

SWIFT - Large Group All-State Presentation

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Remember, groups perform for three judges at state contests. Judges give ratings throughout the day that are posted online, in the gym, around the school, and on the comment sheets for performers: I, II, III, or IV (disqualification). The ratings are separate from All-State nominations.

How does a group qualify for All-State?

- At the end of the judging day at state competition, each judge independently and confidentially completes an all-state ballot. On the all-state ballot, the judge nominates entries he/she believes are worthy of performing at All-State. Judges can nominate as many or as few entries as they deem necessary. (The greatest number of nominations we saw in the SE district was 16 nominations, and the fewest was zero.)
- If an entry is nominated by at least two of the three judges from the center, that group will be an All-State group. Congratulations! This is very difficult to achieve!

How does a group become Performing All-Staters at Large Group?

- Each judge ranks his/her nominations for All-State on the All-State ballot; the group ranked at 1 is the group who the judge feels is most deserving of performing at All-State.
- The all-state committee takes these rankings and completes the mathematical formula (located in the front of the constitution) to determine who has the highest rankings when considering all three judges.
- Each category allows a certain number of performances at the All-State Festival. For example, only eight One-Act plays (2 per district) perform at All-State Festival. The highest ranked performances get to perform at All-State. The rest become "Non-performing All-State."

FAQ's

1. If my group earned straight Division I ratings from all three judges, will they be all-staters?
 - a. Not necessarily. Your group has to be nominated by at least two judges in order to be All-Staters. Many groups receive Division I ratings without having any nominations for All-State.
2. If my group earned straight Division I ratings from all three judges, is it safe to say that at least one of those judges rated our group as deserving of All-State?
 - a. No. Many groups receive Division I ratings without having any nominations for All-State.
3. My group received two Division I ratings, but the third judge gave them a Division II rating. Did the third judge ruin their chances of All-State?
 - a. Your group could still be All-Staters if they receive two nominations from the judges who gave Division I ratings. We have even heard of a group who became All-Staters with a I, I, and III rating at state competition. In this unique case, both judges who awarded Division I ratings nominated the group for All-State.
 - b. There are also safeguards through the mathematical formula if a judge abdicates from nominating at all. This protects a group as far as performing/nonperforming if there happened to be a judge who was too hard on all groups throughout the whole day.
4. If my group received one Division I rating and two Division II ratings at state, is there any chance of them becoming All-Staters anyway?
 - a. No, there is no chance. Even if the one judge who awarded a Division I rating had nominated them, they would not have a second nomination to make them All-Staters.

5. What if a judge ranks my group first, but no other judges ranked my group at all?
 - a. You are only all-staters if your group receives two nominations, so unfortunately, you will never know that the one judge thought you were best performance they saw all day. Please do not ask your all-state committee member if one of your performances received a nomination. They can not tell you this information; they are not even allowed to tell their fellow coaches.
6. Is All-State a conspiracy? Why isn't this process more transparent?
 - a. The process and formula for determining performing and non-performing is found in the front pages of your constitution.
7. Aren't the judges and all-state committee biased towards certain school districts? Some school districts always have SO MANY all-state nominations and it isn't fair!
 - a. Remember that all schools perform under codes so judges do not know what schools they are nominating. Additionally, the school name is not known by the all-state committee member until all of the all-state ballots have been tallied. Finally, at the state office, all-state committee members check the work from other districts to make sure nothing has been missed.
8. How big of a deal is All-State, really?
 - a. It's a VERY BIG DEAL! Until we were part of this committee, we never understood how much of an honor it is to be an all-stater, performing or non-performing. As an example, in Group Improv Iowa regularly has over 700 entries perform at districts, and of those, only 24 from the entire state get to perform at All-State. There are typically over 100 One Act Plays at districts in Iowa, and only 8 get to perform at All-State. All-State is a huge honor and should be celebrated, whether performing or non-performing.
9. Is Nonperforming All-State a big deal?
 - a. YES. It is SO DIFFICULT to become an all-stater. If we all had endless time and resources, everyone would perform at All-State Festival. However, it is not possible to have every group perform, which is why we have a performing and non-performing honor. If you treat Nonperforming as something to be celebrated, your kids will celebrate this too. They follow your lead!
10. How do I improve my chances of getting to All-State?
 - a. Take your speech kids to All-State Festival as spectators! There are amazing performances at All-State, and attending the festival with your team can inspire you and serve as models for the quality of performance required to reach this incredible honor.

There are a lot of misconceptions about getting to All-State. Share this information with your students, parents, and other coaches!