



CHRISTIAN HOMESCHOOL SPEECH & DEBATE

Minimum Tournament Standards

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 days, 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. The Tournament signature represents that you agree to abide by the following minimum tournament standards and be classified as a Stoa Tournament:

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 the Stoa Calendar Administrator ideally 6 weeks prior to tournament.
- If the 6 weeks deadline cannot be met, please contact us to request an extension.
- Tournaments are 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 to be rewarded “green checkmarks” based on the Speechranks standards.
- 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.
- Script Submission requirement is under local control, but strongly encouraged.
- Script submission is required at NITOC.
- Inform tournament attendees in writing on the tournament registration site of any variation from published Stoa Script Submission requirements before registration opens.

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.

9. **Tournament Insurance:** If Stoa insurance is used, all families competing must be Stoa members.

