



Tall Tales Speech Contest and International Speech Contest Chief Judge Briefing Checklist

The following is a summary of the official Contest Rulebook. Please read the rules (item 1171 on www.toastmasters.org)

Chief Judge Duties

- Brief all officials identified on this handout.
 - Collect the Judge's Certification of Eligibility and Code of Ethics Form (item 1170) from each judge and confirm that they have completed the requirements.
- Make sure you have received a filled-out Certificate of Originality and Eligibility form (item 1183) from each contestant.
 - Get the completed contestant Certificate of Originality and Eligibility form (item 1183) from the Toastmaster or Contest Chair.
 - You may have received this form from an earlier contest.
- Get the speaking order from the Toastmaster or Contest Chair as soon as possible so you can the information with your judges when you brief them.
 - If you don't have the speaking order before briefing the judges get it to them as soon as possible before the contest begins.
- As Chief Judge, you are not a voting judge.
- Brief the contest rules when called upon by the Toastmaster during the contest.
- When the contest is over, make sure that you ask the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners to fill out the notification of contest winner form. You should make sure that the next level contest chair receives this form along with each speaker's Certification of Originality and Eligibility form.

Functionaries

- **Judges**
 - At the **Club** level, use five judges if possible.
 - At the **Area** level, you must have at least five judges or equal representation from each club in the Area.
 - At the **Division** level and above, you must have at least seven judges or equal representation from the Areas composing the Division for Division Contests.
 - At the **District** level, you must have at least seven judges or equal representation from the Divisions composing the District for District Contests.
 - At the Dry Run/Pre-Briefing for Online Contests collect each Judge email address and cell phone number.



- Provide your cell phone number to each judge.
- Provide your email address and the email address of each Ballot Counter to each judge.
- **Tiebreaker Judge**
 - You must select a tiebreaker judge. Ideally, this judge should not be a member of the club in a **Club** contest; the **Area** in an Area contest; the **Division** in a Division contest; or the **District** in a District contest.
 - At the Dry Run/Pre-Briefing for Online Contests, collect the Tiebreaker email address and cell phone number.
 - Provide your cell phone number to the Tiebreaker Judge.
 - Provide your email address and the email address of each Ballot Counter to the Tiebreaker Judge.
- **Ballot Counters**
 - You must have three ballot counters.
 - In unusual circumstances if you do not have three you must have at least two ballot counters at the Club, three is preferable and required for Area, Division and District.
- **Timers**
 - You must have two timers, a primary and secondary.
 - Both timers should have the Timer Backgrounds showing Timer, Green, Yellow and Red.
 - If available at the Division and District contests a third timer can be used.

Functionary Briefings

- **Judges**
 - The Chief Judge must collect a completed Judge's Certification of Eligibility and Code of Ethics Form (item 1170) from each judge.
 - The Judges must send the completed Form by email to the Chief Judge prior to the contest.
 - Explain the ballot to the judges:
 - Use the paper ballot to explain the judging criteria to the judges, even if using Google Forms, or online ballots.
 - You only need to collect the top three results from each judge, you do not need any calculations or detail sheets.
 - The results submission must have the contestant's name in First, Second, and Third place order. The submission must also have the name of the judge.
 - Ballots are collected in between each Area contest, for each contest.
 - Judges are advised to complete their ballot for each speaker during the minute of silence.
 - Encourage the judges to keep a copy of the judging criteria handy as they mark each



- contestant.
- After the last contestant in each Area the judges will submit their completed ballot for that Area Contest to the Chief Judge and ballot counters as determined by the Chief Judge.
 - At the Contestant names are written across the top of the ballot. However, you may not know the order of the contestants until the contest begins, at which time the Toastmaster of the contest will announce the order of the contestants.
 - Along the side of the ballot are the judging criteria. When a contestant finishes his/her speech, write what you think the contestant's score should be to the right of each item and in the column for that contestant.
 - Review the back of your ballot for a description of each judging item.
- Read the Judge's code of ethics on the back of the ballot.
 - Advise the judges:
 - You will be given one minute of silence after each contestant finishes his/her speech to write down your score and add them up for your total score for that contestant.
 - When each Area Contest is over, you will be given time to complete your ballot and submit your first, second and third selection.
 - Notify the Chief Judge and Ballot Counters with your choice of 1st Contestant **Name**; 2nd Contestant **Name**; 3rd Contestant **Name**.
 - In District contests when the formal TI ballot is required you will use the online fillable document provided.
 - You are to ignore time in your judging of each contestant.
 - Destroy the top part of the ballot at some location away from the contest site.
 - **Protests:**
 - Only judges or contestants can make a protest.
 - Protests can only be based on eligibility or originality.
 - Eligibility is determined by the Contest Chair, Toastmaster and Chief Judge before the contest begins. Information presented to contradict this will be resolved by the Contest Chair and Chief Judge.
 - A protest of originality must be made to the Chief Judge only before the announcement of the winners is made. After that, it is too late.
 - When a protest is received the Chief Judge will ask the Tech Chair to move all the judges, not including the Tiebreaker Judge, to the breakout room.
 - The protestor or Contest Chair will present the protest to the Judges and be returned to the contest.
 - The protested contestant is brought into the breakout room and presented with the protest. The contestant is allowed to respond to the protest, then returned to the contest.
 - The judges vote whether to concur and uphold the protest.



- A majority of judges must concur to uphold a protest.
- After the vote the judges leave the breakout room. The Chief Judge will notify the Contest Chair with the results.
 - The Contest Chair will privately notify the contestant that he or she is disqualified on the basis of eligibility before the contest adjourns.
- **Tiebreaker Judge**
 - The Tiebreaker Judge is briefed privately by the Chief Judge.
 - Collect a completed Judge's Certification of Eligibility and Code of Ethics Form (item 1170).
 - If the contest is Online the judge must send the completed form by email to the Chief Judge prior to the contest.
 - Explain the ballot to the Tiebreaker Judge:
 - Contestant names are written across the top of the ballot. However, you may not know the order of the contestants until the contest begins, at which time the Toastmaster of the contest will announce the order of the contestants.
 - Along the side of the ballot are the judging criteria. When a contestant finishes his/her speech, write what you think the contestant's score should be to the right of each item and in the column for that contestant.
 - Review the back of your ballot for a description of each judging item.
 - Read the Judge's code of ethics on the back of the ballot.
 - Advise the Tiebreaker Judge:
 - You will be given one minute of silence after each contestant finishes his/her speech to write down your score and add it up for your total score for that contestant.
 - As the tiebreaker judge, you must rank every contestant on your ballot, not just the top three. Send your email to the Chief Judge with each Contestant's Name ranked in order from one to however many contestants there are.
 - In District contests when the formal TI ballot is required you will use the online fillable document provided.
 - You are to ignore time in your judging of each contestant.
 - Destroy the top part of the ballot at some location away from the contest site.
 - **Protests:**
 - Only judges or contestants can make a protest.
 - Protests can only be based on eligibility, originality or reference to another contestant's speech, and presented to either the Chief Judge and/or Contest Chair.
 - Eligibility is determined by the Contest Chair, Toastmaster and Chief Judge before the contest begins. Information presented to contradict this will be resolved by the Contest Chair and Chief Judge.
 - A protest of reference to another speaker's speech or originality must be made to the Chief Judge or Contest Chair before the announcement of the winners is made. After that, it is too late.
 - When a protest is received the Chief Judge will ask the Tech Chair to move all



the judges, not including the Tiebreaker Judge, to the breakout room.

- The protestor or Contest Chair will present the protest to the Judges and be returned to the contest.
 - If the Chief Judge presents the protest, he or she will remain with the Judges for the discussion and deliberation.
 - The protested contestant is brought into the breakout room and presented with the protest. The contestant is allowed to respond to the protest.
 - The judges vote whether to concur and uphold the protest.
 - A Majority of judges must concur to uphold a protest.
 - After the vote, the judges leave the breakout room. The Chief Judge will notify the Contest Chair with the results.
 - The contest chair will privately notify the contestant that he or she is disqualified eligibility before the contest adjourns.
- **Ballot Counters**
 - Provide the Counters Tally Sheet (Item 1176) to each Ballot Counter
 - Print the names of the Contestants along the top of the form in speaking order.
 - Write the names of the Judges along the side of the form. However, don't write down the tiebreaker Judge's name.
 - You may use the Online Counter Tally Sheet Spreadsheet found in the **Counter Tally** folder in the **Area A1, A2, A3, A4 folder, [Timer and Ballot Counter Folder](#)**.

Online Speech Contest Resources

- The Ballot Counters and the Chief Judge remain in the breakout room to tally the ballots.
- **Counting the ballots:**
 - The Chief Judge reads each ballot one at a time.
 - Each Ballot Counter writes the appropriate number of points given by each judge under each contestant's name. Then, add up the score for each contestant.
 - Three (3) points are scored for each first-place ranking; Two (2) points are scored for each second-place ranking; One (1) point is scored for each third-place ranking
 - Ballot Counter 1 verifies a ballot is received from each judge.
 - Ballot Counter 2 tally's each result onto the Online Counter Tally.
 - Ballot Counter 3 verifies the correct result is recorded.
 - If there are only two ballot counters, the Chief Judge verifies a ballot was received from each Judge.
 - When all ballots are tallied, the Chief Judge and Ballot Counters review the results and agree on the result.



- The Chief Judge eliminates the time-disqualified contestants and reports the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place for each contest, for each Area to the Contest Chair.
- Once the ranking has been sent to the Contest Chair, the Chief Judge will complete the Notification of Contest Winner form (Item 1182) and provide it to the Contest Chair at the end of the contest to notify the next level contest.
- If required the Chief Judge records the names of the winners in reverse order on the Results Form (Item 1168) and gives it to the Contest Chair.
- **Timers**
 - There is a primary and secondary Timer. When possible, a third Timer may be used.
 - They need a timing device, such as a phone or stopwatch which reports time to a tenth of a second.
 - At the start of the contest the Chief Judge will send an email to the Timers with the names of the contestants. If the speaking order is already known, the names will be in speaking order.
 - Each Timer needs the four background images: Timer, Green, Yellow, Red.
 - The Timer background is displayed until the Green background is shown; the Green is displayed until the Yellow background is shown; the Yellow is displayed until the Red background is shown.
 - The Red background remains displayed until the speaker concludes. Do not indicate if the speaker is overtime.
 - **International Contest Speeches** must be from five (5) to seven (7) minutes. A contestant will be disqualified if the speech is less than four (4) minutes 30 seconds or more than seven (7) minutes 30 seconds.
 - Timing begins when the speaker utters his/her first word or obviously begins the speech with gestures, sound effects, or movement toward the audience.
 - Even though the secondary Timer has their video off, they should change their background at the appropriate times in case they must switch to be the primary Timer.
 - Record each speaker's time next to their name on the email sent by the Chief Judge.
 - At the end of the contest send the completed email with the time of each speaker next to their name to the Chief Judge. Write/Type TIME next to any times that are under or over the minimum/maximum required time.
 - **One Minute of Silence:**
 - During the One Minute of Silence the Timer will show the Red Background or Red Light.
 - At the end of the One Minute of Silence change the Red Background or Red Light to Green.
 - After the last One Minute of Silence the Timer will show the Red Background or Red Light until the Chief Judge, Ballot Counters and Judges have been moved to the breakout room, or the Chief Judge reports all ballots are collected.



- **Sergeant-at-Arms**

- There are no physical setup requirements for an Online Contest.
- Gavel down and call the contest to order.
 - Provide housekeeping tips: remain on mute; if video can be, or must be off; silence; turn video off when leaving/entering contest; pictures; recording; breaks; and any other items the Contest Chair needs the audience to know.

Tall Tales Speech Contest Rules Briefing:

- When called upon by the Toastmaster the Chief Judge will brief the International Speech Contest Rules. The following sections are presented as one briefing without the topic headings.

Thank you, Mister/Madam Toastmaster.

Eligibility

(if the Toastmaster **has not** defined the eligibility criteria)

To be eligible to compete in today's contest each Toastmaster must be a member in good standing in a club in good standing.

- That means the member has paid dues and the club has paid dues to Toastmasters International.

- There is one exception to the speech requirements listed above. A charter member of a Club chartered since 1 July is eligible to compete.

District Office or Other Contest

- *The member cannot have declared the intent to run for Area, District, or International office.*
- *The members cannot be competing in another Area, Division, or District Tall Tales Speech contest.*

Statement of Eligibility

- *All contestants meet the eligibility criteria. (based on the Chief Judge receipt of*



Eligibility Forms)

Originality

- *All speeches are to be substantially original - any quoted material must be identified during the speech presentation.*
(25% or less of the speech may be non-original material. The Material must be attributed to the source where the contestant heard it/saw it)
- *Contestants may not reference another contestant, or a speech presented by another contestant, during the speech contest in which they are participating.*

Audio Instructions to the Audience

- *Except for the announced speaker and signaling timer everyone will remain muted with their video off.*

Speech Timing and Timer Demonstration

- *The time of the Tall Tales Contest is **3** to **5** minutes. Any contestant speaking less than **2:30** or more than **5:30** will be disqualified.*
- *Timer, please prepare to demonstrate the background changes as I mention the times:*
 - • **Green at 3 minutes**
 - • **Yellow at 4 minutes**
 - • **Red at 5 minutes** and will **Stay On** until the contestant has finished speaking.
- *No notice will be given if a contestant goes overtime.*
 - *The Red Background at **5** minutes. The Red Background will stay up until the speaker has finished speaking. No notice will be given if a speaker goes overtime.*
- *Timing starts with the 1st word uttered or when the speaker uses any form of communication with the audience.*
- *Judges have been instructed not to consider time in their ranking of the speakers.*



Light Failure

- *In the event the lights fail,. the speaker should continue to speak unless advised to stop by me, or the Contest Chair. I will grant an additional **30 seconds** time to the speaker*

If audio or video technology fails during the contest

- *If only one contestant is impacted, the Chief Judge will pause the contest until the technology issue is resolved.*
 - *The contestant will resume their speech at the point at which the technology failed and will be allowed **30 seconds** extra time for the completion of his or her speech.*
 - *If the Contest Chair determines that the contest can no longer continue (due to a lack of contestants or contest officials), the contest will be reconvened at a later date or time.*
- *There are no restarts or do-overs.*
 - *Timing starts with the first word uttered or when the speaker uses any form of communication with the audience.*

One Minute of Silence

- *As mentioned there will be one minute of silence between speakers. Please note that means total silence.*
- *In between each Area, we will remain silent as the judges complete their ballots and rank the Area Contestants.*

Technology Failure

- *If audio or video technology fails during the contest*
- *If only one contestant is impacted, as the Chief Judge I will pause the contest until the technology issue is resolved.*
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Number of Judges

- There are # judges (**no less than 5 for Area, and can be more than 7**) and a secret tiebreaker judge known only to the Chief Judge
- Judges have been instructed not to consider the following elements in their ranking of the contestants:
 - They are not to consider time.
 - They are not to consider whether a contestant is seated or standing.
 - They are not to consider the contestant moving out of the frame.
- -All judges have been briefed and are qualified to judge this contest.

Protests and Winner Announcement

- - A Protest may only be entered by a contestant or a Judge. The protest must be based on eligibility, originality, or reference to another contestant's speech, and presented to either the Chief Judge and/or Contest Chair.
- - Once the results have been announced, all decisions are final. Are there any questions?

Declaration of Eligibility

Mr./Madam Toastmaster, all the contestants, judges, timers, and ballot counters have been briefed.

Announcement of Winners

- If the announcement of the winners by the Contest Chair is incorrect or in the wrong order, only the Chief Judge or a Ballot Counter can bring the error to everyone's attention.
- Immediately interrupt the Contest Chair making the announcement and privately tell the contest chair and the Chief Judge what the correct order should be or why a contestant should not be identified as a winner.



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- *That means the member has paid dues and the club has paid dues to Toastmasters International.*
- *Have completed Level 1 or Level 2 in any path in any path in the Pathways learning experience or earned a Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) award.*
- *There is one exception to the speech requirements listed above. A charter member of a Club chartered since 1 July is eligible to compete.*

District Office or Other Contest

- *The member cannot have declared the intent to run for Area, District, or International office.*
- *The members cannot be competing in another Area, Division, or District Tall Tales Speech contest.*

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- *All contestants meet the eligibility criteria. (based on the Chief Judge receipt of Eligibility Forms)*

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- *Contestants may not reference another contestant, or a speech presented by another contestant, during the speech contest in which they are participating.*

Audio Instructions to the Audience

- *Except for the announced speaker and signaling timer everyone will remain muted with their video off.*

Speech Timing and Timer Demonstration

- *The time of the International Speech Contest is **5 to 7** minutes. Any speaker speaking less than **4:30** or more than **7:30** will be disqualified.*

- *Timer, please prepare to demonstrate the background changes as I mention the times:*

- • **Green at 5 minutes**
- • **Yellow at 6 minutes**
- • **Red at 7 minutes** and will **Stay On** until the contestant has finished speaking.

- *No notice will be given if a contestant goes overtime.*

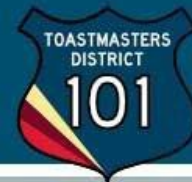
- *The Red Background at 7 minutes. The Red Background will stay up until the speaker has finished speaking. No notice will be given if a speaker goes overtime.*

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- *Judges have been instructed not to consider time in their ranking of the speakers*

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- *In the event the lights fail,. the speaker should continue to speak unless advised to stop by me, or the Contest Chair. I will grant an additional **30 seconds** time to the speaker*



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- *As mentioned there will be one minute of silence between speakers. Please note that means total silence.*
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Number of Judges

- *There are # judges (**no less than 5 for Area, and can be more than 7**) and a secret tie breaker judge known only to the Chief Judge*



- *Judges have been instructed not to consider the following elements in their ranking of the contestants:*
- *They are not to consider time.*



- *They are not to consider whether a contestant is seated or standing.*
- *They are not to consider the contestant moving out of the frame.*

- *All judges have been briefed and are qualified to judge this contest.*

Protests and Winner Announcement

- *A Protest may only be entered by a contestant or a Judge. The protest must be based on eligibility, originality, or reference to another contestant's speech, and presented to either the Chief Judge and/or Contest Chair.*

- *Once the results have been announced, all decisions are final. Are there any questions?*

Declaration of Eligibility

Mr./Madam Toastmaster, all the contestants, judges, timers, and ballot counters have been briefed.

Announcement of Winners

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