

IMPROMPTU PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

This competition is a great opportunity for all members to showcase their public speaking abilities and allow for the skills of impromptu public speaking to be built from a young age.

Competitors are required to speak on a particular topic chosen from a set list supplied by the YFCU HQ on the night of the competition with the aim of adhering to the time set.

When:

This competition takes place in October with the finals following at the beginning of November. Exact dates and venues will be distributed to Secretaries by HQ

Where:

The first stage takes place at county level within area heats. The second stage, which is the final, takes place in a location determined by the Programming & Development Committee in collaboration with the YFCU HQ to ensure accessibility for all Counties.

Stage 1:

- The venue is determined by YFCU HQ based on available locations and number of entries.
- Topics will be given to competitors when they enter the preparation room.
- Competitors should adhere to the preparation times set per age group, have no more than 10 words allowed on card and should speak for a minimum of 1.5 minutes.
- To facilitate a smooth running competition, it is important that competitors arrive during the strict registration time.
- The stewards are organised by the County committees for the area heats with names passed onto the YFCU HQ to advise on timings and roles on the evening.
- Following the delivery of your speech, all members will be awarded proficiencies.
- Those placed 1st and 2nd within each age group e.g. 12-14, per County (not area heat) will go forward to the N.I. Finals

Stage 2: Final

- Those who have progressed through to the finals will be given a new list of topics on the night.
- Judges are arranged by YFCU HQ but all recommendations & suggestions for potential new judges are welcomed.

Eligibility:

Participants must hold a valid full or transit YFCU membership.
Competitors may take part only in the Classes for which they are qualified by age.

Preparation:

Selecting a Topic

- Choose one topic from the list provided from YFCU HQ.
- Pick a topic you are interested in and believe you will speak most efficiently on.
- When preparing your speech, take into consideration the marking scheme and timings for your Class. *Note: you can lose marks for speaking less than 1.5minutes.*
- Ask your club coaches, officials and committee for advice if you require further support. Additional training will be provided by your County should you Club Secretary ask for assistance.

Hints & Tips

- Speeches should have an introduction, main body and conclusion.
- Start your speech strong providing background and other relevant data on the topic chosen.
- In the main body deliver your main points and use statistics, personal experiences and examples throughout.
- In your conclusion sum up what you have said and finish strong as this will have a lasting effect on the judges.
- Start your speech with 'Madame/Mr Judge, Chairperson, Ladies & Gentlemen' and finish with this also.
- Only one single piece of card can be brought into the competition, this must only contain the number of words specified per age group specified below.

Marking Scheme / Timing / Penalties:

Age categories are broken into the following classes with the specified delivery timings per age group:

Class	Age group	Preparation time	Delivery timings
Class A	12 - 14	30 minutes	1.5+ minutes
Class B	14 - 16	30 minutes	1.5+ minutes
Class C	16 - 18	20 minutes	1.5+ minutes
Class D	18 – 21	15 minutes	1.5+ minutes
Class E	21 – 25	10 minutes	1.5+ minutes
Class F	25 - 30	10 minutes	1.5+ minutes

Impromptu Public Speaking will be assessed according to the following scale of marks:

Heading	Max. Score (%)
Platform manner, General effect & Use of Notes	30
Voice production & Delivery <i>(10% to be considered for not meeting the lower time limit)</i>	20
Content & Marshalling of Facts	50

- Members in each of the classes are expected to speak for at least 1.5minutes.
- If the member does not speak for the minimum time, points will be deducted by the judge but this will not result in a loss of proficiency, provided the minimum criteria of 45% score has been met for a Merit and 75% score for a Distinction.
- There is no upper time limit or additional points for speeches that are unduly lengthy.
- It must be noted that the aim is to reduce the time pressure and get the main points across in 1.5 or more minutes, not to restrict the time to strictly 1.5 minutes.
- Participants will only be allowed to go before the judges with one piece of card, containing no more than **twenty words for Classes A & B** and no more than **ten words for Classes C-F**. These words are to be used as pointers during the speech.

Checklist of Things to Bring With You on the Day:

- A positive attitude – leave the nerves at home.

Proficiencies:

Proficiencies are awarded at area level along with feedback.

Discipline:

Appoint one person in the Club who will be responsible for the Club member's behaviour during the competition.

Protests:

See Protests in the General Rules section.

The Executive Committee of the YFCU reserves the right to cancel or amend any of the foregoing rules as it may consider necessary.

PREPARED PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

This competition is a great opportunity for all members to showcase their public speaking abilities. Competitors are required to speak on a particular topic chosen from a set list supplied by the YFCU HQ in advance of the competition with the aim of adhering to the times set per age group.

When:

This competition takes place in October with the finals following at the beginning of November. Exact dates and venues will be distributed to Secretaries by HQ.

Where:

The first stage takes place at county level within area heats. The second stage, which is the final, takes place in a location determined by the Programming & Development Committee in collaboration with the YFCU HQ to ensure accessibility for all Counties.

Stage 1:

- The venue is determined by YFCU HQ based on available locations and number of entries.
- Topics will be shared via Club Secretaries and the YFCU social media accounts 3 weeks in advance of the competition heats.
- To facilitate a smooth running competition, it is important that competitors arrive during the strict registration time.
- The stewards are organised by the County committees for the area heats with names passed onto the YFCU HQ to advise on timings and roles on the evening.
- Following the delivery of your speech, all members will be awarded proficiencies.
- Those placed 1st and 2nd within each age group e.g. 12-14, per County (not area heat) will go forward to the N.I. Finals

Stage 2: Final

- Those who have progressed through to the finals can use the same topic as per Stage 1 or a different topic from the supplied topics.
- Judges are arranged by YFCU HQ but all recommendations & suggestions for potential new judges are welcomed.

Eligibility:

Participants must hold a valid full or transit YFCU membership.
Competitors may take part only in the Classes for which they are qualified by age.

Preparation:

Selecting a Topic

- Choose one topic from the list provided from YFCU HQ which will be sent to Club Secretary's and communicated on social media 3 weeks before the competition.
- Pick a topic you are interested in and believe you will speak most efficiently on.
- When preparing your speech, take into consideration the marking scheme and timings for your Class. *Note: you can lose marks for speaking less than 1.5minutes.*
- Ask your club coaches, officials and committee for advice if you require further support. Additional training will be provided by your County should you Club Secretary ask for assistance.

Hints & Tips

- Speeches should have an introduction, main body and conclusion.
- Start your speech strong providing background and other relevant data on the topic chosen.
- In the main body deliver your main points and use statistics, personal experiences and examples throughout.
- In your conclusion sum up what you have said and finish strong as this will have a lasting effect on the judges.
- Start your speech with 'Madame/Mr Judge, Chairperson, Ladies & Gentlemen' and finish with this also.
- Flash cards can be used but the competition is described as a public speaking competition, not a public reading competition and they should be used as a prompt and with caution.

Marking Scheme / Timing / Penalties:

Age categories are broken into the following classes with the specified delivery timings per age group:

Class	Age group	Delivery time
Class A	12 - 14	3 minutes for delivery

Class B	14 - 16	3 minutes for delivery
Class C	16 - 18	4 minutes for delivery
Class D	18 – 21	5 minutes for delivery
Class E	21 – 25	5 minutes for delivery
Class F	25 - 30	5 minutes for delivery

Prepared Public Speaking will be assessed according to the following scale of marks:

Heading Max. Score (%)

Platform manner, General effect & Use of Notes **30**

Voice production & Delivery

20

(10% to be considered for not meeting the lower time limit)

Content & Marshalling of Facts **50**

- Members in each of the classes are expected to speak for at least 1.5minutes.
- Note: if the member does not speak for the minimum time, points will be deducted by the judge but this will not result in a loss of proficiency, provided the minimum 45% score has been met for a Merit or 75% score for a Distinction.
- There is no upper time limit or additional points for speeches that are unduly lengthy.

Checklist of Things to Bring With You on the Day:

- Your speech
- A positive attitude – leave the nerves at home.

Proficiencies:

Proficiencies are awarded at area level along with feedback.

Discipline:

Appoint one person in the Club who will be responsible for the Club member's behaviour during the competition.

Protests:

See Protests in the General Rules section.

The Executive Committee of the YFCU reserves the right to cancel or amend any of the foregoing rules as it may consider necessary.

