

**ARTICLE XXVI  
Group Mime**

**Section 1. Entries.**

Clause 1. Each school will be entitled to enter three mime groups in the District Contest.

Clause 2. The mime group will consist of two through six students.

**Section 2. Selections/Materials.**

Clause 1. The participants will prepare their own mime, and will title it so that its title can be listed on the District Contest Program.

Clause 2. The mime title does not have to appear on the district eligibility sheet.

Clause 3. The title must be on a placard for purposes of introducing the mime. The time and place as well as decorations on the placard are optional.

Clause 4. If the placard is carried by an individual, the student must be counted as a character in the mime.

**Section 3. Length.** The length of the performance will be limited to seven minutes. Timing will begin with the first movement or music after the performers have been announced.

**Section 4. Preparation and Presentation.**

Clause 1. There may be physical contact in mime.

Clause 2. There must be a definite beginning and end.

Clause 3. No member of the group may leave the playing area during the performance nor may any member enter the performing area once the performance has begun.

Clause 4. All members of the group do not have to be interacting throughout the entire performance.

Clause 5. The performers may accompany the performance with recorded music without words. Technology to play music must be provided by the contestants. The machine may be operated by another person, not to be part of the mime and not to be wearing identifiable school apparel. No other sound effects or properties may be used. Six chairs must be provided by the contest manager or the participating school may provide their own six chairs and may be used as the performer sees fit.

Clause 6. No mime make-up is to be worn. Apparel must not convey characterization or personal identification.

Clause 7. The mime must be of such a nature that it can be presented in any room provided by the host school. No special lighting may be required. An easel for the placement of the placard must be provided by the host school or may be provided by the contestant.

**Section 5. Timing.** The Local Manager will appoint a timekeeper. No signal will be given until the expiration of the seven minutes, at which time the timekeeper will rise and say STOP. Contestants must stop immediately upon penalty of disqualification. (Article III, Section 6, By-Laws.)

**Section 6. Judging.** Judging will be based on acting effectiveness, creativity, body control, movement and ability of the group to convey its intended message.

**Section 7. Winners.**

Clause 1. The same idea or theme may be used in the State Contest.

Clause 2. A student who receives a Division I rating in Group Mime in the State Contest may participate in mime again.

## CASEBOOK

### Questions - Answers

1. Q. Do such deliberate sounds as stamping of feet, or snapping fingers constitute sound effects?  
A. Yes, and the performing group using such techniques may invite a disqualification.
2. Q. Is the mouthing of words permissible?  
A. With the exception of isolated single syllable words (oh, hi, yes, no, etc.). However, when more than one word is mouthed in sequence (such as "oh, no") this is not permissible. Also repeating of single syllable words creating dialogue is not permissible. It is the intention of the category to place the emphasis on bodily action while not discouraging the use of facial expressions.
3. Q. What determines if the placard is used as a prop?  
A. If it is used for any purpose but to introduce the time and place, it is a prop.
4. Q. Must mime present a story?  
A. No. An idea may be presented without a story line.
5. Q. Could apparel detract from the effectiveness of the mime and thereby not enhance the mime?  
A. Yes, if the apparel conceals bodily tension or movement.
6. Q. Must a large acting area be used for the mime to be effective?  
A. No, the illusion of movement can be created in a limited area, however, the performer should not be penalized for using the entire performance area.
7. Q. May a mat be used for a floor covering?  
A. Yes.
8. Q. Is one style of mime automatically preferable to any other?  
A. No, all styles are equally available to a mime team.
9. Q. Can the music for mime stop and start again?  
A. Yes. There may be lapses of silence between portions of music.
10. Q. Can the background music for mime come from more than one musical selection?  
A. Yes.
11. Q. Could a chair be used as another object (shopping cart, stroller) during the performance?  
A. Yes, however, some judges may consider such uses to be unnecessary to create the illusion.
12. Q. May the chairs be moved during the performance?  
A. Yes.
13. Q. Must the mime music begin with the performance?  
A. No, the music may start or stop at any point during the performance.
14. Q. May students adjust or use wearing apparel during the mime for characterization (i.e. put hands in pockets)?  
A. No, actions portraying use of pockets, adjusting ties, etc. should be mimed.
15. Q. When does timing begin for a mime performance?  
A. Timing will begin with the first movement or music after the performers have been announced.
16. Q. May the mime performance be choreographed to the music?  
A. Yes
17. Q. Can music with vocalizations but without lyrics be used?  
A. Yes, when the voice is used to replicate an instrument or create the wordless musical sounds (i.e. Humming, beat boxing, whistling or other musical vocalizations that do not use actual words).
18. Q. May a mime performance be performed without music?  
A. Yes
19. Q. What is allowed on the placard?  
A. The title is required, anything additional is allowed.