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September 9, 2023

We received an email on July 25, 2023 from the Speech Contest Team saying the Board of Directors has made an exception to the Speech Contest Rulebook and determined that all speech contests at the Area, Division and District levels may be conducted either in person only, online only or in a hybrid format for the 2023-2024 speech contest cycle.

In-person contests are defined as those in which all participants are onsite at the specified contest location. Online contests are defined as those in which all participants are online. Hybrid contests are defined as those in which some participants (contestants and judges) are onsite in a physical location, and others are online.

When selecting a contest format, consider the additional resources required to successfully support the chosen format. If you are considering a hybrid or online contest, review the Online and Hybrid Speech Contest Best Practices document from the 2022-2023 program year and consider details such as:

- Cost of the online platform needed to support your contest needs
- Cost of audiovisual (AV) equipment needed to run your selected contest format
- Additional supporting roles needed
- For example, you may need people to run your technology, support contest officials and contestants, and coordinate logistics
- Additional contest official roles needed
- For example, hybrid contests typically require a set of timers that are present online and a set present onsite

Regardless of the contest format your team selects, all contests must be conducted live, with all speech contestants and contest officials participating during the event. Judging must be completed by the end of each respective contest.

The District Executive Council met on September 9, 2023 and recommended the following proposal: Area Contests to be on online, Division Contests to be hybrid and the District Contest to be hybrid.

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