



Speech Contest Rulebook

Explanation of Changes

January 2020 - Changes effective immediately (mid program year).		
JULY 1, 2019 TO JANUARY 1, 2020	JANUARY 1, 2020 TO JUNE 30, 2020	EXPLANATION
<p>3. Selection Sequence</p> <p>A. Club, area, division, district. Each club in good standing is permitted to choose its contestant for each area speech contest by whatever means the club desires. If a contest is held, it must comply with the rules in this manual, and the contest result is final. The area speech contest winner then proceeds to the division contest. The division winner then proceeds to the district contest.</p> <p>1. In those districts with 10 or more divisions, two separate run-off competitions among division winners may be held before the district contest finals.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Insofar as practical, the number of divisions competing in each run-off will be the same. The three highest-placed available contestants from each run-off competition will then advance to the district contest. 	<p>3. Selection Sequence</p> <p>A. Club, area, division, district. Each club in good standing is permitted to choose its contestant for each area speech contest by whatever means the club desires. If a contest is held, it must comply with the rules in this manual, and the contest result is final. The area speech contest winner then proceeds to the division contest. The division winner then proceeds to the district contest.</p> <p>1. In those districts with 10 or more divisions, two separate run-off competitions among division winners may be held before the district contest finals.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Insofar as practical, the number of divisions competing in each run-off will be the same. The three highest-placed available contestants from each run-off competition will then advance to the district contest. Placement will not be announced. 	<p>3. Selection Sequence</p> <p>This change aligns the announcement of winners in a division run-off speech competition with the standard applied to other contests in which more than one contestant proceeds to the next level.</p> <p>In these instances, placement is not announced in order to give contestants an equal and unbiased opportunity for competition at the next level.</p>
<p>5. General Procedure</p> <p>M. After the conclusion of the contestant interviews, the contest chair announces the winners of the contest in reverse order.</p> <p>1. In contests with three or more participants, a third-place winner, a second-place winner, and a first-place winner will be announced.</p> <p>2. In contests with less than three participants, a second place winner (if applicable) and a first-place winner will be announced.</p>	<p>5. General Procedure</p> <p>M. After the conclusion of the contestant interviews, the contest chair announces the winners of the contest in reverse order.</p> <p>1. In contests with three or more participants, a third-place winner, a second-place winner, and a first-place winner will be announced. Winners will be announced in reverse order.</p> <p>2. In contests with less than three participants, a second place winner (if applicable) and a first-place winner will be announced. Winners will be announced in reverse order.</p>	<p>5. General Procedure</p> <p>Language was added to this section to specify how winners are to be announced at different levels of Toastmasters Speech Contests.</p> <p>For contests in which more than one contestant proceeds to the next level, the announcement of winners in no particular order allows contestants an equal and unbiased opportunity for competition at the next level.</p>

JULY 1, 2019 TO JANUARY 1, 2020	JANUARY 1, 2020 TO JUNE 30, 2020	EXPLANATION
<p>5. General Procedure (Continued)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Occasionally, a contest will be held with only one contestant. In such cases, a contest must still be held, and the contestant must be disqualified if he or she does not meet the timing, originality, and eligibility requirements. 4. Announcement of contest winners is final unless the list of winners is announced incorrectly, in which case the chief judge, ballot counters, or timers are permitted to immediately interrupt to correct the error. 	<p>5. General Procedure (Continued)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Occasionally, a contest will be held with only one contestant. In such cases, a contest must still be held, and the contestant must be disqualified if he or she does not meet the timing, originality, and eligibility requirements. 4. For the International Speech Contest Region Quarterfinals, contestants advancing to the semifinals will be announced in no particular order. Placement will not be announced. 5. For the International Speech Contest Semifinals, contestants advancing to the World Championship of Public Speaking will be announced in no particular order. Placement will not be announced. 6. Announcement of contest winners is final unless the list of winners is announced incorrectly, in which case the chief judge, ballot counters, or timers are permitted to immediately interrupt to correct the error. 	<p>5. General Procedure (Continued)</p> <p>In contests in which only one contestant proceeds to the next level, placement will continue to be announced in reverse order, as was specified in the rulebook prior to this change.</p>
<p>International Speech Contest Rules</p> <p>B. District Submission to World Headquarters</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Following the district-level International Speech Contest, the chief judge ranks all district-level contestants in order of results on the Notification of District Winner form and then submits the form to the program quality director. 2. The program quality director submits the Notification of District Winner form, Region Quarterfinal Video Release form, and video of the first-place winner to World Headquarters in the format and manner requested. 3. After region quarterfinal results are announced, detailed information concerning the semifinal contest is then provided to the winners by World Headquarters. 	<p>International Speech Contest Rules</p> <p>B. District Submission to World Headquarters</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Following the district-level International Speech Contest, the chief judge ranks all district-level contestants in order of results on the Notification of District Winner form and then submits the form to the program quality director. 2. The program quality director submits the Notification of District Winner form, Region Quarterfinal Video Release form, and video of the first-place winner to World Headquarters in the format and manner requested. 3. After region quarterfinal results are announced, detailed information concerning the semifinal contest is then provided to the winners by World Headquarters. <p>C. Region quarterfinals are conducted by video after the submission of district winners.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Region quarterfinal judges will view all videos for their assigned region in the order provided by the chief judge. 	<p>International Speech Contest Rules</p> <p>This section has been revised to clarify how region quarterfinals are conducted by video after the submission of district winners. New text specifies how judges must conduct video viewing. These requirements align with how judges were briefed during the first region quarterfinal cycle and have been added to the rulebook to further ensure all judges and contestants are aware of the expectations for judging this level of the contest.</p> <p>Text included in the previous section (B.3) that was specific to region quarterfinals was moved into the new section specific to region quarterfinals (C.4).</p>

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<p>International Speech Contest Rules (Continued)</p> <p>D. Semifinals are to be held at the International Convention, and will include all district region quarterfinal winners, randomly assigned to two separate contests.</p>	<p>International Speech Contest Rules (Continued)</p> <p>2. Region quarterfinal judges must view all videos in one sitting.</p> <p>3. Region quarterfinal judges may only view each video once. Pausing or rewinding is prohibited.</p> <p>4. After region quarterfinal results are announced, information about the semifinal contest is provided to the winners by World Headquarters.</p> <p>D. Semifinals are to be held at the International Convention, and will include all district the top two winners from each region quarterfinal winners contest, randomly assigned to two four separate contests.</p>	<p>International Speech Contest Rules (Continued)</p> <p>This revision changes the number of contestants proceeding from the International Speech Contest Region Quarterfinals to semifinals held at the International Convention</p> <p>Previous wording meant that only the first-place winner from each region proceeded to the semifinal level. With this change the top two winners from each region quarterfinal contest will proceed to the semifinals. Semifinalists will be randomly assigned to four separate contests.</p>
JULY 1, 2018 TO JUNE 30, 2019	JULY 1, 2019 TO JUNE 30, 2020	EXPLANATION
<p>Global change throughout the Speech Contest Rulebook: <i>Shall</i> and <i>shall not</i></p>	<p>All instances of the words <i>shall</i> and <i>shall not</i> were replaced with one of the following terms based on context: <i>must</i>, <i>can</i>, <i>are</i>, <i>is</i>, <i>must not</i>, <i>cannot</i>, <i>is not</i>.</p>	<p>The terms <i>shall</i> and <i>shall not</i> were removed from the rulebook for improved clarity, as they can cause confusion when translated and are sometimes interpreted as inconclusive.</p>
<p>1. Speech Contest Policy</p> <p>A. Toastmasters International recognizes and supports the following official speech contests: International, Evaluation, Humorous, Table Topics, Tall Tales, and Video (only for members of undistricted clubs). No other contest types, showcases, etc., shall be conducted by districts.</p> <p>C. Contests must originate at the club level and proceed through the area, division, and district levels, respectively; only contests following this progression are permitted at each level. All clubs are eligible to advance contestants to the area level in all contests, regardless of the contest language or the primary language of the club.</p>	<p>1. Speech Contest Policy</p> <p>A. Toastmasters International recognizes and supports the following official speech contests: International, Evaluation, Humorous, Table Topics, Tall Tales, and Video (only for members of undistricted clubs, including territorial councils and provisional districts). No other contest types, showcases, etc., shall can be conducted by districts (including areas and divisions).</p> <p>C. Contests must originate at the club level and proceed through the area, division, and district levels, respectively; only contests following this progression are permitted at the area, division, and district each levels. All clubs are eligible to advance contestants to the area level in all contests, regardless of the contest language or the primary language of the club.</p>	<p>1. Speech Contest Policy</p> <p>This revision clarifies that territorial councils and provisional districts may participate only in the Video Speech Contest.</p> <p>A clarification has also been made in Protocol 7.0 to align with this rule, and to specify that individual club members in a territorial council or provisional district can participate in the Video Speech Contest.</p> <p>Provisional districts and territorial councils do not participate in the International Speech Contest.</p>

JULY 1, 2018 TO JUNE 30, 2019	JULY 1, 2019 TO JUNE 30, 2020	EXPLANATION
<p>2. Eligibility</p> <p>A. To be eligible to compete in any official Toastmasters speech contest, a member must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be a paid member of the club, area, division, and district in which he or she is competing. 2. In addition, to be eligible to compete in the International Speech Contest, a member must: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Have completed six speech projects in the <i>Competent Communication</i> manual or a minimum of two levels in the Toastmasters Pathways learning experience. 4. The following are ineligible to compete in any Toastmasters speech contest: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) A member serving as a chief judge, voting judge, or tiebreaking judge beyond the club level for a contest in which the member is still competing or intends to compete h) Presenters of education sessions at the event at which the contest will be held, including area, division, and district events, as well as the International Convention <p>[New number added after 6]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. The winner of the World Championship of Public Speaking® held in August during the International Convention is not eligible to compete in the International Speech Contest again at any level. <p>B. To be a chief judge, voting judge, or tiebreaking judge at a Toastmasters speech contest, you must meet all eligibility requirements identified below.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> b) Have completed a minimum of six speech projects in <i>Competent Communication</i> or a minimum of two levels in the Toastmasters Pathways learning experience. 	<p>2. Eligibility</p> <p>A. To be eligible to compete in any official Toastmasters speech contest, a member must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be a paid member of the a club, in the area, division, and district in which he or she is competing. 2. In addition, to be eligible to compete in the International Speech Contest, a member must: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Have completed six speech projects in the <i>Competent Communication</i> manual or a minimum of two levels earned certificates of completion in Levels 1 and 2 of any path in the Toastmasters Pathways learning experience. 4. The following are ineligible to compete in any Toastmasters speech contest: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) A member serving as a chief judge, voting judge or tiebreaking judge beyond the club level for a contest type in which the member is still competing or intends to compete h) Presenters of education sessions, contest chairs, contest Toastmasters, chief judges, and event committee chairs for at the event at which the contest will be held, including area, division, and district events, as well as the International Convention 6. The winner of the World Championship of Public Speaking® held in August during the International Convention is not eligible to compete in the International Speech Contest again at any level. <p>7. The winner of the Video Speech Contest announced at the International Convention is not eligible to compete in the Video Speech Contest again. Winners of the Video Speech Contest may compete in the International Speech Contest in subsequent years if all other eligibility requirements are met.</p> <p>B. To be a chief judge, voting judge, or tiebreaking judge at a Toastmasters speech contest, you must meet all eligibility requirements identified below.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> b) Have completed a minimum of six speech projects in <i>Competent Communication</i> or a minimum of two levels earned certificates of completion in Levels 1 and 2 of any path in the Toastmasters Pathways learning experience. 	<p>2. Eligibility</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This section has been revised to clarify the eligibility requirements for being a paid member: You are a paid member of a club <i>within</i> an area, division, or district, not a paid member of an area, division, or district. 2. A correction has been made to the Pathways education requirements listed in the eligibility section for members who will compete in, as well as those who will judge, the International Speech Contest. <p>In the 2018-2019 Rulebook, requirements were incorrectly stated as two levels in Pathways, which could have been interpreted as two Level 1's meeting the eligibility requirements. However, members must complete Levels 1 and 2 in any path in order to fulfill Pathways' education requirements for competing or judging.</p> 4. This section has been edited to clarify that members can compete in one speech contest type while serving as a voting or tiebreaking judge in another speech contest type. (For example, a member could compete in a Table Topics Contest and judge the International Speech Contest.) <p>This section has also been revised to clarify who is ineligible to complete in any speech contest due to their role in the contest or event.</p> <p>Chief judges are ineligible to compete in any contest type at the same event in which they serve. The same is true for contest Toastmasters and event committee chairs.</p> 7. This rule was added to clarify that contestants who take first place in the Video Speech Contest will be ineligible to compete in this same contest again. This aligns with the rule outlined in the <i>Speech Contest Rulebook</i> (Section 2, A.6.) that prevents the winner of the World Championship of Public Speaking® from competing in the International Speech Contest again at any level. <p>Contestants who take first place in the Video Speech Contest can compete in the International Speech Contest once they meet eligibility requirements.</p>

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<p>5. General Procedure</p> <p>A. At each level of a Toastmasters speech contest, a specified number of voting judges and officials are required.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At club contests, a contest chair, chief judge, at least five voting judges, a tiebreaking judge, three counters, and two timers are appointed, unless impractical. 2. At area contests, there shall be an equal number of voting judges from each club in the area, or a minimum of five voting judges. In addition to these voting judges, a contest chair, chief judge, tiebreaking judge, three counters, and two timers shall be appointed. 3. At division contests, there shall be an equal number of voting judges from each area in the division, or minimum of seven voting judges. In addition to these voting judges, a contest chair, chief judge, tiebreaking judge, three counters, and two timers shall be appointed. No chief judge, voting judge, or tiebreaking judge shall be a member of any club in which a contestant is a member. 4. At district contests, there shall be an equal number of voting judges from each division in the district, or a minimum of seven voting judges. In addition to these voting judges, a contest chair, chief judge, tiebreaking judge, three counters, and two timers shall be appointed. No chief judge, voting judge, or tiebreaking judge shall be a member of any club in which a contestant is a member. 5. For the International Speech Contest, Region Quarterfinals, there shall be a minimum of nine voting judges and one tiebreaking judge for each contest. One chief judge shall be appointed for each Region Quarterfinal. No voting judge or tiebreaking judge shall be a member in the same region in which a contestant is a member. No chief judge, voting judge or tiebreaking judge can be a member in the same club in which a contestant is a member. 6. At the semifinals for the International Speech Contest, there shall must be an equal number of voting judges from each district, or subject to a minimum of nine voting judges. In addition to these voting judges, a contest chair, chief judge, a tiebreaking judge, three counters, and two timers are appointed. No chief judge, voting judge, or tiebreaking judge shall can be a member of any club in which a contestant is a member. 	<p>5. General Procedure</p> <p>A. At each level of a Toastmasters speech contest, a specified number of voting judges and officials are required.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At club contests, a contest chair, chief judge, at least five voting judges, a tiebreaking judge, three two counters, and two timers are appointed, unless impractical. 2. At area contests, there shall must be an equal number of voting judges from each club in the area, or subject to a minimum of five voting judges. In addition to these voting judges, a contest chair, chief judge, tiebreaking judge, three two counters, and two timers shall must be appointed. 3. At division contests, there shall must be an equal number of voting judges from each area in the division, or subject to a minimum of seven voting judges. In addition to these voting judges, a contest chair, chief judge, tiebreaking judge, three two counters, and two timers shall must be appointed. No chief judge, voting judge, or tiebreaking judge shall must be a member of any club in which a contestant is a member. 4. At district contests, there shall must be an equal number of voting judges from each division in the district, or subject to a minimum of seven voting judges. In addition to these voting judges, a contest chair, chief judge, tiebreaking judge, three counters, and two timers shall must be appointed. No chief judge, voting judge, or tiebreaking judge shall must be a member of any club in which a contestant is a member. 5. For the International Speech Contest, Region Quarterfinals, there shall must be a minimum of nine voting judges and one tiebreaking judge for each contest. One chief judge shall be appointed for each Region Quarterfinal. The Immediate Past International President once removed will be the chief judge for all Region Quarterfinals. No voting judge or tiebreaking judge shall can be a member in the same region in which a contestant is a member. No chief judge; voting judge or tiebreaking judge shall can be a member in the same club in which a contestant is a member. 	<p>5. General Procedure</p> <p>This section was revised to reduce the number of required counters from three to two at club, area, and division contests to better align the requirement with the size of the contest.</p> <p>An adjustment was also made to specify the minimum number of judges required at the area, division, district, and semifinal levels of the International Speech Contest.</p> <p>The minimum included in each section indicates the minimum number of voting judges that must be included in the contest. More judges may be required to meet the "equal number" rule specified ahead of the minimum.</p> <p>The adjustment intended to specify the minimum number of judges required at the area, division, district, and semifinal levels had unintended impacts that, in some instances, would make acquiring the required number of judges difficult.</p> <p>As a result, this change was reversed to the previous wording, effective August of 2019.</p> <p>5. This section has been edited to clarify that one individual is the chief judge for all region quarterfinals: The Immediate Past International President once removed.</p> <p>Because the chief judge is automatically the Immediate Past International President once removed, the restriction that the chief judge could not be a member of a contestant's club was removed.</p>

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<p>7. Protests and Disqualifications</p> <p>A. Protests are limited to eligibility and originality and shall only be lodged by voting judges and contestants. Any protest shall be lodged with the chief judge and/or contest chair prior to the announcement of the winner and alternate(s).</p>	<p>7. Protests and Disqualifications</p> <p>A. Protests are limited to eligibility and originality and shall must only be lodged by voting judges and contestants. Any protest shall must be lodged with the chief judge and/or contest chair prior to the announcement of the winner and alternate(s).</p> <p>B. The chief judge, contest chair, voting judges, and contestants must not consider protests from audience members.</p>	<p>7. Protests and Disqualifications</p> <p>A clarification was added to specify who can and cannot lodge protests. While the rules previously stated that protests shall be lodged only by voting judges and contestants, it was not clear whether an audience member could bring a protest to a contestant or judge for them to lodge with the chief judge or contest chair.</p> <p>This rule specifies that protests from audience members must not be considered.</p>
<p>Contest Chair's Checklist During the Contest</p> <p>6. Address any protests. Protests are limited to voting judges and contestants. Any protest will be lodged with the chief judge and/or contest chair prior to the announcement of the winner and alternate(s). The contest chair shall notify the contestant of a disqualification regarding originality or eligibility prior to the announcement that the meeting is adjourned. Before a contestant can be disqualified on the basis of originality, the contestant must be given an opportunity to respond to the voting judges. A majority of the voting judges must concur in the decision to disqualify. The contest chair can disqualify a contestant on the basis of eligibility.</p>	<p>Contest Chair's Checklist During the Contest</p> <p>6. Address any protests. Protests are limited to voting judges and contestants. The chief judge, contest chair, voting judges, and contestants must not consider potential protests from audience members. Any protest will be lodged with the chief judge and/or contest chair prior to the announcement of the winner and alternate(s). The contest chair shall must notify the contestant of a disqualification regarding originality or eligibility prior to the announcement that the meeting is adjourned. Before a contestant can be disqualified on the basis of originality, the contestant must be given an opportunity to respond to the voting judges. A majority of the voting judges must concur in the decision to disqualify. The contest chair can disqualify a contestant on the basis of eligibility.</p>	<p>Contest Chair's Checklist During the Contest</p> <p>Wording was added to these sections to align with the addition in "Protests and Disqualifications" and specify that protests from audience members must not be considered.</p>
<p>International Speech Contest Rules</p> <p>1. The International Speech Contest begins at the club level, and proceeds through the area, division (if applicable), district, region quarterfinal, semifinal, and International levels.</p>	<p>International Speech Contest Rules</p> <p>1. The International Speech Contest begins at the club level, and proceeds through the area, division (if applicable), district, region quarterfinal, semifinal, and international final levels.</p>	<p>International Speech Contest Rules</p> <p>The wording was revised to clarify that the last level of the International Speech Contest is referred to as the "final" level. Because the entire speech contest is called the "International Speech Contest," the previous wording was confusing.</p>

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<p>Evaluation Contest Rules</p> <p>1. At the beginning of this contest, a five- to seven-minute test speech will be presented.</p> <p>A. The test speech shall be either a contest-type speech, or taken from one of the assignments in the <i>Competent Communication</i> manual.</p>	<p>Evaluation Contest Rules</p> <p>1. At the beginning of this contest, a five- to seven-minute test speech will be presented.</p> <p>A. The test speech shall must be either a contest-type speech, or a speech taken from one of the assignments in the <i>Competent Communication</i> manual, or a project speech from the Toastmasters Pathways learning experience.</p>	<p>Evaluation Contest Rules</p> <p>The rules for the type of speech that can be presented as an Evaluation Contest test speech were updated to include the Toastmasters Pathways learning experience.</p>
<p>Video Speech Contest</p> <p>1. Members of undistricted clubs are invited to participate in the Video Speech Contest. Videos must be in English.</p> <p>3. Only one speech per club may be submitted. The video shall be made using the following procedures:</p> <p>E. Entry forms must be emailed to videospeechcontest@toastmasters.org and received at World Headquarters on or before 5 p.m. Pacific Time, March 31, to be eligible for competition.</p>	<p>Video Speech Contest</p> <p>1. Members of undistricted clubs (including territorial councils and provisional districts) are invited to participate in the Video Speech Contest. Videos must be in English.</p> <p>3. Only one speech per club may be submitted. The video shall must be made using the following procedures:</p> <p>E. Entry forms must be emailed to videospeechcontest@toastmasters.org and received at World Headquarters on or before 5 p.m. Pacific Time Mountain Time, March 31, to be eligible for competition.</p>	<p>Video Speech Contest</p> <p>1. This section has been revised to clarify that clubs may conduct speech contests that will not proceed all the way to the district level. Areas and divisions, however, may not conduct speech contests that will not progress to the district level.</p> <p>3. The deadline for Video Speech Contest submissions was updated to reflect the business time zone currently adhered to by Toastmasters International World Headquarters.</p>