

# CRITERIA FOR JUDGING DECLAMATION AND CHOIR

The **HOST CHURCH** will choose three **JUDGES** from outside the Youth Rally Churches. They are to be seated separately if possible.

**Judging** must be totally objective and impartial. Audience responses will not be considered.  
\* (Only with Declamation speaker making contact with audience.) Each Judge will use a separate Judging sheet for each contestant and will mark his/her scores without conferring with another Judge. The combined score of all Judges will be considered the final score.

**JUDGES EVALUATION OF CONTESTANT:** As an educational aim, space is provided on each judging sheet to write comments and suggestions to the contestant, as an evaluation of performance and as a guide for their development in the future. You will need to word any negative comments in such a way as to inspire self-improvement and continuing development of talent.

**IN APPRECIATION:** Your investment of time, energy, and talent is greatly appreciated and will doubtless reap large dividends in the lives of each participant. Thank you for your participation and continuing interest in this ministry of the Church.

## DECLAMATION (Narrative)

1. **Memorization** - Did the person need prompting? Was he confident of his words? Was there a hesitation other than for effect?
2. **Selection** - Was the selection sacred or patriotic in content? Did it respect the time limit ( three to five minutes ) ?
3. **Articulation and Pronunciation** - Were the words precise and easily understood with acceptable pronunciation? Was the speaker easily heard?
4. **Communication** - Does the speaker have mental as well as eye contact? Does he hold attention? Does he get a response from the audience?\*
5. **Bodily Action** - Were there effective facial expressions and gestures? Were there any distracting mannerisms ?
6. **Interpretation of Meaning** - What is the spiritual or patriotic effect of the performance? Is the meaning projected with proper emphasis and emotion?
7. **Overall Effectiveness** - Is there apparent organization of thought? What about appearance and poise?

"The contestant will supply each Judge with a copy (3 total ) of their chosen declamation. One Judge is to serve as Moderator or Quizmaster and will be responsible for prompting each contestant. Participant is not allowed to use any written materials."

## CHOIRS

1. **Memorization** - To Know words of song. (Not to hold notes or words on paper for choir \*)  
\*( This does not apply to director or directors or musicians)
2. **Selection** - Does the song have a Biblical basis? Is it in good taste?  
( Time can be up to five minutes )
3. **Clarity - Diction** - Are words easily understood ?
4. **Vocal - Quality and Control** - ( Pleasing to the ear ) ?
5. **Appearance and Poise** - Stage presence.
6. **Interpretation of Meaning** - What is the spiritual effect of the performance ?
7. **Overall Performance** - Proficiency about the performance ? Artistry ?

C. **BIBLE SWORD DRILL** - [ Grades 4 - 5 - 6 ]      *Uses the Sword Drill Study Booklet*  
**Sampson FWBC to be in charge of orientation before games begin.**

1. Grade 4    Study - 1st. two items in Sword Drill Booklet
2. Grade 5    Study - 1st. four items in Sword Drill Booklet
3. Grade 6    Study - All six items in Sword Drill Booklet

Old rules stated, your Church could have one in each grade. It was later changed to as many as want to take part in each grade.

Scoring: 10 Points    to First one to step forward with correct answer.

5 Points    to Second one to step forward with correct answer.

1 Point    to each of the others to step forward before time is called, with correct ans.

Contestant must have finger on correct verse or book before stepping forward and remain at attention after stepping forward.

(6/12/04)    Thumbs are also to be placed correctly along the spine of the Bible.

An infraction ( breaking of rules ) draws a 10 point penalty.

(1989) The Assistant Quizmaster is to check for infractions of rules only.

Quizmaster to appoint one of the coaches to find the scriptures in the scripture search.

In the Book Drill, the Quizmaster will not use - Genesis, Malachi or Matthew or Revelation.

**\* Judges are Seated together \***

Quizmaster to ask following number of questions from each group.

( 5/83 )      Grade 4 -    10 from the first two categories in Sword Drill Booklet

Grade 5 -    5 from the first 4 categories in Sword Drill Booklet

Grade 6 -    5 from all 6 categories in Sword Drill Booklet

(6/12/04)    The Bible should be held horizontally.

Participants should cite reference before and after reading passage.

( There will be a five-point penalty for not citing the reference. )

(6-12-04) If a tie occurs three additional selections to be given to determine winner.

(6/25/05) The Quiz Masters need to call the names of those registered before competition begins to make sure all are present.



**D. BIBLE TIC - TAC - TOE [ Grades 7 - 8 - 9 ] *Uses the Tic-Tac-Toe Study Book***

**\* (6/12/04) Be sure to go over rules before starting first game.**

**\*(6/12/04) Plainview FWBC to be in charge of orientation before the games begin.**

1. Teams were originally composed of at least 2 to 4 members per team.

( Later this was changed to one person to four per team. A church can have more than one team.)

**The team captain chooses the squares ( others on team can help before the square is picked.)**

**( 10/86 ) Each church is to bring one good tape recorder to be used by each team or team Captain.**

**( 1/ 98 ) Motion passed for Rally to buy 4 recorders to be used by the Teams or Team Captain.**

**One Judge is to be responsible for keeping the games played and won on the paper games played sheet.**

**Any question / problems need to be brought up before the next question is asked.**

( A shuffle of questions can be asked for between questions. )

**No discussion between team members, when a question is directed to the other team. When question is directed to your team, you can discuss the question with your team - but only one member answers; and it has to be answered within the time limit. \* Play rule # 5 in book.**

To be correctly answered, an answer should contain:

A. Questions with lists such as 10 plagues, should be done in order, also other lists.

B. An essay question should contain in the answer everything asked for in the question and be complete enough.

C. It is not necessary to use in the answer, a repeat of part of the question, unless it is needed.

D. If you don't know the answer to the question, please tell the Quizmaster to speed the game.

**One Judge to assist the Quizmaster to be sure question is read correctly.**

Questions receive 15 seconds from the time the Quizmaster finishes reading question. Quotes receive 20 seconds. \* If the team member starts answering soon after the question is asked and does not halt or stumble, the timekeeper does not call time; but allows them to finish. ( See Guideline Book )

( 1982 ) When the square is marked and the question is asked, that is final. The square cannot be changed. The team can confer before picking the square - but the team captain calls square. After a question has been asked, answered and dropped into the box, and a new question asked it is too late to contest the answer to previous question.

**(6/12/04) To contest the answer to the question. It is to be done before the next question is asked.**

**(6/12/04) Coaches should make sure teams know the strategies of playing Tic-Tac-Toe.**

**(6/25/05) Once the game has been judged completed and won, it cannot be contested.**

**Question must be contested at the time the question is answered. Make sure the judges hear you. Judges have the final rule.**

**\*Do not re-ask the Questions - until all the questions have been asked.**

**This has never happened in a rally for all the questions to be asked.**

**Time Limit:** If no game has been won or no cat games have been won to go into sudden death overtime with quotes- a new rule (6/25/05) has been set of 15 minutes per game. The winner of the game is the team with the most X's or O's.

**E. BIBLE BOWL**    Grades 10 - 11 - 12    *Uses the Bible Bowl study Book*  
**\*(6/12/04) Winesap FWBC to be in charge of orientation before games begin.**

1. Teams must compose of at least 2 but not more than 4 members. \* ( later changed to one to four and can have more than one team per Church to encourage entry .) \* ( 10/86 )
2. One team per Church \* ( Later changed - see # 1 above.) Teams from same Church may have to compete against one another.

( Oct. 1985 )                      **JUDGES DUTIES**                      ( Assigned by Host Church )

Judge # 1	Was the question Interrupted or not?
Judge # 2	Be sure the Score is correct.
Judge # 3	Assist the Quiz Master to determine if the question was correct or not?

**This is in addition to all regular Judging duties.**

Each Judge is to also Judge on correctness of any question as Quiz Master asks help in determining the correctness of an answer.

( 1982 ) Team members may have their hands on or off the table in competition.

( 5/82 ) Only first answer or one answer is accepted. Coaches & team members may contest decisions but only before next question is asked.

( 10/84 Questions receive 15 seconds and Quotes receive 20 seconds.  
Time begins when question is finished or is interrupted. [ The team member must finish the answer within the time period.]

( 10/86 ) Open teams to consist of 1 to 4 members. Team captains to operate tape recorders.

**\*(6/12/04) Determine before first game begins, if a time limit or a certain number of points will determine when a game is completed.**

**TIME-KEEPER ONE** - times the question                      **TIME-KEEPER TWO** - times game length  
**SCOREKEEPER:** Add 10 points for each correct answer. Deduct 5 points if wrong or no answer on completed question. Deduct 10 points for a wrong or no answer on an interrupted question.

- (6/25/05) Once the game has been judged, completed and won, it cannot be contested.  
Question must be contested at the time the question is answered. Make sure the Judges hear you. Judges have the final rule.**
- \* Do Not re-ask the questions - until all the questions have been asked.  
This has never happened in a Rally for all the questions to be asked.**



\* (6/12/04) Orientation for the Choir and Declamation judges should be done, if possible, before the morning service begins.

## F. DECLAMATIONS

*Uses the prewritten or self prepared speeches*

1. Age Group: After Graduation of High School to the age of 24 \* Not Married.  
( Changed to up to age 30 , May 1996 ) unmarried through age 29.
  2. When ordering - Order the Crusader Declamations, you will receive a group of about ten, choose one. \* ( later amended so that you could write your own. )
  3. One participant per Church. \* ( later changed to as many as want to enter. )
  4. ( May 1996 ) Declamations are to be 3 to 5 minutes. 3 copies , 1 to each Judge.
  5. ( Jan 1998 ) One Judge to act as prompter when needed by speaker.
- 6/12/04) a. Must be memorized.  
b. Each judge to have a copy of Declamation.  
c. Host church must designate which judge to do prompting for participants.

## G. YOUTH CHOIR Age: Preschool to age 24 (unmarried)

1. One song to be judged in competition.
- ( 10/87 ) Combined Churches Choir (children to young adults, under 30 ) to sing at each rally the following song: "I DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS" Which is the overall Rally Theme song.
- ( 5/88 ) Bro. Dow Allen made motion that any other Church may participate in our Rally, as long as they are willing to abide by our guidelines. Bro. Rudy Oakes, seconded and motion was unanimously approved.
- ( 5/91 ) Choir score sheets are to be given to individual Churches after competition, to aid in improvement of choir. Ample time to be given after each group for the Judges to adequately evaluate and score Choirs. Special music to be used during this time. Host Church Theme Song or other Rally songs may be used.
- ( 5/96 ) Motion made to allow taped music for choir Competition to be used. No words to be allowed on tape.
- ( 5/98 ) Host Church will need to send Judges, Criteria for Judging Sheet, and scoring sheet to look over and study prior to using at the Rally.
- BE SURE: to remind all your Choir directors that children are not allowed to take any written material or copies of the song with them on stage during the time they are on the stage competing: doing so will result in the choir getting ( 0 ) for memorization on song.
- ( 8/7/98 ) Motion made to give 1st through 4th place Trophies for Choirs in Fall Rally; due to increased number of Churches participating.
- ( 6/12/04 ) A person from each church needs to be prepared to operate any recorded music.
- ( 6/12/04 ) Only director or directors and musicians are to have any copies of music.

### III. DATE & TIME

- A. Spring Rally in or about April. Date chosen by Host Church or Churches.
- B. Choice of Fall Fellowship
- C. Host Church has choice of one day or two day Rally.
  - 1. If one day, Service begins at: 10:00 A. M.
  - 2. Lunch at: 12:00
  - 3. Pre-competition meeting: 1:00 P.M.
  - 4. Competition begins at: 1:30 P.M.
  - 5. Meal: - All Churches to bring covered dishes, the Host Church will provide the meat and drinks, plates, cups, and utensils.

### IV. AWARDS

- A. The Host Churches furnishes trophies for 1st. and 2nd. and 3rd\* place in all categories.  
\* 3rd place trophy 8-7-98
- B. Medallions for participants in Bible Memorization only.  
(Trophies sometimes are paid for by Rally donations.)

### V. GENERAL NOTES:

- A. The Guideline booklet reads grade completed (For our purpose it's the grade the participant is in.)
- B. Only first answer is accepted.
- C. Team members may confer before they answer (only one person will be allowed to answer each question.)
- D. The Host Church will ask each Church to have people ready to help as Judges, Time-keepers, etc. Also it will be your Church's responsibility to see that these people know the rules and what their job requires.
- E. Team competition is double elimination.
- F. **Note\* Orientation for Workers & Judges** \* (After Rally Meeting June 12, 2004)

\*Meetings to be held after lunch and before games begin.

*\* It is suggested that the judges and workers for the games be allowed to go through the lunch line first in order to attend this meeting.*

The following churches will be in charge of the orientation for the games.

Winesap	----	Bible Bowl	Sampson	----	Bible Sword Drill
Plainview	----	Bible Tic-Tac-Toe	Bethel	-----	Bible Memorization

Items to be covered in this meeting are as follows:

- 1. Go over rules.
  - 2. Go over the point system.
  - 3. Make sure timekeepers know how to use the stopwatches.
  - 4. Make sure one person is designated to run the tape recorder. (can be team captain)
  - 5. Make sure judges know how to break a tie in points of the contestants.
- Orientation for the Choir and Declamation judges should be done before morning service.

### G. HOW TO WIN THE BANNER ???

- 1. Five points for each area of participation (this could total 30 points ---- only count once for someone in Memorization, etc. we count the area or participation, not each category.)
- 2. The Church with the highest attendance gets the most points for attendance. Example - 8 Churches represented, the Church with the most people get 8 points, next highest, would get 7 points and on down the line.
- 3. Then points for participation and attendance are added together. The Church with the most point takes the banner ( Now a Plaque ) home with them until next year.



## VI. SCORING RULES:

SCORING IS DONE AS FOLLOWS.

Each area of participation receives	5 Points	*****	Trophy Points -1st - 3 ; 2nd - 2 ; 3rd. - 1 point
1. Declamation			Declamation ----- Youth Choir
2. Youth Choir			Bible Bowl ----- Bible Tic-Tac-Toe
3. Bible Bowl			Bible Sword Drill ---- 4th, 5th, and 6th grades
4. Bible Tic-Tac-Toe			Bible Memorization ----- Beginners, Preschool,
5. Bible Sword Drill			1st., 2nd., and 3rd. grades
6. Bible Memorization			Special Education Trophy * Each Church receives
7. Young Adult Program			for a participant, 2 points on final score. (6/04)

**ATTENDANCE POINTS** are given as follows:

If 5 Churches are representing, the Church with the greatest attendance would receive 5 points; and on down to 1 point according to number present. If by some circumstance there is a tie; the Church with the largest number present, would get the banner between the two tied in points.

Please refer to your post rally notes ( Nov. 18, 95 ) for special circumstances for encouraging smaller Churches. The Handicap System for smaller Churches are:

1. If the Church has less than 40 in attendance.
2. Entrance in 3 or less areas of Competition.
3. Receives 25 Bonus Points.

Reworked and retyped  
May 2004 and June 2004  
April 2006  
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## C.F.Y.R. AMENDMENTS & GUIDELINES

The Churches that have been taking an active part in the **Christian Fellowship Youth Rallies** have met and have amended some of the **rules and guidelines**. As a general guideline we use the "Guidelines for Competitive Activities and Music and Arts Festival booklet;" *[Which you will have to get a copy of the Guidelines book that other Churches have as the one we use is out of print. The new Guidelines will not work with our current program.]* We have made several changes over the years to fit our Churches and best apply to our group.

I. Each participant must be an active member or in regular attendance of a local F.W.B. Church.

### II. Activities:

A. **SPECIAL EDUCATION:** Quotes what each participant is capable of doing.  
All Special Education participants will receive a second place size trophy with special wording on the Trophy plate. (6/12/04)

B. **BIBLE MEMORIZATION:** Uses the Bible Memorization Study Sheets in Guideline Book  
**Bethel FWBC to be in charge of orientation before games begin.**

- |                 |             |  |
|-----------------|-------------|--|
| 1. Beginners    | 0 - 3 years | Psalms 23  |
| 2. Preschool    | 4 - 5 years | (Kindergarten) Palms 23 & Ten Commandments   |
| 3. First Grade  |             | Psalms 23, Romans Road, Ten Commandments   |
| 4. Second Grade |             | Same as the First Grade, plus Model Prayer and Twelve Apostles                                       |
| 5. Third Grade  |             | Does Grade one, plus Grade two, plus the Beatitudes, Books of Old and New Testament in proper order. |

(Old rules stated, your Church could have one from each grade in memorization. Later changed to as many as want to take part.)

Judges are to add score sheets across, then deduct times prompted, not to exceed - 10 points to get final score across - than add right end column down for Total Score.

( Quizmaster puts each contestant total on the Summary Sheet for final score.)

(6/23/01) Motion passed to simplify rating system. The rating now to be : poor, average and above average, with points as follows: 8 -9 - 10. Motion to include "Skip 5 words" and "State portions of scripture out of order" along with "# of times prompting required" to be deducted one point from each score.

(6/12/04) Judges should grade only what is required for that grade level. If a child says more than is required, then the Judges do not count it.

If a tie between two participants occurs. The judges will select the passage to be quoted to break the tie.

(6/25/05) Discussion was held concerning ages for Bible Memorization. The child must be the correct age by December 31, to require the the next level of memorization.