



BASIC COMPETITIVE RULES

GENERAL DEFINITIONS

- (A.) **SCORING:** This scoring system presumes that even a poorly prepared competitor will perform the vast majority of the ceremony correctly. Therefore it is much more logical to penalize the comparatively few errors, than it is to reward the multitude of correct actions. For this reason, the system is predicated upon a penalty/subtraction basis. The 1,000 points considered in the evaluation are subdivided among the three evaluation categories:

Word Error	450
Direction	250
Performance	300
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	1,000

Penalties exceeding assigned points in any category shall not be assessed in any other category.

Penalties shall be assessed in the following system:

Word Error Penalties	= 2 points
Direction Penalties	= 15 points
Performance Penalties	= 5 points

This weighting system is to be used in all classes of competition.

- (B.) **AUTHORITY:** In all matters concerning this competition, the following shall be deemed the sole, absolute and final authorities.
- (1.) The primary Authority as described for each contestant; the term “Primary Authority” shall also include these Basic Competitive rules.
 - (2.) Webster’s new collegiate dictionary, G. & C. Merriam Company, Publishers; Springfield, Massachusetts; in so far as it does not conflict with the “Primary Authority”.
 - (3.) The rulings and decisions of the Evaluation Panel and of it’s members, individually.
- (C.) **TIME LIMIT:** Competitors must complete the required work within the time limit specified for each contest. **PENALTY: 25 points** if ‘time off’ has not been announced before the time limit expires, plus **25 points** per minute or portion thereof until ‘time off’ is announced. The time limit for each competition is shown on the sheet describing that ceremony. Each competitor and/or chapter must set up the room, and clear the room of paraphernalia, within the prescribed TIME LIMIT.

- (D.) **REQUIRED WORK:** Every competitor must perform every portion of the required work specified for each contest. Each member of a team must personally perform all parts of the required work, required for his part (e.g., the two portions of the Orator part in the DeMolay Degree must be performed by the same individual).
- (E.) **QUALIFIED PERSONNEL:** Every competitor must be a member in good standing, and under 21 years of age, in the duly recognized DeMolay Chapter he represents in competition, and have earned his obligations card (proficiencies). No competitor may take advantage of dual membership to enter competition as the representative of two chapters (except as a “borrowed part”)

The spokesman must sign a statement attesting to the fact that all required parts are filled by “qualified personnel” and every competitor in individual contests and every participant in a team contest who is performing a part for which a “BEST PART” award is presented must be able (upon request) to document his qualifications by displaying to the evaluators:

- (1.) His own valid membership card in the chapter he is representing
- (2.) Identification (such as a California Driver’s License) showing proof of age.

If a competitor is unable to present the required documentation upon demand, a certified advisor may issue a signed statement attesting to the contestant’s qualifications. If it is later found that the contestant did not meet the required qualifications, the contestant or the team on he competed will be disqualified in that contest.

- (F.) **REQUIRED PERSONNEL:** The competitor must provide at least the minimum number of required personnel specified for each competition.
- (1.) Required personnel must also be composed of qualified personnel as defined above.
 - (2.) Each team may use up to (2) “borrowed parts” (who must be qualified personnel from another DeMolay Chapter) so long as the part being borrowed does not include the Master Councilor, Senior Deacon, Chaplain, Marshal, Installing Officer, Master Inquisitor, Junior Inquisitor, Jacques DeMolay, or Orator.
 - (3.) When a Chapter enters two or more teams in the same contest, the teams will be treated as two separate chapters for the purpose of allowing “borrowed parts”.

PENALTY: FIFTY POINTS (50) for each of the required personnel not filled with qualified personnel or “borrowed parts”

- (G.) **REQUIRED PARTS:** Every portion of the Required Work must be performed by the qualified personnel assigned to that position as specified by the Primary Authority. Penalty: Fifty (50) points for each of the required parts not performed by the qualified personnel (or “borrowed part”) assigned to that position.
- (H.) **INTERPRETATION:** Reasonable latitude shall be given for all interpretations, so long as the interpretations are, in the Performance Evaluator’s opinion, logical and in good taste.
- (I.) **MUSIC:** Except as otherwise stated, use of music shall be optional and at the discretion of the competitor. If used, music need not be that suggested and the music need not follow the suggested cues, as long as the selections and their use are logical and in good taste, in the opinion of the Performance Evaluator.

- (J.) **PROTESTS**: All eligible protests will be adjudicated by a five (5) man board appointed by the official in charge of the competition, providing the basis for the protest is not covered by these Basic Competitive Rules and is not directly the Evaluation Panel's province to resolve. To be eligible for consideration, a protest must be lodged with the Executive Officer within 12 hours of the release of the evaluation sheets to the competitors, and a full written statement of the basis for the protest must be put in the hands of the Executive Officer within 48 hours of the release of the evaluation sheets. Any protest not fulfilling these requirements exactly, will not be eligible for consideration.
- (K.) **DOORKEEPERS**: All competitors must provide a doorkeeper per door so as to avoid any interruption during the actual competition. Each occurrence of an interruption will be penalized at Fifty (50) points unless, in the opinion of the panel chairman, the interruption was reasonably unpreventable by the competitor.
- (L.) **BONUS POINTS**: A creativity bonus, not to exceed Twenty-Five (25) points per performance evaluator, may be awarded at the evaluator's option. The purpose is to encourage Chapters to go beyond the minimum Required Work; to use imagination, additional personnel, music, make-up, etc... to enhance the presentation of the ceremony. Bonus points are not to be awarded for simply performing a part in an outstanding manner. Any evaluator awarding bonus points must complete a Bonus Point Calculation Set and submit the sheet with his evaluation package. Bonus Points only offset penalty points in the Performance category (bonus points are subtracted from the performance penalty points total and will not lower the performance penalty points total below zero). Therefore a competitor's total score will never exceed 1,000 points.
- (M.) **DIVISION BY AGE**: When specified, for certain Individual Competitions, there shall be two (2) distinct "Divisions", which shall be "JUNIOR" (age 16 and under) and "SENIOR" (age 17 and over). A competitor who would otherwise be included in the Junior Division may choose to compete in the Senior Division instead of the Junior Division.
- (N.) **MULTIPLE PARTS**: If one individual person is used to perform multiple parts, (such as one person performing all seven (7) Preceptors) penalties will be assessed as though separate individuals were performing each part.
- (O.) **UNSANCTIONED COMMUNICATIONS**: There shall be no unsanctioned communication (any reference to notes or the Prime Authority, or any communication whatsoever by a competitor with any person: competitor, spectator, or Evaluator during the competition, which is not sanctioned by the Primary Authority, or which is not an inherent part of logical staging or characterization). Penalty: FIFTY POINTS per unsanctioned communication.

THE EVALUATION PANEL

- (A.) **COMPOSITION**: The Evaluation Panel shall consist of the number of persons for each category indicated for each contest. Decisions and opinions of the individual Evaluators concerning their assigned categories shall be deemed those of the entire Evaluation Panel.
- (B.) **PANEL CHAIRMAN**: One of the Evaluators assigned to the Performance Category shall also be designated as Panel Chairman, in which capacity he shall:
- (1.) Serve as official spokesman for the Evaluation Panel.

- (2.) Maintain order and decorum in the entire competitive area, for which purpose he is vested with necessary authority.
- (3.) Caution the spectators to maintain silence and to remain in the seats throughout the competition.
- (4.) See that the Basic Competitive Rules are fully, strictly, and impartially enforced.
- (5.) Announce the kind of competition and the name of the competitors.
- (6.) Answer permissible questions from the competitors, after first ascertaining that the Evaluators into whose category the question falls are aware of the questions; and being sure that they hear the answer.
- (7.) Inform the competitor of the official Time Limit for the competition and make declaration to the entire room of "TIME ON" and "TIME OFF".
- (8.) Answer the permissible questions of the other members of the evaluation Panel when such questions are properly asked.
- (9.) See that the members of the Evaluator's panel are adequately equipped with all the necessary equipment and that evaluation sheets are properly distributed and collected, that the Competitive Rules are in the room and generally available.
- (10.) Temporarily suspend competition upon his own prerogative or at the signal of any of the other Evaluators for:
 - (a.) Silence of the spectators.
 - (b.) Disqualifying of the competitor.
 - (c.) Emergency consultation for the Evaluation Panel.
 - (d.) Illness of an Evaluator, Competitor, or Spectator.
 - (e.) Any other reason, which in his opinion, justifies such suspension.

(C.) TIMER: One of the Performance Evaluators not serving as Panel Chairman shall serve as Timer and shall be responsible for:

- (1.) Keeping the correct time for each competitor.
- (2.) Assessing the appropriate penalties for exceeding the permissible Time Limit.
- (3.) Announce to the entire room, the time started such as "The TIME ON is Ten Twenty Five".
- (4.) Announce to the entire room, the time ended such as "The TIME OFF is Ten Forty Five".

(D.) CONSULTATION WITH THE EVALUATION PANEL: Spectators are strongly discouraged from addressing the members of the Evaluation Panel upon any matter during the entire competition.

Competitors may direct questions concerning the Basic Competitive Rules, interpretations of the Primary Authority, and variations in direction imposed by physical limitations of the competition room, area, or equipment, to the Panel Chairman. Competitors are specifically forbidden to question the Panel Chairman or the other members of the Evaluation Panel on any matter concerning the competition, especially its outcome, until after the results are officially announced.

(E.) EVALUATION SHEETS: No evaluator may inflict any penalty without stating his reason for doing so. Evaluators will also note any constructive criticism they can offer on the evaluation sheets:

- (1.) Such criticism does not necessarily inflict a penalty.

- (2.) Competitors are urged to claim their evaluation sheets after the results are officially announced.
 - (3.) The Evaluation Panel will be available to clarify any penalties and to discuss their notations and criticisms with the competitor.
- (F.) **FINAL SCORE:** Each competitor's final score shall be a composite of the average of the final scores awarded by the Evaluators in each category, less other specified penalties such as the penalties for missing or unqualified personnel and for exceeding the Time Limit.

PERFORMANCE CATEGORY

- (A.) **GENERAL:** The Performance Category deals with the manner in which the Ceremony is presented, not with what is done. The effect of and the impression created by the presentation of the competitor.
- (B.) **SPECIFICS:** The Performance Category includes, but is not necessarily restricted to the following specifics:
- (1.) Competitor's ability to deliver part with appropriate expression, sincerity, conviction, and emotion.
 - (2.) Competitor's appropriateness of appearance (including uniformity where applicable) or use of costume.
 - (3.) Competitor's ability to conduct the Ceremony and to deliver parts or perform actions at such a pace as to maintain their essential character without losing impetus.
 - (4.) Where applicable, competitor's ability to perform as a team, and competitor's use of stage craft.
 - (5.) Competitor's ability to perform without upstaging himself or others. ("Upstaging" is misdirection of attention from its natural intended focus, to the detriment of the performance.)
 - (6.) Competitor's freedom from unsanctioned communication (any communication whatsoever with any person; competitor, spectator, or Evaluator during the competition, which is not sanctioned by the Primary Authority, or which is not an inherent part of logical staging or characterization).
 - (7.) Competitor's personal conduct and decorum.
 - (8.) Competitor's freedom from referring to a written part or notes from the Primary Authority.
 - (9.) Competitor's ability to create an excellent and effective over-all impression.
 - (10.) Other infractions or deviations, which by their nature, would fall within the scope of the performance category, but which are not specifically cited or described herein shall be proportionately penalized at the option and discretion of the Performance Evaluator.
 - (11.) Any performance evaluator who scores a perfect score for a competitor in an individual contest (not counting bonus points) shall also fill out a Tie Breaker Sheet. On this sheet he will rate the competitor on a scale of 1.0 to 10.0 with 1 being a completely acceptable performance and 10 being the best he has ever seen or ever expects to see. Written justification is required for any rating of 5 or above. Competitors should seldom be rated above 7. The auditors may choose to not utilize the ratings of any evaluator who averages a rating above 7.
- (C.) **EVALUATORS:** Two of the Evaluators, out of the number specified for each contest, shall be assigned to the Performance Category, except for Initiatory Degree, Chapter Proficiency, and

DeMolay Degree where four Evaluators will be assigned to Performance: two for Team Performance and two for Individual Performance. Their responsibilities shall include, but are not necessarily restricted to the following:

- (1.) Serve as Panel Chairman and Timer, as described under the Evaluation Panel Section.
- (2.) Comment, offer constructive criticism and record all actions on the Evaluation Sheets, as described in the Evaluation Sheets section.
- (3.) Any other duty, which by its nature would fall within the scope of the Performance Category.

WORD ERROR CATEGORY

(A.) **GENERAL:** The Word Error category deals with the intelligible and meaningful audible portion of the Ceremony: Words, knocks, raps, gongs, and other sounds inherent to the Ceremony. Sound effects (music, murmurs;etc.), signals prescribed, but for which exact means are not specified (verbal command, snap of finger, rap; etc.) and characterization sounds (groans, sighs, laughs; etc.) are not subject to Word Error evaluation. The burden is on the competitor to make the words clear, audible and intelligible to the Word Error Evaluators.

(B.) **SPECIFICS:** The Word Error Category includes, but is not necessarily restricted to the following specifics:

- (1.) Competitor's ability to speak the appropriate part exactly word for word as it appears in the Primary Authority. Penalty: ONE PENALTY for every word that deviates in any way: mispronounced, omitted, inserted or substituted.
- (2.) Competitor's ability to use prescribed sounds (raps, knocks, gongs; etc.) exactly as indicated in the Primary Authority. Penalty: ONE PENALTY for every sound incorrectly used, omitted, or inserted.
- (3.) Competitor's ability to speak appropriate words or use prescribed sounds without balks (unmotivated pauses). Penalty: FIFTEEN POINTS per balk.
- (4.) Competitor's ability to speak the appropriate words without prompts. Penalty: TWENTY FIVE POINTS per prompt.
- (5.) Other infractions, which by their nature, would fall within the scope of the Word Error Category, but which are not specifically cited or described herein, shall be proportionately penalized at the option and discretion of the Word Error Evaluators.

(C.) **EVALUATORS:** Two of the Evaluators, out of the number specified for each contest, shall be assigned the Word Error Category. Their responsibilities shall include, but not necessarily be restricted to the following:

- (1.) Record the deviations on the Evaluation Sheets and assess penalties accordingly.
- (2.) One of the Word Error Evaluators shall be designated as and shall act as the prompter and, if a competitor says the word "prompt", will pronounce the next five words in that competitor's part audibly. (If there are less than five words remaining in the competitor's part, then only those words remaining will be pronounced.)

- (3.) In the absence of a Direction Evaluator, they shall obtain from the Panel Chairman the appropriate entry form, and then jointly check the credentials of the competitor(s) as required against the entry form and shall certify the fulfillment of the Personnel Requirements and Parts Requirements with Qualified Personnel or shall assess the prescribed penalties.
- (4.) Any other duty, which by its nature would fall within the scope of the Word Error Category.

DIRECTION CATEGORY

- (A.) **GENERAL:** The Direction Category deals with instructions given by the Primary Authority. The competitor either complies with instructions or does not comply.
- (B.) **SPECIFICS:** The Direction Category includes, but is not necessarily restricted to the following specifics:
- (1.) The compliance of the competitor with those portions of Primary Authority in which instructions are given concerning the arrangement of the room or stage. Penalty: ONE PENALTY per discrepancy.
 - (2.) The compliance of the competitor with those portions of the Primary Authority concerning the manner of use and/or placement of such equipment. Penalty: ONE PENALTY per discrepancy.
 - (3.) The compliance of the competitor with those portions of the Primary Authority giving instructions concerning the positions, activities, and movements of the competitors. Penalty: ONE PENALTY per discrepancy (direction performed incorrectly, activity/movement omitted or activity/movement performed at the incorrect point in the contest).
 - (4.) Other infractions or deviations, which by their nature, would fall within the scope of the Direction Category, but which are not specifically cited or described herein, shall be proportionately penalized at the option and discretion of the Direction Evaluators.
- (C.) **EVALUATORS:** When the number of evaluators specified for a contests is six or eight, two of this number shall be assigned the Direction Category (except in the DeMolay Degree where direction is scored by the Team Performance Evaluators). Their responsibilities shall include, but are not necessarily restricted to the following:
- (1.) They shall obtain from the Panel Chairman the appropriate entry form, and then jointly check the credentials of the competitor(s) as required against the entry form and shall certify the fulfillment of the Personnel Requirements and Parts Requirements with Qualified Personnel or shall assess the prescribed penalties.
 - (2.) Record the deviations on the evaluation sheets and assess the penalties accordingly.
 - (3.) Any other duty, which by its nature, would fall within the scope of the Direction Category.

ADDITIONAL RULES

- **TIES:** Except as specified below, should there be a tie in the final score, the tie shall be broken by awarding First Place to the competitor with the least number of WORD ERROR points. If

there is still a tie, the DIRECTION will be considered next, followed by PERFORMANCE. If there is still a tie, both competitors will be declared as "co-champions".

- TIE BREAKER FOR INDIVIDUAL CONTESTS: In any individual contest where there is an unbreakable tie of "1000" points, the "Tie Breaker" Sheets filled out by the Performance Evaluators will be used to break ties. The contestant with the highest average of the ratings will be deemed the winner. If there is still a tie, both competitors will be declared as "co-champions".
- PROMPTS: If a competitor needs a prompt, he must say the word "prompt". The next five words will be given by the designated Word Error Evaluator. The Prompt will be assessed by the Word Error Evaluators at TWENTY FIVE POINTS. No Word Error error will be assessed for saying the word "prompt". An additional TWENTY FIVE POINTS will be assessed each time a prompt is requested.
- PERIOD OF EVALUATION: Penalties in the Direction and Word Error categories shall be assessed only during the period between the announcements by the Spokesman of "BEGIN" and "STOP". Performance penalties may only be assessed during that same period except that gross misconduct (e.g., profanity, disrespect for the Bible) may be penalized at any time between "TIME ON" and "TIME OFF".
- LATE COMPETITORS: If a competitor is not present at the evaluation area within 10 minutes of the announced starting time, the competitor will be declared disqualified for that time period. The competitor may compete at a later time (if time is available), but the competitor will be assessed a penalty of TEN POINTS. If it can be shown that the lateness was caused by circumstances beyond the competitor's control (e.g., conflict with another contest which was running late) then no penalty will be imposed and every effort will be made to reschedule the competitor.
- BALK: An unmotivated pause in performing an action or speaking appropriate words. Balks are scored by the Word Error Evaluators (for delays in spoken words). Penalty: FIFTEEN POINTS. Only pauses which are clearly inappropriate shall be evaluated as Balks. Very long delays may be evaluated as multiple balks. Very short inappropriate pauses (fluency errors) are not to be evaluated as balks but may result in Performance Evaluator penalties for "choppy" or "inappropriate phrasing". Performance Evaluators may deduct points for inappropriate delays in performing actions (formerly referred to as "direction balks")
- REQUIREMENTS FOR THOSE INVOLVED, BUT NOT ACTUALLY COMPETING: Crew (those who assist with set-up and tear-down), Technical Personnel (those who operate music, lighting or sound equipment), Doorkeepers, Spokesmen, Singers, Accompanists, etc. do not have to be Qualified Personnel. (Except for Doorkeepers, they do have to be entitled, by standard DeMolay policies, to witness the ceremony with which they are helping.) These personnel may refer to notes, etc. during set-up, stipulations, and actual competition but may not communicate in any way (except for music and lighting cues) with actual competitors between "BEGIN" and "STOP".