

Tournament of Champions Point System

Each year, the Tournament of Champions Trial Competition, sponsored by the National Board of Trial Advocates, invites sixteen of the top trial advocacy schools in the nation to compete. Invitations are determined based on a scoring system that considers a school's performance over the last three years in the two open (non-invitational) national trial competitions; the National Trial Competition ("NTC") sponsored by the Texas Young Lawyers Association, and the Student Trial Advocacy Competition, sponsored by the American Association for Justice ("AAJ").

Points are assigned as follows:

1. For the NTC tournament, a point is given if the school is one of the two regional winners at their NTC regional competition, plus they get an additional point for every level they advance at the national competition, and an additional point for winning the national championship.

So, for example if a school was one of the two regional winners, and then advanced to the quarterfinals at nationals, they'd earn 2 TOC points for NTC that year. If they won, the national championship-they'd earn 5 TOC points for NTC for that year.

2. For the AAJ tournament, a point is given if the school is one of the two regional winners at their AAJ regional competition, plus they get an additional point for every level they advance at the national competition, and an additional point for winning the national championship.

How invitations are determined:

Next, the sixteen law schools with the highest total points for the three-year period receives an invitation. If there is a tie, with two or more schools having the same number of total points, we go back one year. The team that earned the higher number of points the prior year wins the tie and gets the invitation. If going back one year doesn't break the tie, we go back another year, until the tie is broken.

The TOC host school, regardless of whether they qualify by points, is entitled to an invitation the year that they host but can defer their automatic invite to the following year, when they are not hosting. A TOC host using their automatic bid, gets one of the 5 at large bids.

How to double check your points:

1. First, make sure you've received the proper points for each competition.
2. Finally, make sure the total points calculated for the three years is correct.

If you have any questions about the calculations, please email TOC board members Joanne Van Dyke at mjvesq@aol.com, Judge Jim Roberts at JudgeJimRoberts@gmail.com, or Susan Poehls at Susan.Poehls@lls.edu.