

BRIEFING OF CONTEST RULES & GUIDELINES

(Contestants briefed by the Contest Master)

(Judges, Counters, & Timers briefed by the Chief Judge)

Contestants must be members in good standing and not be a District Officer, an announced candidate for a District office for the coming year, the Immediate Past District Governor, or a presenter of an educational session at the event (typically Spring or Fall Conference).

Contestants must complete the Speaker's Certification of Eligibility and Originality (form 1183) and submit it to the Chief Judge prior to the contest.

For International Speech Contest, contestants must have given 6 CTM manual speeches prior to the contest.

Contestants must speak from the same platform or area as designated by the Contest Master.

Contest Master will have contestants draw for speaking position prior to the contest beginning.

If the primary contestant is absent from the briefing, the alternate may be included in their place. If the primary contestant arrives after the briefing and makes this known to the Contest Master, and has all the paperwork in good order prior to the introduction of the Contest Master, they may waive the briefing and participate.

At the Club and Area level contests you need 1 Contest Chairman/Master, 1 Chief Judge, 5 Judges, 1 Tiebreaking Judge, 3 Counters, 2 Timers, 1 Sgt-at-Arms (TT & Eval Contests only). At the club level, if these numbers are not available, do the best you can.

For International & Humorous contests, contestants remain in the room the duration of the contest. For Table Topics & Evaluation contests, contestants are escorted into the room by the Sgt-at-Arms when it is their turn and remain in the room through the end of the contest.

For all contests, the Sgt-at-Arms keeps anyone from entering the room when the contestants are giving their presentations.

Introducing Contestants-

State Name, Speech Title, Name (International & Humorous Contests)

State Name twice (Table Topics & Evaluation Contests)

Specific Presentation Guidelines for each Contest –

International: Substantially original with any quoted material identified during the speech.

Humorous: Must be thematic (opening, body, close), not a monologue (series of one-liners).

Table Topics: All contestants speak on same topic (of a general nature and reasonable length) which shall not require a detailed knowledge and should lead to an opinion or conclusion.

Evaluation: After target speech, have 5 minutes to prepare, at which time the Sgt-at-Arms collects all contestants' notes (except the 1st contestant). As Sgt-at-Arms escorts a contestant into the room for their turn, returns their notes to them.

There will be one minute of silence between contestants, for Judges to mark their ballots.

TIMING

International & Humorous Contests—

Speeches shall be 5-7 minutes, any shorter than 4-1/2 or longer than 7-1/2 minutes will be disqualified.*

Green Light goes on at 5 minutes and stays on for 1 minute

Amber Light goes on at 6 minutes and stays on for 1 minute

Red Light goes on at 7 minutes and stays on till end of speech

Table Topics Contest—

Speeches shall be 2 minutes, any shorter than 1 minute or longer than 2-1/2 minutes will be disqualified.*

Green Light goes on at 1 minute and stays on for 30 seconds

Amber Light goes on at 1-1/2 minutes and stays on for 30 seconds

Red Light goes on at 2 minutes and stays on till end of speech

Evaluation Contest --

Evaluations shall be 2-3 minutes, any shorter than 1-1/2 minutes or longer than 3-1/2 minutes will be disqualified.*

Green Light goes on at 2 minute and stays on for 30 seconds

Amber Light goes on at 2-1/2 minutes and stays on for 30 seconds

Red Light goes on at 3 minutes and stays on till end of speech

* In the event of technical failure of the signal, a speaker is allowed 30 seconds extra overtime. Prior to announcing results, the CM will announce if time disqualification(s) occurred, but will not name the contestant(s).

Protests are limited to Judges and Contestants and must be lodged with the Chief Judge and/or the Contest Master prior to the announcement of the winners. The only two protests possible are (1) speech originality (2) eligibility. All decisions of the Judges are final.

Awards –

If 5 or more Contestants, there will be 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places

If 4 or fewer contestants, there will be a 1st and a 2nd place.

These rules/guidelines are fairly consistent from year to year; however, be sure to check the current year's rules/guidelines to verify!