



2017-2018 THE OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL ORATORICAL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question: How many Oratorical Winners will a District be allowed to send to the new Region contest?

Answer: Districts will send one winner. If a District holds separate gender contests, it is suggested that the ranking score be the determining factor, but it will be the District's decision. Districts do not have to change the way they currently hold a contest in any way. **Effective October 1, 2018, however, Districts will hold non-gender contests.**

Question: How should a District budget for their winner to come to St. Louis?

Answer: Districts and/or Clubs are strongly encouraged to find the funding for travel and housing for the speaker and a chaperone. Districts should be prepared to cover the contestant's and chaperone's travel (airfare, mileage to and from the airport, etc.) and housing. Saint Louis University will help to secure housing on or near campus at a reasonable cost (ex: \$50-\$55/night for a dorm with two twins w/ bathroom). The Hotel Ignacio (across from SLU) will be offered for those that will not be staying in the residence halls for a rate of \$162/night. SLU will be providing lunch the days of the contests.

To help fund the contestant and chaperone's travel you may want to consider asking the Clubs in your District that do not hold an Oratorical Contest to help support the program by donating funds to the cause.

Question: How will poise, delivery, and overall effect be judged since the contest will be done via live streaming? How will the inevitable technical difficulties be handled? If we use online streaming for competition in St. Louis, will that option have to be made available in our District contests?

Answer: The rules and judging criteria are the same for the World Championships as they are for the Club and District contests. While all on site and remote speeches will be judged via online streaming, there will still be audience although the judges will be judging in a separate room via live streaming at Saint Louis University. All students competing whether on site or remotely will be using the same program called FUSE. Saint Louis University will send the student the instructions and provide a practice prior to the actual competition if they are unable to come to St. Louis. If the District is unable to fund the student to compete in St. Louis, they may want to find a place for their student to give their speech in front of a live audience while speaking to the camera. Many high schools, churches, etc. can offer this service. Keep in mind, with today's technology, many job interviews, speeches and presentations are given via online steaming in the work force.

FUSE is the primary videoconferencing platform used by Saint Louis University due to its high reliability, low incidence of technical problems, and ease of use – FUSE will be free for all Regional/World Championship competitors and will not require registration or account creation.

Students will be shot in full body with an 8' deep x 12 foot wide area for movement. Please make sure that if your contestant is presenting remotely, they are given the same space in which to make their speech if front of the camera. The background drop can be whatever the District chooses.

Question: Should we be concerned about dealing with the volume of contestants in our Clubs and District that will result from vastly increasing scholarship money?

Answer: You Bet!!! Clubs and Districts should be very excited about the volume of contestants!!! We suggest Districts prepare their Clubs, create new Clubs, or even plan to hold At Large contests, if necessary. Optimist International is in the process preparing new brochures to help Clubs easily approach schools with this exciting new scholarship opportunity for their students. Districts should also consider having At Large Contests for students that are not near an Optimist Club. Clubs and Districts are also able to allow students to compete via online streaming if they have the technology to do so. Pre-recorded speeches are not permissible – no exceptions.

Question: How will the contests be judged and how will the judges deal with the different languages that will be used in the World Championship?

Answer: The contest will be held in English and French only and translators will be available on site, as needed. There will be plenty of judges for the contest and their biographies will be provided after the contest. Regions will be judged independently from each other. Contests will be judged using the standard Optimist International judging forms and criteria at all contest levels. The World Oratorical Contest will be judged by all bi-lingual judges, if available.

Question: Who is in charge of the Global Regional Contest – Optimist International or Saint Louis University?

Answer: This is joint venture with Optimist International and Saint Louis University. Optimist will provide one contestant from each District and there will be eight Regional contests. Saint Louis University will coordinate with international partner schools to select up to 7 competitors for the Global Region, with each partner school selecting their own competitor using standard judging criteria and forms from Optimist International, with support from Saint Louis University throughout the selection process. The Optimist International President will appoint The World Championships Optimist Oratorical Contest Chair each year.

Question: Where do the Global Regional contestants come from?

Answer: Saint Louis University will have one Global Region with seven contestants. Their contestants will be from high schools located outside of the U.S., Canada and the Caribbean. There will be only one student from each school and only one school per country. It is certainly hoped that the Global Region contests will grow to require several schools (or even Optimist Clubs) competing in one country.

Question: How will Clubs and Districts will be affected by these changes to the Oratorical Contest?

Answer: The Optimist International Board of Directors feels that this venture will increase our exposure to schools and students and make our scholarships a premier global endeavor for the organization. It is hoped that this venture will increase our ability to approach corporations with global interests to help support the contest.

Question: What is the age rule for the 2017-2018 year?

Answer: The age rule is “under the age of 18 as of October 1 of the current Optimist year.” In other words, for the 2017-2018 Optimist / School year, the age limit is under 18 as of October 1, 2017.

Question: If Saint Louis University is splitting the financial costs with Optimist International, how much of a financial commitment is OI making and for how long?

Answer: Optimist International provides the scholarship funding and most administrative costs while Saint Louis University provides, the venue and technology for the contest. In the meantime, Optimist International is diligently jointly seeking corporate sponsorships for the future. Additional scholarships may be awarded to participants by Saint Louis University at its discretion.

Question: Why is New and Additional Funding Needed for the Optimist International Oratorical World Championships?

- There is increased scholarship funding for the Regional and World Championship contests of \$5000 per Region and \$30,000 for the World Championships.
- Sending a contestant to St. Louis to compete will allow them a unique opportunity to interact with other youth from around the world.
- Heightens the name recognition of Optimist Clubs.
- Offers partnership with experts in the field of communication, speech, and debate.
- Enhances both the Oratorical Contest and Kids Speak Out programs.
- Stimulates the recruitment of contestants.
- Attracts new members into Optimist Clubs who share our passion for developing public speaking skills in youth.
- Provides opportunities to start new adult Optimist Clubs and Junior Optimist Clubs with emphasis on public speaking activities.

To make a contribution, please visit: <http://www.firstgiving.com/38005/OI-Oratorical-World-Championship>