

As we prepare ourselves for the Contest season, please go through these FAQs and if your query is not answered here, please write to us at [pgd@district98.org](mailto:pgd@district98.org) or/and [dcj@district98.org](mailto:dcj@district98.org)

**Q. Where can I find information related to rules and protocols to be followed at Speech Contests?**

A. Please refer to the Speech Contest Rulebook 2019-20.

**Q. A club chartered 6 months ago. Are members eligible to compete in contests?**

A. Yes. Members have to be in good standing and their club has to be in good standing for them to be eligible to contest. However, only Charter members (founder members) are eligible to contest in ISC if the club was chartered less than one year before the Area Contest.

**Q. Who are “Contest Officials”? Can they participate in a contest?**

A. Contest officials are contest chair, contest toastmaster, event committee chairs, chief judge, voting judges, tiebreaking judge, timers, sergeant at arms, and counters. Officials should not serve in more than one role at the same contest and they cannot compete in the contest at which they are serving as an official.

**Q. Who is alternate speaker?**

A. Alternate speaker is the next person in the order of results, eligible to contest after the 1st place winner, or 2nd place winner, etc.

**Q. Can a member serve as a timer in one contest and participate as a contestant in another?**

A. Yes.

**Q. After a Club contest, how soon ( or how late) can one conduct the Area Contest?**

A. It is a good practice to keep a minimum of two weeks between the two contests.

**Q. Can a contestant at HSC be a Chief Judge/ contest chair at Evaluation Speech contest?**

A. Not if both contests are happening at the same event.

**Q. A contestant has completed Level 1 in two paths under Pathways. Can he contest in International Speech Contest?**

A. No. It is mandatory to have completed Level 1 and 2 of any one path in Pathways.

**Q. The timer sees that a contestant, who had been disqualified on time, is announced to be at 3rd place. Can he interrupt the announcement of winners?**

A. Yes he can and he should!

**Q. A member paid his dues to the Club’s treasurer but the Treasurer forgot to transfer the payment. Can the member contest?**

A. Unfortunately no.

**Q. How can one check the eligibility of a contestant at any level?**

A. <https://www.toastmasters.org/speech-contest-eligibility-checker>

This tool allows club and district officers to check membership status, club status, and if a member is serving as a club or district officer. This information can be used when determining whether or not members are eligible to compete in speech contests. Club officers can only check the eligibility of members within their own clubs. An area director can only check members within their area, a division director can only check members within their division, and a district director can only check members within their district.

**Q. Can a dual member compete in two contests at Club level?**

A. A dual member can contest in both clubs. But for Area level contest, he/she can compete in only one area contest of a given type. For ex. John Smith can contest in club A in Area N1 and club B in Area N2 in HSC. But he will have to choose one area N1 or N2 to go ahead in HSC.