



Contest Rules and Regulations

The contest will comprise of two sessions, namely; the **Prepared Speech** Session and the **Impromptu Speech** Session.

Participation in both sessions is mandatory for all contestants.

There will be **3 rounds** of the contest; Preliminary round, Semi-final round and Final round.

1. Eligibility

To be eligible to compete in the contest, a contestant must:

- a) Be an undergraduate of a state university recognized by the UGC (University Grants Commission) of Sri Lanka or any other government university established by Acts of Parliament of Sri Lanka.
- b) Not be a winner of a previous Best Speaker Contest organized by the University of Kelaniya Gavel Club.

At the day of the contest all the contestants must bring their university identity card or university record book or any other document to prove their identity as an undergraduate of the mentioned university.

2. Speech Content and Preparation

Prepared Speech

- Contestants are free to speak on any topic of their choice. However, speech content which discriminates a particular section of a community or is politically motivated may result in a disqualification or reduction of points.
- Contestants must prepare their own speeches and each must be substantially original. Any quote, paraphrased or referenced content must be so identified during the speech presentation.
- Contestants are allowed to present the same speech content for all rounds.

Impromptu Speech

- Speech must be substantially original. Any quote, paraphrased or referenced content must be so identified during the speech presentation.
- **In the preliminary round only, a 5-minute preparation time will be allocated** from the moment the topic is revealed to the contestant.
In the semi-final and final rounds, no preparation time will be given. Once the contestant enters the hall, the name of the contestant and the topic will be announced by the contest chair. Following that, the contestant must immediately walk to the speaking area and start the speech.

3. Speech Timings

Prepared Speech

In the preliminary round,

- Speech should be between 4 to 6 minutes.
- Speaker will be disqualified if the speech falls short of 3 minutes 30 seconds or if it exceeds 6 minutes 30 seconds.

In the semi-final and final rounds,

- Speech should be between 5 to 7 minutes.
- Speaker will be disqualified if the speech falls short of 4 minutes 30 seconds or if it exceeds 7 minutes 30 seconds.

Impromptu Speech

- Speech should be between 1 minute 30 seconds to 2 minutes.
- Speaker will be disqualified if the speech falls short of 1 minute or if it exceeds 2 minutes 30 seconds.

In order to assist the contestants with timing a set of colour cards with three different colours will be used to indicate the time.

Prepared Speech

In the preliminary round,

- A green card will be displayed at 4 minutes and remain displayed for 1 minute.
- A yellow card will be displayed at 5 minutes and remain displayed for 1 minute.
- A red card will be displayed at 6 minutes and will remain displayed until the conclusion of the speech.

In the semi-final and final rounds,

- A green card will be displayed at 5 minutes and remain displayed for 1 minute.
- A yellow card will be displayed at 6 minutes and remain displayed for 1 minute.
- A red card will be displayed at 7 minutes and will remain displayed until the conclusion of the speech.

Impromptu Speech

- A green card will be displayed at 1 minute and will remain displayed for 30 seconds.
- A yellow card will be displayed at 1 minute and 30 seconds and will remain displayed for 30 seconds.
- A red card will be displayed at 2 minutes and will remain displayed until the conclusion of the speech.

IMPORTANT:

- The red card will remain displayed until a speaker finishes his or her speech. There will be no indication made to the contestant in the event of disqualification. It is the responsibility of the speaker to finish a speech during the allotted time period as indicated above.
- A visually impaired contestant is permitted to request a form of timing signal of their own choice.
- At a power failure, a contestant will be given extra 30 seconds. At such a situation contestant should continue the speech and audience should remain in silence.

4. Use of electronic devices

The use of electronic devices such as digital watches and other aids including visuals, slide projectors and charts will not be permitted.

5. Dress code

All participants must be dressed in formal attire.

6. Disqualifications and Final decision

- Before a contestant can be disqualified on the basis of originality, the contestant will be given an opportunity to respond to the judges. A majority of the judges must concur in the decision to disqualify.
- The decision of the judges will be final. If a situation arises where 2 or more contestants have an equal number of points, the Tie-breaking judge will be involved in making the final decision.

7. Order of speaking

Lots will be drawn to determine the order of speaking.

NOTE:

- The contest will be held in English medium.
- 20 contestants (subject to change depending on the number of contestants at the preliminary round) will be selected from the preliminary round to compete at the semi-final round. In addition, 2 reserves will also be selected.
- 6 contestants will be selected from the semi-final round to compete at the final round. In addition, 2 reserves will also be selected.
- Best Speaker, First Runner-up, Second Runner-up, Best Prepared Speaker and Best Impromptu Speaker will be selected in the final round.
- All contestants should switch off their mobile phones, timing devices and other electronic devices upon entering the contest premises and handover them at the registration table.

8. Speech Evaluation Criteria

Speeches will be judged on the basis of the following criteria.

Prepared Speech

Speech Content (50%)

- Speech Development - Structure, organization and support material
- Effectiveness - Achievement of purpose, interest and reception
- Speech value - Ideas, logic and originality of thoughts

Speech Delivery (30%)

- Physical – Appearance, body language and speaking area
- Manner - Directness, assurance and enthusiasm
- Voice - Flexibility and volume

Language (20%)

- Appropriateness - To speech purpose and to audience
- Correctness - Grammar, pronunciation and word selection

Impromptu Speech

Speech Content (55%)

- Speech Development – Opening, body, close, organization, smoothness
- Effectiveness – Logic, directness, enthusiasm, achievement of purpose, audience response

Speech Delivery (30%)

- Physical – Appearance, body language and speaking area
- Voice - Flexibility and volume

Language (15%)

- Appropriateness - To speech purpose and to audience
- Correctness - Grammar, pronunciation and word selection

Contact details

Please refer to the contact details below for further clarifications regarding the contest:

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