

**2026 NIETOC TABBING PROCEDURES -- SUPPLEMENTAL EVENTS**

Contestants eliminated from the main events after Round 4 may participate in two of these events (Prose, Poetry, Expository, Impromptu) if pre-registered for each. The students/coaches should quickly complete supplemental re-registration during the posted time.

**PRELIMS** – In the three preliminary rounds there will be two judges, whose ranks will not be combined. If more than 29 students compete in an event, 12 students will advance to a semifinal round. If more than 49 students compete in an event, 18 students will advance to semifinals. If more than 69 students compete in an event, 24 students will advance to semifinals. If 29 students or fewer compete, 6 students will advance directly to the final round.

After adjusting all individual ranks of 6 or 7 to a 5, the lowest rank will be dropped. Advancing to an elim round is based on:

1. Lowest preliminary cumulative rank total, using the five best modified ranks
2. Highest preliminary cumulative reciprocal total, using the five modified reciprocals
3. Lowest preliminary rank total using all six ranks, reverting to original/unmodified ranks
4. Head-to-head in prelims (two-way ties only) using all six unmodified ranks
5. Lowest Opponent's Average Rank using all six unmodified ranks
6. Greatest number of 1s, then greatest number of 2s, all the way down to the worst rank using all six unmodified ranks
7. Drop the worst unmodified rank (leaving five unmodified ranks)
8. Drop the best unmodified rank (leaving five unmodified ranks)

**SEMIFINALS** -- The semifinal round, if held, will be power balanced with five judges in each section. All individual ranks earned in the Semifinal round will remain unmodified. The six students with the best cumulative rankings after the semifinal round will advance to the final round based on the following:

1. Lowest cumulative rank total in all rounds (five best modified prelims + semis)
2. Highest cumulative reciprocal total in all rounds (five best modified prelims + semis)
3. Lowest rank total in the semifinal round only
4. Highest reciprocal total in the semifinal round only
5. Lowest Panel Rank in Semifinals. Panel Rank will be computed in the following way:
  - A. Students in the section will be ordered according to their semifinal rank total
  - B. In case of a tie, judges' preference will be employed\*
  - C. If judges' preference is unable to break the tie, use semifinal round reciprocals to break the panel rank tie.
6. Judges' preference\* in semifinal round only (if tied contestants are in the same semifinal panel)
7. Lowest Opponent's Average Rank
8. Greatest number of 1s, then greatest number of 2s, all the way down to the worst rank in all rounds (five best modified prelims + semifinals)

**FINALS** -- The final round will have seven judges. The six finalists will speak in a random order. All individual ranks earned in the final round will remain unmodified. Tournament placing will be determined on the following:

1. Lowest cumulative rank total in all rounds (five best modified prelims + semis + finals)
2. Highest cumulative reciprocal total in all rounds (five best modified prelims + semis + finals)
3. Lowest rank total in the final round only
4. Highest reciprocal total in the final round only
5. Judges' preference\* in final round only
6. Lowest Opponent's Average Rank
7. Greatest number of 1s, then greatest number of 2s, all the way down to the worst rank in all rounds (seven best modified prelims + semis + finals)

\* - Judges' preference: If a student received the top rank among the tied students from a majority of the judges in the section containing the tie, that student will come out of the tie in first via judges' preference. If a three-or-more-way tie is broken in this fashion, a tie may still remain - if so, judges' preference will then be used on it, as well.