

# Toastmasters Contestant Eligibility Rules

All Toastmasters contest organizers must ensure that all contestants at Club, Area, Division, and District levels are eligible to complete on Contest Day. Following are the rules outlined in the **2019-2020 Toastmasters Speech Contest Rulebook**:

## A. TM CONTEST CONTESTANTS

1. Be a paid member of the club, area, division, and district in which he or she is competing.
  - a. The club must be in good standing
  - b. A new, dual, or reinstated member must have dues and membership application current with World Headquarters.
2. In addition, to be eligible to compete in the International Speech Contest, a member must:
  - a. Have completed six speech projects in the Competent Communicator manual or have a minimum of two levels in the Toastmasters Pathways learning experience.
    - i. However, 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.
3. Maintain eligibility at all levels of any contest.
  - a. If at any level it is determined that a contestant was ineligible to complete at any previous level, the contestant must be disqualified. This disqualification must occur even if the ineligibility is discovered at a later level and has been corrected.
4. The following are ineligible to compete in any Toastmasters speech contest.
  - a. A member serving as Chief Judge, voting judge, or tiebreaking judge beyond the club level for a contest in which the member is still competing or intends to compete.
  - b. Incumbent international officers and directors
  - c. Region advisors or region advisor applicants
  - d. District officers whose terms expire June 30<sup>th</sup>
    - i. Program quality director
    - ii. Club growth director
    - iii. Administration manager
    - iv. Finance manager
    - v. Public relations manager
    - vi. Division director
    - vii. Area director
  - e. International officer and director candidates
  - f. Immediate past district director

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- g. District officers or candidates campaigning for elected positions for the term beginning the upcoming July 1st
  - h. 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
5. Contest chairs, chief judges, voting judges, tiebreaking judges, timers, counters, sergeants at arms, and test speakers may not compete in the contest at which they are serving.
  6. The winner of the World Championship of Public Speaking held in August during the International Convention is not eligible to compete in the International Speech Contest again at any level.
  7. Toastmaster who are members in more than one club and who meet all other eligibility requirements are permitted to compete in each club contest in which paid membership is held.
  8. Each contestant must be physically present to compete beyond the club level. Participation by audio, video, or other remote technology is not permitted beyond the club level. (Exceptions: participants in the International Speech Contest Region Quarterfinals and Video Speech Contest.)

### **B. CHIEF JUDGE**

To be a chief judge, voting judge, or a tiebreaking judge at a Toastmaster speech contest, you must meet all eligibility requirements identified below.

1. At a club contest, be a paid member.
2. At an area, division, or district contest:
  - a. Be a paid member for a minimum of six months.
  - b. Have completed a minimum of six speech projects in the Competent Communication or a minimum of two levels in the Toastmasters Pathways learning experience.
  - c. Be physically present at the contest for which you are serving.
3. At the International Speech Contest Region Quarterfinals, Semifinals and the World Championship of Public Speaking:
  - a. Be a paid member for a minimum of six months
  - b. Be at least an Advanced Toastmaster Bronze or Advanced Communicator Bronze or have completed at least one path in the Toastmasters Pathways learning experience.
  - c. Have previously judged a Toastmasters speech contest at the area, division, district, or semifinal level.

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## **C. ALL OTHERS**

All other contest officials and the Evaluation contest test speaker must be paid members.