

TIMERS' GUIDE

I. Timing Rules

A. Evaluation Contest

- 1.) Speeches will be from two (2) to three (3) minutes. Contestants who speak less than one minute and 30 seconds or more than three minutes and 30 seconds will be disqualified.
- 2.) Timing will begin with the first word uttered by the contestant or with any nonverbal communication with the audience.
- 3.) A green signal will be displayed at two minutes and remain on for 30 seconds. An amber signal will be displayed at two minutes 30 seconds and remain on for 30 seconds. A red signal will be displayed at three minutes and remain on until the evaluation is concluded. No audible device, such as a buzzer, shall be used for the overtime period.

B. Humorous Speech Contest

- 1.) Speeches will be from five (5) to seven (7) minutes. Contestants who speak less than four minutes and 30 seconds or more than seven minutes and 30 seconds will be disqualified.
- 2.) Timing will begin with the first word uttered by the contestant or with any nonverbal communication with the audience (including the playing of music or other sound effects, a staged act by another person, etc.).
- 3.) A green signal will be displayed at five minutes and remain on for one minute. An amber signal will be displayed at six minutes and remain on for one minute. A red signal will be displayed at seven minutes and remain on until the speech is concluded. No audible device, such as a buzzer, shall be used for the overtime period.

C. Table Topics Contest

- 1.) Speeches will be two (2) minutes long. Contestants who speak less than one minute or more than two minutes and 30 seconds will be disqualified.
- 2.) Timing will begin with the first word uttered by the contestant or with any nonverbal communication with the audience.
- 3.) A green signal will be displayed at one minute and remain on for 30 seconds. An amber signal will be displayed at one minute 30 seconds and remain on for 30 seconds. A red signal will be displayed at two minutes and remain on until the speech is concluded. No audible device, such as a buzzer, shall be used for the overtime period.

D. International Speech Contest

- 1.) Speeches will be from five (5) to seven (7) minutes. Contestants who speak less than four minutes and 30 seconds or more than seven minutes and 30 seconds will be disqualified.
- 2.) Timing will begin with the first word uttered by the contestant or with any nonverbal communication with the audience (including the playing of music or other sound effects, a staged act by another person, etc.).
- 3.) A green signal will be displayed at five minutes and remain on for one minute. An amber signal will be displayed at six minutes and remain on for one minute. A red signal will be displayed at seven minutes and remain on until the speech is concluded. No audible device, such as a buzzer, shall be used for the overtime period.

II. Timing Device

- A. A timing light is recommended for contest purposes. If a timing light is not available, other appropriately colored signals or devices may be used.**
- B. The timing light or signal should be positioned in a location easily visible to the contestants.**
- C. The Chief Timer and the Assistant Timer should have stop watches to time the appropriate segments of the contest.**

III. Judge's Timing

- A. One minute is provided after each contestant speaks so that the judges can mark their worksheets. Signal the Toastmaster when the minute has elapsed.**
- B. Submit the time record sheets to the Chief Judge when the ballots are being collected.**

IV. Contestant Interviews

- A. At the request of the Contest Chair or Toastmaster, time the contestant interviews following the contest.**
- B. 90 seconds is considered an appropriate time for interviews. Signal the Toastmaster when time as elapsed.**