

TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL®

June 10, 2021

Dear District Leaders,


As we prepare for a new program year and consider the continued impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board of Directors discussed in-person speech contests. Our goal is to ensure the safety of our members and to support Districts in making decisions and planning events that will contribute to the well-being of all members in their District. In light of that goal and the current situation, the Board of Directors decided that all speech contests at the Area, Division, and District levels must adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Each District Executive Committee (DEC) may choose a contest format of either in-person or online. The format selected by the DEC will apply to all Area and Division contests, as well as the District contest.
2. When making this decision, the DEC must take into account local guidelines and restrictions within the District and plan for a contest format that will adhere to these restrictions and best protect the health of members.
3. To ensure that member health and safety remain a priority, Districts may switch from in-person contests to online contests. This is the **only change permitted** once the DEC has made a decision. Districts cannot switch from online to in-person contests.
4. **The DEC must make a decision regarding the format of their 2021-2022 speech contests and report this to World Headquarters no later than July 31, 2021.** If the decision has not been finalized and communicated to World Headquarters by July 31, all contests within the District must be conducted exclusively online.

This decision will help to ensure consistency in speech contests throughout your District and will allow your DEC to choose the format that will best support the health and safety of your members. To inform World Headquarters of the decision made by your DEC, [fill out this form](#) no later than July 31, 2021.

We recognize that the uncertainty of the past year has required a great deal of adaptability, and we applaud District leaders for your continued commitment to members and flexibility during this time.

Sincerely,



Richard E. Peck, DTM
2020–2021 International President
Toastmasters International



Daniel Rex
Chief Executive Officer
Toastmasters International

This email was sent to District Directors, Club Growth Directors, Program Quality Directors, Division Directors, and Area Directors.