**CONTEST CHAIR SCRIPT – HUMOROUS SPEECH CONTEST**

Thank you, Chief Sergeant-at-Arms TM, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Greetings Fellow Toastmasters and Distinguished Guests. Welcome to **Club [Name]/Area/Division/District** Humorous Speech Contest.

I acknowledge the presence of District Officers. Thank you for joining us today.

*[ACKNOWLEDGE PRESENCE of District Officers in their Hierarchy District Director, PQD, CGD, DPRM, DFM, DAM, Parliamentarian, Divisions Directors and Area Directors present. If the list of Area Directors is long, just acknowledge as “Area Directors”]*

*Start with a 50-70 word humorous story!*

The purpose of the Humorous Speech contest is to provide an opportunity for speakers to improve their humorous speaking skills; learn by observing the speakers who have benefited from their toastmasters training and to recognize the value of humor in speaking.

We have [Number to be mentioned] contestants and I confirm all Contestants are eligible, have been briefed about the rules, speech timings, speaking area and the display of the timing signals. The Chief Judge has confirmed that the Contest Officials have been briefed.

* Each contestant will deliver the speech within a time limit of 5 to 7 minutes. To qualify, a speaker must speak for no less than 4 minutes 30 seconds and no more than 7 minutes 30 seconds.
* After each contestant has spoken, a minute of silence shall be observed to allow the judges to mark their ballots.
* After the final contestant has spoken, we shall observe 3 minutes of silence for the judges to finalize their ballot and hand them over to the Ballot Counters.
* All contestants may remain in the room throughout the contest. If a contestant chooses to leave during the contest, the Sergeant-at-Arms will escort them back into the room when it is their turn to speak.
* Except for contestants, no one will be permitted to enter or leave the room once the contest has begun until the last contestant has spoken.
* The timing will begin with the Contestant’s first definite verbal or non-verbal communication with the audience.
* The green card will be displayed at five minutes and will remain displayed for 1minute.
* The Yellow Card will be displayed at six minutes and will remain displayed for 1minute.
* The Red Card will be displayed at seven minutes and will remain displayed until the speech has concluded.
* No signal will be given for the overtime period.
* In case of a fault in the timing device, an additional 30 seconds will be allowed for the speaker.
* After each Contestant has spoken, a minute of silence shall be observed to allow the judges to mark their ballots.
* After the last Contestant has spoken, we shall observe 3 minutes of silence for the judges to finalize their ballots and hand them over to the ballot counters.
* Announcement of the contest winners is final unless the list of winners is announced incorrectly, in which case the chief judge, ballot counters or timers are permitted to immediately interrupt to correct the error.
* The speaking order was determined by random selection during the briefing which was shared with the Contest Officials. Speaking Order is as follows:

1. \_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_\_repeat name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_\_ repeat name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_\_ repeat name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_\_ repeat name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Sergeant at Arms, please prepare each successive contestant during the one minute of silence.
* As mentioned by the Sergeant-At-Arms, may I remind the audience to put your noise making devices on silent or airplane mode and refrain from any movement, cross talks that may distract the speaker while delivering the speech. May I request SAA TM \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to secure the door throughout the contest and ensure no one is moving in or out of the contest room once the contest begins.
* Each contestant will be introduced twice by their name\_speech title – speech title\_name.

Chief Judge, TM \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ please confirm that all Contest Officials are in the room and we may start the contest.

*[Wait for CJ’s response]*

Thank you, Chief Judge.

Let us start the Humorous Speech Contest *[applause]*

***Invite Contestant No.1***

To check your microphone - please repeat after me:

**I am excited to be a part of this contest**. [if audio is good, proceed with the contest, if not arrange the microphone and then re-test]

Kindly confirm if you can see Timer 1 and view the transitions of the timing cards.

Contestant No. 1, Name\_\_SpeechTitle\_\_\_Speech Title\_\_\_Contestant Name

*[After contestant has finished speaking.]*

**We shall now observe a minute’s silence to enable the judges to mark their ballots**

During this wait, the SAA should coordinate and make next contestant ready.

[Don’t wait for the Timer to tell you when the 1 minute is over; Please invite the next speaker at the end of the 1 minute by yourself as the timer’s screen turns red]

***<<Repeat for all contestants>>***

***[Mention the contestant’s number and do not say last or final contestant]***

*[After all contestants have finished speaking]* **- We shall now observe 3 minutes silence to enable the judges to finalize their ballots and hand them over to the Ballot Counters.**

*After 3 minutes as the Timer card turns* ***red*** *ask:*

Chief Judge, have all the ballots been collected? *Await response*

Chief Judge and Ballot Counters may now proceed to the holding area. *[Wait for them to leave]*

May I now request the Contestants in their speaking order to receive their Participation Certificates?

*[Conduct a short interview- only one question from their profile- with each Contestant and then felicitate. Attention: In case the contestant is also competing at any other Speech Contest, DO NOT take the interview. Ask questions only to those who are participating in only that contest. If a contestant is also participating in the other contest, interview them at the end of all contests. After HSC just handover the participation certificate.]*

**Pose for a group photograph with all contestants.**

After you have finished giving the contestants certificates.

*Get confirmation from the Chief SAA that the Chief Judge and Ballot Counters are back in the main Room. If not, engage the audience with interaction and conversation.*

*Once the Chief Judge is back in the main room – announce by saying:*

I now adjourn the Humorous Speech Contest and the results will be declared shortly.

I enjoyed being your Contest Chair today, hearing the varied speeches and experiencing the enthusiasm of the contestants. Thanks to the contest officials for an excellent job and our wonderful audience, for being so appreciative.

I would now like to call the Chief Judge to facilitate the role-players

*[CC to felicitate the following role players -CSAA, SAA]*

*[CJ will felicitate Timers, Ballot counters & then Club President/Area Director/Div D will felicitate CC and CJ. Control comes back to CC for announcing results]*

I now handover the stage back to SAA *[Once the role-players are facilitated,* ***Hand over the stage as per the agenda]***

***------***

***While called upon to announce the winners of Humorous Speech Contest***

It is time to present the results of the Humorous Speech Contest.

***There was no/There was/were\_\_ disqualifications on the basis of time, eligibility or originality.***

*The 3rd Place winner is \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**

*The 2nd Place winner is \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**

*And the Winner of this Humorous Speech Contest is \*\*\*\*\*\*\**

***For Club Contest [for Area having 4 or less clubs in an area]***

*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* (second place winner) and \*\*\*\*\*\*\* (first place winner) will be representing their club [name] at the Area Conference to be held on \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* (Please confirm with the Chief Judge before announcing)*

***For Club Contest [for Area having more than 4 clubs in an area]***

*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* (first place winner) will be representing their club [name] at the Area Conference to be held on \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* (Please confirm with the Chief Judge before announcing)*

***For Area Conference***

*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* (first place winner) will be representing Area [] at the Division Conference to be held on \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* (Please confirm with Area Director before announcing)*

***For Division Conference:***

*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* (first place winner) will be representing Division [] at the District Conference – Eloquence 2026 to be held on \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* (Please confirm with Division Director before announcing)*

*Let us have a photo with all the winners.*

*I thank the Club name/Area/Division Director for giving me this opportunity and handover the stage to \*\*\*\*\*\* [name as mentioned in the agenda]*