

2018-2019 Scholarship Rule Changes

Effective October 1, 2018

Essay & Oratorical

Effective October 1, 2018 the contest is open to contestants under the age of 19 as of October 1 of the current Optimist International contest year (October 1 – September 30) and is not enrolled as a degree seeking student of a post-secondary institution. Districts and Clubs will hold combined gender contests.

District Oratorical Funding Distributions

The following allocation for District Oratorical scholarship awards are effective October 1, 2018.

First Place: \$2500 Second Place: \$1500 Third Place: \$1000

Contest Rule Section III

2. A contestant is eligible to enter/compete in only one Optimist Oratorical contest during a contest year (October 1 to September 30). ~~Once a contestant wins a scholarship at the District level, the contestant is ineligible to compete in an Optimist Oratorical Contest in a subsequent year, unless the contestant is selected to compete in the World Championships in the year the contestant wins the District contest.~~ 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.

Optimist International Oratorical World Championships Contest

The Oratorical World Championships is a permanent component to the Oratorical program. Each District Winner shall compete at the World Oratorical Championships in person at the designated locations. If unable to attend in person, the next available runner up, would be allowed to compete for the World Oratorical Scholarships.

Oratorical/CCDHH Scoring Revisions

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 & 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**
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**