

TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL: SPEECH CONTESTS
PROTESTS, DISQUALIFICATIONS, AND ERRORS IN WINNER ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Sources: Toastmasters International Speech Contest Rulebook 2015-2016
 Toastmasters International Judges Training Presenter's Guide, Rev. 06/ 2013*

**IN ALL CASES, THE DECISIONS OF THE JUDGES OR CONTEST CHAIR ARE FINAL.
 AT NO TIME WILL THE IDENTITY OF A DISQUALIFIED CONTESTANT BE ANNOUNCED.**

<p style="text-align: center;">PROTEST & DISQUALIFICATION ON THE BASIS OF ELIGIBILITY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CONTESTS: ALL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LEVELS: ALL</p>	<p>Eligibility Protests: Protests concerning eligibility are limited to judges and contestants and are lodged with and decided by the contest chairman prior to the announcement of the winners. Prior to the announcement of winners, the contest chair shall notify the contestant that he has been disqualified. Regarding matters of eligibility, a judge's only obligation is to report a possible violation to the contest chair. (Judge must still judge the Contestant fairly.) Contest Chair should verify Eligibility with World Headquarters well before the contest date. Contest chair can disqualify a contestant on the basis of eligibility without a protest.</p> <p>All Contestants: Must be a member-in-good-standing of a club in good standing (i.e., dues received by WHQ; active club). Contestant must maintain eligibility at all contest levels. If at any level it is discovered that a contestant was ineligible to compete at any previous level, the contestant must be disqualified, even if the ineligibility is not discovered until a later contest and has been corrected.</p> <p>An eligible Toastmaster who is a member of more than one club is permitted to compete in each club's contest. However, should he win more than one club contest, he is permitted to represent only one of the clubs at the area level. No contestant can compete in more than one area contest, even if the two areas are in different divisions or different districts. Also ineligible to compete: a) A member serving as a judge at any level for a contest in which the he/she is still competing or intends to compete; b) Contest functionaries may not compete in the contest at which they are serving as a functionary. c) Presenters of education sessions at the event at which the contest will be held, including area, division, and district events, as well as the International Convention; d) Certain District, Regional, and International officers, leaders, and candidates for offices are ineligible to compete. (See the current <i>Rulebook</i> for a complete list of ineligible contestants.)</p> <p>Contestants in the International Speech Contest must have completed at least six (6) <i>Competent Communication</i> manual speeches prior to the club contest. Exception: A charter member of a club chartered less than one year before the club contest is permitted to compete without having completed this requirement. The club must have officially chartered before the area contest.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">PROTEST & DISQUALIFICATION ON THE BASIS OF ORIGINALITY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CONTESTS: International, Humorous, and Table Topics</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LEVELS: ALL</p>	<p>Protests concerning originality will be limited to judges and contestants and must be lodged with the chief judge or contest chair prior to the announcement of the winners. The chief judge and judges will meet to discuss the protest. The contestant must be given an opportunity to respond to the judges, and waives his right to this hearing if he has left the contest. A majority of the judges must concur in the decision to disqualify.</p> <p>Contest chair shall discreetly notify the contestant of a disqualification regarding originality prior to the announcement of the winners.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">INTERNATIONAL SPEECH CONTEST FINALS (WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP OF PUBLIC SPEAKING): A contestant must present an entirely new and different speech than given in any International Speech contest since January 1 of that same year. A contestant protested on this basis does not have the opportunity to respond to the Qualifying Judges who determine if a speech meets this requirement.</p>

<p>DISQUALIFICATION ON THE BASIS OF TIME</p> <p>CONTESTS: ALL</p> <p>LEVELS: ALL</p>	<p>Disqualifications on the Basis of Time are based on the review of the Time Record Report(s) by the chief judge. The chief judge will discretely notify the contest chair that a Time Disqualification has occurred.</p> <p>Prior to announcing results, the contest chair shall announce if time disqualifications occurred, but not name the contestant(s) involved.</p>
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IN THE CASE OF AN ERROR IN ANNOUNCING THE WINNERS:

Announcement of the contest winners is final UNLESS the list of winners is announced incorrectly. In that case, **only the Chief Judge, Ballot Counters or Timers are permitted to immediately interrupt the announcement of the winners** to correct the error. The Chief Judge, Ballot Counters and Timers will then adjourn to review the results and advise the Contest Chair of their determination.