

Speech Contest Rulebook Revisions

The following are important rule clarifications.

Contest Chair

Some districts prefer to split the role of the contest chair and use a separate contest Toastmaster for the contest itself. In such cases, the term “contest Toastmaster” should be considered synonymous with “contest chair.”

Judges

1. All judges must be members in good standing.
2. **All judges at area, division, district, semifinal, and International speech contests must have been a Toastmasters member in good standing since July 1 of the previous year and have completed at least six Competent Communicator manual projects.**

The chief judge should encourage all speech contest officials to view the online Speech Contest training at www.toastmasters.org/tlc

Timing

Two timers are appointed by the chief judge. One is provided with a stopwatch and the other with a timing device that displays green, yellow, and red colors. In the event of technical failure of the signal or timing equipment, a speaker is allowed 30 extra seconds of overtime before being disqualified.

Tiebreaking

The tiebreaking judge’s ballot must be collected by the chief judge while the counters are collecting all other judges’ ballots. In the event of a tie, the chief judge consults the tiebreaking judge’s ballot. The tied contestant who received the highest ranking on the tiebreaking judge’s ballot gains the contested place. Any other tied contestants are ranked in order behind that contestant.

Official Forms

Only official forms may be used for speech contests