

This page summarizes the different Microsoft Teams event types, their participant capacity, and whether each one supports live human language interpretation. Use it as a quick reference when planning a multilingual or large-scale event.

Microsoft Teams offers several event formats, each designed for a specific use case. Choosing the right one depends mainly on three criteria: the expected audience size, the level of interaction needed, and whether live human interpretation is required.

The four main formats are **Meetings**, **Webinars**, **Town halls** and (the now deprecated) **Live events**.

Participant capacity and live interpretation

The table below summarizes the maximum number of participants and the availability of live human interpretation channels for each Teams event type.

Event type	Interactive participants	View-only mode	Max total	Live human interpretation
Standard meeting	1,000	Up to 10,000 additional	11,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (up to 1,000 participants)
Webinar	1,000	—	1,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Town hall (standard)	Presenters only	10,000	10,000	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Town hall (Teams Premium)	Presenters only	20,000 - 50,000	20,000 - 50,000	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Town hall (LEAP assistance)	Presenters only	Up to 100,000	100,000	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Live events (deprecated)	Presenters only	10,000 (temporarily 20,000)	10,000 - 20,000	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Meet now / ad-hoc / 1:1 call	—	—	—	<input type="checkbox"/> No
End-to-end encrypted (E2EE) meeting	—	—	—	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Microsoft is gradually phasing out Live events in favor of Town halls. We recommend planning new broadcast-style events as Town halls.

Details by event type

Standard meeting

Standard Teams meetings can host up to 11,000 participants in total: the first 1,000 attendees can fully interact (audio, video, screen sharing, chat), and any additional attendees — up to 10,000 more — join in view-only mode.

When a meeting reaches 1,000 attendees, the meeting organizer and presenters will see a banner indicating that new attendees will join as view-only.

Breakout rooms can only be created in meetings with fewer than 300 attendees. Creating breakout rooms automatically caps the meeting at 300 attendees.

Webinar

Webinars are structured events with clear presenter and attendee roles. They support up to 1,000 attendees and include registration management, a customizable event and registration site, and event-oriented default meeting options.

Town hall

Town halls are designed for one-to-many broadcast scenarios. Attendees can watch presenters and participate through Q&A, but their cameras and microphones stay off.

- **Standard licenses:** up to 10,000 attendees
- **Teams Premium:** up to 20,000 – 50,000 attendees (depending on attendee capacity packs)
- **LEAP (Live Event Assistance Program):** up to 100,000 attendees, on request, at least two weeks before the event

Live events (deprecated)

Live events support up to 10,000 attendees by default, with a temporary increase to 20,000 until further notice. Up to 100,000 attendees can be planned through the Microsoft 365 Assistance Program.

Microsoft recommends transitioning to Town halls, as support for Live events will eventually end.

Cross-cutting limits

- **Maximum duration:** meetings, webinars and town halls have a 30-hour time limit.
- **Breakout rooms:** not supported in town halls; only available in meetings/webinars with fewer than 300 attendees.
- **External presenters in town halls:** up to 20.

Live human interpretation

Live human interpretation lets organizers assign professional interpreters to language pairs before the event. During the event, attendees pick their preferred language channel and use a volume slider to balance the original speaker's audio against the interpreted audio.

Where it is supported

Language interpretation is supported for regular scheduled meetings, channel meetings, meetings with up to 1,000 participants, and webinars.

Key technical points:

- **Up to 16 language pairs** per event, with one interpreter assigned per language direction.
- **Recordings capture only the original audio** — the interpreter's audio is not included in the recording.
- **Live captions only follow the main speaker**, not the interpreter.
- **Interpretation must be configured before the event starts**, by enabling the feature in meeting options and adding the interpreters as required attendees.

Where it is NOT supported

Live human interpretation is **not** available in:

- Town halls
- Live events
- Ad-hoc meetings ("Meet now") and 1:1 calls
- Meetings using Microsoft Teams Rooms with personal devices
- Teams Free meetings
- End-to-end encrypted (E2EE) meetings
- Breakout rooms (the main meeting can be interpreted, but interpretation stops when breakout rooms start)

If your event requires live human interpretation AND a very large audience (above ~1,000 attendees), Teams native interpretation will not fit. In that case, plan a webinar at the 1,000-

attendee limit, or use an external interpretation platform (such as a third-party RSI service) alongside a Teams town hall.

Interpreter agent (Copilot) — AI alternative

Microsoft also offers an AI-powered "Interpreter agent" that requires a Microsoft 365 Copilot license. Unlike the human interpretation feature, the Interpreter agent is supported in meetings, webinars **and town halls**, making it currently the only built-in way to provide real-time spoken translation in a Teams town hall.

The Interpreter agent is an AI service, not a substitute for a professional human interpreter — quality, terminology accuracy, and handling of overlapping speech are limited compared with a trained interpreter.

Choosing the right event type

If you need...	Best fit
Full two-way interaction up to 1,000 people	Standard meeting
Registration, branding, attendance reporting	Webinar
Live human interpretation	Standard meeting or webinar
1,000–10,000 view-only attendees, no human interpretation	Town hall
10,000–100,000 attendees	Town hall with Teams Premium + LEAP

Official references

- [Limits and specifications for Microsoft Teams](#)
- [Overview of meetings, webinars, and town halls](#)
- [Meetings, webinars, and town halls feature comparison](#)
- [Plan for Teams meetings](#)
- [Get started with town hall in Microsoft Teams](#)
- [Switch from Microsoft Teams live events to town halls](#)
- [Tips for setting up large meetings and events in Microsoft Teams](#)
- [Use language interpretation in Microsoft Teams meetings](#)
- [Interpreter in Microsoft Teams meetings and calls](#)

- [Manage Interpreter agent for your organization](#)