2024 NIETOC FAQS

*Where is the most up-to-date tournament information?

We have attempted to provide all of the key details for this year's tournament at the 'Files for Download' page on SpeechWire, found here -- https://www.speechwire.com/c-info.php?tournid=16051 – and this information is typically more current and applicable than our website. Please check here for answers to many of your questions.

*What is the tournament schedule?

All times listed are in CST. Schedule found here https://www.speechwire.com/c-schedule.php?tournid=16051

*What are the deadlines?

March 31 – All entries registered
April 10 -- At-large entries confirmed
April 15 – Payment (or proof of purchase order) and Paperwork due
April 25 – Late Registration Due
May 1 – Late Registrations Payment/Paperwork due
May 2 – Incomplete or Unpaid Entries dropped from the tournament w/o refunds

Specific details here: https://www.speechwire.com/files/16051-2024%20Fee%20Information.pdf

*What does the team fee of $250 cover?

$50 is used toward tournament expenses and the $200 is the judge bond, which is refundable as long as at least one judge is provided and any/all judge obligations during the tournament are met.

*How do I pay my registration fees?

After clicking on your SpeechWire invoice, you will find a link to PayPal. There, you can use a PayPal account or a debit/credit card to pay your balance. If that link doesn't work properly, you can also send a PayPal payment to info@nietoc.com (please add a detailed note which identifies the school that should receive credit). We are also considering sending invoices via Quickbooks, but have not finalized that process just yet. Checks should be mailed to our working address (Matt Heimes, 5330 NW 6th Street, Lincoln, NE 68521-4306) and copies of purchase orders should be emailed to mheimes@lps.org.

*Where do I get the W9 needed to request payment?

That form is listed in the 'Files for Download' and linked here -
https://www.speechwire.com/files/16051-2024%20NIETOC%20W9.pdf

*Do students need parental permission to participate?

Yes. Please see the legal documentation details found here --
https://www.speechwire.com/files/16051-2024%20Legal%20Documentation.pdf

*How do I know which registration steps are completed/left to complete?

At the top of your registration page on SpeechWire, there is a blue box title 'Tournament Entry Status.' As each of the four key steps is completed, you will see the status wording change from red (not yet approved) to green (approved).

*How many events can a student enter?

<u>Extemporaneous Speakers may only double-enter.</u> Other students may enter three main events, as long as one of them is NOT extemp. Those eligible to triple-enter may do so within a single flight this year. Students may double-enter the supplemental events.

FLIGHT A EVENTS = DI, DA, HI, OO
FLIGHT B EVENTS = DUO, EXT, INF, POI
SUPPLEMENTAL EVENTS = EXPOSITORY, IMPROMPTU, POETRY, PROSE

*Does every student on my registration need their own SpeechWire account?

Yes, that must be tied to an email that they can access easily and they must activate their account. Entries will not be able to registered without having these steps done first. Without an activated account, students will not be able to participate in our tournament. Those in draw events will need access to those accounts during the tournament in order to participate. NIETOC will not be responsible for students missing rounds due to this issue. Please view this page for steps to complete this VITAL step -- https://www.speechwire.com/files/16051-2024%20STUDENT%20ACCOUNTS.pdf

*Are Bonus Entries available?

Yes, in Duet and POI. Please see this form for details: https://www.speechwire.com/files/16051-2024%20BONUS%20ENTRIES.pdf

*Is selection info required at registration?

Yes, please provide topics & titles and all other requested information upon registration. Not doing so will delay the entry in getting approved. If an entry is not yet approved, that is the first thing to check. In the event of protest during the competition, coaches should be prepared to provide proof of publication, proof of cutting, performance manuscripts, and works cited pages.

*Which events require Works Cited pages?

Informative, Oratory, POI and Expository. Students will need to create these digital files and then share a link with the coach, who adds that link to those entries prior to the registration deadline. This must be present in order for your 'Piece Information' confirmation to occur. <mark>Please make sure that the settings do not require an access password and allow anyone with the link to open the document.</mark>

*How do we know when our judges are obligated and/or need to be available?

Detailed information about judging is provided here: https://www.speechwire.com/files/16051-2024%20Judging%20Obligations.pdf

By clicking on 'Edit your judges' in SpeechWire, you can provide specific information regarding time or event blocks. Be sure to provide answers to the key questions about your registered judges so that we may schedule them accordingly. Remember that a judge missing a round will result in the forfeiture of your $200 judge bond.

*How do I know when my entries are officially approved?

After clicking on "Update Your Entries' in Speechwire, you will see a list of all registered competitors. At the far right, those who have been accepted will have 'Approved' in green.

*Are we providing t-shirts and lapel pins?

Yes, we will be providing a shirt and a pin for each competitor and head coach. The online t-shirt ordering site will be provided in early April. A detailed handout will be posted under 'Files for Download.' Both of these items will be available for pick-up at registration.

-Matt Heimes, President & Tournament Manager