

District 53 On-Line Speech Contest Judges Briefing

Intended Audience

This document is the judges briefing for on-line speech contests. The judges briefing shall be delivered to the judges by the contest Chief Judge.

Judges Eligibility (tasks for Chief Judge)

- Verify all judges are a paid member, from a club in good standing utilizing the eligibility checker located at <https://www.toastmasters.org/speech-contest-eligibility-checker/>
- At Division and District contests, verify judges are NOT from the same club as any contestants competing in Division or District Contest
- For Area, Division, and District Contests, do the judges meet the following eligibility
 - o Option 1 – Completed 6 Speeches in the Competent Communicator Manual
 - o Option 2 – Completed Level 1 AND Level 2 of any Pathway Education Program
- Verify no judges are contestants at this level contest or a higher-level contest
- Review the Judge's Certification of Eligibility and Code of Ethics Form and ask if there are any questions about the form

Ballots

- Provide judges with the appropriate judges' ballot in advance of the contest

General Reminders to the Judges – Read to Judges

- Contestants have been advised in their briefing not to approach judges after a contest. If approached by a contestant, please refer the contestant to the Chief Judge.
- All ballots should be discretely destroyed once the contest has been completed.
- Once the results have been announced, the contest results are final.

General Judges Briefing – Read to Judges

1. A judge's identity shall be kept as anonymous as possible.
2. There is a secret tie breaking judge known only to the Chief Judge.
Only the Chief Judge will know which judge is the tie breaking judge.
9. "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.” (Speech Contest Rulebook, Page 9)

10. “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.” (Speech Contest Rulebook, Page 9).

11. If a contestant approaches you with a question, refer the contestant to the Chief Judge.

12. There will be one minute of silence between speakers for you to complete your judge’s ballot.

Guidelines for Judging a Contest – Read to Judges

1. Please sign and print your name on the judges’ ballot now.
2. As a judge, you will be selecting a winner solely based on the criteria listed on the judge’s ballot. Please adhere to the items outlined on the official contest judge’s ballot
3. We will take some time now to familiarize you with the Judge’s ballot (discuss the categories and criteria listed on the ballot)
4. When judging the contest, do not consider club, area, or educational awards when judging a contestant.
5. When judging the contest, do not consider speaker position or speaking order when judging a contestant.
6. Be aware of the Halo Effect. The Halo Effect is the tendency to overlook speech flaws when a
7. contestant does one or two things in a very outstanding way.
8. Be aware of the Reverse Halo Effect. The Reverse Halo Effect focuses on a specific speech flaw, missing the aspects of the speech which were well done.
9. Sometimes an emotional response to the speech or the speech delivery may cause the Halo, or Reverse Halo, Effects. Let an emotional response be a reminder to you to remain objective.
10. Do not consider previous or potential delivery of the speech; judge each contestant based on the speech they deliver today.
11. Put personal prejudices and preferences aside when scoring the speech. Remember, you do not need to agree with the speaker for the speech to be a great speech.
12. Do not consider time in your ranking.
13. Ensure you have filled out your ballot clearly. There can be no ties on your ballot.
14. It is your responsibility (judges) to lodge a protest if you feel there is an issue with speech originality, contestant eligibility or referencing another contestant or a speech presented by another contestant from the same platform.

Contestant Guidance – Read to Judges

□Contestants have been advised in their briefing not to approach judges after a contest. If approached by a contestant, please refer the contestant to the Chief Judge.

Contest Protests – Read to Judges

- The Chief Judge shall select a SECRET protest process word. The protest word is [].
- The Chief Judge shall provide the SECRET protest process word to the Contest Chair, and the judges.

- The tie breaker judge does not participate in the protest resolution.
- When the Contest Master uses the secret word, judges shall discretely leave the contest room and gather in the judges' briefing room to resolve the protest.
- Protests are limited to eligibility, originality, and reference to another contestant or contestant's speech at the same speech contest.
- Protests shall only be lodged by voting judges and contestants.
- Protests are lodged with the Chief Judge and or Contest Chair PRIOR to the announcement of the winners.
- Before a contestant can be disqualified based on originality, contestant eligibility or referencing another contestant or a speech presented by another contestant from the same platform, a majority of the voting judges must agree in the decision to disqualify.

Adjudicating a Protest

1. The Chief Judge Briefs the Judges on the lodged protest
2. The person lodging the protest presents their case to the judges.
3. The judges ask questions as needed.
4. The person lodging the protest returns to the contest room.
5. The speaker in question joins the judges' briefing room.
6. The speaker in question presents their case to the judges.
7. The judges ask questions as needed.
8. The judges deliberate and vote on the outcome of the protest. A simple majority wins. In the event of a tie, the Chief judge casts the deciding, tie-breaking vote.
9. The Chief Judge shall present the results to the Contest Master

References

2023-2024 Speech Contest Rulebook

2019-2020 Functionary Briefing (August Wolf, DTM and Jennifer Cimilluca, DTM)