

District 91

Notes for Voting Judges' Briefing: "Face to Face" Contest Edition

Version 1.02, October 2020

Conducted by: Chief Judge

When: Immediately before the contest

Attendees: Chief Judge, Voting Judges. The Tiebreaking Judge does NOT attend and is briefed separately

Final Checks

Confirm that all judges:

- ... are eligible to judge the contest:

For Club contests:

- All judges must be paid members

For Area contests:

- All Judges must be paid members for a minimum of 6 months
- All Judges must have completed a minimum of six speech projects in *Competent Communication* or earned certificates of completion in Levels 1 and 2 of any path in the Toastmasters Pathways learning experience
- Judges must no longer be competing or intending to compete, at any level in the contest

For Division and District contests:

- In addition to the Area contest requirements above, no Judge can be from the same club as any competitor

- ... have completed and returned their Judge's Certification of Eligibility and Code of Ethics
- ... have received the link to the latest rulebook

Briefing the Judges

The Goal of Judging

To pick distinct 1st, 2nd and 3rd places

Before the Contest

- Sign and print your name on the Ballot Sheet
- Read and familiarise yourself with the Judging Criteria and weightings

During the Contest

- The speaking order will be announced by the Contest Chair
- Write the names across the top of the ballot; left to right or right to left depending on preference
- After each speech, there is 1 minute of silence to mark against the criteria
- After the last speech Judges will have an unlimited length of silence while they complete their Ballot
- Completing your Ballot:
 - Award 1st, 2nd and 3rd
 - No ties allowed! If you have two speakers with the same points, it is up to you to break that tie
 - Do not submit the workings at the top of the sheet
- When complete, fold and hand the ballot slip to a Ballot Counter

Marking and Fairness

- A speaker going outside the speaking area is not a disqualifiable offence; however, you may wish to reflect this in your marks for delivery
- Do not pay any attention to a speaker's timing signals when marking
- Judges must NOT consider:
 - Age
 - Gender
 - Race
 - Creed
 - Nationality
 - Regional or foreign accents
 - Professional beliefs
 - Past performance or reputation
 - Future performance – how a speech might do if given another chance at the next level
 - Championing an underdog – encouraging the newbie or giving someone else a chance
 - Their own club norms

Judge only on the performance on the day. Be sure to judge the first and last speaker in the same manner.

Protests

Protests can be made on eligibility, originality and referencing of another competitor's speech.

- **Eligibility**
 - Contestant eligibility checks will have been performed by the contest organiser or Contest Chair
- **Originality**
 - Contestants create their own speeches which must be substantially original:
 - If a contestant uses someone else's material they must attribute it within the speech
 - A maximum of 25% of non-original material may be used in the speech
 - More than 25% is grounds for protest, even if attributed
 - Less than 25% but not attributed is grounds for protest
- **Referencing another competitor's speech – New Rule for 2020/21**
 - Contestants must not reference another contestant, or a speech presented by another contestant, from the platform at the same contest in which they are competing. This is grounds for protest

Raising a protest

- **WHEN:** All protests must be made before the award announcement
- **WHO:** Voting Judges or Contestants only – a protest cannot originate from the Tiebreaking Judge or from audience members
- **HOW:**
 - Contact the Chief Judge or write PROTEST on the ballot
 - The Chief Judge will discreetly communicate with the Contest Chair that the judges are required and the Contest Chair will provide a distraction for the audience to enable you to leave the room
 - Reconvene in the briefing room
 - The protest is discussed and if it is decided to proceed (by majority vote), the Contestant is given an opportunity to respond. The Contestant is invited to the briefing room to discuss the protest with them
 - After the discussion, the Contestant is dismissed from the room and returns to the contest room.
 - A majority vote on whether to disqualify or not is then conducted
 - Once decided; it is final
 - All announcements are final

After the Contest

- Do not discuss notes
- Do not discuss the result
- Make no comment or criticism of the contest
- Decline feedback requests
- Destroy your Ballot Slips, Ballot Sheets and any notes

Questions?