

Thank you for your participation and involvement in the the 2022 National Online Forensics Championships Tournament. 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** 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 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://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.
- 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 at 7:30pm PT.
- Add justification on the ballot for your decision. Provide feedback specific to the competitor on what they did well and what they can do to improve. 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 ([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 each round. Please monitor your e-mail/phone closely during the time you are assigned and join the [judge standby room](#) if you do not receive a ballot by 5 minutes before the round start time. 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 Invitation](#)
- [National Online Forensics Best Practices](#)
- [National Online Forensics Tournament Website – Elementary School](#)
- [National Online Forensics Tournament Website – Middle School](#)

- [National Online Forensics Tournament Website – High School](#)
- [National Online Forensics Tournament Help Room](#)
- [Online Awards Ceremony, Scheduled for Sunday, June 5 at 7:30pm PT](#)

All information about the tournament will be posted on the respective tournament website for elementary school, middle school or high school. 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,

2022 National Online Forensics Staff