



# Stoa

CHRISTIAN HOMESCHOOL SPEECH & DEBATE

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## *Stoa Student Protection Guidelines*

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*Stoa has a duty to protect our students. In order to accomplish this goal, we urge members to follow the “Four R’s”:*

**Recognize**  
**Report**  
**Responsibility**  
**Regulation**

### **RECOGNIZE:**

#### **Leadership Selection**

Stoa is proud of the quality of local clubs that are growing across our national organization. However, it is always the individual parent's responsibility to determine the right leadership for their family. Stoa offers Stoa Academy and access to seasoned mentors to aid in local programs, to develop the strongest leadership possible at the local level.

Before accepting a leader for a student, Stoa recommends that families request *background information* before hiring or accepting mentorship/teaching from a leader. Consistent communication and supervision is key with any type of leadership for our students.

### **REPORT:**

#### **Reporting of Suspected Child Abuse**

The recommended process if abuse is suspected is 1) Remove the student from harm's way with parental involvement. 2) Report concern to the tournament director(s) and/or local club leader and discuss your observation. 3) Check your state mandatory reporting practices: [www.childwelfare.gov](http://www.childwelfare.gov). If it is determined that there is good-faith suspicion or belief that any

child has been physically or sexually abused, exposed to any form of sexual exploitation including the possession or showing of obscene material, then local authorities should be contacted by the reporting person. This duty cannot be delegated to any other person.

After the tournament director, parents, and local authorities have been contacted, then please notify the Stoa Board President of any filed report..

### **RESPONSIBILITY:**

**Local Responsibility.** Adult leaders and parents in Stoa affiliated clubs are responsible for monitoring the behavior of youth members and other leaders, interceding when necessary. If students misbehave, their parents should be informed and asked to assist in educating our students.

**All adult leaders and youth members have responsibility.** Our aim is to ensure the safety of our members through good communication. Physical violence, sexual activity, emotional abuse, harassment, theft, drugs, alcohol, and pornography have no place in Stoa and may result in revocation of membership.

### **REGULATION:**

**To ensure the physical and emotional safety of our families, Stoa recommends Safety Protocols at Stoa events. It is the responsibility of every leader and parent to help bear this duty to our families.**

### **Suggested Safety Protocols:**

- 1) Supervision Policy: Each Stoa affiliate event should seek out and plan for an adequate number of adults to supervise competitors and younger siblings.
- 2) Two Plus Provision: Supervision aims to ensure that our individual students not be in a room alone with an adult who is not related to them.
- 3) “Buddy System”: Use of a “buddy system” for students is preferred to students wandering alone at tournaments.
- 4) Open Door Policy: Competition room doors are to remain open unless there is a speaker actively competing.
- 5) Proper identification: Visible name tags should be available to all competitors, timers, staff and judges at competition events. These should be requested to be worn throughout the event.
- 6) Personal discussion: Judges are informed to provide written feedback, rather than verbal feedback, at each competitive event. Parents or leaders are encouraged to supervise any personal discussions with competitors, if sought during an event.