

District 25 Judging Guidelines for Speech Contests

The District will maintain a list of qualified/ eligible contest chief judges and contest judges. Both contest chief judges and contest judges must be trained every three years to maintain eligibility.

The master list of trained contest judges will be separated into lists of judges eligible for each Division. If a judge is a member of a club that is within that Division, the judge's name will be eliminated from the list for that Division.

Those desiring to be trained as judges or chief judges should be actively pursuing completion of their next education level and a member in good standing of a club in good standing within District 25.

Competing and Judging:

- Any member competing and advancing to Area, Division or District level contests should not judge at any Area, Division or District contest for the remainder of that contest season.
- Any member having served as a contest judge or contest chief judge during a contest season should not compete for the remainder of that contest season.

Reasons judges should decline to judge even if other restrictions have not been met:

- If a judge has a relationship (spouse, significant other, etc.) with contestant and the judge is aware that person is competing, he/she should decline the offer to judge in order to avoid any hint of bias.
- If a judge has any concerns with any contestants of a contest that would impair their ability to be unbiased, he/she should decline to judge that contest.

Requirements for spring contest season:

- Insofar as practical, all judges at Area, Division and District contests shall have been a Toastmasters member in good standing since July 1 of the previous year and have completed at least six Competent Communication manual projects.

Area Contests:

- A judge should not judge within his own club's Area or Division.
- Insofar as practical, a judge should judge no more than 2 Areas within same Division and judge no more than 6 Area contests in one contest season.
- At the discretion of the District Chief Judge, the judges of an Area Contest can be filled with qualified judges comprising equal representation of the participating clubs in that Area.

Division Contests:

- A judge should not be a member of club within the Division as prescribed above
- A judge should not judge a Division contest if he/she has already judged an Area contest within the same Division.
- A judge should judge a maximum of two Division contests.
- A judge of a Division contest should not judge the District contest.

District Contests:

- A judge should not judge if he/she is a member of the same club as any of the contestants.
- A judge should not have judged any Division contests.

Please Note: Exceptions to these guidelines can be made at the discretion of the District Chief Judge or the Contest Chief Judge based on the availability of qualified contest judges and their best judgment to assure a fair contest.