

HUMOROUS CONTEST

(a synopsis)

Eligibility. All Toastmasters who are members in good standing in a Club in good standing are eligible to compete, with certain exceptions such as District, Division and Area Governors. New, dual, or reinstated members must have dues current with Toastmasters International.

Procedure. The subject of the speech shall be selected by the contestant. The speaker should avoid potentially objectionable language, anecdotes, and material. Contestants must prepare their own five to seven minute speech, which must be substantially original and certified as such in writing to the chief judge by the contestants prior to the presentation of the speeches. Any quoted material must be so identified during the speech presentation. The speech must be thematic in nature (opening, body, and close), not a monologue (series of one-liners). Props may be used.

Timing. Speeches shall be from five to seven minutes. Contestants who speak less than four minutes 30 seconds or more than seven minutes 30 seconds will be disqualified.

The Humorous Speech Contest is judged on: CONTENTS (55%) Speech Development (structure, opening, body, support material) – 0-15 points; Effectiveness (excitement created, suspense, the unexpected twist, surprise, connection of humorous events, achievement of purpose) – 0-10 points; Speech Value (ideas originality of thoughts and material) – 0-15 points; Audience Response (attentiveness, laughter, interest, reception) – 0-15 points; DELIVERY (30%) Physical (appearance, body language) – 0-10 points; Voice (flexibility, volume) – 0-10 points; Manner (directness, assurance, enthusiasm) – 0-10 points; LANGUAGE (15) Appropriateness (to speech purpose and audience, reflecting good taste) – 0-10 points; Correctness (grammar, pronunciation, word selection) – 0-5 points.