

**Pennsylvania High School
Speech League**



**DRAMA
HANDBOOK**

Revised: June 2023

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Article B22 – Drama

Section B22.1

- A. 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.
- B. In cases of multiple entries, each entry must be a different piece and students cannot be cast in more than one entry.
- C. Schools will be charged separately for each entry in the Regional and State competition.
- D. Performances at the Regional level will be virtual unless all the schools involved in the Regional competition agree to a live performance. All of the performances at the State level will be virtual; if recorded performances were used at the Regional level, schools may use the same recording for the State competition. All filming must show set setup and tear down and all filming must be done with a stationary camera.

Section B22.2

- A. Each region shall qualify at least 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.
- B. The State Drama Festival Coordinator can adjust the number of entries to the State competition based on the circumstances of any particular year of competition.
- C. 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 B22.3

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. Schools must obtain legal rights to record the play.

Section B22.4

- A. 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. Any play that is more than 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.
- B. 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 B22.5

- A. If a region opts for live competition, then the following rules apply. 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 backdrop adaptable to the needs of the plays. All hand properties, make-up, and costumes shall be provided by the school presenting the play.
- B. For schools electing to participate in All-State Crew, a Crew must be provided in both Regional and State Competition.

Section B22.6

- A. The Regional and State judging shall be the ranking system as used in all Pennsylvania High School Speech League events. Tabulation shall be run on an online ballot using Tabroom.com software.
- B. The judges are to be selected by the Regional Coordinators for regional competition, and by the State Drama Festival Coordinator for the State competition. A panel of three judges must be used at the Regional competition. A panel of five judges from across the state must be used at the State competition.
- C. For the state competition, judges will have two weeks from the receipt of their ballots to complete ranks and comments.
- D. Tiebreakers for Regional and State Drama Competition shall reflect the tiebreakers for the interpretation events at the State competition (Example – Judges preference – Reciprocals).

Section B22.7

- A. Regional Registration will now be sent to the State Office by November 15, 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 two or three regions, depending on the number of entries. 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 is \$50.00 for each play competing.
- B. Once regions are established, participating schools will register on Tabroom.com by December 10. All necessary links to recordings must be supplied at that time.
- C. Schools advancing from Regionals to States will have their recording links transferred to the State online registration page, but fees, or arrangements for the payment of fees, are due to the PHSSL office by February 1.

Section B22.8

- A. 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 Drama Festival and all teams will be recognized at the Spring PHSSL State Competition during the Awards Ceremony. At this time the schools will receive the physical awards.
- B. 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” medals.

Section B22.9

- A. For the All-State Cast Awards, each State Festival judge will nominate four students. The five-person State Festival judge panel will then rank the list of nominees to determine the All-State Cast. Four to eight students will be selected for the All-State Cast awards. The members of the All-State Cast each receive medals.
- B. There will be one All-State Crew Award at the State Competition; this award will be based on the decision of the State Festival judges. The winner of the All-State crew receives a plaque.

Section B22.10

- A. All schools participating in Regional Drama will receive 4 sweepstakes points for each show at their district level qualifying competitions.
- B. All schools participating in State Drama will receive sweepstakes points as described in the State Standing Rules.

Section B22.11

The Drama Handbook shall be considered a part of the PHSSL Bylaws.

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:

Judge's Signature: _____

Play's Overall Rating: _____ (Superior, Excellent, Good, Fair, or Poor)

PENNSYLVANIA HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH LEAGUE
Regional Drama Festival Registration

Due November 15: 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

State Drama Festival Registration

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 each 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~

