIONAL CHRISTIAN HOMESCHOOL SPEECH AND DEBATE RANKINGS ([www.Speechranks.com](http://www.Speechranks.com))

Stoa uses the information publicly available at Speechranks to determine invitations to the National Invitational Tournament of Champions. The use of publicly available information is in keeping with Stoa's philosophy of openness and transparency. Anyone in the nation can check the veracity of Stoa's invitational process. The National Christian Homeschool Speech and Debate Rankings website records two type of results data, Green Check Marks and Rank Points. (These are explained in greater detail on the Speechranks site.)

#### A. Green Check Marks

- Green Check Mark is defined as:
  - Speech
    - A top 40th percentile finish (top 40%) in a speech event at a tournament
    - Students are credited with a Green Check Mark independent of their advancement or non-advancement in outrounds at each particular tournament.
  - Debate
    - Having at least two more wins than losses at the end of prelims or at some point during outrounds
      - In **even-round** prelim tournaments approximately one-third of students/teams will achieve a 3-1, 4-2, or 5-3 record or better
        - If a student/team does not advance to outrounds, they still earn a Green Check Mark
        - If the student/team advances and loses in outrounds, they still earn a Green Check Mark
      - In **odd-round** prelim tournaments, the same formula cannot be used because one-half of students/teams will be 3-2, 4-3 or better
        - To keep the math the same for all tournaments, students/teams with a 3-2 or 4-3 record would need to win at least one outround, making their record 4-2 or 5-3 (thus placing them in the top one-third of students/teams). Even if they lose the following outround they still earn a Green Check Mark
        - Students/teams achieving a 4-1, 5-2 or better record in an odd-round prelim event would earn a Green Check Mark because they have at least two more wins than losses. They are in the top one-third of students/teams. Whether they advance to outrounds or not, or if they lose in outrounds, they will still earn a Green Check Mark.

Students are credited with a Green Check Marks whether or not full Outrounds are run.

Approximately 33% of the teams will earn a Green Check Mark. (As noted above, events with an odd number of preliminary rounds are handled differently. This is necessary to make the system equitable.)

Green Check Marks recognize the same percentage of participants at all events and all tournaments. Because every student, regardless of event, tournament, organization/league has an equal opportunity to achieve a Green Check Mark, this is the method used for inviting students to NITOC.

## **B. Rank Points**

Points are based on a student's percentile finish. Every student, in every event and each tournament, achieving the same percentile finish is awarded the same number of points. Percentile finish tables can be viewed at the end of this document. A student's three best regular season tournament results are utilized to give a Rank Point total for comparison to other students.

Debaters are guaranteed at least a minimum number of points based on their preliminary record. This means that teams competing at any size tournaments can achieve the same number of points for performing well during the preliminary rounds.

Stoa utilizes the Rank Point totals for the purpose of seeding students at NITOC.

Visit [Speechranks](#) for a complete explanation of their scoring methods.

## **IV. THE INVITATIONAL PROCESS**

The Invitational Process includes National and State Invitation Models.

### **A. National Invitation Model**

Stoa will extend invitations to the National Invitational Tournament of Champions to nationally ranked competitors in all NITOC speech and debate events, independent of state lines and regardless of league affiliations, using the information posted publicly on the National Christian Homeschool Speech and Debate Rankings (Speechranks) website.

Stoa will invite all national competitors with two Green Check Marks in Lincoln Douglas Value Debate (LDV), Team Policy Debate (TP), Parliamentary Debate (Parli) and in each of the NITOC Individual Speech Events (IE) to the Stoa National Invitational Tournament of Champions.

Because there are no predetermined number of slots per state in the National Invitational Process, all students at local tournaments will have an equal percentage chance of receiving an invitation to the Stoa National Invitational Tournament of Champions based on their performances.

## **B. State Invitation Model**

### **1. Student Invitations in Speech**

The highest-ranked competitor from each state in each NITOC Individual Speaking Event will receive an invitation to the Stoa National Invitational Tournament of Champions.

**NOTE:** For DUO Interpretation, only teams may be invited to the Stoa National Invitational Tournament of Champions. In other words, a student may not receive an invitation with one partner and then compete at the Stoa National Invitational Tournament of Champions with another. If a student receives an invitation with two different partners, he/she must choose with which partner to compete.

### **2. Student Invitations in Debate**

The two highest-ranked debate teams from each state in each type of NITOC Debate Event will receive an invitation to the Stoa National Invitational Tournament of Champions.

**NOTE:** For Team Policy and Parliamentary Debate only teams may be invited to the Stoa National Invitational Tournament of Champions. In other words, a student may not receive an invitation with one partner and then compete at the Stoa National Invitational Tournament of Champions with another. If a student receives an invitation with two different partners in the same event, he/she must choose with which partner to compete.

## **V. DEBATING TWO LD RESOLUTIONS AT NITOC**

- **Prelim Rounds**
  - All Round 1 pairings will debate one of the resolutions and Round 2 pairings will debate the other resolution as determined in Tab by coin flip.
    - As per NITOC protocol, Hi Seeds/Low Seeds will debate Affirmative or Negative in these two rounds as determined in Tab by coin flip.
  - Round 3 and 4 pairings will debate the resolution used in Round 1 with each student debating Affirmative and Negative.
  - Round 5 and 6 pairings will debate the resolution used in Round 2 with each student debating Affirmative and Negative.
- **Outrounds**
  - The student winning the coin toss has the option to choose either to debate Affirmative or Negative or to choose which resolution to debate
    - If the student winning the coin toss chooses Aff/Neg, the other student chooses the resolution
    - If the student winning the coin toss chooses the resolution, the other student chooses Aff/Neg

## **VI. SEEDING AT THE STOA NATIONAL INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS**

Events at the Stoa National Invitational Tournament of Champions will be seeded based on the rankings on the Speechranks website. Seeding is based on a student's three best performances during the speech and debate season. This provides a motivation toward continued excellence throughout the year, as that excellence is rewarded at NITOC.

### **Seeding influences speech and debate competition in the following ways:**

- Preliminary Rounds of speech and the first two rounds of debate will be “power protect” rounds.
  - In Speech Events, all preliminary rounds will spread the top-ranked students, one per classroom, equal to the number of classrooms per event. This has advantages for both the top-ranked students and those that are not highly ranked as the competition is spread more evenly among the rooms.
    - For the top students, this means they will not have to compete against the other top students in prelims. This should increase their chances of advancing to outrounds.
    - For the lesser-ranked students, this means they will not have to endure a prelim round with all the top-ranked students in their room. This should also increase their chances of advancing to outrounds.
  - In Debate Events, the first two preliminary rounds will match the seeds top to bottom.
    - #1 seed debates the lowest seed; #2 seed debates the second lowest seed; ...
      - Seeds are flipped one position for Round 2
    - Students/Teams will be club protected during these first two rounds only. (This is the only exception to matching top seeds to bottom seeds as adjustments to the pairings are made as necessitated by club protection. The next highest of the lower seeded students/teams will be moved up to debate the higher seed.)
    - Traditional “Power Matching” (Hi/Lo within brackets) begins in Round 3

**Speech and Debate Percentile Finish Tables** on the next page.

## Speech and Debate Percentile Finish Tables

Demonstrates the equivalence point totals for the same percentile finishes.

### 20 Students or Teams Participating

<b>Placing</b>	<b># in Event</b>	<b>Percentile Finish</b>	<b>Points</b>
1	20	<b>5.00</b>	<b>20.00</b>
2	20	<b>10.00</b>	<b>10.00</b>
3	20	<b>15.00</b>	<b>6.67</b>
4	20	<b>20.00</b>	<b>5.00</b>
5	20	<b>25.00</b>	<b>4.00</b>
6	20	<b>30.00</b>	<b>3.33</b>
7	20	<b>35.00</b>	<b>2.86</b>
8	20	<b>40.00</b>	<b>2.50</b>
Etc. up to 20	20	<b>100.00</b>	<b>1.0</b>

### 40 Students or Teams Participating

<b>Placing</b>	<b># in Event</b>	<b>Percentile Finish</b>	<b>Points</b>
1	40	<b>2.50</b>	<b>40.00</b>
2	40	<b>5.00</b>	<b>20.00</b>
3	40	<b>7.50</b>	<b>13.33</b>
4	40	<b>10.00</b>	<b>10.00</b>
5	40	<b>12.50</b>	<b>8.00</b>
6	40	<b>15.00</b>	<b>6.67</b>
7	40	<b>17.50</b>	<b>5.71</b>
8	40	<b>20.00</b>	<b>5.00</b>
9	40	<b>22.50</b>	<b>4.44</b>
10	40	<b>25.00</b>	<b>4.00</b>
11	40	<b>27.50</b>	<b>6.34</b>
12	40	<b>30.00</b>	<b>3.33</b>
13	40	<b>32.50</b>	<b>3.08</b>
14	40	<b>35.00</b>	<b>2.86</b>
15	40	<b>37.50</b>	<b>2.67</b>
16	40	<b>40.00</b>	<b>2.50</b>
Etc. up to 40	40	<b>100.00</b>	<b>1.0</b>

### 60 Students or Teams Participating

<b>Placing</b>	<b># in Event</b>	<b>Percentile Finish</b>	<b>Points</b>
1	60	<b>1.67</b>	<b>60.00</b>
2	60	<b>3.33</b>	<b>30.00</b>
3	60	<b>5.00</b>	<b>20.00</b>
4	60	<b>6.67</b>	<b>15.00</b>
5	60	<b>8.33</b>	<b>12.00</b>
6	60	<b>10.00</b>	<b>10.00</b>
7	60	<b>11.67</b>	<b>8.57</b>
8	60	<b>13.33</b>	<b>7.50</b>
9	60	<b>15.00</b>	<b>6.67</b>
10	60	<b>16.67</b>	<b>6.00</b>
11	60	<b>18.33</b>	<b>5.45</b>
12	60	<b>20.00</b>	<b>5.00</b>
13	60	<b>21.67</b>	<b>4.62</b>
14	60	<b>23.33</b>	<b>4.29</b>
15	60	<b>25.00</b>	<b>4.00</b>
16	60	<b>26.67</b>	<b>3.75</b>
17	60	<b>28.33</b>	<b>3.53</b>
18	60	<b>30.00</b>	<b>3.33</b>
19	60	<b>31.67</b>	<b>3.16</b>
20	60	<b>33.33</b>	<b>3.00</b>
21	60	<b>35.00</b>	<b>2.86</b>
22	60	<b>36.67</b>	<b>2.73</b>
23	60	<b>38.33</b>	<b>2.61</b>
24	60	<b>40.00</b>	<b>2.50</b>
Etc. up to 60	60	<b>100.00</b>	<b>1.0</b>