

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

*Sources: 2010 Toastmasters International Speech Contest Rulebook;  
 Speech Contest Manual 2010; Toastmasters International Judges Training Program (rev 10/2007)*

**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.**

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| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>PROTEST &amp;<br/>DISQUALIFICATION<br/>ON THE BASIS OF<br/>ELIGIBILITY</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CONTESTS: ALL</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>LEVELS: ALL</b></p>                                                   | <p><b>Eligibility Protests:</b> 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, the judge’s only obligation is to report a possible violation to the contest chair. (Judge must still judge the Contestant fairly.) <b>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.</b></p> <p><b>All Contestants:</b> A Toastmaster must be a Member-in-Good-Standing, and the club he represents must be a Club-in-Good-Standing. Contestant must maintain that 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 <b>a member of more than one club</b> is permitted to compete in each club 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.</p> <p><b>Contestants in the International Speech Contest</b> must have completed at least six (6) <i>Competent Communication</i> manual speeches prior to the club contest. <b>Exception:</b> A charter member of a club chartered since the previous July 1 is permitted to compete without having completed six <i>Competent Communication</i> speeches. The club must be officially chartered before the area contest.</p> <p><b>Certain District, Regional, and International officers, leaders, and candidates for offices are ineligible to compete.</b> See the current <i>Rulebook</i> for a complete list.</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>PROTEST &amp;<br/>DISQUALIFICATION<br/>ON THE BASIS OF<br/>ORIGINALITY</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CONTESTS:</b><br/>International,<br/>Humorous, and<br/>Table Topics</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>LEVELS: ALL</b></p> | <p><b>Protests concerning originality will be limited to judges and contestants</b> and must be lodged with the chief judge or contest chair prior to the announcement of the winners. These two will meet with all judges 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;"><b>AT THE INTERNATIONAL FINALS (WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP OF PUBLIC SPEAKING):</b></p> <p>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>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

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| <p><b>DISQUALIFICATION<br/>ON THE BASIS OF<br/>TIME</b></p> <p><b><u>CONTESTS:</u> ALL</b></p> <p><b><u>LEVELS:</u> ALL</b></p> | <p><b>Disqualifications on the Basis of Time</b> are based on the review of the Time Record Report(s) by the <b>chief judge</b>. 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 that there has been a time disqualification(s), but shall 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.