

PLAY PRODUCTION BYLAWS—ARTICLE 5

5.1 PURPOSE

- 5.1.1 The purpose of this activity is to create an understanding and appreciation by the students of good dramatic literature and production and to instruct students in acting and play production.

5.2 ELIGIBILITY

- 5.2.1 **Student Eligibility.** In order for students to participate in varsity competition, they must meet the eligibility requirements established for all activities. (Article 2) Exception: Participation for remuneration in non-school competition does not cause ineligibility.
- 5.2.1.1 The term “participates” means that a student’s performance, through his/her physical talents, plays an integral role in the production. This would include cast members and live accompanist. Technical crew personnel, which would include individuals responsible for sound effects, lighting, costumes and makeup, are exempt from this ruling.
- 5.2.1.2 **Certificate of Eligibility.** Prior to the first date permitted for interschool competition in each activity, each member school shall submit an on-line list of all students participating and eligible to participate in each activity.
- 5.2.1.3 In order to participate in a subdistrict, district or state contest in a particular activity, a student is required to have been a member of a school’s team or group in that particular activity for at least twenty school days prior to the first day of the subdistrict, district or state competition. An exception to this requirement would be if a student was unable to be a member of a school’s team or group due to injury, illness or transfers from another school.
- 5.2.2 **Participation Limited to School Group.** During play production season, a student shall not participate in any play production competition other than as a representative of his/her school.
Exception. A school and its students may participate in the National Speech Tournament as permitted by the NSAA Bylaws or individual students may participate in play production competition sponsored by governmental agencies or organizations such as civic or service clubs.
- 5.2.2.1 In determining if a school is in violation of permitting students to participate in unauthorized play production competition, the following factors will be considered:
- (a) Did the coach or sponsor of the play production team or organization enter the individuals in the competition?
 - (b) Were school funds used to pay entry fees or any expenses for the individual students?
 - (c) Were school-purchased equipment or materials used by the student?
 - (d) Were the individual students under the supervision of the school while traveling to and from the site of such competition and/or during the competition?
 - (e) Did the individual student actually perform in the play production contest?
 - (f) If a school is not involved, the school name cannot be used nor a name which might be interpreted as a school.
 - (g) A school in violation of the approved ruling shall be subject to a penalty as set forth in Article 2.11 NSAA Bylaws.
- 5.2.3 **Supervision.** The sponsor, coach, or an authorized faculty member must accompany the group and be present during interschool competition.

5.3 SANCTIONING OF PLAY PRODUCTION COMPETITION

- 5.3.1 **Intrastate Competition.** Play production competition involving only Nebraska high schools does not require a sanction.
- 5.3.2 **Interstate Competition.** Members of the NSAA may participate in play production contests at an out-of-state school provided the host school has complied with the rules and regulations of its own State Association and the accreditation regulations of the North Central Association. Sanctions must be granted by the Activities Association of the host state or the National Association of Secondary School Principals. (Refer to Article 1.8, NSAA Constitution, for sanctioning procedures.)

5.4 SEASON AND PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS

- 5.4.1 **Length of Season.** The play production season is defined as the period of time from Thursday of Week 9 of the Standardized Calendar to and including Saturday of Week 23 of the Standardized Calendar.
- 5.4.2 **First Date of Competition.** No school may participate in any interscholastic play production competition held prior to Thursday of Week 9 of the Standardized Calendar.
- 5.4.3 **Contests Per Week.** Participation in interscholastic play production by any high school student is limited to two contests per calendar week (Monday through Saturday). There shall be no interscholastic play production competition on Sunday.

5.5 RULES OF COMPETITION

- 5.5.1 **Play Selection.** Schools may select any one-act play or cuttings from full-length plays of theatrical value, provided that it contains no fewer than three characters.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR SECTION 5.5.1

Reference:

- 5.5.1 *Each coach is reminded to select literature that will not offend the moral standards of the community or be in bad taste. It is advisable to eliminate all cursing, profane references to the Deity, and immorally suggestive statements.*
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- 5.5.2 **Time Limit.** The play shall be performed within a fifteen (15) to thirty (30) minute time period.
- 5.5.3 **Royalty.** Any required royalty shall be paid by the school presenting the play.
- 5.5.4 **Stage Setting.** Only drapes and ordinary stage lighting shall be supplied by the host school. If a set, extra lighting or unusual stage properties are desired, they shall be furnished by the school presenting the play. The responsibility for the properties, sound effects, costume and make-up shall also be that of the school presenting the play.
- 5.5.4.1 In advance, the host school shall send each participating school the dimensions of the stage, a description of drapes and the lighting equipment available for use in the performance area.
- 5.5.4.2 The participating schools shall send the host school a diagram of the stage setting, a lighting plot, and program copy including the title of the play, the playwright, and a list of the cast and crew.
- 5.5.4.3 At the time of the contest, the host school shall provide rooms for dressing and make-up for each cast. The host school shall provide a stage crew to assist the director and cast in preparing the setting and stage for the production.
- 5.5.5 **Judging Standards.** Plays shall be judged on the merits of the acting, script, staging, and total effect of the production, including such points as the following:
- The script shall be judged on the theatrical value of the play and its suitability to the cast.
 - The acting of the individual actors shall be judged for such elements as characterization, stage movement and business. The acting of the group shall be judged for grouping, interaction of characters, tempo and climaxes.
 - The staging shall be judged for such items as blocking, stage movement, set, lights, sound effects, properties, costuming and make-up, with primary consideration being given to those items which are within the ability of the participating school to control.
 - The total effect shall be judged in terms of dramatic unity resulting from the combination of the acting, the script, and the staging as an integrated performance.
 - The judge shall also designate those individuals whose performances are deserving of a superior rating. No other ratings for individual cast members shall be announced.
 - The primary focus will be acting, and will be reflected on the Play Production Ballot.

5.6 DISTRICT AND STATE CONTEST

- 5.6.1 The district and state contests shall be under the direction of the Board of Control and Executive Director.
- 5.6.2 **Classification for Competition.** The schools registering for play production shall be divided into six classes for competition. The number of schools in each class will be determined by the Board of Control.
- 5.6.2.1 The schools in each class will be assigned to districts for competition to qualify for the state contest. The play judged to be the top play in each district will qualify for the State Contest.
- 5.6.2.2 **District Assignments.** District assignments, sites for competition, and rules and instructions for district competition will be published in the Play Production Manual.
- 5.6.3 **District Entries.** A school may enter one group in district competition.
- 5.6.3.1 The entries to the district contests are to be submitted fourteen (14) days prior to the date of the contest. However, entries will be accepted if submitted between fourteen (14) and ten (10) days upon payment of ten dollars (\$10) penalty fee. No entries will be accepted that are submitted fewer than ten (10) days prior to the date of the contest.
- 5.6.4 **State Contest.** District directors will notify the NSAA Office of the state qualifiers. No further registration by the schools is required.
- 5.6.4.1 Schools which qualify for the state contest are expected to participate in the state contest. Unless excused by the Executive Director, failure to compete shall result in the school being penalized.
- 5.6.5 **Ratings.** All plays in the district and state contests will be rated according to the following scale:
- Superior
 - Excellent
 - Good