CONTESTS

NCRA Contests Housekeeping Rules for 2026

The Contests Committee has released the following housekeeping rules for the 2026 Speed and Realtime Contests. Unless an item is noted for only one of the Contests, the rule will apply for both Contests. Registration closes July 1 or when we have 50 people registered per contest.

- Realtime Contest will be held at 9 a.m. on Wed., July 15.
- Speed Contest will be held at 11 a.m. on Wed., July 15.
- The Realtime Contest will consist of the following: a 200 wpm literary leg and a 225 wpm Q&A leg.
- The Speed Contest will consist of the following: a 220 wpm literary leg, a 230 wpm legal opinion leg, and a 280 wpm Q&A leg.
- An optional practice session will be held on Tues., July 14, from 3 to 5 p.m. local time. Candidates may test their receivers and headphones with the listening device at this time.
- Pictures may be taken in the contest room during practice only (Tuesday evening from 3 to 5 p.m. and Wednesday morning from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.) if prior agreement has been given by the testing candidate to have their picture taken.
- No pictures will be permitted to be taken from behind or around the podium.
- No internet use during transcription. A dictionary is available in the transcription room.
- Only authorized personnel are allowed access to the grading room.
- There is a strict 15-minute time limit, per contestant, to produce Realtime files. There will be no assistance with producing files to submit for transcription.
- Electronic grading will be utilized for the first round of grading papers.
- Graders will do the subsequent run-throughs for grading.
- All papers submitted for grading must be submitted in ASCII format WITHOUT headers, page numbers, or line numbers.
- All papers submitted for grading for testimony must have a period after the Q and A symbols.
- The Realtime Contest literary leg may be submitted in all caps.
- Contestants are not permitted to help each other with formatting of files the day of the contest.
- All candidates who submit papers for grading will be able to review their tests at Conference on Saturday afternoon. Time and location to be announced.
- All grading is final and not open for discussion.
- Last year's winner will be given a choice of where they would like to sit.
- All other seating will be assigned randomly.
- Contestants are not allowed to swap seats with each other.

The following will result in automatic disqualification, will not be graded or scored, and/or no CEU/PDCs will be awarded:
- Any paper that is submitted in a format other than ASCII. (No PDFs or CAT files allowed.)
- Any single-spaced paper.
- Any testimony paper submitted without a period after the Q or A symbol. The required format for electronic grading is Q. and A.
- Any paper submitted with line numbers, page numbers, or a header/footer.
- Any paper submitted in all caps for the SR Realtime testimony leg.

- Any nonreadable electronic files.
- Any nonprintable files.
- Soliciting and/or receiving help from anyone before files are handed in.
- Realtime – Leaving and re-entering the room before all files are handed in is not allowed, except with permission from Contest Committee.
- Scores that are less than 95.0 percent will not be awarded PDCs.

We look forward to meeting this year's Contestants on July 15 at the NCRA Conference & Expo in Bellevue, Wash., at the Hyatt Regency Bellevue. Additional questions can be directed to Contests Committee Chair Allison Hall at *allie441@gmail.com.*