

A Synopsis of Rules and Regulations about Adjudication in Toronto Districts

UPDATED JAN. 2013



SEARS ONTARIO DRAMA FESTIVAL
FESTIVAL DE THEATRE SEARS DE L'ONTARIO

PARTICIPATION

- If a school has more than one entry at the district level, each entry must have a different director and significantly different cast and crew.
- All student participants must be registered as students at that school for at least one semester of the school year in which the production is entered.
- The program must include a correct and complete list of cast and crew and acknowledgments relating to script and recorded music performance rights. Indicate adult assistance by Mr., Ms., Miss, or Mrs. before the name.
- All productions must consist of two or more performers interacting on stage.
- Professional help is welcome as long as a fee is not paid and acknowledgement is made in the program.

TIME LIMITATIONS

- Each production must be at least 15 minutes in length and not exceed 50 minutes from the stage manager's first cue to last cue, not including the curtain call.
- Each production is allowed a 10-minute setup period and a 5-minute strike time. All timing is done by the host school's festival stage manager.
- Following the final production, there will be a 5 to 10 minute public adjudication per performance. The private adjudication is for casts, crews, and staff advisors from all schools performing that evening. The private adjudications will be 20 to 30 minutes per production, depending on the total time available before the permit ends and the building must be vacated.

LIGHTING & SOUND

- The facilities available will vary considerably. Each production is expected to share space and equipment equitably with other productions. A general stage lighting plot will be set for all productions.
- Each production will be allowed a maximum of three specials, subject to the limitations of the venue. A follow spot that does not go through the lighting control board does not count as a special.
- All lighting and sound levels, cues, and operation are the responsibility of the producing company.
- Programs should contain warnings concerning such things as smoking, strobe lights, gun shots, explosions, strong language, and mature content.
- Microphones may not be used to amplify speech for individual productions; they may be used for special effects only, for example, singing, an offstage voice, or a live sound effect.
- Pre-show ambient or mood music may be used only if it is followed by a definite "first cue" for the purpose of timing.
- All live musicians who appear on stage must be eligible participants. Musicians (even in the pit) must not be paid performers, although they can be volunteers and must be indicated as such in program.

AWARDS

- In the Toronto Districts Festivals, four Outstanding Production Awards are given; that is, four shows proceed from each District Festival to the Regional Festival. As many Awards of Merit may be given as there are entries in that district. Awards of Excellence equal the number of entries minus the number of Outstanding Productions. One Stage Management Award can be given.
- Awards are given for performance — individual or ensemble — and for non-performance aspects of the production; for example, directing, writing, choreography, set/costume/lighting design, original music, stage crew, etc.

PENALTIES

- Failure to comply with any of the rules results in disqualification and non-eligibility for all awards, group and individual, except as follows: if a play does not adhere to the time limits, it may not receive an Outstanding Production award (that is, go on to the next level) but it may receive other awards.
- Problems arising from external and extraordinary circumstances may be taken into consideration by the adjudicator in collaboration with the Festival Coordinator.