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Parent Judging Responsibilities

YouTube Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qmxRoX6AXYY>

One of the biggest blessings and biggest challenges at NCFCA tournaments is finding enough **volunteer and parent judges** for each round of competition. It takes three judges for every speech room and at least one judge for every debate round. That's a lot of judges, and there are a lot of rounds in every tournament.

Judges participate directly in our mission when they **meet the challenge to serve as ambassadors for Christ by communicating truth with integrity and grace on ballots for competitors**. NCFCA has resources available to help new parents feel equipped for this job, and many of them find it incredibly rewarding to sharpen new thinking and communication skills right along with the competitors. If you're worried about lacking experience—put that worry aside! Brand new judges can offer some of the **best feedback** because they have unique and fresh perspectives. Competitors truly love to hear from them.

We ask that **all parents prepare to judge both speech and debate** even if they expect to be serving mostly in a staff role. This preparation involves watching the judge training videos and reading the information on our website about parent judging.

Parents are randomly assigned as **head judges** in speech rounds so that volunteer judges from the community feel well supported. We have head judge instructions ready for each event, and if you are selected as the head judge, we ask that you locate and familiarize yourself with the event rules prior to the round. The resources you need are always at your fingertips on the website and tournament dashboard, or you can ask for help from tournament administration.

When it's time to choose a ballot, our system is designed to show you the most **suitable ballots** first, so we encourage making a quick choice. The information gathered at check-in helps the system optimize the balance of judge panels, but in some tournaments, it may not be possible to avoid all conflicts.



In general, we would simply ask that **adults avoid judging students they know well or have coached**. Judges **should not judge the same prepared speech** more than once in a tournament, but judges can serve multiple times—and even judge the same students—in limited preparation speeches because those speeches should be new in every round. These events are Apologetics, Impromptu, and Extemporaneous.

If you ever have a question about selecting a ballot, please use the Contact Tournament Administration button on your dashboard or see Judge Support in the Judge Hospitality room at in-person tournaments.

Last but not least, we also need EVERYONE—parents, coaches, and competitors—to help us **invite volunteer community judges** to serve at each tournament. These volunteers not only help to lift the load with parent judges, but their fresh perspectives are also invaluable for our competitors. Our website has the resources to help you invite your friends, neighbors, and family to judge at a tournament! **No prior experience is required** because we are training for real world communication with real people.

We have great resources to help both parents and community judges feel equipped, and competitors are blessed by the investment caring adults make to help them gain new levels of insight and skill. We hope you'll embrace the judging challenge and encourage others to do so as well.