

2026 NIETOC Extemp Prep Guidelines

Hello Coaches and Competitors!

As the head of extemp prep and question writer for NIETOC, I wanted to take this time to outline what the Prep Room will look like for this year, as well as any tournament-specific expectations to keep in mind. The Prep Room Staff (Lily, Thadeus, Yatesh and myself) will also be available during the tournament to address any concerns you may have. Here are some of the highlights for extempers and their coaches to keep in mind:

*In all rounds, we will utilize a 10-minute spacing between speaker draws.

*Draw will be done online via Speechwire. Please familiarize yourself with the process before the tournament by reviewing the documents found on NIETOC's Speechwire page. Competitors, please be aware of your speaker code, competition section and position in the speaking order for all rounds in which you participate. Draw will be called based on speaker codes **ONLY**.

*Competitors will be asked to attend a **MANDATORY** pre-draw meeting before Round 1. This meeting will be scheduled for May 8th at 8:35 a.m. at the Shakopee Thrust Stage (Prep Room). We will go over any last-minute changes and discuss draw procedures at this time.

*This year will be a first for us having split IX and USX competition. Since there will be an extemp round in each flight, we will not be able to use the space as a common area as in years past. Please be respectful of other competitors and their need for quiet and peace.

*All competitors must be in the prep room at the start of the draw for all rounds they are assigned to compete in. We understand that competitors may have events in the flight opposite to their extemp format, but we ask that students do their best to arrive on time. As a result, **students may ask to be excused from their opposite flight round if still in the room 15 minutes before the start of draw. JUDGES WILL BE MADE AWARE OF THIS NEED IN TRAINING.** We will be prioritizing draws for double-entered competitors in the flight being run at that time, so those speakers need to draw as soon as possible after the round begins. Also, please be prepared to move up in the speaker order if necessary, so we can keep the tournament on schedule.

*We will be working with a couple of spaces this year (Shakopee's Thrust Stage for Prelims and Octafinals, and the Media Center for the remainder of Elims). We ask that all competitors

remain cognizant of this, and allow other competitors the space they need to prep. That way, we can ensure that all competitors have a space during the preliminary rounds. **We will utilize an open prep room concept this year.** Once a competitor has drawn their question, they are free to leave the prep room and prepare where they please, so long as they do not communicate with others and not pose an undue disruption on the larger tournament.

*Charging of computers will be allowed during and between rounds. We are working to maximize power socket access. You can help us in this by having your device(s) fully charged, as well as bringing power strips for yourself and others. Share the power, so you can speak truth to it!

*Once the draw starts for any round, we ask that all conversation in the prep room be kept to an absolute minimum. If you need to use your phone or talk with anyone before your time to draw, we ask that you leave the Prep Area.

*In the final round, NIETOC will allow an exception to standing policies regarding notes. Competitors will be allowed to read from a paper copy of the prompt in the final round to ensure clarity for the audience and judge panel. Otherwise, all other NIETOC rules regarding Extemp will be in full force.

*A backup internet infrastructure has been put in place in case of unexpected technical issues and/or if a student's computer is unable to connect to the host school internet network. Access information will be provided on an as needed basis by prep room/tournament staff. Please check BEFORE round 1 to ensure you are able to connect to the provided host school network.

Thank you for taking the time to read these guidelines. We like to run a tight ship at NIETOC, and these procedures will ensure a smooth tournament experience. We will also touch on these guidelines in the pre-tournament extemp meeting before Round 1 commences.

See you at NIETOC!
-Andrew Moffitt