Toastmasters Speech Contest Rulebook Changes

JULY 1, 2024 TO JUNE 30, 2025

These articles were changed in the Speech Contest Rulebook (Item 1171) in the September 2024 version.

1. **Speech Contest Policy**
   1. 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. The District Director recommends which contests are to be conducted. The recommendations are subject to the approval of the District Executive Committee at its first meeting of the program year.
   * No other changes affecting District 96 as all sanctioned contests are performed in English.
2. **Eligibility**

B. In addition, to be eligible to compete in the International Speech Contest, a member must:

1. Have earned certificates of completion in Levels 1 and 2 of any path in the Toastmasters Pathways learning experience or earned a Distinguished Toastmaster award.

1. The following are ineligible to compete in any Toastmasters speech contest:

7. Members who are serving in contest official or presenter roles that meet the following criteria:

* + 1. Voting judge, tiebreaking judge, or chief judge at any level, in any District, at the same contest type in which they would be competing.

1. **Selection Sequence**
   * No changes.
2. **Speech Subject and Preparation**

F. All contestants will speak from the platform or area designated by the contest chair.

2. A lectern/podium will be available. However, use of the lectern/podium is optional. (Exception: for the Online Speech Contest, any speaking participants are responsible for the equipment they will use.)

3. If amplification is necessary, a lectern/podium fixed-mounted microphone and a portable microphone must be made available. (Exception: for the Online Speech Contest, any speaking participants are responsible for the equipment they will use.)

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. (Exception: for the Online Speech Contest, any speaking participants are responsible for the equipment they will use.)

1. **General Procedure**

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.

f ) Online Speech Contest voting judges receive the Online Speech Contest Judge’s Guide and Ballot (Item 1189A).

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.

f ) Online Speech Contest voting judges receive the Online Speech Contest Tiebreaking Judge’s Guide and Ballot (Item 1189B).

1. **Timing of the Speeches**
   * No changes.
2. **Protests and Disqualifications**
   * + 1. Protests are limited to eligibility, originality, and reference to another contestant or 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.

**8. Use of Props and Electronic Devices**

* + No changes.

**International Speech Contest Rules**

* + The International Speech Contest enables members to practice public speaking and

content development in a competitive setting. Every speech should fit within the overall

purpose of the contest: To clearly develop and present ideas in a substantially original

speech.

**Online Speech Contest Rules**

* + The Online Speech Contest enables members to practice public speaking and content

development in a competitive setting using an online platform. The topic and purpose

of each speech is determined by the speaker. Every speech should fit within the

overall purpose of the contest: To clearly develop and present ideas in a substantially

original speech.

**Contest Chair’s Checklist**

* + Although you may have a committee to help you with these tasks, it is still your

responsibility to make sure they are done.

**During the Contest**

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. Provide confirmation that audiovisual equipment is functional as described in the rules.

Please consult the [Speech Contest Rulebook](https://ccdn.toastmasters.org/medias/files/department-documents/speech-contests-documents/1171speechcontestrulebook2024-2025/1171-speech-contest-rulebook.pdf) July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025, rev 9/2024 (Item 1171) for all the current policies and rules.