



Thank you for judging the Blyton Invitational.

The tournament website is here:

<http://blyton.tabroom.com/>

Please remember that all videos you judge are the property of the students who made them and are

only intended to be used for the sole purpose of online forensics competition in this educational activity. There is no other authorized use for these videos, and all links and access to student videos should be deleted once this tournament is over.

ONLINE JUDGING REFRESHER / TABROOM NAVIGATION

The coach of one of our member schools made a training video for parent judges you are welcome to view for a reminder how to use online ballots in Tabroom. It's about 13 minutes and concise and clear. Note that as our tournament is entirely asynchronous that we are NOT using Campus, just Tabroom.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UrV3BTJP3nk&feature=youtu.be>

NOVICE TOURNAMENT THIS IS, YES

At this tournament, only Novice entries are allowed. That means kids who are in their very first year of speech tournaments are allowed to compete (plus some experienced 9th graders who are in their very first year of Varsity contests).

You are to write your very best ballots for them.

Please give them your very best critiques remembering that because they're new, they especially need all the compliments you can give them about their performances. Give them something to work on for next tournament too, but this is your Mr. Rogers tournament – they are all your neighbors, and you're the kind adult helping eager young ones get better. Feel free to put on a sweater and sneakers as you judge.

JUDGING SCHEDULE

At 12 PM Eastern time on Thursday all preliminary rounds will begin. When you log into Tabroom, there will be a button on the right-hand side of the screen that will only appear when judging begins to START BALLOT. You can judge at any time until 11 PM Eastern time on Sunday. Given such a long and relaxed time to get ballots in, I expect everyone will turn their ballots in early each time, giving me some time off from worrying about it too.

SCORING GUIDELINES

You will rank the competitors with 1 being the best, 2 being the second best, etc. You will also score them between 70 and 100. You're not required to give a score of 100 but the highest score goes to the person in first place, etc. No ties. A rubric for using the ratings points ([SNEAK PEEK HERE](#)) will appear with your ballot (as well as the rules for that event). Please use them. You can also see these plus helpful videos for each event at the [KHSSL JUDGING TIPS](#) page. [This handout](#) can be especially helpful as well.

Please remember that many students are recording at home, and they do not necessarily have the perfect situation to record. You may certainly make suggestions, but you should also **give grace**.

TECH TIPS AND RULES

For judging, you can use 2 devices: 1 for the video & 1 for your ballots. You can log into Tabroom on each device. Or you can use a desktop computer, open 2 windows, and position them so you can see the video in one) & type on the other one (the ballot) at the same time (that's what Mr. Meadows does when he judges at a desk, and it works swell). When judging, try to use a fairly large screen to watch the videos. If you're trying to watch videos on a phone, you may be losing facial expressions, etc. because the screen is so small.

KHSSL rules require that cameras stay still when filming; competitors may move around as they wish in the frame. They may also step out of the frame as needed. The videos should be one continuous shot – no editing or multiple cameras or close-up shots in dramatic moments or anything like that. If you have little darlings who have obviously edited, please reach out to me. Sometimes we also have students who are obviously reading a script offstage (in a memorized event) – just let that be a factor in your ranking to the extent that it interferes with their successful communication of the event.

AWARDS

When this tournament began, this tournament was for Kentucky only. In 2023 we opened the contest worldwide, BUT we will name a Kentucky champion in each event. So if an out-of-stater wins an event, there will be two Champions for the event -- the Kentucky Champion and the Event Champion. If a Kentucky kid wins the event, there will be one Champion. Three entries will be recognized with medals in each event as Champions or Finalists. There will be no sweepstakes (team) awards.

Awards will be announced at 7:30 PM Eastern on Monday via video link at the [KHSSL YouTube site](#) . Results and ballots will be posted the next day. This will allow teams who wish to watch awards virtually together, families, etc. to do so and be surprised just like at a regular tournament.

LIMITED PREP EVENTS

If judging **Extemporaneous Speaking or Improvisational Duo or Impromptu Speaking**, you can find the prompts at the tournament website:

<http://blyton.tabroom.com/>

QUESTIONS? VIDEOS DON'T WORK OR HAVE WRONG EVENT? EVENT RULES?

After you've read over the rules in the Handbook (linked with each ballot), if you still have a question or if there's something amiss you need to alert the tournament staff about, please contact via email (khssl@khssl.org).

If you're facing an immediate deadline or if it's somehow super-urgent, please text **859/927-1100**, but please use email otherwise. Know that you can return to ballots later if you must stop mid-round.

Thanks, y'all.

Steve Meadows, KHSSL Executive Director, and the schools of KHSSL, Inc., and Blyton the Bear

