

# SPEECH CONTESTS

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**Speech contests are an important part of the Toastmasters educational program.** They provide an opportunity for Toastmasters to gain speaking experience, as well as an opportunity for other Toastmasters to learn by observing proficient speakers.

**Contests must originate at the club level** and proceed through the Area, Division, and District levels, respectively.

All the official District 74 speech contests for Area, Division and District will be **conducted online**.

## **Speech Contest Protocol**

The **Speech Contest Rulebook for 2022/2023** is the protocol as it applies to all official Toastmasters speech contests. Please note that modifications to these rules may only be made through the Toastmasters International administrative protocol review process.

Online and hybrid contests **are an exception to General Rules** for all Toastmasters Speech Contests, 2. Eligibility, C., 11. which states, *"Each contestant must be physically present to compete beyond the club level. Participation by audio, video, or other remote technology is not permitted beyond the club level."*

Other than this exception, the Speech Contest Rulebook will be followed with no other exceptions permitted.

## **Official Ballots and Records**

All Judges will want to use the **provided ballots** to ensure all contests across all levels have the same documentation and reduce potential confusion.

The list of ballots and the item number can be found in the Speech Contest Rulebook on page 11 section D.

To help with an online contest, a fillable version of each ballot may be located [here](#).

## **Winning Contestant Progression**

Two Contestants – the Winner and the second placed contestant – will progress from every level **UNLESS** an Area has more than 4 active Clubs, and/or a Division has more than 4 active Areas two months before the contest.

### **Contestant Online Connectivity**

Should a Contestant lose connectivity once they have started their speech they are expected to log back on and **continue with their speech from where they left off** without bias or favouritism.

If a Contestant has technical difficulties, the Contest Chair will instruct the Timers to pause their **timing for a maximum of five minutes**. This period will be timed by the Back Up Timer and should give the Contestant sufficient time to re-connect and/or fix their audio-visual difficulties.

If they are not able to rejoin, our Judges must judge based on the portion of the speech they heard. If necessary, the Chief Judge will decide for disqualification when they review the Timers' Record.

### **Official Resources**

All Speech Contest Role Players and Contestants are encouraged to visit and review the following:

- **Toastmasters Internal Speech Contests website:**  
<https://www.toastmasters.org/leadership-central/speech-contests>
- **Online Speech Contest training:**  
[www.toastmasters.org/Leadership-Central/Speech-Contests/Speech-Contest-Tutorials](http://www.toastmasters.org/Leadership-Central/Speech-Contests/Speech-Contest-Tutorials)
- **International Speech Contest Resources:**  
<https://toastmasterscdn.azureedge.net/medias/files/zip-files/1169-international-speech-contest-kit-2022.zip>
- **Table Topics Contest Resources:**  
<https://toastmasterscdn.azureedge.net/medias/files/zip-files/1169tbl-table-topics-speech-contest-kit-2022.zip>

- **Evaluation Contest Resources:**

<https://toastmasterscdn.azureedge.net/medias/files/zip-files/1169-evaluation-speech-contest-kit-2022.zip>

#### **District 74 Resources**

- **Speech Contests 2023 WhatsApp Group:**

<https://bit.ly/D74SpeechContestsWhatsApp>

- **Online Workshops Zoom Link to be held every Wednesday from 11 January to 15 February 2023 from 17h15 until 18h00**

<https://bit.ly/SpeechContestsWorkshops>

- **YouTube Channel for recorded Online Workshops:**

<https://bit.ly/D74ContestWorkshops>

- **Templates: Editable Speech Contest Script and Role Players Briefing for 2023:**

[chiefjudge@toastmasters74.org](mailto:chiefjudge@toastmasters74.org)

- **Chief Judge:**

[chiefjudge@toastmasters74.org](mailto:chiefjudge@toastmasters74.org)