

Arkansas District Series Judge Information



'24-'25

Saturday Feb 22nd

Arkansas District Series

Schedule

9AM- IE Round 1

11:15am- IE Round 2

2:30pm- IE Round 3

4:00pm- IE Elim #1

5:30pm- IE Elim #2

7:00 pm AWARDS

‘24-’25

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“Affiliated Judge”

An affiliated judge is a judge who has a direct connection to a specific school, team, or competitor in the tournament. This affiliation may come from various relationships, including but not limited to:

- Being a current coach, assistant coach, or school administrator.*
- Being a parent, sibling, or relative of a competitor.*
- Being a former student of the school within a certain timeframe (We will mark recent graduates as affiliated judges who cannot judge their alma mater. [2 years])*
- Judges must disclose conflicts of interest before the tournament.*
- Schools should be responsible for submitting a list of conflicts ahead of time.*

Why this matters:

Affiliated judges must be properly categorized to ensure fairness in the tournament. They will have restrictions placed in specific rounds to prevent conflicts of interest.

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“Qualified” Judge

A qualified judge is someone who meets the tournament’s standards for judging based on knowledge, training, or experience. The Arkansas District defines a qualified judge as:

- Prior experience judging speech and debate (either at previous tournaments or through training).
- Training in judging techniques (either through the NFHS or the NSDA).
- Understanding of the event rules and judging criteria. **HANDOUTS WILL BE GIVEN TO EACH JUDGE WHEN THEY SIGN IN**
- Ability to provide constructive feedback. There will be the minimum expectation that each judge will provide feedback on the things that they preferred and the things that need work in regards to their performance. (35 words)
- **If Judges meet above criteria they cannot be challenged by protest.**

Being “qualified” does not necessarily mean the judge is experienced in every event, but it does mean they are capable of evaluating competitors fairly and accurately based on the provided handout.

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Judges Will Be Able to Mark Themselves as Platform/Acting Before the Tournament

Judges will receive an email the weekend before the District IE Tournament and will be able to identify which pool they wish to be a part of

Platform Judges evaluate events that are primarily speech-based, such as:

Informative Speaking

Original Oratory

Extemporaneous Speaking

Acting Judges evaluate events that are more performance-based, such as:

Dramatic Interpretation

Humorous Interpretation

Duo Interpretation

Program Oral Interpretation

Why this matters:

- Judges should be placed in events they feel comfortable evaluating.*
- Some judges may prefer structured speeches over theatrical performances or vice versa.*
- Allowing judges to self-identify ensures they are assigned to events where they can fairly and effectively evaluate competitors.*

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Judge Mandatory Training Requirements

We aim to align as closely as possible with NSDA Nationals Judging standards. To ensure fairness and consistency, the following requirements will be in place:

- **Mandatory Training:** All judges must complete, at a minimum, Level One NSDA training. Proof of training must be submitted no later than the Friday before the IE Tournament.
- **Paradigm Requirement:** All judges must have a listed judging paradigm. Protests regarding a judge's paradigm will not be adjudicated as long as one is provided.
- **Ballot Feedback Minimum:** A required minimum number of feedback words per ballot will be implemented for the IE Tournament and for debate next year. (35 words per ballot)
- **Mandatory Judge Meeting:** All judges must attend a required Zoom meeting before the tournament.
- **Expectation Handout:** A written handout outlining judge expectations will be provided as a reference.
- **Neutrality Requirement:** Schools must provide unaffiliated judges to cover their coaching obligations if they have students competing in 6 or more events. Affiliated judges who cannot be used do not fulfill a school's judging burden, as neutral adjudication is essential.

These measures are designed to ensure a fair and professional judging experience for all competitors. Thank you for your cooperation in upholding these standards.