



Tournament Best Practices

Competitor Logistics / Best Practices

- All competitors must have a verified text number or email saved on ForensicsTournament.net **Email is preferred.**
- Coaches can save and verify competitor contact details from the Student Roster page.
- Competitors will receive a text/email with their ePostings information. Postings will be sent approximately 10 minutes prior to each round.
- The ePostings will have a link to a Live Video Room where they will perform. Click that link to go to your round. No logins or passwords are required. Judges will be in the same Live Video Room to listen and rank the round. The tournament will be using [8x8 video conference room software](#).
- If double-entered or triple-entered, students should go to each room before competing and type in the chat window that they are double-entered so judges are aware. Request to compete early and leave promptly to join the next event.
- Please do not immediately start to talk when entering a Live Video Room. Another student may be performing. Please wait to be recognized by the judge(s).
- Students should remain in the Live Video Room as audience members and have both video and audio on, as much as possible. Due to audio feedback loops or bandwidth issues, you may need to mute your audio or video feeds. But ideally, keeping your video and audio line open allows competitors to react to the performances just as they would in an in-person tournament.
- Students can, if it suits their particular setup, sit while performing. Judges are instructed *not* to penalize students for sitting while speaking since the particular tech setup may work better while sitting.
- Students are also encouraged to use a mic/headphones since audio quality is much better than with an external mic. Judges are instructed *not* to penalize students for having mics/headphones on.
- We recognize technological limitations creates some challenges for certain events. But we trust in the ingenuity of the forensics community to adapt to the online environment. Some students may have better quality video, lighting, sound, etc. We will all try our best.
- **If a student's internet connection drops or audio quality is poor**, they will be **required** to call into the video conference room and give their speech with audio only. While not ideal, it will ensure all student's speeches are listened to by a judge. A phone number with dial-in information is available in each 8x8 room by clicking on the 3 dots at the bottom of the room, and then selecting invite.
- Request help by going to the help room <https://8x8.vc/CMSFHelp> and communicate promptly if any issues arise.



Tournament Best Practices

Judge Logistics / Best Practices

- All judges must have a verified phone or email saved on ForensicsTournament.net
- Coaches can save and verify contact details from the Judge Roster Page
- Judges will receive a text/email with their eBallot link. Judges should click on that link within 5 minutes of receiving it to indicate that they have “picked up” their ballot.
- On your eBallot you will have all of the competitors listed in that round along with a link to a live video room. Click that link to go to your video conference room. Competitors who are double or triple entered, will have that listed adjacent to their name. Please be flexible in accommodating double and triple-entered competitors.
- Your eBallot has elds where you can add your feedback to the student. Feedback can be added while they are performing and added to throughout the competition until the awards ceremony. The eBallot also has a timer to make it easy to time each speaker.
- If a judge’s keyboard is loud they are encouraged to mute audio during performances but please leave the video feed on so competitors can receive your visual feedback.
- Judges are instructed *not* to penalize students for sitting while speaking since the student’s particular tech setup may work better while sitting.
- Judges are also instructed *not* to penalize students for having mics/headphones on since audio quality is usually much better using a mic/headset.
- Judges are also instructed *not* to penalize students for lighting, video/audio quality, video background to the extent possible.
- **If a judge’s internet connection drops or audio quality is poor**, they will be **required** to call into the video conference room and listen to speeches with audio only. While not ideal, it will ensure all student’s speeches are listened to by a judge. You can get the dial-in information by inviting someone to the room. Select the three dots icon in the bottom right of the 8x8 room, and select invite, details for the phone number will be made available.
- For Impromptu/Extemp/SPAR, the eBallot will have the quotations/questions listed on the ballot under prompts - or in the case of extemp, the prompts will be provided by the tournament prior to the start of the round and competitors will arrive after their designated prep period.