

Toastmasters Hybrid Speech Contest

Special Considerations

Oct 10, 2023

On top of all the guidance for “online speech contests best practices” and in- person contest guidance, a hybrid contest can have several unique challenges.

In District 5 “hybrid” means the Contestants, judges, ballot counters, or timers can be online or in person. For the purposes of brevity, I will give thoughts when only the Contestants and Judges are both online and in person. I would imagine that it can be arranged that the Timers and Ballot Counters can be required to be in a location most suitable for the Contest.

Contestants:

1. The Contestants in person will have more presentation space than the contestants online.
2. An in-person Contestant will need to be presenting into a camera with audio pickup so the online judge can see and hear the presentation.
3. Queuing the Contestants: Follow the related rules for the online or in-person introductions as appropriate. The Toastmaster will need to be mindful of the proper queuing words based on which Contestant is being introduced.
4. The speaking order would be best done prior to the day of the Contest.

Timer:

1. Signaling information needs to be fed in-person and online.
2. This could be done with as few as two Timers. The Timer with the signaling device could be online with a laptop as well as in the room with the Timer with the stopwatch.
3. The Timer with the signaling device would run both devices: for the speaker in person, one device; and for the speaker online the other device.

Judges:

1. The challenge here is an in-person judge hearing an online Contestant.
2. There must be room level audio for the in-person judge to hear the online Contestant.
3. As noted in the “Contestant” section, the in-person Contestants need to be speaking into a camera/audio device so the online judges can see and hear the Contestant.

A solution.

1. A room with wifi.
2. An internet capable camera: cell phone or laptop.
3. A blue tooth speaker linked to the camera option.
4. Seating alignment such that the online and in-person judges both have a clear view of the Contestant.
5. Large screen TV to project Zoom so the in-person judges have a clear view of the online Contestants.