

Ohio Court Reporters Association

Hagestrom Cup Speed Contest Rules

NEXT CONTEST: 2026 OCRA Annual Conference, Friday, March 20, 2026

TESTS: Two five-minute tests will be dictated as follows:

Literary: 220 words per minute

Testimony: 280 words per minute

- Total transcription time allowed: Three (3) hours.
- The testimony will be two-voice dictation. Neither the Q nor A will be counted nor read.

ELIGIBILITY: Any writer of stenographic machine shorthand who is a member of OCRA in good standing and who has attained at least NCRA RPR or CRC status.

NUMBER OF TRANSCRIPTIONS PERMITTED:

One of each take.

FINANCIAL INCENTIVES BARRED:

Contestants must give to the committee satisfactory assurance that they have not received, directly or indirectly, any remuneration or promise of remuneration of whatever character for entering or winning any part of this contest.

ENTRY FEE:

Please register on the Annual Conference registration form. The fee is \$60 if paid by registration deadline. Fee to be paid prior to contest. (*If registering for both the Hagestrom Cup Speed Contest and Karoscik Realtime Contest, the fee will be discounted to a total of \$110 for both.*)

SEATING ARRANGEMENT: The defending champion, if present, will have their choice of seats. If the defending champion has been retired, the previous Hagestrom Cup Speed Contest second place contestant will have their choice of seats. Subsequent seating shall be at the discretion of the chief examiner of the Hagestrom Cup Speed Contest.

TEST PROCEDURES:

No recording devices will be permitted in the examination room except those that may be used by the Hagestrom Cup Speed Contest Committee. Electronic devices such as smartphones and smartwatches must be silent/off and will be collected at the door.

Audio functions on writers and computers must be disabled. During testing and transcription, writers should be placed in Test Mode and computers should be in Airplane Mode. The use of any speech-to-text functions in CAT or other software (such as Stenograph Check It or Eclipse Boost Flow) is prohibited and is cause for disqualification.

Ohio Court Reporters Association

Hagestrom Cup Speed Contest Rules

TRANSCRIBING:

Computer-aided transcription may be used. Internet research is prohibited during transcription. A dictionary will be available in the transcription room.

Contestants may print a copy of each leg of the exam to proofread. A printer will be provided by OCRA.

QUALIFYING:

Only one transcription will be permitted of each leg. **95% and higher qualifies.** Transcribed files will be turned in PDF or ASCII format in on a flash drive provided by the contestant. Those unable to produce such files within the allotted transcription time may be disqualified at the discretion of the contest chair. After verification of contents of the file, the contestant will be required to delete all components of the file, from hard drive and recycle bin.

The scores for everyone who qualifies in all segments will be averaged, and the contestant with the highest average will be the champion. If there are no qualifiers in any of the two legs, the leg containing qualifiers will be used to determine the overall champion.

Two-voice testimony can be transcribed in either Q and A format, colloquy, or by using chevrons or some other new speaker designation as long as the change of speaker is clearly obvious. Neither the Q nor A will be counted nor read.

Punctuation errors will apply irrespective of speaker format. No transcript will be eligible for consideration with less than 95% accuracy.

Automatic Fail: A submitted file that does not contain printable data.

The final files for grading should be formatted as follows:

- Submit each file as an ASCII or PDF on a contestant-provided USB flash drive (flash drives will be returned to contestants)
- Contestant Number as given before contest should be on EACH page
- NO personal identifiers anywhere on any page

AWARDS:

The contestant qualifying in the most number of sections with the highest combined percentage shall be declared champion and shall be awarded a Hagestrom Cup championship trophy. A contestant may win the competition three times (not necessarily in succession) and will be entitled to retire the cup, after which time said contestant assume the role of Hagestrom Cup Speed Contest Committee Chair and will no longer be permitted to compete. Medals will be awarded to the writers who place second and third and an appropriate certificate to those who attain 95 percent or higher on any of the two tests. The contest committee will publish/announce only names of qualifying contestants.

PDCs:

In order for a member to be granted 0.25 PDC for a speed or realtime contest, OCRA must receive preapproval from NCRA. NCRA will grant credit for these contests so long as they meet the published criteria for the speed and realtime contests held at the most recent NCRA Conference & Expo. A maximum of 1.0 credit from all non-CEU credits will be accepted by NCRA per three-year cycle.

Ohio Court Reporters Association

Hagestrom Cup Speed Contest Rules

GRADING:

Contestants will not be permitted to be present during the grading process. Transcripts will be marked for identification and corrected in such a manner that it will be impossible to know whose work is being examined until after the grading has been completed.

No names or information concerning any contestant or transcript except such as qualify under the rules will be published.

All transcripts and notes of such transcripts are to become the property of OCRA. The decisions of the committee made under these rules, or such supplementary rules as may be found necessary at the time of the contest, shall be final.

Determination of what is an error shall be determined by the [current "What Is An Error?" guidelines of NCRA](#) for the RSR, RPR, and RMR examinations.