

AGTC Constitution and Bylaws
Amendment #1
Competition Rules and Regulations
Adopted: May 14th, 2019

1. **GENERAL:** To maintain the standards for the ancient and honorable art of Town Crying, the following Rules and Regulations are established. These rules are set out to provide the framework for the competitors, judges, scorers and organizers of an American Guild of Town Criers Sanctioned Town Crier Competition as established in Section 6 of the AGTC Constitution.
2. **RESPONSIBILITIES OF HOST:** The host crier is responsible to make all local arrangements for lodging and award dinner. Application to have the competition sanctioned by the AGTC should be made to the Guild Secretary. Guild will assist in publicizing the event. Financial sponsorship up to \$100.00 can be requested for each competition.
3. **FORMAT OF COMPETITION**
 - a. **Number of Cries:** Recommended number is three. No fewer than two.
 - b. **Order of Cries:** Each Crier's name is to be randomly drawn and matched with a number randomly drawn at the same time indicating position of Crier.
 - c. **Judging and Officiating**
 - i. The Host Crier is responsible to select the assigned topic for each Cry. If competition has three or more Cries one Cry should be a "Home Town Cry". Host Crier is responsible to communicate the topics to all participating Criers prior to the Competition.
 - ii. The Host Crier is responsible for the recruitment and training of all persons judging competition.
 - iii. The Host Crier shall perform the same number of cries as are required of the Competitors. These cries shall be the "JUDGES' BENCHMARK" criteria against which all Competitors cries are judged. No comment or direction about how the cry should be marked by the judges shall be made about the Benchmark Cry. Judges shall be instructed to leave leeway above and below the Benchmark scores for a fair assignment of the subsequent Criers' marks. The Host Crier is ineligible for any placement award.
 - iv. The number of judges required is three or more. Distribution of judging criteria among the judges is discretionary with the strong recommendation that one judge be limited to "Script Adherence". A "Scorer" will collect the scoring sheets from each judge following each Cry. Introduction of next Crier by the Host will only be made once all scoring sheets have been collected.
 - v. One judge will be provided the submitted cry to monitor and note any deviations.
 - vi. Cries given in any foreign language will be read first in English by the Host Crier
 - d. **Escort/Consorts**

AGTC Constitution and Bylaws
Amendment #1
Competition Rules and Regulations
Adopted: May 14th, 2019

- i. Escorts may accompany the Crier to the Stage but shall not participate in the performance of the Cry. They can participate in the “Attention Getting” portion.
- ii. A separate evaluator should select the “Best Escort”. It is suggested that this selection be based on an interview with each escort and close inspection of clothing worn.

e. Prizes and Recognition

- i. There will be a First, Second and Third place. It is recommended that the prizes be awarded at an Awards Dinner following the competition.
 - 1. For an AGTC Sanctioned Competition that is not the American Championships, there will be an additional prize given to the “Best American Crier” even if they have placed.
 - 2. For the American Championship, First, Second and Third places are limited to Criers from the United States. There will be an additional prize, “Best Foreign Crier” for the highest score outside the U.S.
 - 3. These competition rules do not apply to the “North American Championship” when it is held.
 - 4. There is no recognition for “Best Dressed Crier”
 - 5. A prize for “Best Escort” can be awarded based on criteria below.
 - 6. Scoring of Cries should be provided to all Criers following the Awards.
- 4. **Criteria for Judging Cries:** Judging should be specific to criteria given and graded according to the total possible points for that criteria. Deductions are subtracted from Raw Score to give Final Score. All competitions must use the following criteria to be an AGTC Sanctioned Event. Total possible score: 100

a. Attention Getting

- i. While most Criers use a bell, other devices can be used. The scoring of this criteria is a combination of the sound of the device and the deportment of the Crier while using it. The “Oyez’s” or other calls for attention are also judged in this category. Escort may assist in getting attention.
- ii. Possible Score: 15 points with a deduction of 2 points if device is forgotten on stage.

b. Deportment

- i. As representatives of their municipality or organization, Criers are to fulfil the role of Town Crier with strong confidence, clear movements and memorable overall image. Judging begins when the Crier is introduced and ends with departure from the stage.
- ii. Possible Score: 15 points

c. Cry Content and Structure

AGTC Constitution and Bylaws
Amendment #1
Competition Rules and Regulations
Adopted: May 14th, 2019

- i. Cry should adhere to assigned topic, use effective and appropriate language to deliver message, provide correct information and have a logical structure. Use of oratorical techniques to arouse the listener's interest in the message such as rhyme or alliteration is encouraged.
 - ii. Possible Score: 30 points
- d. Call Projection and Clarity**
 - i. While the three "Oyez" may be louder than the body of the Cry, the Crier should be able to maintain the same volume throughout the body of the cry. Ability to project and enunciate clearly, use of effective phrasing and inflection are considered.
 - ii. Possible Score: 40 points with a deduction of 2 points each time voice cracks up to minus 10 points.
- e. Cry Script Adherence**
 - i. Cry must be performed as given on provided script. (This comes from the original responsibility of the Town Crier, which was to read Royal Proclamations that could not be changed in any manner.)
 - ii. Possible Score: Minus 10 (one point for every missed or added word)
- f. Word Count**
 - i. The permitted word count for Cries submitted is 100 to 125. The word count should be completed prior to the competition and provided by the Host Crier to the Judge. The Host Crier shall determine if the following guidelines are met:
 - 1. Years count as one word. (e.g. "Nineteen forty five" counts as one word)
 - 2. Numbers count as one word. (e.g. "Seven hundred thousand dollars" counts as two words.)
 - 3. Place names count as one word. (e.g. "the town of Quiet Valley" counts as four(4) words)
 - 4. Proper Names count as individual words. (e.g. "Mayor John Doe" counts as three words.)
 - 5. Calls for attention, such as the three opening "Oyez's" are not counted as they are considered under "Attention Getting".
 - ii. Possible Score: Minus 1 point for each word over or under, up to a maximum of 10 points.
- g. Best Escort/Consort Category:** This judging is not scored and is a subjective judgement of the following criteria to select the most outstanding Escort. It is recommended that participants be interviewed as part of the judging.
 - i. Interaction with Crier
 - ii. Compatibility with Crier's attire.

**AGTC Constitution and Bylaws
Amendment #1
Competition Rules and Regulations
Adopted: May 14th, 2019**

- iii. Clothing Construction.
- h. **Total Possible Score:** 100. If scores are tied, it is the up to the judges to make a subjective ranking.
- i. **Score Sheet:** Attached.