



Speech Contest Rulebook

Explanation of Changes

JULY 1, 2021, TO JUNE 30, 2022	JULY 1, 2022, TO JUNE 30, 2023	EXPLANATION
<p>1. Speech Contest Policy</p> <p>A. Toastmasters International recognizes and supports the following official speech contests: International, Evaluation, Humorous, Table Topics, Tall Tales, and Video (only for members of undistricted clubs, including Territorial Councils and Provisional Districts). No other contest types, showcases, etc., can be conducted by Districts (including Areas and Divisions).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Districts (including Areas and Divisions) must conduct the International Speech Contest. The International Speech Contest must only be conducted in English. 2. Districts (including Areas and Divisions) may conduct up to three (3) additional English speech contests each year. 3. Districts (including Areas and Divisions) may also conduct up to four (4) non-English speech contests each year <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. c. Non-English contests must not continue beyond the District level. <p>B. All District-level speech contests are conducted only at the annual District Conference.</p>	<p>1. Speech Contest Policy</p> <p>A. Toastmasters International recognizes and supports the following official speech contests: International, Evaluation, Humorous, Table Topics, Tall Tales, and Video (only for members of undistricted clubs, including Territorial Councils and Provisional Districts). No other contest types, showcases, etc., can be conducted by Districts (including Areas and Divisions) and Provisional Districts (including Areas and Divisions).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Districts (including Areas and Divisions) must conduct the International Speech Contest. The International Speech Contest must only be conducted in English. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Each of these contests is conducted in a language selected by the District Director and approved by the District executive committee. 	<p>1. Speech Contest Policy</p> <p>Effective July 1, 2022, Territorial Councils are no longer included in the Toastmasters International structure. The inclusion of Territorial Councils in General Rules for All Toastmasters Speech Contests, 1. Speech Contest Policy, A and Video Speech Contest Rules, 1 were removed from the rulebook to align with this change.</p> <p>Video Speech Contest Rules</p> <p>Previously, Provisional Districts were permitted to participate in the Video Speech Contest but could not conduct additional contests beyond the club level. Wording has been added to this rule that provides Provisional Districts (including Areas and Divisions) with the option and guidelines for conducting contests through the District level.</p>

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<p>1. Speech Contest Policy (Continued)</p> <p>C. Contests must originate at the club level and proceed through the Area, Division, and District levels, respectively; only contests following this progression are permitted at the Area, Division, and District levels. All clubs are eligible to advance contestants to the Area level in all contests, regardless of the contest language or the primary language of the club.</p> <p>Video Speech Contest Rules</p> <p>1. Members of undistricted clubs (including Territorial Councils and Provisional Districts) are invited to participate in the Video Speech Contest. Videos must be in English.</p> <p>1. Members of undistricted clubs may not compete in the Video Speech Contest if they also belong to a club assigned to a District.</p>	<p>1. Speech Contest Policy (Continued)</p> <p>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.</p> <p>c. Non-English contests must not continue beyond the District level.</p> <p>B. All District-level speech contests are conducted only at the annual District Conference.</p> <p>C. Contest 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.</p> <p>1. Contests conducted by Provisional Districts must follow this same progression, with the exception of the Video Speech Contest.</p> <p>Video Speech Contest Rules</p> <p>1. Members of undistricted clubs (including Territorial Councils and Provisional Districts) are invited to participate in the Video Speech Contest. Videos must be in English.</p> <p>A. Members of undistricted clubs may not compete in the Video Speech Contest if they also belong to a club assigned to a District.</p>	<p>1. Speech Contest Policy (See previous page.)</p>

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<p>2. Eligibility</p> <p>B. In addition, to be eligible to compete in the International Speech Contest, a member must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>2. Eligibility</p> <p>B. In addition, to be eligible to compete in the International Speech Contest, a member must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 or a Distinguished Toastmaster award. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>2. Eligibility</p> <p>Previously, the <i>Speech Contest Rulebook</i> allowed for speeches from the Traditional Program <i>Competent Communication</i> manual to apply toward International Speech Contest education requirements.</p> <p>As Pathways has been Toastmaster’s only education program for two years, this allowance was removed. All members competing in the International Speech Contest must have met education requirements in the Toastmasters Pathways learning experience or earned a Distinguished Toastmaster award.</p>
<p>2. Eligibility</p> <p>7. Members who are serving in contest official or presenter roles that meet the following criteria</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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, counter, sergeant at arms, or other contest official role for the same contest in which they would be competing. c. Present 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. 	<p>2. Eligibility</p> <p>7. Members who are serving in contest official or presenter roles that meet the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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), sSergeant at aArms, or other contest official role for the same contest in which they would be competing. c. Present 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. 	<p>2. Eligibility</p> <p>Wording was added to clarify that the ballot counter and counter are the same roles, and the terms can be used interchangeably.</p> <p>Sergeant at Arms was capitalized throughout the rulebook to align with Toastmaster’s style.</p>

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<p>2. Eligibility</p> <p>3. At the International Speech Contest Region Quarterfinals, Semifinals, and the World Championship of Public Speaking:</p> <p>a. Be a paid member for a minimum of six (6) months.</p>	<p>2. Eligibility</p> <p>3. At the International Speech Contest Region Quarterfinals, Semifinals, and the World Championship of Public Speaking:</p> <p>a. Be a paid member for a minimum of six (6) months.</p> <p>1. The club must also be in good standing.</p>	<p>2. Eligibility</p> <p>Members competing in the International Speech Contest must have been paid members for a minimum of six (6) months. Wording added to this section clarifies that the club in which this membership is held must be in good standing.</p> <p>This aligns with the specification in General Rules for all Toastmasters Speech Contests, 2. Eligibility, A.1.a regarding members competing in any Toastmasters speech contest.</p>
<p>2. Eligibility</p> <p>F. Candidates for elected District leader positions for the term beginning the subsequent July 1 are ineligible to serve as a test speaker at the Area, Division, or District level.</p>	<p>2. Eligibility</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>2. Eligibility</p> <p>Protocol 9.0, 6.N.III states that “Candidates shall not serve as speech contest officials.” While this requirement was outlined in Toastmasters governing documents, it was not included in the <i>Speech Contest Rulebook</i>.</p> <p>Wording was added to align the rulebook with Protocol 9.0 and specify that in addition to being ineligible to serve as a test speaker, candidates for elected District leader positions cannot serve as a contest official.</p>
<p>2. Selection Sequence</p> <p>A. Club, Area, Division, District. Each club in good standing is permitted to choose its contestant for each Area speech contest by whatever means the club desires. If a 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.</p>	<p>2. Selection Sequence</p> <p>A. Club, Area, Division, District. Each club in good standing is permitted to choose its contestant for each Area speech contest by whatever means the club desires. If a 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.</p>	<p>2. Selection Sequence</p> <p>Previously, the <i>Speech Contest Rulebook</i> did not outline the process should a District-level winner be unable to participate in the International Speech Contest Region Quarterfinals.</p> <p>A specification was added that allows for the next highest-placed contestant to advance to region quarterfinals, should the District-level first-place winner be unable to proceed.</p>

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<p>2. Selection Sequence (Continued)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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. 	<p>2. Selection Sequence (Continued)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>2. Selection Sequence (See previous page.)</p>

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<p>2. Selection Sequence (Continued)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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. 	<p>2. Selection Sequence (Continued)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>2. Selection Sequence (See previous page.)</p>
<p>4. Speech Subject and Preparation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> E. Contestants must not reference another contestant, or a speech presented by another contestant, from the platform at the same contest in which they are competing. F. All contestants will speak from the same platform or Area designated by the contest chair. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All contestants, the chief judge, voting judges, and the tiebreaking judge will be advised of the speaking Area before the contest begins. 2. A lectern/podium will be available. However, the 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. 	<p>4. Speech Subject and Preparation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Aarea designated by the contest chair. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All contestants, the chief judge, voting judges, and the tiebreaking judge will be advised of the speaking Aarea before the contest begins. 2. A lectern/podium will be available. However, the 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. 	<p>4. Speech Subject and Preparation</p> <p>Wording was adjusted to clarify the rule regarding reference to another contestant's speech. It was previously unclear whether this rule applied to all contests conducted from the same physical platform or to just one individual contest.</p> <p>The update to section 4. Speech Subject and Preparation, E specifies that this rule applies only to the individual contest in which the contestant is competing.</p>

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<p>5. General Procedure</p> <p>9. The contest chair may appoint a contest Toastmaster to perform any of the chair’s duties. In such cases, the term, “contest Toastmaster” should be considered synonymous with “contest chair.” A contest Toastmaster is also ineligible to compete in the contest at which they are serving.</p>	<p>5. General Procedure</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>5. General Procedure</p> <p>Wording was adjusted to clarify that a contest Toastmaster can be appointed to support the contest chair but must not replace the contest chair or assume all contest chair responsibilities.</p>
<p>5. General Procedure</p> <p>K. When the last contestant finishes speaking, the contest chair will ask for silence until the ballot counters have collected all ballots.</p>	<p>5. General Procedure</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>5. General Procedure</p> <p>Wording was added to ensure that contests do not resume before the collection of ballots is complete. Resuming a contest while judges are still finalizing ballots can disrupt the judging process.</p> <p>The addition to section 5. General Procedure, K requires the chief judge to notify the contest chair once all ballots are collected. The contest must not resume until this notification is received</p>
<p>5. General Procedure</p> <p>1. In order for a ballot to be valid, judges shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Complete their ballots by entering their choices for first, second, and third place. Sign and print their names on the ballot. <p>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</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>3. The chief judge personally collects the tiebreaking judge’s ballot, which must contain all contestants ranked in order by the tiebreaking judge.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>5. General Procedure</p> <p>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.</p> <p>1. In order for a ballot to be valid, judges shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Complete their ballots by entering their choices for first, second, and third place. Sign and print their names on the ballot <p>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.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>5. General Procedure 6. Timing of Speeches</p> <p>Wording was added to 5. General Procedure, K.4 and 6. Timing of Speeches, C to specify that the timer with the stopwatch is the only timer to complete the Time Record Sheet and that their record constitutes the official time. No other time should be considered.</p>

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<p>5. General Procedure (Continued)</p> <p>4. As the voting judges and the tiebreaking judge are completing their ballots at the end of the contest, the timers complete the Time Record Sheet, place it in the provided envelope, and hand it to the chief judge.</p> <p>6. Timing of Speeches</p> <p>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).</p>	<p>5. General Procedure (Continued)</p> <p>3. The chief judge personally collects the tiebreaking judge's ballot, which must contain all contestants ranked in order by the tiebreaking judge.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>4. As the voting judges and the tiebreaking judge are completing their ballots at the end of the contest, the timers with the stopwatch completes the Time Record Sheet, places it in the provided envelope, and hands it to the chief judge.</p> <p>6. Timing of Speeches</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>5. General Procedure</p> <p>6. Timing of Speeches (See previous page.)</p>
<p>6. Timing of Speeches</p> <p>E. All speeches delivered by contestants must conform to the timing guidelines for the contest.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>6. Timing of Speeches</p> <p>E. All speeches delivered by contestants must conform to the timing guidelines for the contest.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>6. Timing of Speeches</p> <p>Wording was added to specify that fractions of a second are not to be considered when timing speeches. Exact timing is outlined for what qualifies and disqualifies a speech for each contest type.</p>

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<p>6. Timing of Speeches (See previous page.)</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>6. Timing of Speeches (Continued)</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>6. Timing of Speeches (See previous page.)</p>
<p>6. Timing of Speeches</p> <p>H. Prior to announcing results, the contest chair must announce if time disqualifications occurred, but not name the contestant(s) involved.</p>	<p>6. Timing of Speeches</p> <p>H. Prior to announcing results, the contest chair must announce the number of if time disqualifications occurred, but not name the contestant(s) involved.</p>	<p>6. Timing of Speeches</p> <p>Wording was added to specify that, when announcing disqualifications, the contest chair must announce the specific number of disqualifications that occurred. This will help provide consistency across all speech contests.</p>

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<p>International Speech Contest Rules</p> <p>1. The International Speech Contest begins at the club level, and proceeds through the Area, Division, District, region quarterfinal, semifinal, and final levels.</p> <p>A. District-level contest videos that are submitted to World Headquarters to be used in region quarterfinal judging must meet these requirements:</p> <p>Audio</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The audio must be clear and without echo, static, or other excessive noise. <p>Camera</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 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. <p>Lighting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 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. ▶ 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. 	<p>International Speech Contest Rules</p> <p>1. The International Speech Contest begins at the club level, and proceeds through the Area, Division, District, region quarterfinal, semifinal, and final levels.</p> <p>A. District-level contest videos that are submitted to World Headquarters to be used in region quarterfinal judging must meet these requirements:</p> <p>Audio</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The audio must be clear and without echo, static or other excessive noise. <p>Camera</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 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. <p>Lighting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 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. ▶ 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. 	<p>International Speech Contest Rules</p> <p>Previously, if a video submitted for region quarterfinals was disqualified due to failure to meet video recording requirements, the submitting District was not directly notified of the disqualification.</p> <p>Wording added to International Speech Contest Rules, Section 1.B changes the policy related to video disqualifications to specify that the submitting District will be notified of the disqualification.</p> <p>Combined with the previously outlined change to General Rules for All Toastmasters Speech Contests, 3. Selection Sequence, A.4, this allows for Districts to submit video of their second-place winner.</p>

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<p>International Speech Contest Rules (Continued)</p> <p>B. District Submission to World Headquarters</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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. <p>C. Region quarterfinals are conducted by video after the submission of District winners.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Region quarterfinal judges will view all videos for their assigned region in the order provided by the chief judge. Region quarterfinal judges must view all videos in one (1) sitting. Region quarterfinal judges may only view each video once. Pausing or rewinding is prohibited. After region quarterfinal results are announced, information about the semifinal contest is provided to the winners by World Headquarters. <p>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.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> All contestants' briefings for the semifinal speech contests will be conducted simultaneously by World Headquarters staff. All judges' briefings for the semifinal speech contests will also be conducted simultaneously by World Headquarters staff. <p>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.</p>	<p>International Speech Contest Rules (Continued)</p> <p>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.</p> <p>C. B: District Submission to World Headquarters</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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. <p>D. C: Region quarterfinals are conducted by video after the submission of District winners.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Region quarterfinal judges will view all videos for their assigned region in the order provided by the chief judge. Region quarterfinal judges must view all videos in one (1) sitting. Region quarterfinal judges may only view each video once. Pausing or rewinding is prohibited. After region quarterfinal results are announced, information about the semifinal contest is provided to the winners by World Headquarters. 	<p>International Speech Contest Rules (See previous page.)</p>

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<p>International Speech Contest Rules (See previous page)</p>	<p>International Speech Contest Rules (Continued)</p> <p>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.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>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.</p>	<p>International Speech Contest Rules (See previous page.)</p>

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<p>Speech Contests Checklists</p> <p>Contest Chair’s Checklist Preparation</p> <p>1. 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.)</p> <p>1. 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ <i>Speech Contest Rulebook</i> (Item 1171) ▶ <i>Speech Contestant Profile</i> (Item 1189) ▶ <i>Speaker’s Certification of Eligibility and Originality</i> (Item 1183). <p>1. Promote the contest in your community by sending news releases to the media.</p> <p>1. Ensure that each contestant is eligible under the contest rules before the contest and notify contestants of disqualification if necessary. To check contestants’ eligibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Club officers and District leaders can use the Eligibility Assistant available in Leadership Central of www.toastmasters.org to determine if a contestant is a paid member of a paid club or a current District leader. ▶ Contact the Speech Contests team at World Headquarters by email at speechcontests@toastmasters.org. 	<p>Speech Contests Checklists</p> <p>Contest Chair’s Checklist Preparation</p> <p>1. Appoint any supporting roles needed for the contest including Sergeant at Arms, test speaker, or other roles.</p> <p>A. Meet with members serving in supporting roles and brief them on their responsibilities.</p> <p>9. 8. 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.)</p> <p>9. 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ <i>Speech Contest Rulebook</i> (Item 1171) ▶ <i>Speech Contestant Profile</i> (Item 1189) ▶ <i>Speaker’s Certification of Eligibility and Originality</i> (Item 1183). <p>1. 10. Promote the contest in your community by sending news releases to the media.</p> <p>1. 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Verify membership status: Club officers and District leaders can use the Eligibility Assistant available in Leadership Central of 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. 	<p>Speech Contests Checklists</p> <p>Contest Chair’s Checklist Preparation</p> <p>Wording was added to include the responsibility of appointing supporting roles as part of the contest chair’s duties. This ensures that it is clear who should appoint the Sergeant at Arms, test speaker, and other necessary roles. It also provides a specification that the contest chair is responsible to brief supporting roles on their responsibilities.</p> <p>Wording was also added to ensure the contest chair is aware of the education requirements for the International Speech Contest and verifies eligibility accordingly.</p>

JULY 1, 2021, TO JUNE 30, 2022	JULY 1, 2022, TO JUNE 30, 2023	EXPLANATION
<p>Speech Contests Checklists Contest Chair’s Checklist During the Contest 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, the contestant must be given an opportunity to respond to the voting judges. A majority of the voting judges must concur in the decision to disqualify. The contest chair can disqualify a contestant on the basis of eligibility</p>	<p>Speech Contests Checklists Contest Chair’s Checklist During the Contest 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.</p>	<p>Speech Contests Checklists Contest Chair’s Checklist During the Contest Wording was added to align the reasons for disqualification with the specifications for protests as outlined in General Rules for All Toastmasters Speech Contests, 7. Protests and Disqualifications, A.</p>
<p>Speech Contests Checklists Chief Judge’s Checklist Before the Contest 4. Conduct the judges’ briefing for voting judges, counters, and timers.</p>	<p>Speech Contests Checklists Chief Judge’s Checklist Before the Contest 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.</p>	<p>Speech Contests Checklists Chief Judge’s Checklist Before the Contest Wording was added that allows the chief judge to conduct the judge’s briefing either in person or online. The allowance for an online briefing is made to provide greater scheduling opportunities.</p>