

JUST A MINUTE COMPETITION 21 YEARS OR UNDER

Sunday 25th February 2018

AT WALES YFC CENTRE, BUILTH WELLS

Entry Date: 22/01/2018
Winter Marks: 50
Last Amended: 10/01/2018
Withdrawal by: 20/02/2018

(Entry Date: Monday 22nd January 2018)

Start Time: 3.00pm

1. ELIGIBILITY

Each Club may enter as many teams as they like. A team shall consist of **four members, 21 years of age or under on 1st September 2017 (date of birth 01/09/1995 or after)** and with Membership Cards in the YFC Office.

Please Note One Guest will be allowed i.e. a Brecknock YFC Member.

2. PROCEDURE

The Just A Minute page of the BBC Radio 4 website lists the broadcast times of the current series which commenced in August 2010. Pod casts of previous shows can also be found on that webpage as well as many recordings on YouTube. YFC members are encouraged to listen to the show or recordings of the show as they prepare for the competition rounds.

The Federation will appoint a Chairman (Judge), a Score Keeper and a Time Keeper. The same Chairman and Score Keeper will be in place for each heat of the competition and the Chairman will act as judge.

Seven days before the competition, teams will be sent the topics for discussion. This allows panel members to research topics and prepare factual background and comedic content. Competitors are **NOT ALLOWED** any notes or reminder cards when 'on stage'.

A panel will consist of four members, each drawn from a different team.

The panel will be given one minute to speak on a given subject/topic.

The panel will speak to a total of 4 topics before the scores are computed and announced by the scorer.

The four panellists are challenged to speak for one minute on a given subject without **“repetition, hesitation, or deviation”**.

Repetition - you must try not to repeat yourself. This is only within the given subject. If the subject is lost and you gain it back again you cannot repeat anything you said earlier. You can repeat what someone else has said and you can use any part of the subject as many times as you like. People do slip up on using plurals of a given word again and again however; which is different to the singular word.

“Repetition” means the repetition of any word or phrase, although challenges based upon very common words such as “and” “is” “or” are generally rejected except in extreme cases. Words contained in the given subject are exempt unless repeated many times in quick succession. Skilful players use (sometimes obscure) synonyms in order to avoid repeating themselves. The term “BBC” can be successfully challenged for repetition of “B”.

Hesitation - can be difficult to judge, however if they say “erm” that should be a hesitation. It can be difficult when people breathe. But there is a difference between a breath and a longer pause. One place competitors slip up on pausing for laughter. That is hesitation.

“Hesitation” is watched very strictly: a momentary pause before resumption of the subject can give rise to a successful challenge, as can tripping over one’s words. Even pausing during audience laughter or applause (known as “riding a laugh”) is usually not permitted.

Deviation - is fairly simple apart from if it is an incorrect use of the grammar of a word or word within a subject it is a deviation from the given subject.

“Deviation” means deviating from the subject, but has also been interpreted as “deviating from the English language as we know it”, “deviation from grammar as we understand it”, deviating from the truth, and sometimes even logic, although often leaps into the surreal are allowed.

Each of the competitors shall start a topic first. A draw shall be made to determine which order the panellists speak first on each of the 4 topics (e.g. number 1 to start the first topic 1st; number 2 to start the second topic 1st etc).

The time keeper starts the clock when the first panel member starts to speak. When a challenge is made the clock is stopped. The clock is re-started when the next speaker starts to speak. Time keeper blows a whistle when 60 seconds (one minute) has elapsed.

Panellists should try to challenge the speaker for: **Repetition, Hesitation or Deviation**

A panellist scores a point for making a correct challenge against whoever is speaking. The Chairman (judge) will decide if the challenge is correct or not and will exercise the benefit of the doubt evenly.

The speaker gets a point if the challenge is deemed incorrect and then recommences speaking on the subject/topic.

If a witty interjection amuses the audience, even though it is not a correct challenge, at the chairman's discretion, both the challenger and speaker may gain a point, the speaker then resumes speaking on the subject/topic.

A panellist who makes a correct challenge takes over the subject for the remainder of the minute, or, until he or she is correctly challenged.

The speaker also scores a point if they are the person speaking when the 60 seconds expires.

If the speaker speaks for the whole minute without being interrupted or challenged, he/she gains an extra point. (1 point for speaking when whistle blows and 1 point for speaking for one whole minute without being interrupted or challenged).

It is unusual for a speaker to speak within the three cardinal rules for any substantial length of time, whilst remaining coherent, and also being amusing. Therefore, to speak for the full minute without being challenged is a special achievement.

3. **SCALE OF MARKS:**

A panellist scores a point for making a correct challenge against whoever is speaking.

The speaker gets a point if the challenge is deemed incorrect.

If a witty interjection amuses the audience, even though it is not a correct challenge, both the challenger and speaker may gain a point, at the chairman's discretion.

A panellist also scores a point if they are the person speaking when the 60 seconds expires. An extra point is awarded when a panellist speaks for the entire minute without being challenged.

A scorer will keep scores as the rounds of the competition commence, and the winner will be team with the highest score.

In the event of a tied score after each team has competed, the two tied teams will make two panels (2 members from Team A and 2 from Team B and vice versa). Each panel will be given one topic and a draw shall take place to determine who speaks first. The team gaining the highest scores after each panel has discussed their topic for one minute, will be deemed the winner. Panellists may only make challenges to competitors not from their team.

4. **TIMING.** Each panel will speak for one minute for each of the 4 topics.

5. **PENALTIES.** The use of foul language will be penalised with a deduction of marks.

6. Competitors before and after competing may be admitted to the Competition Room.

7. The Judges decision is final.

(For 2018 Wales YFC Public Speaking Day)