

## 2026 NIETOC JUDGING OBLIGATIONS

**JUDGE BOND** – We have removed the judge bond expectation from prior years. Instead, we will be using the following procedures:

- Judging Requirements - One judge covers four entries; \$25 per uncovered entry
- Hired Judge Fee - \$250 per team if no judge(s) provided
- Judge Penalty - \$200 fine for unexcused absence from assigned rounds. Payment due by June 15.

**TRAINING** – UPDATED INFORMATION COMING SOON.

**PROOF OF TRAINING** – UPDATED INFORMATION COMING SOON

**DIGITAL BALLOTS** – All tournament rounds will be judged live on SpeechWire using digital ballots. Tutorial video about this process found here --  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YJXxeVS-KgM>

**PANELS** – You are NEVER the only judge in a round. Please DO NOT start the round before all judges are present. Please DO NOT confer with any of the other judges in the round. The following number of judges will be used in each round:

\*Main Event Prelims=2 judges, Octos = 3, Quarters=3 judges, Semis=5 judges, Final=7 judges

\*Supplemental Prelims=2 judges, Semifinals=3 judges, Finals=5 judges

**STANDBY** – Any judges not scheduled for any preliminary round or pooled for an elimination round are considered on standby and should remain in the hospitality area until the round has been cleared or your team has been dismissed from the tournament.

**OBLIGATIONS** – Judges are: (1) obligated for any and all assigned rounds or pools in main and/or supplemental events, (2) automatically obligated through the octafinal round of main events, and (3) obligated through the round in which your school has competitors. Failing to meet these obligations will result in a \$200 fine.

**SUPPLEMENTAL ROUNDS** – Judges for any schools with supplemental entries, as well as tournament judges, are automatically included in the pool for supplemental event prelims and are obligated through the supplemental finals around 8 pm on Saturday evening. Additional judges may also be pooled for these events.

**QUARTERS/SEMIS/FINALS POOLS** – These are partially preset. In addition, judges from those schools still obligated may be ADDED to these rounds. The same situation holds true for supplemental pools.

