

# SUPPLEMENTARY ES RULES

(Presented by ES Coordinator George Hough to ACL National ES Committee)

An unfortunate experience has arisen in Ontario. As Toastmasters club members have become coaches to cadet Effective Speaking (ES) competitors, some cadets have begun following Toastmasters competition guidelines. The combination of vague League ES Rules and Toastmasters rules pose the risk of an Ontario cadet being disqualified at higher-level competitions.

## **OUR CURRENT LEAGUE ES RULE 21 STATES:**

*“NO VISUAL AIDS, PROPS, GIMMICKS or the assistance of persons may be used by contestants. NOTE: A gimmick is any device/stunt or person used to attract attention, e.g. clothing/costume props, singing a song, using taped music in the background, leading a cheer or chant, etc. Quotations with proper acknowledgement are acceptable to use.”*

The following Effective Speaking rules have been developed to supplement Rule 21 to guide ES judges in Ontario and should be shared with those coaching ES bound cadets. These rules are to be applied at the squadron, regional and Ontario level beginning in 2018. They have been submitted to our National level for consideration of more consistent rules but may not be adopted more widely for another year or two.

Speakers who fail one or more of these rules will be marked down 15%:

### **CADET COMPETITORS' MUST AVOID ANIMATION:**

- Speakers may but need not stand at attention while speaking
- Speakers may place one or both of their hands and or arms on the podium, where a podium is used
- Speakers may hold a microphone in their hands where a microphone without a stand is being used  
Otherwise a microphone on a stand should be adjusted to the correct height
- ✓ Cadets are to speak from one location. Cadets may choose to stand behind, in front of or to either side of the podium
- ✓ Once a cadet begins speaking, they are to remain in place until their speech ends. During their speech they may take one step /backward, forward or to one side but not more
- ✓ Speakers may infrequently use modest arm and hand gestures to emphasize the points being made
- ✓ Pointing with or without an extended arm will be penalized

### **CADET COMPETITORS' MUST NOT USE GIMMICKS:**

- Speakers may use index cards with speaking points during the Prepared Speech Round. Where this is done, we recommend binding these cards together in such a way that were they to fall, they'd not lose their order
- Speakers may not sing, hum or otherwise make sound effects during their speech
- Speakers must not walk about the speaking area
- Speakers must not use any props or gimmicks of any form
- Speakers must not assume other than a standing position during their speech, except where the health condition of a competitor requires them to remain seated, etc.