



2026 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=20612> – 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=20612>

***What are the deadlines?**

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

Specific details here: <https://www.speechwire.com/files/20612-2026%20Fee%20Information.pdf>

***What does the team fee of \$150 cover?**

That fee is used toward tournament expenses, specifically the areas of security and hospitality.

***How do I pay my registration fees?**

-Send a check payable to NIETOC, to Becca Hier, 1207 Rawhide Road, Papillion, NE 68046
-Submit a PO to treasurer@nietoc.org as a placeholder until the check arrives.
-Send an email to treasurer@nietoc.org requesting a digital pay link, which will include a processing fee.

As payments are received, credits will appear on your invoice/indicate outstanding balances.

***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/20612-2026%20NIETOC%20W9.pdf>

***Do students need parental permission to participate?**

Yes. Please see the legal documentation details found here --
<https://www.speechwire.com/files/20612-2026%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?**

Students may only double-enter (in both main and supplemental events). Extempers may NOT enter both divisions of Extemp, but can enter another main event.

FLIGHT A EVENTS = DI, HI, IX, OO

FLIGHT B EVENTS = DUO, INF, POI, USX

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 register 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 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/20612-2026%20STUDENT%20ACCOUNTS.pdf>

***Are Bonus Entries available?**

Yes, in supplemental events. Each school may bring two additional supplemental events (per team) for students who are not competing in main events.

***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.

HI/DI/DUO/POI/PR/PO: Coaches must be able to produce original sources as well as a photocopied and highlighted copy of the cutting including any transitions and introduction within 30 minutes if the entry is challenged. Not being able to produce these items will result in disqualification.

OO/INFO/EXTEMP/EXPOS: Coaches should ensure, that beyond the 150 quoted words allowed, this work has been written by the student performing it and not created by a large language model. Not adhering to this will result in qualification.

NIETOC's AI Policy

At NIETOC, the use of AI Generative Models and Large Language Models is both discouraged and prohibited. Students who navigate to these websites during the tournament will face consequences up to and including disqualification. For example, extempers should not navigate to these websites during prep time. Presenting AI work as your own – in any of our events - is viewed as plagiarism.

Our expectation is that students have not used these websites in the creation process of their speech or performance. Navigating to AI websites during competition, even to retrieve previously searched information, is against this policy. Ultimately, this policy seeks to preserve and prioritize student critical thinking and creative writing in their performance.

***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. **Please make sure that the settings do not require an access password and allow anyone with the link to open the document.**

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

Detailed information about judging is provided here – **COMING SOON!**

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 a \$200 fine.

***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 items will be available for pick-up at registration.