Thank You Mister Chair

Good evening fellow Toastmasters and most welcome guests. As Chief Judge, I will explain the key eligibility requirements and rules for the international Speech Contest.

**INTERNATIONAL SPEECH CONTEST**

The purpose of the INTERNATIONAL SPEECH CONTEST is

* to provide an opportunity for speakers to improve their speaking abilities and to recognize the best as encouragement to all; and
* to provide an opportunity to learn by observing the more proficient speakers who have benefited from their Toastmasters training.

To Be Eligible

* each contestant must be a Toastmaster in good standing of a Toastmasters club
* the club must also be in good standing with Toastmasters International
* each contestant must have either completed a minimum of 6 speeches in their Competent Communicator manual or have completed Levels 1 & 2 in one of the paths in the Pathway program
* contestants must have prepared their own 5-7 minutes speech; submitted a speaker’s Certification of eligibility and originality form which states their speech is substantially original. Any quoted material must be so identified during the speech presentation or the contestant can be disqualified.
* contestants cannot be a current Area or Division Director or a member of the District or International Executive, nor can they have declared their candidacy to run for an elected position this coming year.

Before The Contest

* the contestants were briefed on the rules by the contest chair
* the judges, timers, and counters were briefed on their duties by me, the chief judge
* the contestants drew for the speaking order which will be announced by the contest chair

During The Contest

* Each contestant will be introduced as follows by the contest chair:   
  NAME – SPEECH TITLE – SPEECH TITLE – NAME
* the designated speaking area for all contestants is from here to here / here to here (show)

Timing Of The Speeches

* The timing will begin with the contestant’s first definite verbal or nonverbal communication with the audience. That includes the spoken word or main gesture.
* The timing signals must be visible to the speakers at all times.
* The timing for each speech in the International Speech Contest is 5-7 minutes.
  + The **green light** should be turned on at 5 minutes
  + The **amber light** should be turned on at 6 minutes
  + The **red light** should be turned on at 7 minutes.
  + There will be no warning for over time.
* A contestant will be disqualified if the speech is less than 4 minutes 30 seconds or more than 7 minutes 30 seconds.

Winners

* As we have three contestants, first, second, and third place winners will be announced.
* Prior to announcing the results, the Contest Chair shall announce if any disqualifications have occurred, but **not** the name of the contestant.
* Once the results have been announced, all decisions are final.

Are there any questions? Thank you Mister Contest Chair