

REVISIONS BEGINNING WITH THE 2018-2019 SCHOLARSHIPS

Beginning with the 2018-2019 Optimist Year, there are going to be some significant changes to the Optimist International Scholarship Programs that will affect Club, Zone, District, and the International Oratorical World Championships. Please make sure these changes are communicated to your Clubs as soon as possible so that they are aware and do not unwittingly disqualify a contestant.

Topics for the 2018-2019 year will be announced after the 2017-2018 contests have concluded.

ESSAY

New Age Rule: A contestant must be under the age of 19 as of October 1 of the current Optimist Year (must still be 18 as of October 1, 2018). If a contestant turns 19 on October 1, he/she will be ineligible to compete.

Note that beginning with the 2017-2018 year, there is a scoring for "Creativity."

ORATORICAL-Contests at all levels will be Non-Gender

New Age Rule: A contestant must be under the age of 19 as of October 1 of the current Optimist Year (must still be 18 as of October 1, 2018). If a contestant turns 19 on October 1, he/she will be ineligible to compete.

Districts will award a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place scholarship - \$2500, \$1500, \$1000 respectively

Once a contestant wins 1st Place at the District level and/or competes at the Regional level, they are ineligible to compete in the Optimist International Oratorical Contest in subsequent years.

Clubs will continue to have the option of sending two contestants to the next level of competition. They can declare one the winner and one the runner up or declare both contestants as the Club representatives to the next level.

Scoring and Penalties are revised as follows: Oratorical Scoring:

1. Poise - appearance and personality: ~~20~~ **10** points
2. Content of Speech - subject adherence, theme, content, logic and color: ~~35~~ **40** points
3. Delivery & Presentation - voice, volume, pronunciation, gestures, eye contact, sincerity and emphasis: 35 points
4. Overall Effectiveness - appeal, impression, attitude and effect: ~~10~~ **15** points

Oratorical Penalties:

1. Failure to announce the official topic in the first sentence - 3 points
2. Failure to identify non-original material - ~~disqualification~~ **up to 10 points**
The rule: Any quotation, copyrighted, or largely paraphrased material use in the speech must be identified verbally during the presentation and in the written copy of the speech with the original author's name.
3. Use of props, costume, etc.- ~~disqualification~~ **10 points**

4. Time penalties - 1 point for each 15 seconds or fraction of over or under the allotted time
5. Self-identification - ~~up to 5 points or fraction of based on degree of identification~~
6. Failure to complete speech - disqualification
7. **Use of audience prompters - disqualification**

Communications Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH)

CCDHH Scoring (no changes proposed) CCDHH

Penalties:

1. Failure to announce the official topic in the first sentence - 3 points
2. Failure to identify non-original material - ~~disqualification~~ **up to 10 points**
The rule: Any quotation, copyrighted, or largely paraphrased material use in the speech must be identified verbally during the presentation and in the written copy of the speech with the original author's name.
3. Use of props, costume, etc. - ~~disqualification~~ **10 points**
4. Time penalties - 1 point for each 15 seconds or fraction of over or under the allotted time
5. Self-identification - ~~up to 5 points or fraction of based on degree of identification~~
6. Failure to complete speech - disqualification
7. **Use of audience prompters - disqualification**