

## 2025 NIETOC JUDGING OBLIGATIONS

**JUDGE BOND** – \$200 per school to ensure that hired judges fulfill all obligations. As long as at least one judge is provided and all judging responsibilities are met, this bond is refundable after the tournament. A digital form for claiming the bond will be shared with head coaches. It is the coach's affirmative duty to complete the bond refund document by the announced deadline.

**TRAINING** – New this year, we are asking all judges in the categories of College Competitor, Volunteer or Parent Judge to complete one of two training options: 1) Take the free [NFHS 'Adjudicating Speech & Debate' course](#) and provide proof of completion. 2) A judge who judged at NSDA last summer (or will this year) can submit their judge certification(s) taken as part of the NSDA judge training program via Tabroom. Head and assistant coaches are exempt from this requirement.

**PROOF OF TRAINING** – Using this [SHARED FOLDER](#) – please complete the following steps: 1) Create a team folder for your team and then 2) upload the PDF or screenshot for any of the judges for whom training is required (college, volunteer, parent). Please note the sample documentation and the Lincoln Southwest folder as an example.

**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, Quarterfinals=3 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.

**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 bond forfeiture.

**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.

**QUARTER/SEMI/FINAL 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.