



## Notes for guidance of participants and adjudicators

In assessing the presentations, attention will be paid to the following:

All team members: Effective use of voice, easy manner, natural gestures and whether the personality of the individual comes over to the audience.

Humour, in the right context, will be appreciated. Notes can be used, but they should not be too obvious; simply reading written content will be penalised. Audio-visual aids are NOT permitted. Dual presentations are not permitted. Participants should concentrate on teamwork, voice production, audibility, clear diction, projection, body language and use of emphasis (pause, pitch and inflection).

Chairperson: Adjudicators will be looking for a business-like, yet courteous handling of the meeting; attention to the duties specified above; and the creation of a friendly and receptive atmosphere.

Speaker: The construction of the address should include an introduction, the main subject matter and a conclusion. Adjudicators will attach great importance to the logic and weight of the arguments developed, and the impact created on the audience. The answers to the questions should be courteous, to the point, full but not unduly wordy.

Proposer of the Vote of Thanks: The duty of the Proposer is to express to the Speaker the appreciation of the audience. Reference should be made to the content of the address and the answers to the questions. Finally, the Proposer should invite the audience to express their appreciation of the Speaker.

Sponsorship: Each team will be sponsored by their local Rotary Club or group of Clubs. The Clubs will be responsible for paying to District £15 per participating school at Area Semi-Finals stage, to help defray costs of District Finals.

## ROTARY IN THE BRITISH ISLES YOUTH SPEAKS - 2010 RULES

### Aims

This competition offers young people:

- an experience of speaking in public as a member of a team
- an incentive to formulate ideas on significant subjects
- the discipline of dealing with a topic in a limited time
- the impartial criticism and assessment of performance by experienced adjudicators
- the opportunity of learning and practising high standards of expression, presentation and appearance

### Competitors

The competition is open to teams of young people entered by schools, colleges or youth groups within the catchments area. Teams shall be grouped into two sections, Intermediates 11- 13 years old on August 31<sup>st</sup> 2009 representing school years 7, 8 and 9 and Seniors 14 – 17 years old on August 31<sup>st</sup> 2009, representing years 10, 11, 12 and 13. Consequently, in the Intermediate Competition some Intermediate entrants may be aged 14 years at the time of the Finals and in the Senior Competition some entrants may be 18 years of age at the time of the Finals. No entrant may be a member of more than one team.

### Teams

Each team shall consist of three members (all male, all female or mixed), as follows:

The Chairperson – will have a maximum of TWO minutes to welcome the audience and introduce the Speaker and the subject of his or her speech. When the Speaker has finished, the Chairperson will invite questions and ensure that the questions are clear to the Speaker. When the Speaker has answered, the Chairperson will briefly introduce the Proposer of the Vote of Thanks. After the Vote of Thanks and applause, the Chairperson should close the proceedings.

The Speaker – will be allowed SIX minutes for the address in both the Intermediate and Senior Sections, with extra time to answer the questions. The Speaker is free to choose any subject approved by the organisers, with the exception of Religion and Party Politics

The Proposer of the Vote of Thanks – will have TWO minutes in which to propose the Vote of Thanks to their own team, remarking on both the content of the address and the Speaker's answers to the questions. The audience should then be invited to show its appreciation of the Speaker.

The overall time for each team's presentation will be approximately FIFTEEN minutes, including questions.

## Questions

Adjudicators will ask each Speaker no more than two relevant questions. The Speaker will not be given prior knowledge of the questions.

## Procedure

Before each Competition takes place, a draw will be held to determine the order in which teams will make their presentations. This order will be notified to the teams. To aid administration it will be decided by the organising Rotary Clubs as to which Proposer of the Vote of Thanks will respond to which Speaker before the Competition.

At each event the Master of Ceremonies will welcome the participants and guests, introduce the adjudicators and run through the procedures. He or she will then invite each team in turn to come onto the stage to make its presentation.

The team should be ushered onto the stage by the Chairperson, who should sit down with the Speaker to the right and the Proposer of the Vote of Thanks to the left, awaiting the green light before starting the presentation. Once the green light has been given, the Chairperson is in control until the Vote of Thanks has been given.

The Chairperson, adjudicators and audience will be aware of the passage of time by a system of green, yellow and red lights as follows:

The Chairperson	GREEN to start YELLOW after 1.5 minutes RED after 2 minutes
The Speaker	GREEN following introduction by Chairperson YELLOW after 5 minutes RED after 6 minutes
Proposer of Vote of Thanks	GREEN following introduction by Chairperson YELLOW after 1.5 minutes RED after 2 minutes

## Adjudication

There will be three qualified adjudicators who will take into account:

- The Chairperson's management of the meeting (25 points)
- The Speaker's ability to present and develop an argument and to answer the questions (50 points)
- The quality and courtesy of the Vote of Thanks (25 points)

Over-running and under-running the allotted timings will be penalised (1 point for each complete fifteen seconds of over-run and 1 point for each complete thirty seconds of under-run). The Time-keepers will notify the Adjudicators.

After all the teams have made their presentations and the adjudicators have completed their marking, the Chief Adjudicator will comment constructively on the performance of the teams in general, citing individual performances where appropriate and, announce the result. They will not discuss the marks or how they have been allotted. The decision of the adjudicators will be final. No correspondence will be entered into following the event.

## Awards

All participants will receive a Certificate at each stage of the Competition. At the District Finals a small commemorative cup and a gift voucher will be presented to each member of the winning team in each category. The Best Chairperson, Best Speaker and Best Vote of Thanks in each category will receive a gift voucher plus a small commemorative shield.

## District, Regional and National Finals

The winning teams from both the Intermediate and Senior sections of the competition will go on to participate in the Regional Finals and, if successful there, the National Finals.