

General Instructions for Speech Judges

You may text the Tab Room Staff at 470-222-4641. Please do not call, text only.
Be sure to include your Event, Judge Code, and Section Letter in your text asking for assistance.

As soon as you arrive at the round, please hit the “START ROUND” button so we know you have arrived at the room.

When the round is completed, please be sure to submit your ranks and ALSO CONFIRM THEM on the next screen. Submitting ranks is a two step process.

1. If there is a discrepancy between the judge card and the online assignments on Tabroom.com, judges are asked to judge the rounds assigned on Tabroom.com. Please also monitor your texts and emails in case you are needed as a replacement judge.
2. Speakers will speak IN THE ORDER LISTED. .
3. Judges should take attendance of the students before starting the round. If there are any students present that are not in the online ballot, please text the tabroom to ensure the student should be in the room.
4. There may be drops within preliminary round sections of which judges may be unaware. All rounds should have at least 5 contestants. If a round has fewer than 5 contestants, text the tab room to get instructions.
5. Judges should make certain that all THREE judges are present before beginning the round. Please confirm with each other that the assigned three judges are present. Decide which of the three will be the timekeeper for the round.
6. In any round of competition, it is unacceptable behavior for a spectator to address the group, and the judges should ensure that this behavior does not occur. Aside from the normal presentation of the student speeches, no one in the room shall be permitted to address the judges or the contestants. Judges may address the group regarding the normal transaction of the business of the round.
7. Audio and/or video recording of any round is strictly prohibited. Judges should ensure that such recording does not occur.
8. Read the critique sheet in your Judge Packet for specific rules of the event. This is a national tournament, please avoid judging on local criteria which are not reflected on the ballot.
9. Please note that at NCFL Dramatic Performance does encompass both Dramatic and Humorous presentations.
10. Please note that at NCFL, in Oral Interpretation, Poetry, any/all poems must be identified by name in the presentation.
11. Make sure that your comments are constructive and that they clearly justify the contestant's rank.

12. If time signals are given (and they **MUST** be given in Extemporaneous Speaking), establish clear signals with the contestant before he or she begins to speak. Please give time signals in any event if requested, at no penalty to the contestant.
13. Begin all rounds on time. Start times for each round will be found in the Tournament APP, on the online ballot, and on the assignment card..
14. If you have **ONLY** Round 2A or 2B free on your Assignment Card, use that free round for lunch. If you have them both free, please wait the half hour at the start of 2A, go have lunch and return for the start of 2B.
15. A Judge is not to confer with the other judges in the round. Rankings are to be reached independently. Judges are not to reveal their ranking to anyone.
16. Judges must not give oral critiques to the speakers. Students may be given their speaking time if they ask.
17. Please submit your OnLine Ballot rankings as soon as possible, and confirm your ranks after submission (it is a two step process). You may return to the comments section at any time during the day to add or complete your comments.
18. A judge who is not listed to judge a particular round should consider him/herself to be on **STANDBY** for that round. Please monitor your texts and emails, and look for assignments on Tabroom.com. It is requested judges remain in the Judge's Lounge for the first 30 minutes of the round to wait for replacement assignments that help us be sure that all rounds have their judges.
19. If a judge has any question about a selection and whether it conforms to the rules, please come to the **TAB ROOM** after the round. Judges **MUST NOT** take it upon themselves to disqualify a selection.
20. We cannot run this tournament without the time and effort judges give to this process. We are extremely grateful to all of the judges for sharing their expertise with us this weekend.
21. On Sunday Speech Judge Meetings are all back at Marquette in the Alumni Memorial Union Ballroom on the third floor (where your Saturday morning Judge Meeting was).