

Thank you for your participation and involvement in the upcoming 2021 National Online Forensics Middle School Championship. This is a synchronous online tournament, and as a real-time online tournament, there are additional considerations beyond an in-person tournament.

Online tournaments 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** in the invitation 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's timeliness hinges on you 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://forensicstournament.net/sampleeballot>
- Join the standby room <https://8x8.vc/NOFStandby> 10 minutes prior to your assigned event and do not leave until you have been released or accept a ballot (this includes receiving and accepting a ballot via e-mail).
- 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

- E-ballot training video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cwx59cWE0AQ>
- During the preliminary rounds, please tie at the lowest available rank, i.e. you might only have 5 rankings but 7 competitors so you will tie 5th, 6th and 7th place at 5th place.
- Some competitors might be entered in multiple events, it will be listed next to their name on the ballot. Please be flexible and allow them to speak first or arrive late so they can participate.
- All competitors require a guardian on-screen with them or they must have signed a waiver. If they have not signed a waiver it will be stated next to their name on the ballot.
- Reviewing the rules/guidelines for your assigned events ([National Online Forensics Tournament Rules](#))
- Review the judge e-ballot guide, <https://forensicstournament.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'. Standby judges are required to arrive in the Standby Room (<https://8x8.vc/NOFStandby>) 10 minutes prior to their first round. 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 10 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 and save this information to refer to throughout the tournament.

- [National Online Forensics Tournament Rules](#)
- [National Online Forensics Middle School Invitation](#)
- [Congress Docket](#)

- [National Online Forensics Tournament Website](#)
- [National Online Forensics Tournament Help Room](#)
- Online Awards Ceremony, Scheduled for Sunday June 6th at 5:30pm
https://youtube.com/watch?v=VBR_vD_NDIw

All information about the tournament will be posted at: <https://forensicstournament.net/NOFCMS/21>. Any updates to the tournament, including postings, ballot updates, delays and any changes will be posted on the tournament homepage.

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 National Online Forensics Tournament Staff