

Humorous Speech Contest Contestant's Guide

1. The purpose of this guide is to provide you with the information you need to compete in the Humorous Speech Contest.

2. In order to compete in the Humorous Speech Contest, you must be a member in good standing (paid your dues) of a club in good standing (they must have sent in the dues). Your speech should also be substantially original in nature. You should also be familiar with the Humorous Speech contest rules. You need to complete the Biographical Data and Speech Originality form before you arrive at the contest and give it to the Toastmaster before or upon your arrival to the meeting place.

3. There will be a short briefing for you and the other contestants by the Toastmaster and Chief Judge before the contest begins, at which time the following will occur:

A. The order of speaking draw will be made. If a contestant is absent from the briefing, the alternative speaker, if present, may attend the briefing in place of the primary contestant. If the primary contestant is not present when the toastmaster is introduced to conduct the contest, the primary contestant is disqualified and the alternate officially becomes the contestant. Should the primary contestant arrive after the briefing, but before the person conducting the contest is introduced, the primary contestant: 1) reports to the contest chairman upon his/her arrival, 2) has all required paperwork in good order and 3) waives the opportunity of a briefing.

B. You will be given the opportunity to check the speaking area, be shown the timing light position and try the microphone (if used).

4. You may speak from anywhere within the prescribed speaking area as defined by the Contest Chair. If you go outside this area, you may be marked down by the judges.

5. If you have props, notify the Sergeant-at-Arms so that they can set-up your props before your name is announced. If you do not do this, the timers may start timing while you are positioning your props.

6. If you speak for less than four minutes and thirty seconds (4-1/2 minutes) or for longer than seven minutes and thirty seconds (7-1/2 minutes) you will be disqualified. There is no deviation from this rule.

7. Timing will commence with the first sound or your first attempt to communicate with the audience, even if it not part of your presentation.

8. Timing will end only when you have indicated that you have completed your presentation, such as saying "Mr. Toastmaster." If you give no such indication, timing may not stop until you have returned to your seat. It is your responsibility to ensure that you give clear indication to the timers at the end of the speech.

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9. The timing lights will be operated as follows:

Green light at 5 minutes

Yellow light at 6 minutes

Red light at 7 minutes

10. There will be no indication from the timer(s) when the maximum time of seven minutes and thirty seconds has been reached.

11. Contestants may remain inside of the room until it is their turn to speak.

12. At the end of the speeches by all the contestants, you will be reintroduced to the audience and be given a short interview by the Toastmaster. If you are competing in both contests, you will not be interviewed until after your last presentation. The questions asked by the Toastmaster will be drawn from the Biographical Data sheet you provided at the beginning of the contest. You will be presented with a Participation Certificate.

13. The first 3 places will be announced in reverse order at the end of the event (if there are only 4 contestants, only 2 places will be announced). There will be a certificate for those recognized places and/or trophies for the 1st and 2nd places.