

2025 QUALIFICATION METHODS

Please use this for determining which category to register your students for this year's tournament.

Option 1 – Automatic Qualifier — To automatically qualify for the NIETOC, students must meet one of the following criteria:

A – Semifinalist or Finalist at the 2024 NIETOC or NSDA tournaments in the same event for which they are registering.

B – Top three finish at current year's state tournament (if held prior to April 25).

C – Finalist at the MASQ Qualifying tournaments (Dec 2024 or Feb 2025)

Option 2 – Bid Qualifier — To qualify via the Bid System for the NIETOC, students must earn two bids in a given event at NIETOC-designated tournaments throughout the country.

A – Regular Season Bids earned during the 2024-25 season. To verify that your student is bid qualified, check this database -- <http://nietoc.com/am-i-qualified/>. >Post season bids and several of the automatic qualifications will NOT appear within this database. Those will be independently verified.

B – Post-Season Bids — Contestants receive one bid for each of the following:

>One bid earned by being Quarterfinalist at previous year's MASQ.

>One bid earned by being a Finalist at 2024 state tournament.

>One bid earned by being a Finalist at 2025 state tournament. We will also extend a bid to semifinalists at the current year's state tournament if there are more than 50 contestants in that event.

C – NSDA National Qualifier – Contestants qualified for the 2025 NSDA tournament receive one bid in that event. This also applies if the student qualified in an event, but is attending in another (due to the NSDA single-qualifier rules).

Option 3 – At-Large Qualifier* — To be considered under the At-Large system, a student must earn three “legs” which can be earned at any NIETOC Bid or non-Bid tournaments that accumulate to a total ranking of 12 or less. This is a change from previous years.

To illustrate: Joe Smith's DI ranks: 4th, 6th, 4th, 5th, 8th

Sarah Jones' HI ranks: 4th, 3rd, 1st, 2nd, 12th

In this scenario, Joe's best 3 tournaments result in a total of 13, while Sarah's best 3 results in a total of 6. Thus, Sarah would qualify for consideration as an at-large entry to NIETOC, but Joe would not.

*Students meeting the above qualification criteria must complete the NIETOC online registration via SpeechWire and provide a working link to documentation via a Google folder. Competitors will be placed on a waiting list until all supporting information can be confirmed. At-large registration is due by March 31, with acceptance notifications provided by April 10.

Option 4 – Bonus Qualifier* — We are also offering bonus entries in two events this year.

1- DUET ACTING. Competitors in Duet Acting are eligible under both the at-large and bid qualifying systems. If you attended bid tournaments where duet acting was offered, and your students earn two bids throughout the year, you may enter the event in the Bid Division. If your state offers Duet Acting as a main event, you will be eligible to enter the event as a regular at-large entry. As a reminder, to qualify as an At-Large entry, the competitors must have three tournament placings that total less than 10. These results can come from any tournament. In addition, we are offering the following incentive for this year's NIETOC: If you have a single-entered NIETOC qualifier, that student may enter duet acting with a partner of their choice, as a bonus entry. In other words, one of the two students must be qualified for the NIETOC in another event. Each school is eligible for two of these bonus duet acting entries. Competitors in this division will be permitted to use on-stage focus, physical interaction and two standard classroom chairs. Another way teams may use this bonus Duet entry is when a qualified duo is unable to attend because one of the partners cannot participate. In that case, the remaining partner (who did qualify) can bring a partner of their choice and instead enter Duet Acting. Keeping or changing the script is a coach's decision, but the performance should adhere to the rules of Duet and not those of Duo.

2 – POI. POI contestants may qualify under both the BID and AT-LARGE systems. If a bid school tournament offers POI or TI (Thematic Interp), bids will be awarded at the appropriate level. As POI continues to grow and develop, we will also allow students to apply for acceptance via the at-large system. Each school, provided they have qualified students in at least one event, is eligible for one bonus POI entry.