

## **INTERNATIONAL SPEECH CONTEST** **(a synopsis)**

**Eligibility.** Except for certain officers, such as the Area and District Governors, all Toastmasters who are members in good standing in a Club in good standing are eligible to compete as long as they have completed at least six manual speeches prior to the Club contest. However, a member of a Club chartered since the previous July 1 may compete without having completed six manual speeches. New, dual, or reinstated members must have dues current with Toastmasters International.

**Procedure.** Contestants must prepare their own speeches, which must be substantially original and certified as such in writing prior to the presentation of the speeches. Any quoted material must be so identified. All contestants will speak from the same designated area. Use of a lectern/podium is optional.

**Timing.** Speeches will be five to seven minutes. A contestant will be disqualified from the contest if the speech is less than four minutes 30 seconds or more than seven minutes 30 seconds. Timing will begin with the contestant's first definite verbal or nonverbal communication with the audience. A green light will be turned on at five minutes and remain on for one minute. An amber light will be turned on at six minutes and remain on for one minute. A red light will be turned on at seven minutes and remain on until the conclusion of the speech.

***The International Speech Contest is judged on: Speech Development (structure, organization, support material) – 1-20 points; Effectiveness (achievement of purpose, interest, reception) – 0-15 points; Speech Value (ideas, logic, original thought) – 0-15 points; Physical (appearance, body language) – 0-10 points; Voice (flexibility, volume) – 0-10 points; Manner (directness, assurance, enthusiasm) – 0-10 points; Appropriateness (to speech purpose and audience) – 0-10 points; Correctness (grammar, pronunciation, word selection) – 0-10 points.***