

2021 11th Annual California Middle School State Championship Tournament

Thank you for your participation and involvement in the upcoming 2021 11th Annual California Middle School State Championship Tournament. The tournament has grown tremendously over the past 11 years, and with the move to an online tournament format last year, more schools have been able to participate and showcase their skills.

This tournament will involve almost **500 student entries!** That is one of the largest online speech tournaments in the United States, and we value your participation and efforts to make this run smoothly for everyone.

As a real-time online tournament, there are additional considerations beyond an in-person tournament.

- Each participant must have a guardian on camera while they perform or have signed a waiver to remove this requirement. To add competitor waivers, please follow the instructions in this guide.
<https://forensictournament.helpscoutdocs.com/article/94-competitor-waivers>
- All competitors and participants must have a verified e-mail/phone number to receive e-mails or text messages about their events. Please verify no users have selected to receive 'paper ballots' as that is an in-person only option.
- Any messages sent to your school competitors and judges will include a cc to your designated coach(es). Choose which coach(es) should receive these notifications on the tournament registration page, select coach contacts and update as needed.

We have worked to make the online tournament experience as easy as possible, but it does require a technical component and can encounter additional complications. With that in mind, we ask that each competitor, judge, and coach review the [Best Practices Document](#) for how to achieve a good online tournament experience, test their equipment *before the tournament* to ensure they can be seen and heard, communicate with the tournament staff whenever an issue arises and show patience if a delay occurs.

Below is a list of reference materials that will aid in creating a smooth and enjoyable experience for everyone. Please review these documents and save this information to refer to throughout the tournament.

- [Best Practices Document](#)
- [Southern California Junior Forensics League Bylaws](#)
- [2021 11th Annual California Middle School State Championship Tournament Invitation](#)
- [Congress Docket](#)
- [2021 11th Annual California Middle School State Championship Tournament Website](#)
- [2021 11th Annual California Middle School State Championship Tournament Help Room](#)
- Tab Room <https://8x8.vc/CMSFTab>
- [Online Awards Ceremony, Scheduled for 8:30pm PT Sunday, May 23rd](#)

All information about the tournament will be posted at:

<https://forensictournament.net/CaliforniaMiddleSchoolState/21>. Any updates to the tournament, including postings, ballot updates, delays and any changes will be posted on the tournament homepage.

Working with your judges

If you have arranged to have judges participate in the tournament, we thank you for your efforts.

The tournament timeliness hinges on judges accepting ballots quickly and submitting your ballots promptly after a round. It is your responsibility to ensure each judge is familiar with their event rules, how to accept/record ballots, and promptly accept/return ballots. You can greatly aid in making sure the tournament runs timely by doing the following:

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- Reviewing the rules/guidelines for assigned events ([Southern California Junior Forensics League Bylaws](#))
- Review the judge e-ballot guide <https://forensicstournament.helpscoutdocs.com/article/73-judges-eballot-guide>
- Review a sample ballot and test your computer to ensure you can hear/see competitors <https://forensicstournament.net/sampleeballot>
- Have judges join the standby room <https://8x8.vc/CMSFStandby> 15 minutes prior to their assigned event and do not leave until they have been released or accept a ballot.
- Have judges stay in their event room until they submit their ballot.
- Encourage judges to provide constructive feedback and add justification for their decision in the comments.

A day prior to the tournament, a tournament dance card will be sent to the judge's designated e-mail/phone number. This will include all events they are currently scheduled for as well as any events assigned as a standby judge.

Please have your judges monitor their e-mail/phone closely during the time they are assigned and join the judge [standby room](#) if they have not received a ballot directly. The [standby room](#) will be open throughout the tournament and the tab tournament staff will call for judges through the online meeting room. Make sure to have your judges accept their ballot within 15 minutes to avoid a judge no-show fee being charged to your school.

Working with the Tournament Staff/Tab Room

We have an open tab room policy for this tournament. All coaches are welcome to come into the virtual tab room and review ballots as they are submitted. <https://8x8.vc/CMSFTab>

If you join the [tab room](#), please communicate what you need, but be prepared to wait especially at the beginning and close of rounds. We appreciate your patience and offer mutual respect and courtesy.

If you have an issue or potential conflict, it will greatly aid the staff if you reference the specific rule or bylaw you need to discuss. You can review the bylaws here: [Southern California Junior Forensics League Bylaws](#)

At the close of the tournament, e-ballots and ballot review will be made available to your school coaches when all outstanding fees have been paid.

Tournament Schedule Updates/Changes

The tournament schedule has changed to accommodate the final number of competitors. An updated schedule will be posted by 5/20/2021.

Please note the following:

- Impromptu will add a quarter final round
- Impromptu Quarter finals will be Saturday 4pm
- Impromptu Semi-finals will be Saturday 7:30pm
- ***Impromptu Finals are Sunday 5pm***

Changes to elimination rounds

- Public forum will skip double-octas, their first elimination round will occur Saturday at 6pm

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The following events do not have a semi-final round:

- Duo, HI, Prose, Speech to Entertain, DI, Extemp, Informative, Poetry, POI, Storytelling

The following events do not have a final round:

- Big Questions
- Speech to Entertain
- POI

Thank you again for your participation in the upcoming tournament, with your efforts in adhering to the best practices, we can have a smooth tournament and an enjoyable experience for all participants.

Regards,

2021 11th Annual California Middle School State Championship Tournament Staff