

National Invitational Speakers' Tournament



General Guidelines

Important guidelines: Please read

TIES:

Each state or convention is only allowed to send **one participant in each category** (*youth, high school, speaker*). In the event of a tie at the state level finals in any category, each state or convention **must determine** which **one** participant will represent their state/convention at NIT. (*No ties to NIT*)

There must have a minimum of 5 participants in a category (youth, high school) to have a drill. NIT will notify participants two days after registration closes if their category does not have enough participants to have a drill.

In the case of a tie **at** the N.I.T., a drill off will occur if there is a tie for 1st place, to determine 1st & 2nd place winners. If a tie occurs for 2nd place there will be a drill off to determine 2nd place.

If there is a tie **after** the drill off, N.I.T. will purchase an additional trophy for the added winner using funds in the N.I.T. budget.

An individual may only participate in each category **ONCE** at the N.I.T. level. No individual can return to compete in N.I.T. at same level.

Drill/Speakers Tournament Attire Guidelines

The State Discipleship Leaders Network NIT procedural team feels that the level of competition at the national level requires specific attention to appropriate attire. Each state sets the requirements for dress at their individual state competitions, but at the NIT, a “business/casual” or “business” attire is required for both drillers and speakers.

These guidelines were put into place in 2003 and have been updated to reflect current styles in dress. The following guidelines state the definition of business/casual and business attire. NIT participants can choose from the selections stated.

Because of the high visibility of this event, observers are also highly encouraged to choose appropriate attire.

Tee-shirts, cut-offs, jeans, flip-flops, etc. are **not** appropriate.

Drillers:

Boys: Shirt with a collar. Slacks (no jeans)

Girls: Dress, skirt & blouse, pantsuit. (No tee-shirts, flip-flops, etc.)

Speakers:

Boys: Shirt and tie with slacks or suit

Girls: Dress, skirt & blouse, pantsuit or suit

Speakers' Guidelines

NO SPEECHES WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE DEADLINE!

The scoring for speakers will be in two parts: written content/composition and delivery. The written content and composition will comprise 20% of the score. The delivery will comprise 80% of the score. The written content and composition will be judged before the speech is delivered. The written speech will be given to the judges the morning of the competition date. These guidelines are presented to help each speaker be aware of the different elements needed to write and deliver the speech. It is appropriate to have the written speech critiqued ahead of time by a friend.

Written Content/Composition (20%)

Structure and Grammar

- Does the speech use complete sentences and are the sentences grammatically correct?
- Are the words spelled correctly and style used consistently?
- Are paragraphs used properly?

Use of Resources and Proper Credit

- Is there adequate usage of both scripture and outside resources? (*3---5 scripture references and outside resources for a 4---6 minute speech*)
- Do the resources used clearly help the audience understand the topic and the speaker's point?
- Do the resources reflect an adequate understanding of the various facets of the subject?
- Is proper credit given to scripture and resources used? (*Footnotes OR endnotes must be used. Bibliography/Works Cited is also required for NIT.*)

Delivery (80%)

Organizational/Logical Sequencing

- Does the speech flow logically and are ideas and information properly sequenced?
- Is the speech's core belief or idea clearly evident to the audience?
- Are the speech's opening and closing effective?

Originality/Related to Subject

- Does the speech give evidence of creative thinking by the speaker?
- Does the content appear to be the original work of the speaker?
- Does the speech deal with the subject?
- Does the content connect to the title of the speech?

Eye Contact with Audience

- Does the speaker maintain good eye contact with the audience?
- Does the speaker look at persons in all parts of the audience?

Articulate and Expressive Voice

- Does the speaker use good vocal energy and enunciate clearly?
- Does the speaker speak with passion without being overly emotional?
- Does the speaker speak loudly enough for everyone in the audience to hear clearly?

Poise and Confidence

- Does the speaker appear to be relaxed and in control?
- Does the speaker appear to be confident?
- Is the speaker convincing, interesting, and understandable?

Posture/Movement/Gesturing

- Does the speaker use good posture and appropriate body movement?
- Does the speaker use effective hand and arm gestures?
- Does the speaker smile and use appropriate facial expressions?

Delivered from Memory

Purpose Accomplished

- Does the speech do what it is intended to do as evidenced by the subject and content?

Additional Comments:

- Personal Appearance
 - Is the speaker well---groomed and is clothing appropriate, neat, and in good taste?
- Within Time Allotment
 - Was the speech between four and six minutes in length?
- Props
 - No props of any kind will be used.
- Singing/Drama
 - Music and drama are not considered "speech." It is appropriate to *quote* part of a song, poem, or play, but not to perform or sing these.

***Check the N.I.T. website for the deadline for submitting written copies of speeches.
NO SPEECHES WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE DEADLINE!***

Special Needs Policy for National Tournament

Notify the host State immediately if you anticipate that there could be the possibility of a student (from your state) who will need special accommodations to participate in the National Tournament. This will allow us to work in advance with your State Convention, that Student, and the judges in such a way that will best meet the needs of that individual through the structure of Bible Drill and Speakers Tournament. It is often difficult to provide the best format for the student and judges when we are notified on the day of the event. Special accommodations could include learning disabilities, hearing impairment or deafness, vision impairment or blindness, being in a wheelchair, etc.

You will need to send an e-mail to the attention of the host of the tournament as soon as you know. In the e-mail, you will need to state the student's name, the State Convention name and contact person, contact information for that individual at the State Convention, the nature of the special need and how your state will accommodate that need at the State Tournament Level.

You will also need to state how you envision that the student could participate in the National Tournament. Feel free to share any other information that you feel may be vital to us in working with the student. Once you have held your State Tournament, please contact the host state to confirm or remove this student's name and special accommodation from the National Tournament information for your state.

If other special accommodations arise closer to the drill, such as a broken arm or leg, please inform the host state at the earliest possible date and let us know of these last minute circumstances. It will allow us to be prepared for the needs of your students.

It is our desire that all students, inasmuch as is possible, be able to participate in the spiritual growth opportunity that Bible Drill and Speakers Tournament provide. We will honor each State's System for Students with special accommodations as much as is possible, providing it does not penalize Students at the National Tournament following the written guidelines for Bible Drill and Speakers Tournament. The national tournament was established for state winners to compete against each other as the written rules state. In the event a student cannot meet those stated guidelines the national Bible Drill Leadership Team will attempt to accommodate this student in a category that does not penalize him or the students who are competing according to the stated guidelines. If the needed accommodation calls for a change in how the student is scored, then he will be scored with the criteria established by the sponsoring state convention and recognized as a winner in the special accommodations category if he meets the state's pre-determined standard. The state sponsoring the special accommodations student will be responsible for covering the expense of the award. At the beginning of the National Tournament, any special needs/exceptions for a driller or speaker and the system for their participation will be explained to the judges and the audience with the details that each group needs to know to understand how this special need will be handled in the context of the National Tournament.

Forms to be completed/read prior to NIT:

In an effort to help make the tournament run in a fun, smooth and fair environment we ask that parents/leaders/students read all the guidelines, the code of conduct and video/photograph agreements. These forms can all be found on the NIT website at www.nationalbibledrill.com.

- 2019 Speakers Guidelines
- Dress Guidelines
- Youth Speaker's Tournament Rubric
- Code of Conduct (sign and return)*
- Photo/Video Release for Minors (sign and return)*

**Every participant and participant's parent must sign the "Code of Conduct" and "Photo/Video Release for Minors" in order to participate.*