



MULTIPLE DISTRICT 202 NEW ZEALAND

NEW ZEALAND LIONS' YOUNG SPEECHMAKER CONTEST 2026

**National Young Speechmaker
Coordinator**
E: speechmaker@lionsclubs.org.nz

THE ACTIVITY:

The purpose is to give students the opportunity to enter into a speech competition with the first three winners, receiving cash (scholarship) prizes. Contestants are required to have had their sixteenth birthday and not be over twenty-one years on the 15th of November of year of entry.

All applicants **must** be sponsored by a Leo or Lions Club and the official entry form provided with these papers **must** be duly completed. **Photocopy additional entry forms if needed.**

SPEECH CRITERIA- 2 Speeches: Prepared and Impromptu

Prepared: All candidates shall speak on a subject of their choice for not more than 6 minutes, and not less than 5 minutes. Contestants speaking under 5 minutes or over 6 minutes incur time penalties.

Impromptu: Contest judges will determine a topic at the contest venue. All contestants will have the same topic. All contestants will have one minute to prepare their impromptu speech.

Anyone exceeding 2 minutes (no minimum time) will incur time penalties.

JUDGING CRITERIA: (Maximum points available)

| CRITERIA | PREPARED SPEECH | IMPROMPTU SPEECH |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Voice and Grammar | 15 points | 8 points |
| Physical Manner | 20 points | 10 points |
| Speech Structure and Development | 25 points | 12 points |
| Speech Value | 20 points | 10 points |
| Effectiveness | 20 points | 10 points |



Total Points Available - Prepared Speech = 100; Impromptu = 50

GRAND TOTAL OF POINTS AVAILABLE – 150

The judges will consider:

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Voice and Grammar | Pitch, flexibility, volume, pronunciation |
| Physical Manner | Gesture, poise, assurance, enthusiasm |
| Speech Structure Material | Opening, body, close, material. |
| Speech Value | Ideas, logic, impressiveness, humour |
| Speech Effectiveness | Achievement of purpose, interest, audience reception |

- a) No profane language allowed.
- b) The timekeeper shall use a set of lights clearly visible to the speaker, but not necessarily the audience, showing a green light at 5 minutes for prepared speech (1 minute for impromptu speech), an amber light at 5½ minutes (1½ minutes for impromptu), a red light at 6 minutes (2 minutes for impromptu) which remains on until speaker concludes.
- c) There shall be three judges at all finals, and they must determine a clear first, second and third placing. In the event of a tie, a tiebreaker is used i.e., a selected person in the audience will write their opinions of the speakers, placing contestants in a definite order. This is sealed and handed to the Chairman, only to be opened if the judges' marks result in a tie.
- d) The Chairman shall allow judges at least one minute silence between each speaker.
- e) Each Lions' district throughout New Zealand shall be allowed to send the following contestants to the national final:
 - i. Districts with one to four entries = one contestant to the national final (District pays \$425 flat fee to MD)
 - ii. Districts with between five to eight entries = one contestant to the national final (District pays the standard \$85 per entrant to MD)
 - iii. Districts with between nine to seventeen entries = one contestant to the national final (District pays the standard \$85 per entrant to MD)
 - iv. Districts with eighteen entries and over = three contestants to the national final (District pays the standard \$85 per entrant to MD)

Obligations of Competition Entrants:

- (1) To follow guidance/instructions of the organisers at both district and final competitions.
- (2) To accept the judges' decisions as final and binding.
- (3) To allow photographs and videos of competitions to be used by Lions Clubs NZ as part of future promotions.



Entries close with Lions Clubs International District Youth Chair at a date determined by the District Youth Chair. The sponsoring Lions Club will advise entrants of this date.

For more information on when and where your District Finals will be held, please contact your District Youth Chair.

Multiple District final will be held on Saturday, 1 August in Waipawa, venue to be confirmed.

For further information contact your local Lions Club or MD202 Young Speechmaker Coordinator:

Email: speechmaker@lionsclubs.org.nz



SPEECHMAKER TIMING AND SO ON

Prepared Speech

Speak between 5 minutes and 6 minutes

LIGHTS

- GREEN at 5 minutes
- ORANGE at 5 minutes 30 seconds
- RED at 6 minutes

PENALTIES

- Between 5 and 6 minutes - None
- Up to 3 seconds more than 6 or less than 5 minutes – 1 point
- Up to 6 seconds more than 6 or less than 5 minutes - 2 points
- Up to 10 seconds more than 6 or less than 5 minutes - 3 points
- More than 10 seconds more than 6 minutes or less than 5 minutes additional 3 points every 10 seconds or part thereof

Impromptu Speech

Speak up to 2 minutes.

Time to prepare: 1 minute after looking at the topic. Start speech timing at the first word.

LIGHTS

- GREEN at 1 minute
- ORANGE at 1 minute 30 seconds
- RED at 2 minutes

PENALTIES

- No penalty for speaking less than 2 minutes
- 1 point for every 10 seconds or part thereof over 2 minutes



New Zealand Lions Young Speechmaker Contest, National Final

Contestant: _____

District: _____

PREPARED SPEECH

| | MAXIMUM POINTS AVAILABLE | POINTS AWARDED | CRITERIA FOR BOTH SPEECHES |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|--|
| Voice and Grammar | 15 | | Pitch Flexibility Volume Pronunciation |
| Physical Manner | 20 | | Gesture Poise Assurance Enthusiasm |
| Speech Structure and Development | 25 | | Opening Body Closing |
| Speech Value | 20 | | Ideas Logic Impressiveness Humor |
| Effectiveness | 20 | | Achievement of Purpose Interest Audience Reception |
| TOTAL | 100 | | |

Penalty - Under 5 or over 6 minutes

- 1 point off up to 3 seconds
- 2 points off up to 6 seconds
- 3 points off up to 10 seconds
- Thereafter additional 3 points off every 10 seconds or part thereof

IMPROMPTU SPEECH

| | MAXIMUM POINTS AVAILABLE | POINTS AWARDED |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| Voice and Grammar | 8 | |
| Physical Manner | 10 | |
| Speech Structure and Development | 12 | |
| Speech Value | 10 | |
| Effectiveness | 10 | |
| TOTAL | 50 | |

PENALTY – No penalty for speaking less than two minutes **BUT** 1 point per 10 secs or part therefore over 2 minutes.

| | Points Awarded |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Prepared | |
| Impromptu | |
| TOTAL POINTS | |