



AREA AND DIVISION DIRECTOR TRAINING

Conducting Quality Speech Contests

Jennifer Cimilluca

Past District 53 Chief Judge

Session Agenda



- ▶ Types and benefits of speech contests
- ▶ Speech contest preparation
- ▶ Speech contest rules
- ▶ Speech Contest Resources

Session Objectives



- Provide fundamentals of speech contests to Area and Division Directors
- Understand the Types of Speech Contests
- Understand the benefits of speech contests

Session Objectives



- Understand how to prepare a speech contest with leadership teams
- Understand how to solve speech contest challenges and understand how to answer questions using the *Speech Contest Rulebook* (Item 1171)

Speech Contest Benefits



- ▶ Opportunities to Compete
- ▶ Opportunities to learn new skills
- ▶ Experience organizing an event
- ▶ Opportunities to network
- ▶ Opportunities to have FUN!!

Type of Speech Contests



- ▶ International
- ▶ Evaluation
- ▶ Humorous
- ▶ Table Topics™
- ▶ Tall Tales
- ▶ Video (for members of undistricted clubs and for provisional districts)

*undistricted clubs =
provisional clubs, on-line
clubs

District Requirements



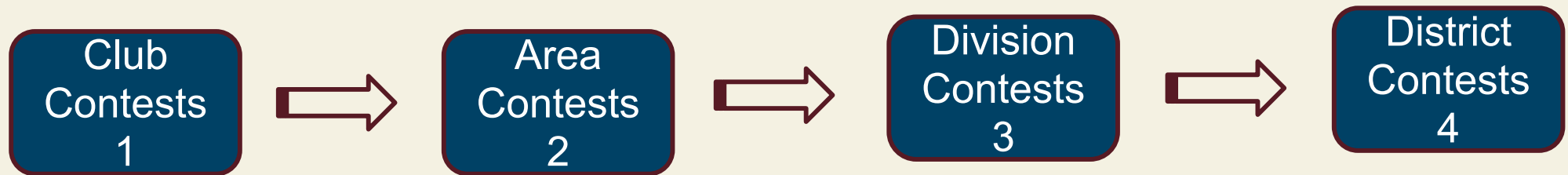
- ▶ Districts must hold the International Speech Contest every year.
- ▶ Districts are allowed to hold up to three additional contests per year.

2023-24 D53 Speech Contests

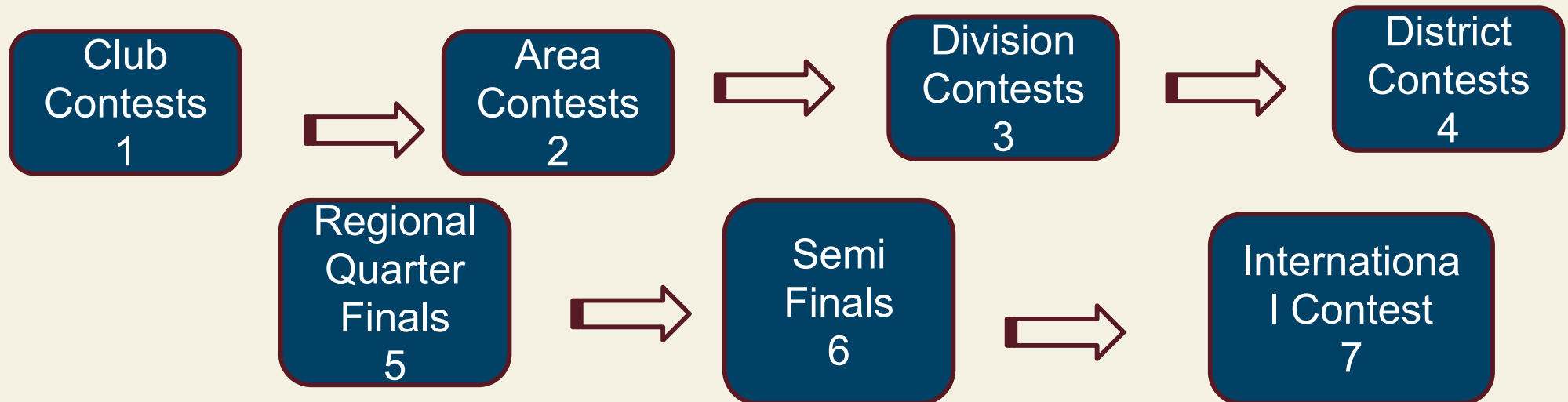


- ▶ International
- ▶ Evaluation

Speech Contest Progression



Speech Contest Progression



Speech Contest Season



- ▶ Club Contests
 - Oct 15, 2023 –December 10, 2023
- ▶ Area Contests
 - December 11, 2023 – February 10, 2024
- ▶ Division Contests
 - February 11, 2024 – March 31, 2024



▶ District Contest

- Announced by District (anticipated 3rd week of April)

Speech Contest Logistics



- Club contests in person or on-line (club choice)
- Area, Division, and District In Person

Preparing a Speech Contest

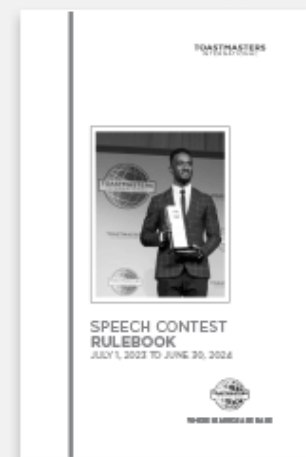


- Identify a team to plan the contest
- Rule Book Review
- Location
- Eligible Candidates
- Clubs in good standing
- Eligible Functionaries

Speech Contest Rules



- ▶ *Speech Contest Rulebook* (Item 1171)
 - The ultimate resource for contest issues
- ▶ Questions can be directed to World Headquarters
 - Email speechcontests@toastmasters.org
 - Phone 720-439-5050



Eligibility for All Contests



- There is a list of positions held throughout the district which are ineligible for competition (Page 6-7 of the rule book)

Eligibility for Evaluation Contestants



- Paid Member in the area, division, and district you are competing
- Club must be in good standing
- New, dual, or reinstated member must have dues and membership application on file with World Headquarters
- Maintain eligibility at all levels of any contest

Eligibility - International Contestants



- Paid Member in the area, division, and district you are competing
- Club must be in good standing
- New, dual, or reinstated member must have dues and membership application on file with World Headquarters
- Maintain eligibility at all levels of any contest

Eligibility - International Contestants




- Earned certifications of completion in Levels 1 and 2 of any Pathways path OR, earned the Distinguished Toastmaster designation



Checking Eligibility

About | Education Programs | Membership | Resources | Magazine | Events | Shop

Overview | How to Renew | Start a Club | Leadership Central | Corporate Clubs  | Accredited Speaker

Governing Documents

Glossary, bylaws, policies, and more

Distinguished Performance Reports

View the dashboard for all clubs and Districts

Legal and Tax Compliance

See requirements for your country



Eligibility Assistant

Check membership status, and club status



| ELIGIBILITY ASSISTANT

This tool allows club and district officers to check member eligibility. It can be used when determining whether or not members are eligible for membership. Please note, club officers can only check the eligibility of members within their club. Area directors can only check members within their area. District officers can only check members within their district.

Be sure to review the [Speech Contest Rulebook](#) (Item 1) for more information. To verify the eligibility of members in recently chartered clubs, contact speechcontests@toastmasters.org for further assistance.

Search for a member

Member ID*

Last Name*

Check Myself

Search



Checking Eligibility

| First Name | Last Name | Member ID |
|------------|-----------|-------------|
| Jennifer | Cimilluca | PN-01303345 |

Club Information

| Club Name | Club ID | Current Positions | Member Status | Last Payment Received | Paid Until | Renewal Period | Club Renewal Status | Club Status |
|------------------------------------|-------------|--|---------------|-----------------------|-------------|----------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| Middlesex County Toastmasters Club | CB-00008340 | Club VP Education Club Treasurer | Paid | Jul-26-2023 | Mar-31-2024 | October | Ineligible as of Apr-06-2023 | Active |

Note: Check roster for education requirement. Contest Chairs and Chief Judges will need to work with Area and Division Directors to assist with eligibility beyond club levels



- Speech Content Must Be Original
- Twenty-five percent or less of the speech may be devoted to quoted, paraphrased, or referenced content must be so identified during the speech presentation
- 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



Eligible Content

- ▶ International Speech Contest: 5-7 minutes, any topic of the contestant's choosing.



- Contestants must complete Item 1183 certifying in writing to the Chief Judge the content of their speech is substantially original
- All contestants will speak from the same platform Area designated by the contest chair



Staffing a speech contest (all paid Toastmasters)

| Contest Officials | Club | Area | Division | District |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|---|---|---|
| Contest Chair | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Contest Toastmaster | optional** | optional** | optional** | optional** |
| Chief Judge | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Judges | 5 | equal number of voting judges from each club in the area or 5 minimum | Equal number of voting judges from each area in the division or min 7 | Equal number of voting judges from each Division in the District or min 7 |
| Tie Breaking Judge | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Ballot Counters | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Timer | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Test Speaker for Evaluation Contest | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Sgt at Arms | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | *unless impractical | | | |
| | **Rulebook Page 11 | | | |



Contest Chair

- ▶ Plan the Contest
- ▶ Select Date / Time / Location
- ▶ Create the Agenda
- ▶ Download Certificates
- ▶ Order Trophies
- ▶ Verify Speaker Eligibility
- ▶ Can serve as Contest Toastmaster if one is not selected



Contest Toastmaster

- ▶ Runs the contest
- ▶ Brief the Contestants
- ▶ Works with Contest Chair to setup and run speech contest
- ▶ Reads the script and MCs the Contest



Chief Judge

- ▶ Appoints & Briefs Voting Judges, Ballot Counters, Timers, and Secret Tie Breaking Judge
- ▶ Provides Counters' Tally Sheet and Timer's Sheet
- ▶ Conduct Judges and Functionary Briefing
- ▶ Oversees Ballot Counting



Judges Eligibility

- ▶ Club Contest – paid member
- ▶ Club in good standing



- Club Contest – a paid member
- Area, Division, or District Contest
 - Paid member for 6 months
 - Completed 6 speech projects in the Competent Communication (prior to the rollout of Pathways), or earned certifications of completion in Levels 1 and 2 of any path in the Toastmasters Pathways learning experience
 - Be physically present at the contest for which you are serving



- Area, Division, or District Contest
 - Same club prohibition at division and above



Timer's Role

- ▶ One timer uses stopwatch to time speech for the record
- ▶ One timer controls signaling cards for the speaker



Ballot Counter's Role

- ▶ Collects ballots from voting judges
- ▶ Leaves the contest room with Chief Judge to tally ballots
- ▶ Must interrupt the announcement of contest winners if announced incorrectly.



Sergeant at Arms Role

- ▶ Escort Speakers from waiting area to speaking area
- ▶ Supervises contestants not speaking in the waiting area
- ▶ Secures doors to the contest venue

Speech Contest Rules to Note



- Contestants may only be nominated at club level
- Area, Division, and District contests must be held
- Traditional eligibility requirements (previous program) – apply towards Judge's eligibility only

Speech Contest Rules to Note



- Contests with one contestant must be held at contests beyond the club level. The contestant must be disqualified if they do not meet the timing, originality and eligibility requirements
- Protests must be lodged prior to the contest being adjourned.



Forms For A Speech Contest

- ▶ Current Version of Speech Contest Rules
- ▶ Speech Contest Certificates
- ▶ Speaker's Certification of Eligibility and Originality
- ▶ Judges Certification of Eligibility and Code of Ethics
- ▶ Speech Contestant Profile (Biographical Information)
- ▶ Ballots
- ▶ Tie Breaking Ballot



Forms For A Speech Contest

- ▶ [Toastmasters International -International Speech Contest Kit](#)
- ▶ [Toastmasters International -Evaluation Speech Contest Kit](#)



Effective Contests

- ▶ Plan – start early
- ▶ Communicate with your Team
- ▶ Prepare for the unexpected



- ▶ Area and division directors are resources for club officers' speech contest questions
- ▶ Area and division directors should have a thorough understanding of speech contests

Speech Contest Resources



- ▶ [Toastmasters International –Home](#)
- ▶ [Speech Contest Resources – District 53 Toastmasters \(d53tm.org\)](#)

Speech Contest Resources



- ▶ District Chief Judge
 - Beth Van Kempen– (518) 598-3012
bethvk19@gmail.com

- ▶ Past District Chief Judge
 - Jen Cimilluca – (860) 301-9402
jencimillucadist53@gmail.com



- Types of speech contests
- Benefits of speech contests
- How to prepare a speech contest with leadership teams
- Be able to solve speech contest challenges and answer questions using the *Speech Contest Rulebook* (Item 1171)

Conclusion: Closing Remarks



- ▶ The benefits of speech contests extend to all involved.
- ▶ Area and division directors must have a thorough understanding of speech contests.
- ▶ The *Speech Contest Rulebook* (Item 1171) is an important guide.
- ▶ It is important to choose fair and impartial judges and train contest officials.



Questions??