



# Minutes of the 2021-2022 Board of Directors Videoconference

December 20, 2021

The 2021-2022 Toastmasters International Board of Directors met on December 20, 2021, with International President, Margaret Page, DTM, presiding. The other officers and directors present were: Matt Kinsey, DTM; Morag Mathieson, DTM; Radhi Spear, DTM; Richard E. Peck, DTM; Louisa Davis, DTM; Dorothy Isa Du, DTM; Roy Ganga, DTM; Elmer Hill, DTM; Michael J. Holian, DTM; Karen Lucas, DTM; Melissa McGavick, DTM; Elizabeth Nostedt, DTM; Harold Osmundson, DTM; Monnica B. Rose, DTM; Gauri Seshadri, DTM; Ali Shahbaz Ali Shah, DTM; Jeff Sobel, DTM; Lesley Storkey, DTM; and Chief Executive Officer Daniel Rex. Chief Financial Officer John Bond, Chief Information Officer Heidi Hollenbeck, Director of Partnerships and Development Angela Cunningham, District Growth and Support Director Jonathan Lam, Marketing Communications Director John Lurquin, Club Quality and Member Support Director Danielle Mitchell, Board Support Director Mona Shah, Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer Amber Villa, Education Development Manager Jessie Lester, and Secretary *Pro Tem* Kristen Kyriazis were also present. No Board Members were absent.

1. The Board reviewed and accepted the agenda as presented.
2. The Board received the report (attached) of the November 20, 2021, Strategic Planning Committee meeting as presented by Immediate Past International President Peck. The Board accepted item #2 as presented. The remaining item was considered subsequently and separately by the Board.

The Board adopted item #1.

3. The Board received the report (attached) of the November 19-21, 2021, Executive Committee meeting as presented by International President-Elect Kinsey. The Board adopted the Committee's recommendations as presented in items #1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, and 21. Item #3 was discussed and adopted during the December 6, 2021, Board of Directors videoconference. The remaining items were considered subsequently and separately by the Board.

The Board adopted item #13.

The Board adopted item #16.

The Board adopted item #20

4. The Board received the report (attached) of the December 13, 2021, Executive Committee videoconference as presented by International President-Elect Kinsey. The Board adopted the Committee's recommendations as presented in items #1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.

The Board instructed World Headquarters to inform District 94 immediately, prior to the release of these minutes, of the approved reformation proposal so that the District may start the reformation processes.

5. The Board received an update on the organization's performance.
6. The Board received an update on the financial position of the organization.
7. The Board received an update from the Chairs of the following: Governing Documents Review Committee, Region Advisor Selection Committee, Incentives Committee, and Advisory Committee of Past International Presidents.

8. **RESTRICTED**

As there was no other business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned.

Pursuant to Protocol 11.3: Board of Directors Confidentiality, items contained in the minutes of this meeting were classified as "unrestricted" upon distribution of the minutes by World Headquarters, not to include any matters marked "restricted."



Kristen Kyriazis  
Secretary *Pro Tem*

Distribution: Board of Directors  
Nonprofit General Counsel  
Chief Executive Officer  
Past International Presidents  
Past International Directors



# Minutes of the 2021-2022 Strategic Planning Committee Meeting

November 20, 2021

The 2021-2022 Strategic Planning Committee met on November 20, 2021, with Immediate Past International President Richard E. Peck, DTM, presiding. The other officers present were: International President Margaret Page, DTM; International President-Elect Matt Kinsey, DTM; First Vice President Morag Mathieson, DTM; Second Vice President Radhi Spear, DTM; and Chief Executive Officer Daniel Rex. Chief Financial Officer John Bond, Chief Information Officer Heidi Hollenbeck, District Growth and Support Director Jonathan Lam, Marketing Communications Director John Lurquin, Club Quality and Member Support Director Danielle Mitchell, Board Support Director Mona Shah, Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer Amber Villa, and Secretary *Pro Tem* Kristen Kyriazis were also present. No Committee members were absent.

## 1. **HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL**

2. In preparation for the development of the next strategic plan, the Committee conducted a SOAR analysis of the organization. A SOAR analysis is a strategic planning technique focusing on current strengths and opportunities and creating a vision of future aspirations and the results they will bring. The strengths and opportunities identified by the Committee were aligned to show the opportunities for which the organization is well positioned to pursue. The Committee discussed their aspirations for the next two years and acknowledged the results needed to be seen in order for the aspirations to be reached. At a future meeting, the Committee will continue their work by discussing strategic initiatives.

As there was no other business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned.

Pursuant to Protocol 11.3: Board of Directors Confidentiality, items contained in the minutes of this meeting were classified as "unrestricted" upon distribution of the minutes by World Headquarters, not to include any matters marked "restricted" or "highly confidential."



Kristen Kyriazis  
Secretary *Pro Tem*

Distribution: Board of Directors  
Nonprofit General Counsel  
Chief Executive Officer  
Past International Presidents  
Past International Directors



# Minutes of the 2021-2022 Executive Committee Meeting

November 19-21, 2021

The 2021-2022 Toastmasters International Executive Committee met November 19-21, 2021, with International President, Margaret Page, DTM presiding. The other officers present were: International President-Elect Matt Kinsey, DTM; First Vice President Morag Mathieson, DTM; Second Vice President Radhi Spear, DTM; Immediate Past International President Richard E. Peck, DTM; and Chief Executive Officer Daniel Rex. Chief Financial Officer John Bond, Chief Information Officer Heidi Hollenbeck, District Growth and Support Director Jonathan Lam, Marketing Communications Director John Lurquin, Club Quality and Member Support Director Danielle Mitchell, Board Support Director Mona Shah, Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer Amber Villa, Education Development Manager Jessie Lester, and Secretary *Pro Tem* Kristen Kyriazis were also present. No Committee members were absent.

1. The agenda was adopted as presented.
2. The Committee discussed the need to appoint a *Secretary Pro Tem* while the current Secretary is on leave from the organization. The Committee appointed Kristen Kyriazis to serve as *Secretary Pro Tem*.
3. The Committee reviewed the proposed 2022 Toastmasters International budget. The reviewed material included the following:
  - a. A narrative describing the components of the proposed 2022 budget, along with current, past, and anticipated future organization revenue and expense trends
  - b. The 2022 Toastmasters International budget, including detailed financial statements and supporting detailed schedules
  - c. Department service overviews for World Headquarters that describe current, past, and future responsibilities, new initiatives, and dependencies

The CEO acknowledged the continued significant impact of COVID-19 on the organization's finances and the desire to return to normalcy where possible during the 2022 year. The Committee recommends that the Board adopt the 2022 Toastmasters International budget.

**HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL**

4. The Committee discussed the future of the *Toastmaster* magazine. With the approval of the 2022 budget, the *Toastmaster* magazine will continue to be distributed online through the 2022 calendar year. World Headquarters will continue to provide information to the Committee for future discussions.
5. The International President and each International Officer presented a report of their experiences and observations since taking office in August 2021. The reports included reflections on their leadership journey, observations of recent key successes, and ideas for encouraging growth throughout the organization.
6. Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Daniel Rex provided an update on the status of the organization. The CEO expressed concern for the continued impact of the global pandemic on members, clubs, District leaders, and the staff of World Headquarters.
7. The Committee reviewed and approved the signers on District bank accounts as submitted by each District below on the District Signature Form, retroactive to July 1, 2021. These signers are authorized to use corporate funds at the District, Division, and Area levels and in this capacity act on behalf of Toastmasters International:

16	33	79	101
20	43	88	104
23	58	91	105
31	67	95	121

Signature forms not yet submitted by the following Districts will be submitted to the Committee upon receipt at a future meeting:

8	62	78	100
11	66	89	119
19	70	94	

8. The Committee received an update on the financial performance of the organization during the 2021 year.
9. The Committee received an update on the status of several Districts approaching 240 clubs. At this time, none of these Districts have made a request to form a reformation committee. World Headquarters will continue to keep the Committee apprised of these Districts' growth for future discussion.

The Committee received an update on Phase 2 of the Undistricted Clubs initiative, reviewing the countries that are currently not aligned to any District. World Headquarters will continue its work on proposed alignment for these countries to Districts and will present recommendations to the Committee at a future meeting.

10. The Committee reviewed and discussed the effectiveness of the additional awards, recognitions, and incentives that were implemented for the 2020-2021 program year. The Committee requested additional information from World Headquarters for discussion at a future meeting.

11. The Committee received an update on prison clubs and incarcerated members in the organization.
12. The Committee received an update on the District Conflict Work Resolution Working Group.
13. **HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL**
14. The Committee received an update from the Chairs of the following: Governing Documents Review Committee; Region Advisor Selection Committee; Incentives Committee; and Advisory Committee of Past Presidents.
15. **HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL**  
**HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL**
16. The Committee reviewed proposed amendments to the *Speech Contest Rulebook* (attached), Policy 6.0: Speech Contests (attached), Protocol 9.0: District Campaigns and Elections (attached), and the Judge's Certification of Eligibility and Code of Ethics (attached) to better clarify existing rules and improve structure and process. The Committee recommends that the Board approve the amendments to Policy 6.0: Speech Contests (attached). Changes to the *Speech Contest Rulebook* for the 2022-2023 speech contest cycle and Protocol 9.0: District Campaigns and Elections were adopted by the joint authority of the International President and Chief Executive Officer with the concurrence of the International President-Elect contingent on the adoption of the amendments to Policy 6.0: Speech Contests by the Board.
17. **HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL**
18. The Committee reviewed and considered the process for communicating the outcomes of disciplinary actions by the Board of Directors. The Committee asked World Headquarters to bring a proposal for amendments to the governing documents at a future meeting.  
**HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL**
19. The Committee discussed current real and perceived gaps in World Headquarters providing support to members as well as potential solutions and implications. Discussion will continue at future meetings.
20. The Committee reviewed the proposed plan for the next phase of global advertising and considered the source of and approval process options for funding District campaigns. The Committee recommends that the Board approve the next phase of global advertising be funded by each participating District's respective reserve account with the approval of the District Executive Committee.
21. The Committee received an update on the current progress of the District Translation Program.

As there was no other business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned.

Pursuant to Protocol 11.3: Board of Directors Confidentiality, items contained in the minutes of this meeting were classified as “unrestricted” upon distribution of the minutes by World Headquarters, not to include any matters marked “restricted” or “highly confidential.”



Kristen Kyriazis  
Secretary *Pro Tem*

Distribution: Board of Directors  
Nonprofit General Counsel  
Chief Executive Officer  
Past International Presidents  
Past International Directors

**TOASTMASTERS**  
INTERNATIONAL



# SPEECH CONTEST RULEBOOK

JULY 1, 2021 TO JUNE 30, 2022



**WHERE LEADERS  
ARE MADE**

**TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL**  
**[www.toastmasters.org](http://www.toastmasters.org)**

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# Introduction

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Speech contests are an important part of the Toastmasters educational program. They provide an opportunity for Toastmasters to gain speaking experience, as well as an opportunity for other Toastmasters to learn by observing proficient speakers.

This booklet contains the rules and standard procedures for conducting the International, Evaluation, Humorous, Table Topics, and Tall Tales speech contests. If you are involved in conducting or competing in a speech contest, please read these rules carefully and follow them. By doing so, you will ensure a fair speech contest and an enjoyable event for everyone.

The book consists of three (3) parts:

- › **Speech Contest Rules.** Here you will find the General Rules governing all Toastmasters speech contests, as well as the specific rules covering the International, Evaluation, Humorous, Table Topics, and Tall Tales contests.
- › **Contest Checklists.** This section describes some of the common steps required for contest chairs, chief judges, and contestants to prepare for a speech contest.
- › **Speech Contest Materials and Additional Resources.** In this section, you'll find a list of Web pages and other helpful materials related to Toastmasters Speech Contests.

Note: Rule changes are made once a year by administrative protocol with the approval of the International President, the International President-Elect, and the Chief Executive Officer. Changes are highlighted by a mark (◆) in the left margin.

# SPEECH CONTEST RULES

## General Rules for All Toastmasters Speech Contests

Unless otherwise stated, these rules apply to all speech contests conducted by Toastmasters International clubs, Areas, Divisions, and Districts, as well as all contests conducted at the International Convention.

### 1. Speech Contest Policy

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., can be conducted by Districts (including Areas and Divisions) **and Provisional Districts (including Areas and Divisions)**.

1. Districts (including Areas and Divisions) must conduct the International Speech Contest. The International Speech Contest must only be conducted in English.

a) **Provisional Districts (including Areas and Divisions) may conduct a speech contest in English using the rules of the International Speech Contest. This contest does not proceed beyond the District level. A contest using the rules of the International Speech Contest must be titled Provisional Speech Contest.**

2. Districts (including Areas and Divisions) **and Provisional Districts (including Areas and Divisions)** may conduct up to three (3) additional English speech contests each year.

3. Districts (including Areas and Divisions) **and Provisional Districts (including Areas and Divisions)** may also conduct up to four (4) non-English speech contests each year.

a) Each of these contests is conducted in a language selected by the District Director and approved by the District executive committee.

b) Non-English contests are optional and may be conducted as Evaluation, Humorous, Table Topics, or Tall Tales contests, or using the rules of the International Speech Contest. A non-English contest using the rules of the International Speech Contest must be titled using the name of the language. For example: Chinese Speech Contest.

b) Non-English contests must not continue beyond the District level.

B. All District-level speech contests are conducted only at the annual District Conference.

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 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.

**1. Contests conducted by Provisional Districts must follow this same progression, with the exception of the Video Speech Contest.**

- D. Toastmasters International pays the travel expenses of each contestant who participates in the International Speech Contest at the semifinal level at the International Convention. The travel allowance is computed in the same manner and subject to the same restrictions as that of District leaders.
- E. The *Speech Contest Rulebook* is protocol and applies to all official Toastmasters speech contests. Modifications to rules may only be made through the administrative protocol review process. Exceptions are not permitted.
- F. Individual admission fees to a contest may be charged to audience attendees and contest officials; however, contestants may never be charged a fee to compete in a contest, and clubs may never be charged a fee to send a contestant to a contest.

## 2. Eligibility

- A. To be eligible to compete in any official Toastmasters speech contest, a member must:
  - 1. Be a paid member of a club in the Area, Division, and District in which they are competing.
    - a) The club must also be in good standing.
    - b) A new, dual, or reinstated member must have dues and membership application current with World Headquarters.
  - ◆ 2. Maintain eligibility at all levels of any contest.
    - a) If at any level it is determined that a contestant was ineligible to compete at any previous level, the contestant must be disqualified. This disqualification must occur even if the ineligibility is discovered at a later level and has been corrected.
- B. In addition, to be eligible to compete in the International Speech Contest, a member must:
  - 1. Have ~~completed six (6) speech projects in the *Competent Communication* manual~~ ~~or~~ earned certificates of completion in Levels 1 and 2 of any path in the Toastmasters Pathways learning experience.
    - a) However, a charter member of a club chartered less than one (1) year before the club contest is permitted to compete without having completed this requirement. The club must have officially chartered before the Area contest.
    - b) ~~Only members who joined Toastmasters prior to the rollout of Pathways in their region can apply speeches from the *Competent Communication* manual to speech contest eligibility.~~
- C. The following are ineligible to compete in any Toastmasters speech contest:
  - 1. Incumbent International Officers and Directors
  - 2. Region Advisors or Region Advisor applicants
  - 3. District officers whose terms expire June 30:
    - a) District Director
    - b) Program Quality Director
    - c) Club Growth Director
    - d) Administration Manager
    - e) Finance Manager

- f) ) Public Relations Manager
  - g) Division Director
  - h) Area Director
4. International Officer and Director candidates
  5. Immediate Past District Directors
  - ◆ 6. District officers or candidates for elected positions for the term beginning the upcoming July 1
  - ◆ 7. Members who are serving in contest official or presenter roles that meet the following criteria:
    - a) Voting judge, tiebreaking judge or chief judge at the same contest type in which they would be competing beyond the club level, in any District.
    - b) Timer, **ballot** counter (**counter**), **s**Sergeant at **a**Arms, or other contest official role for the same contest in which they would be competing.
    - c) Presenter of an education session, a contest chair, a contest Toastmaster, or an event committee chair for the event at which the contest will be held, including Area, Division, and District events, as well as the International Convention.
  8. 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.
  9. 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.
  10. Toastmasters who are members in more than one (1) club and who meet all eligibility requirements are permitted to compete in the club contest(s) in each club in which they hold paid membership.
    - a) No contestant can compete in more than one (1) Area speech contest of a given type, even if the two (2) Areas are in different Divisions or Districts.
  11. Each contestant must be physically present to compete beyond the club level. Participation by audio, video, or other remote technology is not permitted beyond the club level. (Exceptions: participants in the International Speech Contest Region Quarterfinals and Video Speech Contest.)
- D. To be a chief judge, voting judge, or tiebreaking judge at a Toastmasters speech contest, you must meet all eligibility requirements identified below.
1. At a club contest, be a paid member.
  2. At an Area, Division, or District contest:
    - a) Be a paid member for a minimum of six (6) months.
    - b) Have completed a minimum of six (6) speech projects in *Competent Communication* or earned certificates of completion in Levels 1 and 2 of any path in the Toastmasters Pathways learning experience.
      1. Only members who joined Toastmasters prior to the rollout of Pathways in their region can apply speeches from the *Competent Communication* manual to eligibility for judging.
    - c) Be physically present at the contest for which you are serving.

3. At the International Speech Contest Region Quarterfinals, Semifinals and the World Championship of Public Speaking:

a) Be a paid member for a minimum of six (6) months.

**1. The club must also be in good standing.**

b) Be at least an Advanced Toastmaster Bronze or Advanced Communicator Bronze, or have completed at least one (1) path in the ToastmastersPathways learning experience.

◆ 1. Only members who joined Toastmasters prior to the rollout of Pathways in their region can apply speeches from the *Competent Communication* manual to eligibility for judging.

c) Have previously judged a Toastmasters speech contest at the Area, Division, District, or semifinal level.

E. All other contest officials and the Evaluation Contest test speaker must be paid members.

◆ F. Candidates for elected District leader positions for the term beginning the subsequent July 1 are ineligible to serve **as a contest official or** as a test speaker at the Area, Division, or District level.

### 3. Selection Sequence

◆ 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 club contest is held, it must comply with the rules in this rulebook, and the contest result is final. Contests must be held at the Area, Division, and District levels. The Area speech contest winner then proceeds to the Division contest. The Division winner then proceeds to the District contest.

1. In those Districts with 10 or more Divisions, two (2) separate runoff competitions among Division winners may be held before the District contest finals.

a) Insofar as is practical, the number of Divisions competing in each runoff will be the same.

b) The three (3) highest-placed available contestants from each runoff competition will then advance to the District contest. Placement in the runoff competitions will not be announced.

2. Should a club, Area, or Division contest winner be unable to participate in the next-level contest, the highest-placed available contestant will advance to that level.

3. The International Speech Contest is the only contest that proceeds beyond the District level to region quarterfinals, semifinals, and the World Championship of Public Speaking.

**4. Should a District-level contest winner be unable to participate in the region quarterfinals, the next highest-placed contestant will advance to that level.**

5. **4.** If a region quarterfinal contestant in the International Speech Contest cannot compete in the semifinal round, the next highest-placed contestant will be contacted by World Headquarters.

B. Eight (8) weeks prior to the Area contest, if an Area has four (4) assigned clubs or fewer in good standing, Districts have the option to allow two (2) contestants from each club to compete in the Area contest.

1. Should additional clubs charter prior to the Area contest, two (2) contestants from

each club are permitted to compete.

2. In those Divisions with four (4) assigned Areas or fewer, Districts have the option to allow the two (2) highest-placed available contestants from each Area to compete.
3. In Districts with four (4) assigned Divisions or fewer, Districts have the option to allow the two (2) highest-placed available contestants from each Division to participate in the District contest.
4. The decision whether or not to allow two (2) contestants to advance from club to Area, from Area to Division, and/or from Division to District must be made and communicated throughout the District prior to the commencement of the contest cycle, i.e., prior to any club contests being held.
  - a) Once the decision is made, it must be implemented consistently throughout the District in all clubs, Areas, and Divisions affected.
  - b) If a District decides to allow two (2) contestants to advance from club to Area, its decisions regarding the number to advance from Area to Division and/or from Division to District need not be the same.
- ◆ 5. Occasionally, a contest will be held with only one (1) contestant. In such cases, a contest must still be held, and the contestant must be disqualified if they do not meet the timing, originality, and eligibility requirements.

#### 4. Speech Subject and Preparation

- A. The subject of all International, Humorous, and Tall Tales contest speeches must be selected by the contestant.
- B. The subject of Table Topics Contest speeches must be determined by the contest chair, as outlined in the Table Topics Contest section of this rulebook.
- C. The subject of Evaluation Contest speeches must be limited to oral evaluations of the test speaker's speech, as outlined in the Evaluation Contest section of this rulebook.
- D. Contestants must create their own speeches, and each must be substantially original.
  1. Twenty-five percent or less of the speech may be devoted to quoting, paraphrasing, or referencing another person's content. Any quoted, paraphrased, or referenced content must be so identified during the speech presentation.
  2. Before all contests, every contestant must certify in writing to the chief judge that the content of their speech is or will be substantially original by using the Speaker's Certification of Eligibility and Originality (Item 1183).
- E. Contestants must not reference another contestant, or a speech presented by another contestant, **during their speech** ~~from the platform~~ at the same contest in which they are competing.
- F. All contestants will speak from the same platform or ~~A~~ area designated by the contest chair.
  1. All contestants, the chief judge, voting judges, and the tiebreaking judge will be advised of the speaking ~~A~~ area before the contest begins.
  2. A lectern/podium will be available. However, use of the lectern/podium is optional.
  3. If amplification is necessary, a lectern/podium fixed-mounted microphone and a portable microphone must be made available.
  4. All equipment must be available for contestants to practice with prior to the contest. Contestants are responsible for arranging their preferred setup of the

lectern/podium microphone and other equipment in a quiet manner before being introduced.

## 5. General Procedure

- A. At each level of a Toastmasters speech contest, a specified number of voting judges and officials are required.
  1. At club contests, a contest chair, chief judge, at least five (5) voting judges, a tiebreaking judge, two (2) counters, and two (2) timers are appointed, unless impractical.
  2. At Area contests, there must be an equal number of voting judges from each club in the Area, or a minimum of five (5) voting judges. In addition to these voting judges, a contest chair, chief judge, tiebreaking judge, two (2) counters, and two (2) timers must be appointed.
  3. At Division contests, there must be an equal number of voting judges from each Area in the Division, or a minimum of seven (7) voting judges. In addition to these voting judges, a contest chair, chief judge, tiebreaking judge, two (2) counters, and two (2) timers must be appointed. The chief judge, voting judges, and the tiebreaking judge must not be a member of any club in which a contestant is a member.
  4. At District contests, there must be an equal number of voting judges from each Division in the District, or a minimum of seven (7) voting judges. In addition to these voting judges, a contest chair, chief judge, tiebreaking judge, three (3) counters, and two (2) timers must be appointed. The chief judge, voting judge, or tiebreaking judge must not be a member of any club in which a contestant is a member.
  5. For the International Speech Contest Region Quarterfinals, there must be a minimum of nine (9) voting judges and one (1) tiebreaking judge for each contest. The Immediate Past International President once removed will be the chief judge for all region quarterfinals. If the Immediate Past International President once removed is unable to serve as chief judge, the First Vice President will appoint another Past International President. No voting judge or tiebreaking judge can be a member in the same region in which a contestant is a member. No 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 must be an equal number of voting judges from each District, or a minimum of nine (9) voting judges. In addition to these voting judges, a contest chair, chief judge, tiebreaking judge, three (3) counters, and two (2) timers are appointed. No chief judge, voting judge, or tiebreaking judge can be a member of any club in which a contestant is a member.
  7. At the World Championship of Public Speaking, there must be one (1) voting judge representing each region. In addition to these judges, a contest chair, five (5) qualifying judges, a tiebreaking judge, three (3) counters, and two (2) timers are appointed. The Immediate Past International President once removed will be the chief judge for the World Championship of Public Speaking. If the Immediate Past International President once removed is unable to serve as chief judge, the First Vice President will appoint another Past International President. No chief judge, voting judge, qualifying judge, or tiebreaking judge can be a member of any club in which a contestant is a member.
  8. Voting judges at all levels must remain anonymous when practical.

9. The contest chair may appoint a member to serve as the contest Toastmaster ~~to perform any of the chair's duties~~. In such cases, the term, "contest Toastmaster" should be **used for the member supporting the contest chair**. ~~considered synonymous with "contest chair."~~ A contest Toastmaster is also ineligible to compete in the contest at which they are serving.
  10. Contest officials must not serve in more than one (1) role for the same contest at the Area (when practical), Division, District, region quarterfinal, semifinal, and final levels.
- B. Before the contest, contestants are briefed on the rules by the contest chair. Contestants will then draw for their speaking position with the contest chair.
- C. 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.
1. If the primary contestant is not present when the person conducting the contest is introduced, the primary contestant is disqualified and the alternate officially becomes the 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:
    - a) Reports to the contest chair upon his/her arrival.
    - b) Has all required paperwork in good order before the person conducting the contest is introduced to begin the contest.
    - c) Waives the opportunity of a briefing.
- D. Before the contest, voting judges, counters, and timers are briefed on their duties by the chief judge.
1. Each voting judge receives the appropriate ballot for the contest.
    - a) International Speech Contest voting judges receive the International Speech Contest Judge's Guide and Ballot (Item 1172).
    - b) Evaluation Contest voting judges receive the Evaluation Contest Judge's Guide and Ballot (Item 1179).
    - c) Humorous Speech Contest voting judges receive the Humorous Speech Contest Judge's Guide and Ballot (Item 1191).
    - d) Table Topics Contest voting judges receive the Table Topics Contest Judge's Guide and Ballot (Item 1180).
    - e) Tall Tales Contest voting judges receive the Tall Tales Contest Judge's Guide and Ballot (Item 1181).
    - f) ) All voting judges and the tiebreaking judge receive the Judge's Certification of Eligibility and Code of Ethics (Item 1170). The form must be signed and returned to the chief judge.
  2. Timers receive the Speech Contest Time Record Sheet and Instructions for Timers (Item 1175). If necessary, they also receive instruction in the proper use of the timing equipment.
  3. Ballot counters receive the Counter's Tally Sheet (Item 1176). If necessary, they also receive instruction in the gathering of ballots and the counting room procedure (described below).
- E. Before the contest, the chief judge selects a member to act as tiebreaking judge.
1. The identity of the tiebreaking judge is secret, and known only to the chief judge.

2. The tiebreaking judge does not attend the judges' briefing.
3. The chief judge must provide a Tiebreaking Judge's Guide and Ballot to the tiebreaking judge before the beginning of the contest.
  - a) International Speech Contest tiebreaking judges receive the International Speech Contest Tiebreaking Judge's Guide and Ballot (Item 1188).
  - b) Evaluation Contest tiebreaking judges receive the Evaluation Contest Tiebreaking Judge's Guide and Ballot (Item 1179A).
  - c) Humorous Speech Contest tiebreaking judges receive the Humorous Speech Contest Tiebreaking Judge's Guide and Ballot (Item 1191A).
  - d) Table Topics Contest tiebreaking judges receive the Table Topics Contest Tiebreaking Judge's Guide and Ballot (Item 1180A).
  - e) Tall Tales Contest tiebreaking judges receive the Tall Tales Contest Tiebreaking Judge's Guide and Ballot (Item 1181A).

- F. For the International, Humorous, and Tall Tales contests, the contest chair must introduce each contestant by announcing the contestant's name, speech title, speech title, and contestant's name.
1. For Table Topics contests, the contest chair must introduce each contestant by announcing the contestant's name, topic, topic, and contestant's name.
  2. For Evaluation contests, the contest chair must introduce each contestant by announcing the contestant's name twice.
- G. Contestants in the International, Humorous, and Tall Tales contests are permitted to remain in the same room throughout the duration of the contest.
- H. Evaluation Contest participants are required to leave the room after the test speech has been delivered, as outlined in the Evaluation Contest section of this rulebook.
- I. Table Topics Contest contestants must stay out of the room until the preceding speaker has completed their response to the topic, as outlined in the Table Topics Contest section of this rulebook.
- J. There will be one (1) minute of silence between contestant speeches, during which voting judges and the tiebreaking judge will mark their ballots. All voting judges and the tiebreaking judge will judge all contestants; the chief judge does not judge contestants.
- K. When the last contestant finishes speaking, the contest chair will ask for silence until the ballot counters have collected all ballots. **The chief judge will notify the contest chair when all ballots have been collected. The contest must only resume once this notification is received.**
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.
  2. When voting judges have finished marking their ballots, they must 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 voting judge after the contest.
  3. The chief judge personally collects the tiebreaking judge's ballot, which must contain all contestants ranked in order by the tiebreaking judge.
    - a) The top portion of the ballot is not provided to the chief judge and must be discreetly discarded by the tiebreaking judge after the contest.
  4. As the voting judges and the tiebreaking judge are completing their ballots at the end of the contest, the timer **with the stopwatch** completes the Time Record Sheet, places it in the provided envelope, and hands it to the chief judge.
- L. Once all of the ballots have been collected, the ballot counters and the chief judge will leave the contest area and proceed to the counting room.
5. In the counting room, the ballot counters will tabulate the results of the contest using the Counter's Tally Sheet (Item 1176).
    - a) On the Counter's Tally Sheet, each contestant receives points for being ranked first, second, or third place on a voting judge's ballot.
      1. Three (3) points are scored for each first-place ranking.
      2. Two (2) points are scored for each second-place ranking.

3. One (1) point is scored for each third-place ranking.
- b) Once all points are entered, the ballot counters compute the total points for each contestant and enter the totals on the bottom of the tally sheet.
  1. Point totals must be verified by all ballot counters before results are entered on the sheet.
  2. Contestants are then ranked on the bottom of the tally sheet according to the number of points scored.
- c) In the event of a tie, the chief judge will consult the tiebreaking judge's ballot.
- d) The tied contestant who received the highest ranking on the tiebreaking judge's ballot will gain the contested place, and any other tied contestants will be ranked in order behind that contestant.
6. Once the results have been tabulated and verified, the chief judge records the ranking of all contestants on the Notification of Contest Winner form (Item 1182), which is submitted to the contest chair of the next level or to World Headquarters in the case of the International Speech Contest at the District level. The chief judge records the names of the winners in reverse order on the Results Form (Item 1168) and gives it to the contest chair.
  - a) All ballots and the tally sheet will be kept by the chief judge until after the winners have been announced.
  - b) After the winners have been announced, the chief judge will destroy all ballots, the time record, and the tally sheet.
- L. After the conclusion of the contestant interviews, the contest chair announces the winners of the contest.
  1. In contests with three (3) 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.
  2. In contests with fewer than three (3) participants, a second-place winner (if applicable) and a first-place winner will be announced. Winners will be announced in reverse order.
- ◆ 3. Winners must be announced prior to the end of the event.
  - a) If the contest is the only event taking place, winners must be announced before the contest adjourns.
  - b) If multiple contests are taking place as part of a larger conference or event, winners from all contests must be announced before the end of the conference or event.
- ◆ 4. If there are multiple contests taking place at one event, each contest must be officially adjourned prior to the beginning of the next contest, even if winners have not yet been announced.
5. For the International Speech Contest Region Quarterfinals, contestants advancing to the semifinals will be announced in no particular order. Placement will not be announced.
6. 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.

7. 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.

## 6. Timing of the Speeches

- A. Two (2) timers are appointed by the chief judge. One is provided with a stopwatch, and the other with a signaling device that displays green, yellow, and red colors.
- B. The signaling device must be in full view of each contestant.
- C. The timer with the stopwatch maintains and delivers to the chief judge the written record of elapsed time of each speech on the Speech Contest Time Record Sheet and Instructions for Timers (Item 1175). **This constitutes the official time.**
- D. The timer managing the timing device ensures that contestants are able to view an accurate green, yellow, or red signal at appropriate times during the speech.
- E. All speeches delivered by contestants must conform to the timing guidelines for the contest.
  1. International and Humorous contest speeches must be from five (5) to seven (7) minutes. A contestant will be disqualified if the speech is less than four (4) minutes 30 seconds or more than seven (7) minutes 30 seconds. **Timers must not consider fractions of a second. A contestant is not qualified until their time reaches four (4) minutes and 30 seconds and is not disqualified until their time reaches seven (7) minutes and 31 seconds.**
  2. Table Topics Contest speeches must be from one (1) minute to two (2) minutes. A contestant will be disqualified if the speech is less than one (1) minute or more than two (2) minutes 30 seconds. **Timers must not consider fractions of a second. A contestant is not qualified until their time reaches one (1) minute and is not disqualified until their time reaches two (2) minutes and 31 seconds.**
  3. Evaluation Contest speeches must be from two (2) to three (3) minutes. A contestant will be disqualified if the speech is less than one (1) minute 30 seconds or more than three (3) minutes 30 seconds. **Timers must not consider fractions of a second. A contestant is not qualified until their time reaches one (1) minute and 30 seconds and is not disqualified until their time reaches three (3) minutes and 31 seconds.**
  4. Tall Tales Contest speeches must be from three (3) to five (5) minutes. A contestant will be disqualified if the speech is less than two (2) minutes 30 seconds or more than five (5) minutes 30 seconds. **Timers must not consider fractions of a second. A contestant is not qualified until their time reaches two (2) minutes and 30 seconds and is not disqualified until their time reaches five (5) minutes and 31 seconds.**
- F. Upon being introduced, the contestant must proceed immediately to the speaking position.
  1. Timing will begin with the contestant's first definite verbal or nonverbal communication with the audience. This usually will be the first word uttered by the contestant, but would include any other communication such as sound effects, a staged act by another person, etc.
  2. The speaker should begin speaking within a short time after arriving at the speaking area, and is not permitted to delay the contest unnecessarily.

G. Timers must provide warning signals to the contestants, which must be clearly visible to the speakers but not obvious to the audience.

1. For International and Humorous contests:

- a) The green signal will be displayed at five (5) minutes and remain displayed for one (1) minute.
- b) The yellow signal will be displayed at six (6) minutes and remain displayed for one (1) minute.
- c) The red signal will be displayed at seven (7) minutes and will remain on until the conclusion of the speech.

2. For Evaluation contests:

- a) The green signal will be displayed at two (2) minutes and remain displayed for 30 seconds.
- b) The yellow signal will be displayed at two (2) minutes and 30 seconds and remain displayed for 30 seconds.
- c) The red signal will be displayed at three (3) minutes and remain displayed until the evaluation is concluded.

3. For Table Topics contests:

- a) The green signal will be displayed at one (1) minute and remain displayed for 30 seconds.
- b) The yellow signal will be displayed at one (1) minute 30 seconds and remain displayed for 30 seconds.
- c) The red signal will be displayed at two (2) minutes and remain displayed until the speech is concluded.

4. For Tall Tales contests:

- a) The green signal will be displayed at three (3) minutes and remain displayed for one (1) minute.
- b) The yellow signal will be displayed at four (4) minutes and remain displayed for one (1) minute.
- c) The red signal will be displayed at five (5) minutes and remain displayed until the speech is concluded.

5. In all speech contests, no signal can be given for the overtime period.

6. Any visually impaired contestant is permitted to request and must be granted a form of warning signal of their own choosing.

- a) Acceptable warning signals would include, but not be limited to: a buzzer, a bell, or a person announcing the times at five (5), six (6), and seven (7) minutes.
- b) If any special device and/or specific instructions for such a signal is/are required, the contestant must provide same.

7. In the event of technical failure of the signal or timing equipment, a speaker is allowed 30 seconds extra overtime before being disqualified.

H. Prior to announcing results, the contest chair must announce **the number of #** time disqualifications ~~occurred~~, but not name the contestant(s) involved.

## 7. Protests and Disqualifications

- ◆ A. Protests are limited to eligibility, originality, and reference to another contestant's speech and must only be lodged by voting judges and/or contestants. Any protest

must be lodged with the chief judge and/or contest chair prior to the contest being adjourned.

- B. The chief judge, contest chair, voting judges, and contestants must not consider protests from audience members.
- C. Before a contestant can be disqualified on the basis of originality, or for referencing another contestant's speech, 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.
- D. The contest chair can disqualify a contestant on the basis of eligibility.
- E. All decisions of the voting judges, and qualifying judges are final.

## 8. Use of Props and Electronic Devices

- A. Contestants who plan to use props (including any sort of electronic devices) must notify the contest chair prior to the contest.
- B. Contestants must abide by any venue restrictions on the use of props.
- C. All props must be set up during the minute of silence prior to the contestant's speech and removed from the stage in the minute of silence following the speech.
  - 1. Contestants may enlist someone to help them with props, but it is not the responsibility of the contest chair or any other contest official to do so.
  - 2. Contestants must demonstrate to the contest chair prior to the contest that the props can be set up and removed in the allotted times.
    - a) If a contestant is unable to demonstrate this, the props cannot be used during the contest.

## International Speech Contest Rules

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The International Speech Contest, which must be conducted in English only, follows all rules outlined in the General Rules section of this rulebook. In addition, the following additions and exceptions apply.

- 1. The International Speech Contest begins at the club level, and proceeds through the Area, Division, District, region quarterfinal, semifinal, and final levels.
  - A. District-level contest videos that are submitted to World Headquarters to be used in region quarterfinal judging must meet these requirements:

### Audio

- ) The audio must be clear and without echo, static or other excessive noise.

### Camera

- ) The camera must record in high definition.
- ) Only single-camera setup is permitted; use of multiple camera angles is not allowed.
- ) The camera must be placed on a tripod to maintain stability and prevent unwanted movement.
- ) The camera must have an unobstructed, in-focus view of the contestants.
- ) The entire speaking area must be visible throughout the recording.
- ) The camera must be monitored by a camera operator at all times to ensure it is recording properly.
- ) Zooming is not permitted.

### Lighting

- ) The speaking area must be fully lit.
- ) The speaker's facial expressions must be visible throughout the speech; the image should not be too bright or dark.
- ) No lighting, artificial or natural, should point directly at the camera.

### Video Recording

- ) The recording must only contain the introduction of the winning contestant's speech by the contest chair and the entire winning speech.

- l The recording may not be edited in any way, such as by adding text, graphics, images, or anything that does not meet the requirements above.

**B. If a region quarterfinal video fails to meet any of the recording requirements, the contestant will be disqualified by the chief judge. The submitting District will be notified of the disqualification.**

C. ~~B~~ District Submission to World Headquarters

1. Following the District-level International Speech Contest, the chief judge ranks all District-level contestants in order of results on the Notification of Contest Winner form (Item 1182) and then submits the form to the Program Quality Director.
2. The Program Quality Director submits the Notification of Contest Winner form, Region Quarterfinals Video Release Form, and video of the first-place winner to World Headquarters in the format and manner requested.

D. ~~C~~ Region quarterfinals are conducted by video after the submission of District winners.

1. Region quarterfinal judges will view all videos for their assigned region in the order provided by the chief judge.
2. Region quarterfinal judges must view all videos in one (1) sitting.
3. Region quarterfinal judges may only view each video once. Pausing or rewinding is prohibited.
4. After region quarterfinal results are announced, information about the semifinal contest is provided to the winners by World Headquarters.

E. ~~D~~ Semifinals are to be held at the International Convention, and will include the top two (2) winners from each region quarterfinal contest, randomly assigned to four (4) separate contests.

1. All contestants' briefings for the semifinal speech contests will be conducted simultaneously by World Headquarters staff.
2. All judges' briefings for the semifinal speech contests will also be conducted simultaneously by World Headquarters staff.

F. ~~E~~ Every participant in the World Championship of Public Speaking must present an entirely new and different speech than the one presented during that year's semifinal speech contest or any previous year's semifinal and final-round speech contests.

1. Winners advancing to the semifinal level at the International Convention will prepare and deliver to World Headquarters outlines of their semifinal speech. If they have previously competed at the semifinal or final levels, contestants will provide World Headquarters with outlines from all speeches presented at these levels. Outlines from all semifinal winners will be given to qualifying judges before or during the judges' briefing for the World Championship of Public Speaking.
2. Qualifying judges will also be given a qualification sheet. On this sheet, qualifying judges will indicate whether the speech being delivered at the World Championship of Public Speaking is entirely new and different from the speech given at the semifinal contest or any previous year's semifinal and final-round contests.
3. As the voting judges are completing their ballots at the end of the contest, the qualifying judges complete the qualification sheet, sign it, place it in the provided envelope, and hold it up for the ballot counters to collect.
4. In the ballot counting room, the chief judge will open and review all Speaker Qualification Sheets. If three (3) of the five (5) qualifying judges check (X) in the Disqualified column for a given speaker, that speaker is disqualified, and no protest

may be made.

2. The semifinals and World Championship of Public Speaking will follow the version of the rulebook that was in effect when the contest cycle began on the previous July 1, approximately 14 months before the World Championship of Public Speaking.

## **Evaluation Contest Rules**

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The Evaluation Contest follows all rules outlined in the General Rules section of this rulebook. In addition, the following additions and exceptions apply.

1. At the beginning of this contest, a five (5)- to seven (7)-minute test speech will be presented.
  - A. The test speech must be a contest-type speech or a project speech from the Toastmasters Pathways learning experience.
  - B. Contestants who choose to make preparatory notes during the test speech must use the Evaluation Contestant Notes sheet (Item 1177). More than one (1) sheet may be used.
  - C. It is recommended that at all levels of the contest, the Toastmaster giving the test speech not be a member of the same club as any one of the contestants.
  - D. The test speaker must be introduced by announcing the speaker's name, speech title, and the speaker's name.
  - E. Neither the test speaker's project nor any objectives that the speaker may have can be made known to the contestants, chief judge, voting judges, tiebreaking judge, or audience.
2. At the conclusion of the test speech, all contestants must leave the room. They then have five (5) minutes to prepare their evaluation using the Evaluation Contestant Notes sheet.
  - A. Timing and preparation supervision must be under the control of the contest **sSergeant at aArms**.
  - B. Where it is not practical for contestants to leave the room, contestants will complete their five (5)-minute preparation in the same room under the control of the contest **sSergeant at aArms**.
  - C. Contestants must not use digital or other devices during the contest to gain an unfair advantage.
3. After five (5) minutes have elapsed, no further preparation is allowed and all contestants must hand their copy of the Evaluation Contestant Notes sheet to the contest **sSergeant at aArms**. The Evaluation Contestant Notes sheets must be handed back to contestants as they are introduced to present their evaluation.
4. Introduce each contestant by announcing the contestant's name twice. Note that this differs from the standard "name, speech title, speech title, name," format because Evaluation speeches do not have titles.

## **Humorous Speech Contest Rules**

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The Humorous Speech Contest follows all rules outlined in the General Rules section of this rulebook. In addition, the following additions and exceptions apply.

1. The subject for the Humorous Contest speech must be selected by the contestant. The speaker must avoid potentially objectionable language, anecdotes, and material.

2. The speech must be thematic in nature (opening, body, and close), not a monologue (series of one-liners).

## Table Topics Contest Rules

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The Table Topics Contest follows all rules outlined in the General Rules section of this rulebook. In addition, the following additions and exceptions apply.

1. All contestants must receive the same topic, which must be of a general nature.
  - A. The topic is selected by the contest chair.
2. The topic must be of reasonable length, must not require a detailed knowledge, and must lead to an opinion or conclusion.
3. Contestants will receive no advance knowledge of the topic until the moment they are introduced by the contest chair.
4. Contestants must not use digital or other devices during the contest to gain an unfair advantage.
5. When the contest begins, all contestants except the first must leave the room and remain under the supervision of the contest sergeant at arms.
6. Introduce each contestant by announcing the contestant's name, the topic, the topic, the contestant's name.
7. At the conclusion of each speech, the next speaker is invited into the room.

## Tall Tales Contest Rules

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The Tall Tales Contest follows all rules outlined in the General Rules section of this rulebook. In addition, the following additions and exceptions apply.

1. The subject for the Tall Tales speech must be of a highly exaggerated, improbable nature and have a theme or plot.
2. Humor and props may be used to support or illustrate the speech.

## Video Speech Contest

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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.
  - ◆ A. Members of undistricted clubs may not compete in the Video Speech Contest if they also belong to a club assigned to a District.
2. The Toastmasters International Speech Contest rules are to be followed as far as they are applicable.
  - A. There is no Area, Division, District, or semifinal competition for the Video Speech Contest, nor are there any travel allowances.
  - B. To enter, clubs conduct a speech contest and submit a video recording of the winning speech.
3. Only one (1) speech per club may be submitted.
  - ◆ A. Video Speech Contest entries must meet these requirements:

- ◆ The audio must be clear and without echo, static, or other excessive noise.
  - ▮ Only single-camera setup is permitted; use of multiple camera angles is not allowed.
  - ▮ The camera must have an unobstructed, in-focus view of the contestant.
  - ▮ The camera must be mounted or secured to avoid unwanted movement.
  - ▮ Zooming is not permitted.
  - ▮ The speaking area must be fully lit.
  - ▮ The speaker's facial expressions must be visible throughout the speech; the image should not be too bright or too dark; the speaker should remain in frame through the entire speech.
  - ▮ No lighting, artificial or natural, should point directly at the camera.
  - ▮ The recording must only contain the introduction of the winning contestant's speech by the contest chair and the entire winning speech.
  - ▮ The recording may not be edited in any way, such as by adding text, graphics, images, or anything that does not meet the requirements above.
- ◆ B. Video Speech Contest entries must be submitted using a Video Speech Contest Entry Form (Item 1178) that includes a live URL linking to a video submission.
- ◆ C. Video Speech Contest entries must include a completed Speaker's Certification of Eligibility and Originality (Item 1183) with the entry form.
  - D. Entry forms must be emailed to [videospoachcontest@toastmasters.org](mailto:videospoachcontest@toastmasters.org) and received at World Headquarters on or before 5 p.m. Mountain Time, March 31, to be eligible for competition.
- ◆ 4. Should more than 10 eligible video submissions be received in a given contest cycle, separate run-off competitions can be held.
  - A. Each run-off competition will have no more than 10 contestants.
  - B. Insofar as practical, the number of contestants competing in each runoff competition will be the same.
  - C. The three (3) highest-placed contestants from each run-off competition will advance to the next level of the contest.
- ◆ 5. For each run-off competition and the final level of the contest, a minimum of five (5) voting judges and one (1) tiebreaking judge will be appointed.
  - A. Voting judges and tiebreaking judges must meet the eligibility requirements for judging the International Speech Contest.
    - 1. Voting judges and tiebreaking judge will not be physically present for the Video Speech Contest.
    - 2. The Immediate Past International President twice removed will be the chief judge for all Video Speech Contest competitions.
      - a) If the Immediate Past International President twice removed is unable to serve as chief judge, the First Vice President will appoint another Past International President.
  - B. Timers are not appointed for the Video Speech Contest.
    - 1. Speeches will be timed at the club level and verified when videos are reviewed for eligibility.

- a) Speeches that do not meet the timing requirements will be reviewed by the chief judge. If the chief judge determines the contestant went overtime or undertime, the video submission will not be accepted.

# SPEECH CONTEST CHECKLISTS

Speech contests should be planned carefully and conducted professionally. Use of these checklists is not required but is strongly recommended.

## Contest Chair's Checklist

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As contest chair, you must plan the contest budget, make room and audio arrangements, conduct a pre- and post-contest publicity program, and see that all bills for the event are promptly paid. You must make sure each speaker is eligible to compete and is familiar with the contest rules, that audiovisual equipment is working, that the chief judge, voting judges, timers, and counters are briefed on their duties, that ballots are counted carefully, and that awards are presented to the winners in a ceremony that will make them proud.

Although you may have a committee to help you with these tasks, it is still your responsibility to make sure they are done.

### Preparation

1. Determine the budget for the contest, remembering that contest income and expenses should break even. Allow for such expenses as awards, contest material, deposits, meals, printing, postage, etc.  
Note: If there is an entry fee to attend the contest, that fee must be waived for contestants. Contestants cannot be charged a fee to compete.
2. Select a place and time for the speech contest and coordinate the selection with the proper Toastmasters officer.
3. Determine the agenda for the contest.
4. Arrange for the supplies and services required for the event.
5. Order certificates of participation for all contest speakers, and order trophies from World Headquarters for the winners.  
Note: It is a trademark violation to put the Toastmasters logo, or the words "Toastmasters" or "Toastmasters International," on speech contest awards not purchased from World Headquarters.
6. Toastmasters International speech contest materials are available for free download at [www.toastmasters.org](http://www.toastmasters.org):
  - ▮ Speaker's Certification of Eligibility and Originality (Item 1183)
  - ▮ Speech Contest Time Record Sheet and Instructions for Timers (Item 1175)
  - ▮ Judge's Guide and Ballot
  - ▮ Judge's Certification of Eligibility and Code of Ethics (Item 1170)
  - ▮ Counter's Tally Sheet (Item 1176)

- › Tiebreaking Judge's Guide and Ballot
  - › Speech Contestant Profile (Item 1189)
  - › Results Form (Item 1168)
7. Select the chief judge. See the Eligibility section in this rulebook for eligibility requirements for a chief judge.
- 8. Appoint any supporting roles needed for the contest including Sergeant at Arms, test speaker, or other roles.**
- A. Meet with members serving in supporting roles and brief them on their responsibilities.**
9. ~~9.~~ Notify the contest officials of the time and place of the contest and pre-contest briefings. (Allow ample time, e.g., two weeks, for club contest.)
10. ~~9.~~ Notify the contestants of the time and place of the contest and pre-contest briefing two (2) to six (6) weeks before the contest. Provide an information packet to each contestant at this time. The packet consists of:
- › *Speech Contest Rulebook* (Item 1171)
  - › Speech Contestant Profile (Item 1189)
  - › Speaker's Certification of Eligibility and Originality (Item 1183)
11. ~~10.~~ Promote the contest in your community by sending news releases to the media.
12. ~~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:
- › **Verify membership status:** Club officers and District leaders can use the Eligibility Assistant available in Leadership Central of [www.toastmasters.org](http://www.toastmasters.org) to determine if a contestant is a paid member of a paid club, or a current District leader.
  - › **Verify education: If the member is competing in the International Speech Contest, confirm that they have completed Levels 1 and 2 of any path in the Toastmasters Pathways learning experience.** Contact the Speech Contests Team at World Headquarters by email at [speechcontests@toastmasters.org](mailto:speechcontests@toastmasters.org).

## Contestants' Briefing

- ◆ 1. Verify the presence of all contestants and pronunciation of their names.  
Note: You also will conduct a brief informal interview with each contestant after all ballots are collected.
- 2. Review the speech contest rules with speakers.
- 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.
- 4. Review timing protocol with speakers.
- 5. Acquaint contestants with the exact speaking area, such as lectern, tables, lighting, microphone, etc. All contestants must have the opportunity to test any amplifying equipment before the contest.
- 6. Draw for speaking positions.

## During the Contest

1. Open the contest with a brief introduction. Inform the audience:
  - ▮ The rules have been reviewed with the chief judge and contestants.
  - ▮ The contestants have been informed of the location of the timing lights.
  - ▮ The taking of photographs during the speeches is not permitted.
  - ▮ Each contestant selects their own speech topics. Some of the content may be personal in nature and contain language, ideas, or beliefs that some audiences may consider sensitive.
2. Introduce each contest speaker. Do not make preliminary remarks about any speaker or the subject of their speech, or mention the name or location of the speaker's club or place of residence. Introduce each contestant slowly and clearly.
3. Upon completion of the speeches, ask voting judges and the tiebreaking judge to complete their ballots. At this time, the counters will collect the voting judges' ballots and the chief judge will collect and verify the Time Record Sheets from timers, as well as the tiebreaking judge's ballot. When all ballots and Time Record Sheets have been collected, the chief judge and ballot counters will proceed to the ballot counting room.
  - ▮ All ballots, Counter's Tally Sheet forms, and Time Record Sheets are considered confidential.
  - ▮ Give all forms to the chief judge for disposal.
  - ▮ Keep a list showing placement of all contestants in case the winner or alternate cannot compete at the next level.
4. While the ballot counters are counting the ballots, the contest chair will interview each speaker.
  - ▮ At the conclusion of the contest speeches and while the results are being tabulated, introduce the contestants again, giving the club, Area, and District they represent, and present their certificates of participation. A short interview may be conducted at this time, using the contestant's biographical information as a guide.
5. When the interviews are completed, collect the contest results from the chief judge.
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 must be lodged with the chief judge and/or contest chair prior to the announcement of the winner and alternate(s). The contest chair 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, **or for referencing another contestant's speech**, 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.
7. Prior to announcing results, the chair must announce if time disqualification(s) occurred, but not name the contestant(s) involved. The chief judge may discuss the matter privately with the disqualified contestant(s).
8. In closing, thank all who helped make the contest a success.

## After the Contest

1. Provide the contact details for all contestants to the chief judge so the judge can complete the Notification of Contest Winner form (Item 1182). Confirm that the chief

judge gives this form to the contest chair of the next level or to World Headquarters in the case of the International Speech Contest at the District level.

2. Send news releases (and photographs, if possible) to each winner's community newspaper and company publication, if applicable.
3. Make sure all bills pertaining to the contest are paid promptly.

## Chief Judge's Checklist

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### Before the Contest

1. Appoint and counsel voting judges, counters, timers, and a secret tiebreaking judge.
2. Act as chief counter and provide each counter with a copy of the Counter's Tally Sheet (Item 1176).
3. Encourage all speech contest officials to view the online Speech Contest training at [www.toastmasters.org/Leadership-Central/Speech-Contests/Speech-Contest-Tutorials](http://www.toastmasters.org/Leadership-Central/Speech-Contests/Speech-Contest-Tutorials).
4. Conduct the judge's-briefing for voting judges, counters, and timers. **The judge's briefing may be conducted in person or online at the discretion of the chief judge. Online briefings are allowed in order to facilitate more scheduling opportunities for a thorough briefing.**

### Judge's-Briefing Checklist

1. Distribute the following to each voting judge:
  - List of contestants in speaking order
  - Judge's Guide and Ballot
  - *Speech Contest Rulebook* (Item 1171)
  - Judge's Certification of Eligibility and Code of Ethics (Item 1170)
- ◆ 2. Instruct all judges to sit close to the contest area in case of an outside disturbance or malfunctioning technical system.
3. Review the Judge's Guide and Ballot and speaking area.
4. Brief the ballot counters in the use of the Counter's Tally Sheet (Item 1176).
5. Review the Speech Contest Time Record Sheet and Instructions for Timers (Item 1175) with the timers.
6. Provide a stopwatch to timer.
7. Brief the timers in the proper use of the timing equipment, if necessary.

### During the Contest

1. Collect the Speech Contest Time Record Sheet and Instructions for Timers (Item 1175) from the timers.
2. Collect the Tiebreaking Judge's Guide and Ballot from the tiebreaking judge.
3. Resolve any eligibility or originality protests that may arise.
4. Oversee the counting process. See that all ballots are counted twice to ensure accuracy.
5. Provide a list to the contest chair showing placement of all contestants.

## Contestant's Checklist

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### Before the Contest

1. For International, Humorous, and Tall Tales contests, select a topic and prepare your own substantially original speech.
2. Attend the Contestants' Briefing.
3. Inform the contest chair of any props you plan to use.
4. Review Speaker's Certification of Eligibility and Originality (Item 1183). By signing this form, you certify that you have read and understand the rules regarding eligibility and originality.
5. Attend the Speaker's Rehearsal and take note of the speaking area.

### During the Contest

1. In the one (1) minute of silence before your introduction, set up any and all props and visual aids. You may enlist someone to help you with this, but it is not the responsibility of the contest chair or any other contest official to do so.
2. After your introduction, proceed immediately to the speaking area and begin your speech.
3. Check the timing signals regularly during your speech. If you see a red signal, wrap it up, even if you're not finished with your speech yet.
4. Immediately following your speech, remove any props or visual aids from the speaking area. You may enlist someone to help you with this, but it is not the responsibility of the contest chair or any other contest official to do so.

# SPEECH CONTEST MATERIALS

- ◆ Speech contest materials are available to download as free digital content at <https://www.toastmasters.org/Speech-Contest-Kits>.

## For all contests

ROLE	ITEM	ITEM NUMBER
All participants	<i>Speech Contest Rulebook</i>	(Item 1171)
Chief judge	Notification of Contest Winner	(Item 1182)
	Results Form	(Item 1168)
Voting and tiebreaking judges	Judge's Certification of Eligibility and Code of Ethics	(Item 1170)
Counters	Counter's Tally Sheet	(Item 1176)
Timers	Speech Contest Time Record Sheet and Instructions for Timers	(Item 1175)
Contestants	Speaker's Certification of Eligibility and Originality	(Item 1183)
	Speech Contestant Profile	(Item 1189)

## International Speech Contest

ROLE	ITEM	ITEM NUMBER
Voting judges	International Speech Contest Judge's Guide and Ballot	(Item 1172)
Tiebreaking judge	International Speech Contest Tiebreaking Judge's Guide and Ballot	(Item 1188)
Contestants	Region Quarterfinals Video Release Form	(Item 1193)

## Evaluation Contest

ROLE	ITEM	ITEM NUMBER
Voting judges	Evaluation Contest Judge's Guide and Ballot	(Item 1179)
Tiebreaking judge	Evaluation Contest Tiebreaking Judge's Guide and Ballot	(Item 1179A)
Contestants	Evaluation Contestant Notes	(Item 1177)

## Humorous Speech Contest

ROLE	ITEM	ITEM NUMBER
Voting judges	Humorous Speech Contest Judge's Guide and Ballot	(Item 1191)
Tiebreaking judge	Humorous Speech Contest Tiebreaking Judge's Guide and Ballot	(Item 1191A)

## Table Topics Contest

ROLE	ITEM	ITEM NUMBER
Voting judges	Table Topics Contest Judge's Guide and Ballot	(Item 1180)
Tiebreaking judge	Table Topics Contest Tiebreaking Judge's Guide and Ballot	(Item 1180A)

## Tall Tales Contest

ROLE	ITEM	ITEM NUMBER
Voting judges	Tall Tales Contest Judge's Guide and Ballot	(Item 1181)
Tiebreaking judge	Tall Tales Contest Tiebreaking Judge's Guide and Ballot	(Item 1181A)

# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

## Speech Contests Frequently Asked Questions

[www.toastmasters.org/SpeechContestFAQ](http://www.toastmasters.org/SpeechContestFAQ)

## Speech Contest Tutorials

[www.toastmasters.org/Leadership-Central/Speech-Contests/Speech-Contest-Tutorials](http://www.toastmasters.org/Leadership-Central/Speech-Contests/Speech-Contest-Tutorials)

## Policy 6.0: Speech Contests

[www.toastmasters.org/Leadership-Central/Governing-Documents](http://www.toastmasters.org/Leadership-Central/Governing-Documents)

**TOASTMASTERS**  
INTERNATIONAL

Item 1171

## District Campaigns and Elections

### 1. Schedule

Date	Action
No later than November 1	District Director appoints District Leadership Committee (DLC) Chair.
No later than December 1	DLC members are recommended by the DLC Chair and approved by the District Director.
No Later than January 15	Call for candidate declarations.
Determined by the DLC Chair and announced to the members of the clubs in the District	Deadline for candidates to declare intent to run.
March 15 – June 1	District Council annual meetings occur (actual dates set by each District).
Six (6) weeks prior to the election date	DLC notifies District Director of nominated candidates.
Four (4) weeks prior to the election date	DLC report and biographical forms are emailed to all members of the District Council and posted on the District website.  Eligible floor candidates shall declare their intent to run in writing to the DLC Chair after the DLC report has been published and at least one (1) week prior to the annual District Council meeting.
July 15	Deadline to submit Officer Agreement and Release Statements and District Leader rosters to World Headquarters.

### 2. District Leadership Committee

- A. The District Leadership Committee (DLC) is defined and governed by Article XI, Section (b) of the District Administrative Bylaws.
- B. Members of the DLC acknowledge and agree to the following guidelines:
  - I. Abide by the timeline provided in Article XI of the District Administrative Bylaws.
  - II. Identify and seek qualified candidates for each position.
  - III. Commit to meet on a regular basis to conduct candidate assessments and to complete the selection process.  
  
DLC meetings and deliberations are confidential and may not be attended by or shared with those who are not DLC members. A DLC candidate interview is attended only by the DLC members and the candidate.
  - IV. Confirm that each candidate meets the candidate qualifications defined in Article VII, Section (d) of the District Administrative Bylaws.

- V. Ensure that there is a minimum of one (1) candidate each for the offices of District Director and Program Quality Director; two (2) or more candidates for the office of Club Growth Director; and a minimum of one (1) candidate for all other elective District offices.
- C. DLC composition:
- I. The District Director appoints a chair, who is a past District leader, preferably a Past District Director. The DLC Chair shall not hold any other District role (with the exception of the Immediate Past District Director) during the program year in which the report is presented.
  - II. Committee members are appointed by DLC Chair, subject to the approval of the District Director.
  - III. Each committee member and the DLC Chair must be an active and paid member.
  - IV. Each Division in the District must be equally represented on the committee.
  - V. A member from a different District in the same region may be appointed to the DLC by the District Director, as a voting member or non-voting member, to provide outside perspective and to enhance the DLC process during deliberations. This member will not represent a Division.
  - VI. The District Director, Program Quality Director, and Club Growth Director shall not serve as members of the DLC.
  - VII. International Officer and Director candidates, Board Members and Region Advisors may not serve on the DLC.
  - VIII. All committee members must complete a Committee Member Agreement and submit it to the DLC Chair before the committee begins its work.
- D. DLC members serve one (1) year on the DLC and may be reappointed after a one-year absence from the committee.
- E. Communication may be by conference call, email, or other means when geographic distance and other factors impede in-person participation.
- F. DLC members shall not participate in any campaign or endorse any candidate for District office.
- G. No DLC member may be nominated or run from the floor for any District office for the program year following the election at which the committee's report is presented.
- H. DLC members with a conflict of interest, such as a business or personal relationship with a candidate, must declare it at the Committee's first meeting or as soon as the conflict is identified. They must also abstain from the interviews, discussion, and voting regarding that candidate in the context of the Committee.

### 3. Candidate Assessment and Selection

- A. Before candidate assessment begins, the DLC verifies that each candidate meets the qualifications listed in Article VII of the District Administrative Bylaws.
- B. The DLC interviews and evaluates all known candidates for each elected position. The DLC reviews, in detail, the duties of the position as defined in Article VIII of the District Administrative Bylaws with each candidate. Candidates are evaluated using the Candidate Evaluation and District Officer Competencies documents. The chair provides these documents to the DLC members.
- C. All candidates are interviewed by at least two (2) committee members jointly or individually. Candidates for the same position are interviewed by the same interviewers except for the Division Director position.
  - I. Candidates for the same Division Director position (i.e., Division A, Division B, etc.) are interviewed by the same interviewers.
  - II. Division Director candidates who have completed the DLC interview process for any Division(s) are eligible as a floor candidate and may run for any Division Director position.
  - III. If a DLC member resigns or is replaced after interviews have begun, candidates who have completed their interviews do not need to be interviewed again by the newly appointed DLC member in order to meet the requirement as defined under Section 3.C. of this protocol.
- D. Online participation options for interviews must be made available if needed.
- E. The DLC members, including the chair:
  - I. Have equal opportunity to express their perspectives during candidate-selection deliberations.
  - II. Exercise independent judgment during the selection process.
  - III. Consider the experience, abilities, and qualifications of each candidate.
  - IV. Keep in mind the best interests of Toastmasters International, its Member Clubs, individual members and the District.
  - V. Discuss each candidate for each elective District office.
- F. The DLC Chair is a non-voting member of the committee and does not attempt to influence the other members of the committee.
- G. Committee members cast their votes in written form, and the committee nominates a minimum of one (1) candidates each for the offices of District Director and Program Quality Director; two (2) or more candidates for the office of Club Growth Director; and a minimum of one (1) candidate for all other elective District offices.
- H. Votes are tallied by the DLC Chair and at least two (2) other committee members. The Chair announces the results to the committee.

- I. To be nominated, a candidate must receive a majority vote of the DLC.
- J. DLC deliberations and votes are confidential and may be shared only with the District Director, World Headquarters, and the Toastmasters International Board of Directors.

#### **4. Nomination Results**

- A. The reporting of committee results is governed by Article XI, Section (b) of the District Administrative Bylaws.
- B. The DLC Chair or the District Director notifies nominated candidates and reconfirms their willingness to be nominated and their commitment to fulfill the duties of office.
- C. The District Director distributes the committee report and the Candidate Biographical Form for each candidate to the District Council.
- D. The DLC Chair or District Director notifies candidates who were not nominated and advises them of their eligibility to seek office as floor candidates.
- E. The DLC report is incomplete if the DLC is unable to nominate the required number of candidates for any individual office(s). The nomination report is invalid if any other DLC requirement, process, or deadline is not complied with.
- F. If the DLC report is incomplete, qualified candidates may run from the floor for any position for which the DLC did not nominate the required number of candidates. Qualified candidates must notify the District Director seven (7) days prior of their intent to run from the floor. Any nominations made by the DLC are valid.
- G. If the DLC report is invalid, qualified candidates may run from the floor for all positions. Any nominations made by the DLC are invalid. The report may be presented to District Council members as an advisory report at the discretion of the District Executive Committee.
- H. Any protest related to the DLC report must be submitted to the District Director two (2) weeks prior to the elections.
- I. It is recommended that the DLC Chair or designated committee member provide feedback to all candidates for leadership development.

#### **5. Announcement of Candidacy**

- A. Members, including current members of the District Executive Committee, may self-nominate for District office, be sought out by the DLC, or be nominated by an individual member.
- B. Floor candidates have the same opportunities and responsibilities as nominated candidates unless otherwise noted.
- C. To be nominated, elected or appointed, or run from the floor for any District officer position, candidates must:

- I. Sign the Toastmasters International Officer Agreement and Release Statement.
  - II. Submit a completed Candidate Biography Form and photograph.
- D. All signed forms from elected or appointed leaders must be submitted to World Headquarters as soon as practicable after the elections but no later than July 15.

## 6. Campaign Communications

- A. A campaign communication is any message, in any form, (such as phone calls, postal mail, email, **and** social media, ~~and facsimile~~) unsolicited by the recipient that promotes or publicizes a candidate.
- B. Photographs, audio, video, and electronic representations in all campaign materials and displays, and on the candidate's website and social media profiles, related to this campaign may be of the candidate only; no other persons are permitted. All candidates are responsible for obtaining written permission for any quotes and testimonials used in candidate campaign materials and displays, on websites, and on social media profiles. Proof of written permission may be requested for review by the District Director.
- C. Unsolicited subscriptions to information by or about a candidate, such as a newsletter, ~~or~~ blog, **or social media page**, are not permitted.
- D. Communications by the District in connection with a candidate's presentation at a District conference, and internal communication among campaign team members, are not considered campaign communications.
- E. The District Director provides contact information to declared candidates only after receiving their Officer Agreement and Release Statement.
  - I. Only District Council members' contact information is provided. **The contact information must include all available names, mailing addresses, email addresses, and phone numbers of the District Council.**
  - II. The contact information may only be used for campaign purposes.
- F. District candidates may only send two (2) campaign communications. These communications may only be sent to members of the District Council:
  - I. The first communication may be sent between January 1 and two (2) weeks prior to the District Council's annual meeting.
  - II. The second communication may be sent two (2) weeks prior to and no later than the date of the District Council's annual meeting.
- G. Candidates may have a website and use social media to promote their candidacy. No District or club social media sites or websites may be used to promote any individual candidate. District and club websites may list the nominated candidates.

- H. Candidates are prohibited from participating in Toastmasters-related discussion groups on websites, including social media sites, for campaign purposes.
- I. District candidates may use the Toastmasters trademarks, including the logo and the names “Toastmasters” and “Toastmasters International,” on printed and electronic campaign materials, websites and social media sites. Use of the trademarks on any other items requires the written permission of the Chief Executive Officer.
- J. Candidates may not produce or distribute any wearable campaign items (such as buttons, pins, hats, sashes, apparel, etc.).
- K. At District conferences and District non-election meetings (such as Area and Division speech contests), nominated candidates and floor candidates may only distribute and display campaign materials in the Candidate Corner (if there is a Candidate Corner). Candidates or their representatives are responsible for the delivery, set-up, and removal of materials.
- L. At District non-election meetings (such as Area and Division speech contests), candidates may be introduced as long as all candidates present are introduced.
- M. Candidates may not host hospitality suites at any District event or contribute to a District hospitality suite. A hospitality suite is defined as a room where refreshments are provided and attendance is open to any member.
- N. Candidates may speak and give educational presentations at District conferences, at a time other than during the District Council’s annual meeting, at the discretion of the District Director.
  - I. All candidates must receive equal opportunity.
  - II. The time, place, and length of presentation are identified by the District Director.
  - III. Candidates shall not serve as speech contest officials **or test speakers above the club level.**
- O. Candidates may not present campaign speeches at any District non-election meeting, or campaign at any club meetings.
- P. Advertisements in District publications, such as in newsletters, in conference programs, or on websites, by or on behalf of candidates for District office are not permitted.
- Q. The names of floor candidates are not published with the DLC report or in any other District publication.
- R. **Candidates or their representative(s) may not send campaign communications once the District Council annual meeting begins.**

## 7. Candidate Endorsements

- A. District Executive Committee members shall not take any action to endorse or officially support any candidate; however, District Executive Committee members who are running for District office may campaign on their own behalf.

- B. International Officer and Director candidates, members of the Toastmasters International Board of Directors and Region Advisors may not take any action to endorse or support any candidate for District office.
- C. All candidates must obtain written permission for any endorsements (i.e. quotes and testimonials) used in candidate campaign materials and displays, and on websites. Proof of written permission may be requested for review by the District Director.

## **8. Campaign Violations**

- A. All actions by individual members must comply with Policy 3.0: Ethics and Conduct and Protocol 3.0: Ethics and Conduct.
- B. Candidates are responsible for ensuring campaign supporters are familiar with campaign Policies. Candidates acknowledge that violation of Policies and Protocols may result in consequences.
  - I. A level-one violation is a minor infraction that is usually correctable (for example: posting a photo of someone other than the candidate on the candidate's website).
    - a. The violation is reported to the District Director, who investigates the matter. If the District Director cannot resolve the matter, it is turned over to the District Executive Committee.
    - b. The candidate is educated and informed about the violation. When the matter is resolved, there are no further ramifications.
  - II. A level-two violation is one involving the election process or a continuing violation (for example: candidate makes a promise of future District Executive Committee action in exchange for votes, or in violation of Policy 3.0, Section 6.D.).
    - a. The violation is reported to the District Director no later than 72 hours before the election. The District Director investigates the matter or assigns the investigation to the District Executive Committee.
    - b. The District Director may, at their discretion, investigate violations that occur later than 72 hours prior to the election.
    - c. The District Executive Committee may enact these penalties:
      - 1. An announcement of the violation is made prior to the election. This announcement occurs at an appropriate time and place or on the District's website as determined by the District Executive Committee.
      - 2. A letter of censure may be issued to the candidate by the District Executive Committee.
  - III. A level-three violation is one of campaign ethics (for example: candidate actively engaging in or promoting the violation of Toastmasters Bylaws, Policy or Protocol).

- a. The violation is reported to the District Director no later than 72 hours before the election. The District Director investigates the matter or assigns the investigation to the District Executive Committee.
  - b. The District Director may, at their discretion, investigate violations that occur later than 72 hours prior to the election.
  - c. The District Executive Committee may enact these penalties:
    1. Any or all penalties for level-two violations.
    2. Request that a candidate withdraw from candidacy.
    3. Engage in further discipline following the processes outlined in Protocol 3.0.
- C. Discipline, related to campaign violations, that is administered by the District Executive Committee may be appealed to the District Council. The District Council's decision is final. Such decisions may not be appealed to the Toastmasters International Board of Directors or World Headquarters. However, the Board of Directors may, on its own initiative, review the District's decision and reach a different conclusion in the best interests of Toastmasters International, its Member Clubs or individual members.
- D. After the nominations are published, any proven candidate Policy violations must be shared with the District Leadership Committee Chair. Such violations may be disclosed at the District Council's annual meeting by the DLC chair or District Director. If any violations are disclosed at the meeting, all violations of equal level must be disclosed at the meeting.

## 9. Candidate Showcase

- A. At the District conference, it is recommended that a Candidate Showcase occur before the District Council's annual meeting.
- B. Prior to the District conference, the District Director appoints members to serve as chair and co-chair of the Candidate Showcase. Other members are assigned as needed.
- C. Each candidate is given equal time to be interviewed by the chair based on questions related to the achievement of the District mission.
- D. When held, a Candidate Showcase must be fully in person or fully online to give each candidate an equal platform. **An online Candidate Showcase may be prerecorded and posted no sooner than one (1) week before the District Council's annual meeting.**
- E. The presentation schedule, with the names of all nominated candidates and known floor candidates for District office, is prepared by the District Administration Manager. The showcase begins with all candidates for the office of District Director, in alphabetical order by surname, and then proceeds to subsequent offices in order.
- F. There is no census or poll taken of the delegates at a Candidate Showcase.

## 10. Proxies and Credentials

- A. District proxies and voting are governed by the District Administrative Bylaws, Article X, Sections (d) and (e).
- B. The District Director sends a credential or proxy form to each Club President and Vice President Education 30 days before a District Council annual meeting in the District newsletter or in a separate mailing.
- C. Prior to the District Council annual meeting, the District Director appoints a Credentials Chair to supervise the credentials, voting, and ballot counting processes. The Credentials Chair may select members to form a Credentials Committee.
- D. The Credentials Chair is, when practicable, a Past District Director.
- E. The Credentials Chair obtains a list of paid clubs and a list of current District Council members (Club Presidents, Vice Presidents Education, and District officers eligible to vote). The Credentials Chair ensures that ballots are only issued to current District Council members or their authorized proxyholders and are signed for upon distribution.
- F. Ballots indicate the office being contested or are sequentially numbered. The names of nominated candidates may be printed on the ballots. The names of floor candidates may not be printed on the ballots. Ballot templates are available on the Toastmasters International website.
- G. The Credentials Committee ensures that no campaign materials are in the credentials area.

## 11. Elections

- A. The District Director or a person designated by the District Director explains the election rules and procedures to the delegates.
- B. The DLC Chair shall present the committee's report. In the chair's absence, the District Director designates another member of the DLC, when practicable, to present the report. The chair or designee announces the names of the committee members and reads the name of each nominated candidate, in alphabetical order, for each of the offices of District Director, Program Quality Director, Club Growth Director and Division Directors. The Area Directors, District Public Relations Manager, District Administration Manager, and District Finance Manager are also announced if elected.
- C. If any proven level-two or -three Policy violation(s) by a candidate have occurred, according to Section 8 of this Protocol, the District Executive Committee may disclose that violation and its consequences prior to the election.
- D. For each office, the District Director inquires whether there are additional nominations from the floor.
  - I. Floor candidates for District Director, Program Quality Director, Club Growth Director, and Division Director who have completed the evaluation process conducted by the DLC are eligible to run from the

floor at the annual District Council meeting, according to Article VII, Section (e) of the District Administrative Bylaws. All eligible floor candidates must declare their intent to run to the District Director at least seven (7) days prior to the elections.

- II. If the DLC report is invalid, candidates for District Director, Program Quality Director, Club Growth Director, and Division Director may be nominated as floor candidates without going through the DLC evaluation process.
  - III. Floor candidates must be nominated by a member of the District Council or their proxyholder. Floor candidates may self-nominate when they are a member of the District Council or a proxyholder.
  - IV. Floor candidates or, in their absence, their representatives state their eligibility qualifications.
  - V. Floor candidates for District Director, Program Quality Director, Club Growth Director, and Division Director must declare their intent to run to the District Director and sign the Officer Agreement and Release Statement at least seven (7) days prior to the elections. Only the Officer Agreement and Release Statements of those elected are sent to World Headquarters.
  - VI. The District Director may declare any proven level-two or -three Policy violations by floor candidates to the District Council.
  - VII. When nominations are complete, the District Director declares the nominations for that office closed.
- E. At the discretion of the District Director, candidate speeches should all be delivered in person or should all be delivered online to give each candidate an equal platform.
  - F. After nominations are closed, candidate speeches are given. Candidates speak on their own behalves. If a candidate is not present, an authorized representative may speak for the candidate. Candidate speeches shall not contain negative information about other candidates. If there is only one (1) candidate nominated, no speech is given.
  - G. A candidate's representative may not be a member of the District Executive Committee, a member of the DLC, the Credentials Chair, or any other meeting official.
  - H. The balloting for each office takes place immediately following candidate speeches. The number of votes that a member may cast is governed by Article X, Section (e) of the District Administrative Bylaws.
  - I. After nominations for an office are closed, if there is only one (1) candidate for the office, the District Director may entertain a motion to dispense with the secret ballot for the uncontested office and instruct the District Administration Manager to cast a single ballot for the candidate.

- J. Candidates are responsible for appointing one (1) observer to monitor the integrity of the voting and ballot counting process.
- K. Each election is completed and the winner announced before moving to the subsequent election.
- L. Candidates nominated for one (1) office and not elected to the office may be nominated from the floor for subsequent offices as follows:
  - I. Candidates must have completed the DLC interview process for each office.
  - II. Candidates must have declared their intent to run at least seven (7) days prior to the elections, for each office.
  - III. Upon approval of a new Division or new Divisions, candidates who have gone through the DLC interview process, for any Division, are eligible to run from the floor for the new Division or Divisions.
- M. Any candidate who receives a majority of the votes cast is declared elected. In the event no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast for a contested office, voting continues with the use of special ballots. Prior to the second ballot, the nominee having the lowest vote on the first ballot and any nominee receiving less than 10% of the votes cast shall be dropped, and on such succeeding ballots the same procedure shall be followed until a nominee has received a majority of all votes cast. In case of a tie between two (2) remaining nominees, the election shall be decided by lot.
- N. Upon adjournment of the District Council's annual meeting, all election results are final. Results of the election must be displayed on the District website and may also be announced in other public forums as soon as possible following adjournment of the meeting.
- O. All proxies and ballots are retained for 24 hours following the close of the meeting for review only by the District Director or District Credentials Chair, as necessary, and immediately thereafter destroyed by the District Director or District Credentials Chair.

# JUDGE'S CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY AND CODE OF ETHICS



All judges must complete this form before the contest and submit it to the chief judge at each level of competition.

**Name of Contest:**  Evaluation  Humorous  International  Table Topics®  Tall Tales  
(check one)

**Contest Level:**  Club  Area  Division  District  Region Quarterfinal  Semifinal  
 World Championship

Date of Contest: \_\_\_\_\_

## Eligibility

To be a chief judge, voting judge or tiebreaking judge at a Toastmasters speech contest, you must meet all eligibility requirements identified below.

1. At a club contest, be a paid member.
2. At an Area, Division, or District contest:
  - a. Be a paid member for a minimum of six months.
  - b. Have completed a minimum of six speech projects in the *Competent Communication* manual or earned certificates of completion in Levels 1 and 2 of any path in the Toastmasters Pathways learning experience.
3. At the International Speech Contest Region Quarterfinals, Semifinals and the World Championship of Public Speaking:
  - a. Be at least an Advanced Toastmaster Bronze, Advanced Communicator Bronze, or have completed at least one path in the Toastmasters Pathways learning experience.
  - b. Have previously judged a Toastmasters speech contest at the Area, Division, District, or semifinal level.
4. Judges for contests beyond the club level are not eligible to compete in the same contest type during the same contest cycle.

## Judge's Code of Ethics

1. **I will uphold the Toastmasters core values of integrity, respect, service, and excellence.**
2. ~~4.~~ I will demonstrate the utmost objectivity **by** ~~I will~~ consciously avoid **ing** bias of any kind in selecting first, second, and third place contestants.
3. I will not consider any contestant's club, Area, Division, District, or region affiliation.
4. I will not consider any contestant's age, **sex, race, color, creed, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, or physical or mental disability.** ~~race, creed, national origin, disability, profession, or political beliefs.~~
5. ~~2.~~ I will not time the speeches and will not consider the possibility of undertime or overtime when judging a contestant's speech.
6. ~~3.~~ I will support by word and deed the contest rules and judging standards, refrain from public criticism of the contest, and only reveal my participation as a judge, my selected scores, and the ranking I assigned in accordance with speech contest rules.
7. ~~4.~~ I am not a member of the same club as any contestant when judging at the Division, District, region quarterfinal, semifinal and final levels.
8. ~~5.~~ I have no conflict of interest with any of the contestants that would cause me to be biased.

I certify that I am eligible to serve as a judge, under the current speech contest rules, and will uphold the Judge's Code of Ethics.

Signature

Printed Name

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**Member Number**

**District**

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Item 1170

## Speech Contests

1. 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 Provisional Districts**). No other contest types, showcases, etc., shall be conducted by Districts (**including Areas and Divisions**) and **Provisional Districts (including Areas and Divisions)**.
  - A. Districts must conduct the International Speech Contest. The International Speech Contest shall only be conducted in English.
    - I. **Provisional Districts (including Areas and Divisions) may conduct a speech contest in English using the rules of the International Speech Contest. This contest does not proceed beyond the District level. A contest using the rules of the International Speech Contest must be titled Provisional Speech Contest.**
  - B. Districts (**including Areas and Divisions**) and **Provisional Districts (including Areas and Divisions)** may conduct up to three (3) additional English speech contests each year. The District Director recommends which contests are to be conducted, subject to the approval of the District Executive Committee, at its first meeting of the program year.
  - C. Districts (**including Areas and Divisions**) and **Provisional Districts (including Areas and Divisions)** may also conduct up to four (4) non-English speech contests each year. The District Director recommends which contests are to be conducted, subject to the approval of the District Executive Committee, at its first meeting of the program year.
    - I. Each of these contests is conducted in a language selected by the District Director and approved by the District Executive Committee.
    - II. A non-English contest are optional and may be conducted **as Evaluation, Humorous, Table Topics, or Tall Tales contests**, or using the rules of the International Speech Contest. ~~Such a~~ **A non-English contest using the rules of the International Speech Contest must** ~~contest shall~~ be titled using the name of the language. For example: Chinese Speech Contest.
    - III. Non-English contests shall not continue beyond the District level.
  - D. All District-level speech contests are conducted only at the annual District conference.
2. 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 levels 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.

**A. Contests conducted by Provisional Districts must follow the same progression, with the exception of the Video Speech Contest.**

3. Toastmasters International pays the travel expenses of each contestant who participates in the International Speech Contest at the semifinal level at the International Convention. The travel allowance is computed in the same manner and subject to the same restrictions as that of District leaders.
4. The *Speech Contest Rulebook* is Protocol and applies to all Toastmasters speech contests. Modifications to rules shall only be made through the Protocol review process. Exceptions are not permitted.
5. Individual admission fees to a contest may be charged to audience attendees and contest officials; however, contestants may never be charged a fee to compete in a contest, and clubs may never be charged a fee to send a contestant to a contest.



# Minutes of the 2021-2022 Executive Committee Videoconference

December 13, 2021

The 2021-2022 Toastmasters International Executive Committee met December 13, 2021, with International President, Margaret Page, DTM presiding. The other officers present were: International President-Elect Matt Kinsey, DTM; First Vice President Morag Mathieson, DTM; Second Vice President Radhi Spear, DTM; Immediate Past International President Richard E. Peck, DTM; and Chief Executive Officer Daniel Rex. Chief Financial Officer John Bond, Board Support Director Mona Shah, Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer Amber Villa, and Secretary *Pro Tem* Kristen Kyriazis were also present. No Committee members were absent.

1. The agenda was adopted as presented.
2. The Committee received an update on the organization's performance.
3. The Committee received an update on the financial performance of the organization.
4. The Committee reviewed and considered the reformation proposal submitted by District 94. The District would reform into two Districts consisting of the following countries:
  - District 94: Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Senegal, and Togo (109 clubs)
  - District 130: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Gabon, Niger, and Nigeria (112 clubs)

The Committee recommends that the Board approve the proposed reformation, effective July 1, 2024.

5. The Committee received an update from the chairs of the following: Governing Documents Review Committee; Region Advisor Selection Committee; Incentives Committee; and the Advisory Committee of Past International Presidents.

As there was no other business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned.

Pursuant to Protocol 11.3: Board of Directors Confidentiality, items contained in the minutes of this meeting were classified as "unrestricted" upon distribution of the minutes by World Headquarters, not to include any matters marked "restricted" or "highly confidential."



Kristen Kyriazis  
Secretary *Pro Tem*

Distribution: Board of Directors  
Nonprofit General Counsel  
Chief Executive Officer  
Past International Presidents  
Past International Directors