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New (for 2012) Contest Rulebook issued

Speech Contest Rulebook Revisions



The newest **Speech Contest Rulebook** (Item 1171) is now available. Several revisions have been made based on members' suggestions. The new format combines information from the former *Speech Contest Manual* (Item 1173), making the rulebook an all-inclusive resource for conducting a successful speech contest.

Rule changes are made once a year by administrative protocol with the approval of the International President and the Executive Director.

Superficial revisions, such as clarifying the wording of a rule or fixing grammatical errors, will be made periodically. The latest version of the Speech Contest Rulebook will be the current PDF available for download.

Revisions to the previous version will be highlighted on this page for your convenience.

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2.4.A 4. The following are ineligible to compete in any Toastmasters speech contest:

a) A member serving as a judge at any level for a contest in which the member is still competing

4.E.1 All contestants and judges will be advised of the speaking area before the contest begins. The contestants may only speak from within the designated area.

5.A.2 At area contests, there shall be at least five judges or equal representation from the clubs composing the area. In addition to these judges, a contest chair, chief judge, tiebreaking judge, three counters, and two timers shall be appointed.

5.A.3 At division or district contests, there shall be at least seven judges or equal representation from the areas composing the division or district, in addition to a contest chair, chief judge, tiebreaking judge, three counters and two timers; no judge shall be a member of any club in which a contestant is a member.

5.A.4 At the semifinals for the International contest, there shall be at least nine judges or equal representation from the districts; no judge shall be a member of any club in which a contestant is a member. In addition to these judges, a contest chair, chief judge, a tiebreaking judge, three counters, and two timers are appointed.

5.D.D. If a contestant is absent from the briefing, the alternate speaker, if present, is permitted to attend the briefing in place of the primary contestant.

2. Should the primary contestant arrive after the briefing but before the person conducting the contest is introduced, the primary contestant is permitted to compete, provided the primary contestant:

c) Waives the opportunity of a briefing.

5.L.1. In order for a ballot to be valid, judges shall:

a) Complete their ballots by entering their choices for first, second, and third place.

b) Sign and print their names on the ballot.

5.L.2. When judges have finished marking their ballots, they shall tear off the bottom portion of the ballot, place it in the provided envelope, and hold up the envelope for the ballot counters to collect.

a) The top portion of the ballot is not provided to the ballot counters and must be discreetly discarded by the judge after the contest.

5.L.3. The chief judge personally collects the tiebreaking judge's guide and ballot, which must contain all contestants ranked in order by the tiebreaking judge.

Taped Speech Contest

3. Only one taped speech per club may be submitted. The tape shall be made using the following procedures:

A. You may use whatever means you wish to record the contest before a live audience, but all entries must be submitted to World Headquarters on audio cassette or audio CD. Videotapes, data CDs, MP3s, and other media will not be accepted. Presentations that have been edited will not be accepted.

Speech Contest Checklists

Speech contests should be planned carefully and conducted professionally. Use these checklists to ensure speech contest success.

Contest Chair's Checklist

11. Ensure that each contestant is eligible under the contest rules before the contest, and notify contestants of disqualification if necessary. To check contestants' eligibility, contact the Member Services team at World Headquarters by email at speechcontests@toastmasters.org.

Contestants' Briefing

3. Review Speaker's Certification of Eligibility and Originality (Item 1183). Remind contestants that by signing this form they certify that they have read and understand the rules regarding eligibility and originality.