

GUIDELINES AND RULE INTERPRETATIONS

BIBLE DRILL AND SPEAKERS' TOURNAMENT

It is the goal of Bible Study/Discipleship of the Baptist General Convention of Texas to do our best to make regional/state competition a pleasant experience for our participants and encourage them to continue to memorize God's word. We desire to be fair to every participant. We want to give them the benefit of the doubt; at the same time, in fairness to all, there are rules and guidelines which need to be followed in all state sponsored competitions.

CHILDREN'S, YOUTH, AND HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE DRILL COMPETITION RULES

The Bible Drill Caller and the Youth Speakers' Tournament Conductor will be in charge of the competitions.

1. Getting Ready Room Procedures:

- The participant is responsible for being in the Getting Ready Room at the time designated on the drill/speech group assignment sheet. Before entering the room, the participant should check the sign on the outside of the door to be sure the group before him is out of the room.
- Sponsors and parents are not permitted in the Getting Ready Room. A "Getting Ready Room Assistant" will be present for the Children's Bible Drill.
- Special needs must be addressed with the Caller/Conductor before a participant enters the Getting Ready Room.
- Youth Bible Drillers should not enter the Getting Ready Room until the Caller is there.

2. Children and/Youth Bible Drill participants should keep eyes on the caller through the duration of a drill. It will be counted a mistake if the participant does not keep his eyes on the caller until the command "Start" is given.

3. There should be no distractions to the participants once a drill or speech has begun. The information below outlines the procedures that will be followed:

- > OBSERVERS should sit quietly and avoid eye contact with participants.
- > SMALL CHILDREN who could be disruptive should not be in the drill or speech room.
- > NO PICTURES may be taken during a drill or speech (this includes videos). (Still pictures may be taken after the drill or speech.) At state finals for youth Bible drillers and speakers, an assigned BGCT photographer will be on site to take pictures.
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- > NO ONE should be using a stopwatch except the appointed timekeeper.
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- > JUDGES should not talk or interrupt while a drill or speech is in progress.
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- > NO ONE may enter or leave the room during a drill or speech.
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- > PLEASE be quiet in hallways while a drill or speech is in progress.
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- > DO NOT gather outside a drill or speech room.
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- > PLEASE turn off cell phones and pagers before entering a drill or speech room.
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- > SCORE SHEETS will not be shown at the competition site. .

4. Children's, Youth, and High School Bible Drill participants are permitted to hold their Bible in either hand. They should stand erect and must avoid any motion or activity that would be a distraction to the other participants.

5. Children's Bible Drill participants have ten seconds to step out as soon as the command "Start" is given. Youth and High School Bible Drill participants have eight seconds to step out as soon as the command "Start" is given.
 - Once a participant has stepped forward, that position must be maintained until the command of "Attention" is given. At that point, all participants return to the ready position.
 - Participants may not step back and forth during the allotted time. If a participant steps out and realizes he has the incorrect reference, he may not step back to find the correct reference and step out again. Once a participant has stepped out, he should remain out. If a mistake is made, this should be indicated by a raised hand.
 - A participant who is stepping forward when "Time" is called may complete the step.

6. The Caller shall determine if the response is correct.
 - An indication of an incorrect response will be when the Caller calls on another participant for the same call.
 - Quotation responses shall be as printed in the "Children's, Youth, and High School Bible Drill Brochure." In reference to memorization verses, minor infractions such as saying "a" instead of "an", "thee" instead of "thou" will not be counted as mistakes. However, a mistake will be marked if words in a series are misarranged, phrases or words are left out, or if the verse is basically misquoted.
 - If a participant has given an incorrect response, he shall maintain his position until the call is completed. (In other words, he should not step back behind the line until the command attention has been given.)
 - When a correct response is given, all participants should hold their position until the Caller gives the command "Attention" giving judges the opportunity to score each participant.
 - If a participant determines that he has stepped forward without knowing the correct response, he should raise his hand, and keep it raised until acknowledged by the Caller.
 - If a participant begins quoting one of the memory verses and realizes he has misquoted it, he will have the opportunity to begin again.
 - If a participant (Children's, Youth, or High School Bible Drill) misquotes a scripture or reference necessitating a second participant being called on, the caller can repeat the call for the second participant. ONLY IF THE PARTICIPANT ASKS FOR A REPEAT
 - *There seems to have been some confusion in recent years concerning the rule which is stated "steps forward before the Index Finger is on the correct response." Please be advised that this means the index finger must be on the exact verse or passage that has been called before the participant steps forward. In the Book Drill, the finger can be anywhere on a page of the book called, but must be on the page before stepping forward.*

7. If a participant does not hear the call, a "Repeat" may be requested before the command "Start."

8. A Children's, Youth, or High School Bible Driller should not observe a drill in his category before he drills. After a participant drills, he may observe any of the drills.

YOUTH SPEAKERS' TOURNAMENT RULES:

- > Speakers will prepare a four-to-six minute speech on a topic chosen from the current list of official topics. Speeches must be the work of the individual speaker. Plagiarism or having the speech or any major portion of it written by someone other than the speaker is grounds for disqualification. The purpose of the speech may be to inform, inspire, persuade, or create concern.
- > Speakers Tournament focuses on the speaking ability of students. Music and drama are not considered "speech" and should be avoided. It is appropriate to quote part of a song, poem, or play, but not to perform these.

Speakers should strive to be creative in their speeches, using tools such as stories, vocal variation, clever phrasing, and personal experiences.

- > Speakers are encouraged to use a variety of sources for their research. Brief quotations are appropriate with the author and location of the quotations cited in the speech. Information (quoted or not quoted) gleaned from any source should be footnoted (endnotes or parenthetical reference are acceptable) in the final manuscript. A bibliography for all consulted resources is optional.
- > Gestures and movement on stage are appropriate if they support the purpose of the speech. Movement that is distracting or overly dramatic should be avoided.
- > Good taste should be used in clothing. Casual clothing is acceptable, however; jeans and t-shirts are discouraged. Costuming for the speech is not appropriate.
- > A manuscript of the speech is to be presented to the person coordinating each tournament. Speakers will not be judged on their ability to recite their speech word for word. The purpose of the manuscript is to provide an accurate script for the judges. The manuscript should be a complete transcript of the speech, not just an outline.
- > Use of a microphone is acceptable, however use of pulpit, notes, props charts, or diagrams should be avoided. If a speaker chooses to use notes, he or she should not be tied to those notes. Speakers should strive for an extemporaneous delivery of the speech (a comfortable, conversational tone).
- > Youth Speakers' tournament participants are permitted to listen to any speech either before or after their speech is given.