

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 more than **500 student entries!** That is one of the largest online speech tournaments in the United States, and 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. Online tournaments also involve 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.

As a judge, the tournament timeliness hinges on judges accepting ballots quickly and submitting your ballots promptly after a round. You can greatly aid in making sure the tournament runs timely by doing the following:

- Review a sample ballot and test your computer to ensure you can hear/see competitors <https://forensictournament.net/sampleeballot>
- Join the standby room <https://8x8.vc/CMSFStandby> 15 minutes prior to your assigned event and do not leave until you have been released or accept a ballot.
- After the round completes, **stay in your assigned event room until you complete your ballot or you join your next round.** This way, you are easy to contact if any issue arises with your event.
- Submit your rankings as soon as possible after the round. You can add more feedback to the ballot until the awards ceremony on Sunday.
- Add justification on the ballot for your decision. Competitors use this information to improve themselves, and constructive feedback helps them grow.

Reference Materials for Judges

- Reviewing the rules/guidelines for your assigned events ([Southern California Junior Forensics League Bylaws](#))
- Review the judge e-ballot guide, <https://forensictournament.helpscoutdocs.com/article/73-judges-eballot-guide>

A day prior to the tournament, a tournament dance card will be sent to your designated e-mail/phone number. This will include all events you are currently scheduled for as well as any events where you are a 'standby judge', assigned as needed to avoid potential school conflicts of interest. Please monitor your e-mail/phone closely during the time you are assigned and join the [judge standby room](#) if you 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 accept your ballot within 15 minutes to avoid a judge no-show fee being charged to your school.

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.

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- [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](#)
- [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.

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

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