

**Pennsylvania High School  
Speech League**



**DRAMA  
HANDBOOK**

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FORMS can be found in FORMS SECTION of the PHSSL binder:

- Regional Drama Registration and Tech Form
- Regional Drama Festival Report
- State Drama Festival Registration and Tech Form
- Drama Festival Judge's Evaluation Form
- State Drama Festival Summary of Judging Results

## **Article B18 – Drama**

### **Section B18.1a**

Each school may have two entries in the Regional Drama Festivals. In the case of a single gender school, arrangements may be made with the Regional Drama Coordinator of the event.

### **Section B18.1b**

In cases of multiple entries, each entry must be a different piece and students cannot be casted in more than one entry.

### **Section B18.1c**

Schools will be charged separately for each entry in the Regional and State competition.

### **Section B18.2**

Each region shall qualify two plays to the State Drama Festival. If eight entries participate in any Regional Drama Festival, three plays will advance from that Regional Festival to the State Drama Festival. No more than eight schools shall make up a Regional Festival. If more than 24 schools enter the Regional Festival, a fourth Regional Festival will be created.

### **Section B18.3**

Material used may be a one-act play, a cutting from a longer play, or an original play. Cuttings of musicals may be used. Singing cannot exceed a combined time of 5 minutes. The play must have a minimum of three characters. Characters may not be added or cut from published plays that would be in violation of copyright regulations except with written permission by the publisher and/or author. The play which wins first place in the State Tournament may not be used the following year. Each school is responsible for any royalty obligations.

### **Section B18.4**

The playing time shall be not more than 60 minutes total, which includes all setup and strike time. There is no minimum time for an entry.

### **Section B18.5**

A total of 60 minutes will be available to each play for technical rehearsal, including setting the stage, and striking the stage. The time may be used at the discretion of each school, but may not exceed 60 minutes total and may influence the judge's ranking.

### **Section B18.6**

Sets are minimal. The host school shall supply a basic lighting plot with a minimum of three general lighting areas and one follow spot. It is suggested that participating schools supply a light, sound, and curtain cue sheet. Upon request the host school may assist with simple items adaptable to the needs of the plays. All hand properties, make-up, and costumes shall be provided by the school presenting the play.

### Section B18.7

Any play one minute over the maximum in extra playing or technical time is not eligible to receive first place on any individual judge's ballot. This will not affect the selection to the All-State Cast.

### Section B18.8

- a. The regional and state judging shall be the ranking system as used in all Pennsylvania High School Speech League events.
- b. The judges are to be selected by the Regional Coordinators for regional competition, and by the Executive Director for State competition. A panel of three judges must be used at the Regional competition. Regional judges will be paid \$10.00 per play. A panel of five judges must be used at the State competition.
- c. Tiebreakers for Regional and State Drama Competition shall reflect the tiebreakers for the interpretation events at the State competition (Example – Judges preference – Reciprocals).

### Section B18.9

The Director of the contest play will not be allowed backstage during setup, performance, and strike. The Director is permitted in the dressing rooms.

### Section B18.10a

Awards at the State Festival: the top three pieces receive plaques (Example: first place, second place, and third place); the remaining schools receive “State Finalist” plaques.

### Section B18.10b

Competing schools at State competition will be notified if they are “State Placing Teams” or “State Finalists”. All Ranks and Awards will be announced and the all teams will be recognized at the Spring PHSSL State Competition during the Awards Ceremony.

### Section B18.11

Regional Registration will now be sent to the State Office, and after all registrations are received, individual schools will be assigned to a regional competition. Geographic location and equalization of regional competition will be the prime factors in assigning schools. There will be three regions. No more than eight schools can be assigned to a region. If needed, additional region(s) will be created. The registration fee for the regional drama festival shall not exceed \$50.00.

### Section B18.12

All schools participating in Regional Drama will receive 4 points for participation.  
All schools participating in State Drama will receive 4 points for participation.

### Section B18.13

The Drama Handbook shall be considered a part of the Constitution.

## Festival and Contest Suggestions

The Regional Drama Coordinator will schedule its Drama Festival whenever it is convenient for that particular Region, and at any time prior to the deadline set by the League Office. Each member school is permitted to enter one or two plays in a Regional Festival. Each Region shall qualify two plays to the State Festival. Where possible, area colleges might be willing to help with the Regional Festival in providing facilities and judges. A member of the Executive Board will be appointed as liaison to each of the Regional Drama Festivals.

The following suggestions are given for the Regional Coordinator and host schools in planning for the Regional, and State Festival.

1. The Regional Drama Coordinator must be active in secondary school drama and/or knowledgeable in drama.
2. All deadline dates for the Regional and State Festivals will be enforced.
3. The schedule for the performances of the plays can be by an impartial drawing for position; or the plays may be scheduled to facilitate staging and timing by the Regional Coordinator (Regional) and the Executive Director (State).
4. The host school or Coordinator will provide a competent stage crew. The participating school may provide its own trained stage crew, if acceptable with host and the school's regulations.
5. The host school shall provide competent light and sound technicians who will receive cues from the competing high school student stage managers.
6. The host shall provide a timekeeper and such house personnel as necessary to insure a smooth running performance.
7. The Coordinator will be responsible for sending all necessary information and reports to the Executive Director immediately at the close of the event.

It is the responsibility of the Coordinator in charge to secure competent judges. JQP's must be completed for the Drama judges for all levels of competition. The judging will be by a panel of judges. Regional judges will be paid \$10.00 per play. The following committees can function to arrange for the planning and presentations of Drama events:

Regional Festival: Director of the host school, Regional Coordinator as appointed by the Executive Director, and Chairperson of the participating districts

State Festival: Executive Director, Executive Committee, and the Regional Directors