

Pennsylvania High School Speech League



DRAMA HANDBOOK

Revised: September 2019

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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 8 schools participate in any Regional Drama Festival, 3 plays will advance from that Regional Festival to the State Drama Festival. No more than 8 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. Cutting of musicals may be used, but 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 be influence the judge's ranking.

Section B18.6 (UPDATED)

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. The host school shall supply a simple set adaptable to the needs of the plays. All hand properties, make-up, and costumes shall be provided by the school presenting the play. For schools electing to participate in All-State Crew, a Crew must be provided in both Regional and State Competition. The Crew must consist of, at least 5 crew member, but can consist of more member. Suggested roles: Stage Manager, Sound, Light, Spotlights, Costumes, Makeup, Stagehands.

Section B18.7 UPDATED

Any play that is more than one minute under the minimum or 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 or All-State Crew.

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 by the hoist school. 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 (UPDATED)

The Director of the contest play will not be allowed backstage during setup, performance, and strike. The Director is permitted in the dressing rooms. For schools that are competing for All-State Crew, the Director is not permitted to assist the crew in any way during setup, performance, and strike.

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 at the State competition and the all teams will be recognized at the Spring PHSSL State Competition during the Awards Ceremony. At this time the schools will receive the awards.

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 (UPDATED)

The number of All-State Cast awards will be determined by the judges at the State competition. There will be 1 All-State Crew at the State Competition. The award given will be based on judges’ decision.

Section B18.14 (UPDATED)

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 by Regional Coordinator 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

PENNSYLVANIA HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH LEAGUE

Drama Festival Judge's Evaluation Form

Name or Number of School: _____

Play: _____ **Time:** _____

Author: _____ **Play's Rank:** _____ (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.)
More than one play may NOT be given the same rank

The acting, directing and technical aspects of production should all be considered as a whole in the critic's evaluation. Choice of play should not be a criterion in your ranking; rather, the critic should evaluate how well the play chosen was presented. Critics are necessarily allowed some leeway in appraising the performances. We wish the following factors considered as basic, however:

Overall	
Direction	Were the roles appropriately cast? Was the theme or main idea of the play brought out? Was there evidence of effectiveness of the director's influence over mechanics of stage business, balance, proportion, emphasis, placing, grouping, and movement of the players on stage and in creation of mood? Were the time limits observed?
Plot Development	Was the production unified? If a cutting, was it a complete and understandable unit? Did ensemble carry the situation to a suitable climax? Did the characterizations and action advance the plot?
Tempo	Was the pace in keeping with the general idea of the play? Was there smoothness, variety, and appropriateness in the movement of the play?
Total Effectiveness	What was the total impression of the production upon you, the critic?
Performances	
Characterization and Interpretation	Was there a complete bodily and mental recreation of characters by the actors? Were their reactions to other actors correct and effective? Were the interpretations of the roles believable? Was there sufficient motivation, action, and reaction?
Voice and Diction	Could you hear the actors distinctly? Was there variety of rate and inflection? Was pronunciation and articulation properly done and in keeping with the play?
Blocking and Movement	Did the performer use the stage space effectively? Were the movements and reactions natural and believable? Where props and costume pieces used properly?
Technical & Stage	
Vision & Set	Did the Set & Scenery provide a vision of the production? Was the set provided appropriate for the performance?
Sound & Lighting	Did the lighting cues seem to be on mark? Did the sound cues seem to be on mark?
Make-Up and Costumes	Although no extra credit should be allowed for unusual or elaborate costuming or make-up, were these reasonably convincing and appropriate for the creation of the illusion?

Judge's Signature: _____

Play's Overall Rating: _____ (Superior, Excellent, Good, Fair, or Poor)
More than 1 play may be given the same rating

All-State Crew Rank: _____ (NA, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.)
More than one play may NOT be given the same rank

All-State Cast: _____ **All-State Cast:** _____

*****Critique on Back*****

Critique Notes

Overall	
Direction	
Plot Development	
Tempo	
Total Effectiveness	
Performances	
Characterization and Interpretation	
Voice and Diction	
Blocking and Movement	
Technical & Stage	
Vision & Set	
Sound & Lighting	
Make-Up and Costumes	

Additional Notes	
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PENNSYLVANIA HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH LEAGUE
Regional Drama Festival Registration (cont.)

no later than 10 days prior to the State Drama Festival: Attn: Jodi Fetterolf
jfettero@bloomu.edu
F: (570) 389-4459

School _____

Address _____

District # _____ **Region** _____

Drama Director _____

School Phone (____) _____ **Director's Phone (____)** _____

Director / Drama Coach's Email: _____

Principal's Signature

Director's Signature

~Proof of Royalty is absolutely required the day of performance~

PENNSYLVANIA HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH LEAGUE
Regional Drama Festival Registration (cont.)

Cast Information

Play Title _____ Author _____

Play Setting _____

Are You Competing in All-State Crew ()Yes ()No

Cast (Character Name/Student Name)	Crew (Job Title/Student Name) You MUST have at least 5 students to compete in All-State Crew

Total No. of Participants _____

(Continue on back if needed)

Approximate Length of Performance _____ Minutes.

PENNSYLVANIA HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH LEAGUE
Regional Drama Festival Registration (cont.)
Technical Information

School Name _____

The stage provided will be a curtain set. On the stage diagram below, we have indicated the entrances and position of furniture for our play:



Front of Stage

It is suggested that participating schools supply a light, sound, and curtain cue sheet.

LIGHTING: a three area lighting design will be provided along with a follow spot.

SOUND: a basic sound system for effects will be provided.

Approximate length of performance _____minutes.

This play was presented before an audience of the high school community on _____

Director's Signature

PENNSYLVANIA HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH LEAGUE

State Drama Festival Registration (cont.)

Each State qualifying school should complete and fax or email to State office
no later than 10 days prior to the State Drama Festival:
Attn: Jodi Fetterolf
jfettero@bloomu.edu
F: (570) 389-4459

School _____

Address _____

District # _____ Region _____

Drama Director _____

School Phone (____) _____ Director's Phone (____) _____

Director / Drama Coach's Email: _____

The entry fee for the play will be \$50.00. Please forward this amount* and your royalty receipt payable to:

PA High School Speech League
Jodi Fetterolf, State Secretary
Bloomsburg University
400 E 2nd Street
Bloomsburg, PA 17815

*If needed, checks **can** be provided when you arrive to register at the State Drama Festival*

Also, complete the information requested within the remainder of this form. Please make sure your Certificate of Insurance is on file in the State Office.

I certify the above-mentioned play is eligible to participate according to the PHSSL Constitution, Article C3, Section C3.2. I understand that if the school does not participate in the State Festival, the fees must still be paid.

Principal's Signature

Director's Signature

~Proof of Royalty is absolutely required the day of performance~

PENNSYLVANIA HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH LEAGUE
State Drama Festival Registration (cont.)
Cast Information

Play Title _____ Author _____

Play Setting _____

Are You Competing in All-State Crew ()Yes ()No

Cast (Character Name/Student Name)	Crew (Job Title/Student Name) You MUST have at least 5 students to compete in All-State Crew

Total No. of Participants _____

(Continue on back if needed)

Approximate Length of Performance _____ Minutes.

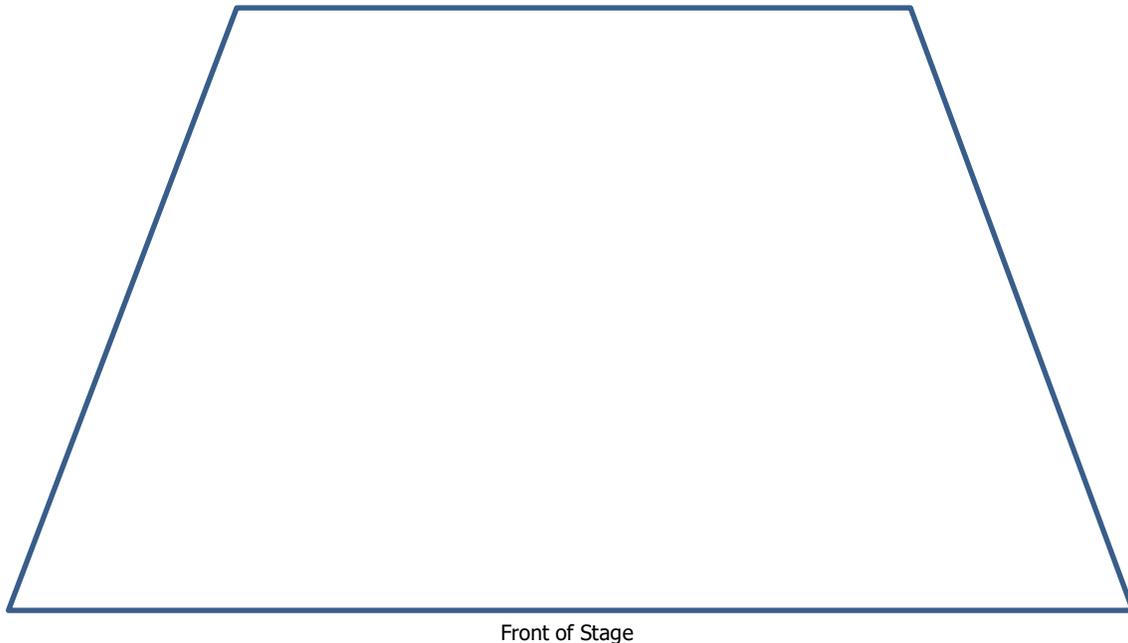
PENNSYLVANIA HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH LEAGUE

State Drama Festival Registration (cont.)

Technical Information

School Name _____

The stage provided will be a curtain set. On the stage diagram below, we have indicated the entrances and position of furniture for our play:



It is suggested that participating schools supply a light, sound, and curtain cue sheet.

LIGHTING: a three area lighting design will be provided along with a follow spot.

SOUND: a basic sound system for effects will be provided.

Approximate length of performance _____minutes.

This play was presented before an audience of the high school community on _____

Director's Signature

Each State qualifying school should complete and fax or email to State office

PENNSYLVANIA HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH LEAGUE

Regional Drama Festival Report

Complete and fax or email form **within 3 days** of Drama Festival to State Office:

Attn: Jodi Fetterolf

jfettero@bloomu.edu

F: (570) 389-4646

Date of Drama Festival: _____ **Date Report Submitted:** _____

Regional Drama Coordinator: _____ **Region:** _____

Location: _____

Judge 1: _____

Judge 2: _____

Judge 3: _____

School	District	Play: Title & Author	Crew (Y/N)	Rank
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				

Additional Notes:

Regional Drama Coordinator, please be sure to sign the last page before sending to State office

PENNSYLVANIA HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH LEAGUE

Regional Drama Festival Report (cont.)

Summary of Judging Results

Play Title / School Name	Judge 1 Score	Judge 2 Score	Judge 3 Score	Total	Rank

**Qualifiers to the State Drama Festival are identified by the 1st and 2nd placing in the 'Rank' column on the above table. *

PENNSYLVANIA HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH LEAGUE
Regional Drama Festival Report (cont.)

Qualifying School's Information
Page

#1 SCHOOL _____

DRAMA COACH _____

SCHOOL ADDRESS _____

SCHOOL TEL: (____) _____ HOME TEL: (____) _____

#2 SCHOOL _____

DRAMA COACH _____

SCHOOL ADDRESS _____

SCHOOL TEL: (____) _____ HOME TEL: (____) _____

If eight or more schools in Regional Festival, please add third school.

#3 SCHOOL _____

DRAMA COACH _____

SCHOOL ADDRESS _____

SCHOOL TEL: (____) _____ HOME TEL: (____) _____

Regional Drama Coordinator

Qualifying School: You must send your State Drama Festival Registration Form to the State Office at least 10 days prior to the State Drama Festival. Please contact the State Office, or check the PHSSL calendar (www.phssl.org), for festival dates.