

ARTICLE IX

Acting

Section 1. Entries. Each school may enter three contestants in the District Contest.

Section 2. Selections. The selection(s) used will be such as normally falls within the generally understood meaning of acting material. It may be either humorous or dramatic or a combination of both. It may be of an original nature. The selection may be a monologue. A member school will not use material in this area which is identical to that used in any other individual event. All material must be memorized. The contestant may render the same selection in the District Contest and State Contest.

Section 3. Length. The selection will not exceed eight minutes.

Section 4. Preparation and Presentation.

Clause 1. A single chair may be used in any way a student deems necessary and appropriate.

Clause 2. Students must not costume. They may, however, adjust normal wearing apparel to enhance characterization (i.e. straightening tie, pushing glasses down on nose). Students may not use wearing apparel as a property (i.e. removing it and placing it somewhere in the room). Properties (other than the chair) will not be used.

Clause 3. Prompting of any kind will disqualify a contestant.

Section 5. Timing. The Local Manager will appoint a timekeeper who will use a timing device and indicate with timing cards the time as it elapses. At the end of the first minute of the speech, a seven will be held up, at the end of the second minute, a six will be held up and so on down the scale of numbers - 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 1/2 and 0. At the end of eight minutes, the timer will rise and say STOP. The speaker must stop at once or be subject to the penalty of disqualification. (Article III, Section 6, By-Laws).

Section 6. Judging. In rating the contestant, the judges will be instructed to observe the following criteria: choice of material, analysis of material, assimilation of material, projection of thought and emotion, use of bodily activity and use of vocal technique.

ARTICLE X Solo Musical Theatre

Section 1. Entries.

Clause 1. Each school will be entitled to enter three Solo Musical Theatre in the District Contest.

Section 2. Selections/Materials.

Clause 1. A member school will not use material in this area which is identical to that used in other individual events.

Clause 2. Each school will be responsible for securing performance rights.

ROYALTIES. It is the duty and responsibility of the director to secure appropriate production rights for all Solo Musical Theatre selections presented in contest productions, and is required whether or not admission is assessed. Performance permission for productions (as in the case of a school musical) is not license for using copyrighted musical material in portions or totally in contest presentation.

Clause 3. The actor will have a copy of their score if the score includes dialogue.

Section 3. Length. The length of the performance will be limited to ONE song no longer than 5 minutes.

Section 4. Preparation and Presentation.

Clause 1. The Solo Musical Theatre performance must be able to be presented in a normal classroom. One chair will be provided.

Clause 2. Students must not costume. They may, however, adjust normal wearing apparel to enhance characterization (i.e. straightening tie, pushing glasses down on nose). Students may not use wearing apparel as a property (i.e. removing it and placing it somewhere in the room). Properties (other than the chair) will not be used.

Clause 3. The contestants will utilize the skills of acting and singing, and/or dancing. All lyrics must be memorized.

Clause 4. The student will NOT give an introduction. The room chair will announce everything that's written on the comment sheet only.

Clause 5. The actor must remain in view of the judge(s) at all times.

Clause 6. Prompting will constitute a Division 4 rating.

Clause 7. The performers must accompany their performance with recorded music without words and back-up vocals. Sound effects in the accompaniment may be used if the sound is part of the original score. Technology to play music must be provided by the contestants. The machine may be operated by another student or coach, not part of the performance and not to be wearing identifiable school apparel. Students may sing short sections a cappella. Entire performance may be sung a cappella only if the original score was meant to be performed a cappella.

Clause 8. A brief sound check may be arranged with the door chair just prior to the performance.

Section 5. Timing. The Local Manager will appoint a timekeeper who will use a timing device and indicate with timing cards the time as it elapses. At the end of the first minute of the presentation, a four will be held up, at the end of the second minute, a three will be held up and so on down the scale of numbers- 2, 1, ½, and 0. At the end of five minutes, the timer will rise and say STOP. The contestant must stop immediately on penalty of disqualification. (Article III, Section 6, By-Laws.)

Section 6. Judging. Judging will be based on effective acting and singing, and/or dancing techniques and on the ability of the performer to convey material written for/adapted for presentation as a musical.

Section 7. Winners.

Clause 1. A performer with a Division 1 rating may compete in the State Contest. The same Musical Theatre selection must be used.

Clause 2. A performer winning Division 1 rating in the State Contest the preceding year may not use the same selection the next year.

CASEBOOK

Questions - Answers

1. Q. May we bring our own chair?
A. Yes, for safety purposes, a school may bring a standard chair that the performer is used to using.
2. Q. If normal wearing apparel suggests a character, could it invite disqualification?
A. Yes.
3. Q. May the performer use any part of the performance room except the floor?
A. Students should not use parts of the performance room that could be considered props, such as doors, desks, windows, walls, etc. Accidental touch does not mean **USED**.
4. Q. May a performance be done without musical accompaniment?
A. No, you must have musical accompaniment without words.
5. Q. May a performance have live musical accompaniment?
A. No, all accompaniment must be recorded/taped. Accompaniment may be just one instrument or a whole orchestra. You must have accompaniment, this event cannot be done without accompaniment.
6. Q. Must a cutting be from an established musical?
A. No, material may be drawn from forms such as scripts written for theater, poetry, fiction, film or standard popular songs. The selection may contain dialogue if it is a part of the original song. Only **ONE** song may be presented.
7. Q. Must the recorded music begin with the performance?
A. No, the music may start or stop at any time during the performance.
8. Q. Must you have dancing?
A. No, dancing would only be necessary if the cutting would require dancing to be effective.
9. Q. May we add dialogue to the Solo Musical Theatre selection?
A. No
10. Q. Does normal wearing apparel include shoes?
A. Yes
11. Q. May the selection be from a movie?
A. Yes.
12. Q. Is it okay to control or cue the music using a remote control?
A. Yes.
13. Q. May students wear specialty shoes?
A. Students may wear dance shoes for safety purposes. This does not include tap shoes.
14. Q. May a student use two or more songs for their presentation?
A. **NO**, only **ONE** song may be performed.
15. Q. May a medley of the musical be done in one song?
A. **NO**, only one song from the musical may be performed.
16. Q. May a student enter acting and solo musical theatre in the same contest?
A. Yes, they are two different events.
17. Q. Must the introduction come first?
A. Yes, the introduction **MUST** come first. The Room Chair will read the musical title, author and song title as listed on the comment sheet. The student will **NOT** give the introduction.
18. Q. Must the copy of the score/piece be in hard paper copy?
A. No, a digital copy of the score is acceptable.

CASEBOOK

Questions - Answers

1. Q. May a student add to or editorialize on news items the wirecopy provides?
A. No, this is not a contest in commentary or analyzation but rather a contest in announcing.
2. Q. Should the radio announcer stop the news presentation at once in order to read the “flash” news item?
A. No. It is suggested that the announcer finish the item and then read the flash item.
3. Q. Will the flash news item be handed to each contestant at the same time?
A. Yes. The Contest Manager will instruct the timer to hand the flash news item at the same time in each news presentation. The time may be changed from section to section. Judges should also be informed when the news flash will be handed to the contestant in a given section.
4. Q. May singing, sound effects, or musical phrase be used at any time during the radio broadcast?
A. Yes, they may be used only during the sign-in, commercial, or sign-off, but not during the news section. They must be vocally emitted.
5. Q. May a participant listen to previous speakers at the district and state level in this event?
A. Yes, but not in the same section.
6. Q. May a student assume a character or accent during the commercial?
A. Yes, but not during the news segment.
7. Q. Must a student be disqualified for not including the commercial in their packet?
A. Yes, but omission of other elements (international news, state/local news, weather, and sports) will not warrant a disqualification or lower a rating.
8. Q. What is the meaning of the “stop” card in Radio News?
A. The speaker must stop at once or be subject to disqualification.
9. Q. May a student bring their own timing device, e.g. cell phone, Ipad, Kindle, etc, into the performance room?
A. Yes.
10. Q. If there appears to be a mistake (i.e. typo) in the commercial, may the student ask the draw room chair for clarification?
A. Yes.
11. Q. Is it permissible for a student to bring in a prepared template with introductions and transitions?
A. Yes, sign-in and sign-off material is left to the discretion of the student and may be original.
12. Q. May a laptop/Ipad be brought into the prep room?
A. Yes.
13. Q. May students look up audio pronunciations of names or places on their personal electronic device during their prep time?
A. Yes. A personal listening device is encouraged to limit distraction.

ARTICLE XXIV Ensemble Acting

Section 1. Entries.

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

Clause 2. Ensemble Acting will consist of two through six students.

Section 2. Selections/Materials.

Clause 1. A member school will not use material in this area which is identical to that used in other large group events.

Clause 2. Each school will be responsible for securing performance rights. (See royalties, Page 13.)

Section 3. Length. The length of the performance will be limited to fifteen minutes.

Section 4. Preparation and Presentation.

Clause 1. The Ensemble Acting performance will be given on the stage where available or in front of a room. Seven uniform chairs and a table will be supplied. Contestants may use table/chairs provided or furnish their own.

Clause 2. Students must not costume. They may, however, adjust normal wearing apparel to enhance characterization (i.e. straightening tie, pushing glasses down on nose). Students may not use wearing apparel as a property (i.e. removing it and placing it somewhere in the room). Properties (other than seven chairs and a table) will not be used.

Clause 3. The contestants will utilize the skill of acting. All lines must be memorized.

Clause 4. The actor(s) may introduce the selection. This will be included as part of the performance time.

Clause 5. The actors must remain in the performance area at all times.

Clause 6. Prompting will constitute a Division IV rating.

Section 5. Timing. The Local Manager will appoint a timekeeper. No signal will be given until the expiration of fifteen minutes at which time a whistle signal will be used to end performance. The contestant must stop immediately on penalty of disqualification. (Article III, Section 6, By-Laws.)

Section 6. Judging. Judging will be based on effective speaking and acting techniques and on the ability of the group to convey material written for or adapted for presentation as a play or play cutting.

Section 7. Winners.

Clause 1. A group with a Division I rating may compete in the State Contest. The same Ensemble Acting script must be used.

Clause 2. A school winning Division I rating in the State Contest the preceding year may not use the same play or cutting the next year.

CASEBOOK Questions - Answers

1. Q. May we bring our own chair or chairs?
A. Yes. Teams can bring their own standard, uniform chairs.
2. Q. If normal wearing apparel suggests a character, could it invite disqualification?
A. Yes.
3. Q. May students use any part of the performance room except the floor?
A. Students should not use parts of the performance room that could be considered props, such as doors, desks, windows, walls, etc.
4. Q. May one student, using a script, perform in place of one ill, injured, or ineligible cast member with the understanding that the group's performance will receive "comments only" and no rating?
A. Yes, if the coach obtains approval from the State Office prior to the performance.
5. Q. Must the introduction come first?
A. No, the introduction can follow a preview/teaser.
6. Q. Does normal wearing apparel include shoes?
A. Yes
7. Q. May performers have contact with each other?
A. A performer may have contact with another performer including touching their hair or clothing, as, long as hair accessories or clothing is not removed or used as a prop.

ARTICLE XXX Musical Theatre

Section 1. Entries.

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

Clause 2. The cast of Musical Theatre will consist of between two and eight students.

Section 2. Selections/Materials.

Clause 1. A member school will not use material in this area which is identical to that used in other large group events.

Clause 2. Each school will be responsible for securing performance rights.

(See Royalties, Page 13.)

ROYALTIES. It is the duty and responsibility of the director to secure appropriate production rights for all Musical Theatre selections presented in contest productions, and is required whether or not admission is assessed. Performance permission for productions (as in the case of a school musical) is not license for using copyrighted musical material in portions or totally in contest presentation.

Section 3. Length. The length of the performance will be limited to 10 minutes.

Section 4. Preparation and Presentation.

Clause 1. The Musical Theatre performance must be able to be presented in a normal classroom. Nine uniform chairs and a table will be supplied. Contestants may use the table or a platform and nine uniform chairs provided or furnish their own.

Clause 2. Students must not costume. The students must wear shoes during the performance. They may, however, adjust normal wearing apparel to enhance characterization (i.e. straightening tie, pushing glasses down on nose). Students may not use wearing apparel as a property (i.e. removing it and placing it somewhere in the room). Properties (other than nine chairs and a table) will not be used.

Clause 3. The contestants will utilize the skills of acting and singing, and/or dancing. All lines/songs must be memorized.

Clause 4. The actor(s) may introduce the selection. This will be included as part of the performance time.

Clause 5. The actors must remain in the performance area at all times.

Clause 6. Prompting will constitute a Division IV rating.

Clause 7. The performers must accompany their performance with recorded music without words and back-up vocals. Sound effects in the accompaniment may be used if the sound is part of the original score. Technology to play music must be provided by the contestants. The machine may be operated by another student or coach, not part of the performance and not to be wearing identifiable school apparel. Students may sing short sections a cappella. Entire performance may be sung a cappella only if the original score was meant to be performed a cappella.

Clause 8. A brief sound check may be arranged with the door chair just prior to the performance.

Section 5. Timing. The Local Manager will appoint a timekeeper. No signal will be given until the expiration of 10 minutes at which time a whistle signal will be used to end performance. The contestant must stop immediately on penalty of disqualification. (Article III, Section 6, By-Laws.)

Section 6. Judging. Judging will be based on effective acting and singing, and/or dancing techniques and on the ability of the group to convey material written for or adapted for presentation as a musical or musical cutting.

Section 7. Winners.

Clause 1. A group with a Division I rating may compete in the State Contest. The same Musical Theatre script must be used.

Clause 2. A school winning Division I rating in the State Contest the preceding year may not use the same cutting the next year.

ARTICLE XXXVII Student Congress

Section 1. Entries.

Clause 1. Each member school may enter six members.

Clause 2. The entry fee will be twenty dollars (\$20) per member. If more than 120 entries are received in Student Congress, it will be divided into two separate pods and they will be divided by the numbers of entries starting with the largest schools and then going down the list. When the pod is at half, then the second pod will start. This will happen after all entries are received. If a school enters late, their entry will be placed in the pod that is within their enrollment.

Clause 3. Each school must provide a qualified judge for every six (or part thereof) entries. The judge must be available for all three sessions. If a school cannot provide a judge, the fee will be two hundred dollars (\$200). Students who are first year judges just out of high school will be allowed to judge if deemed qualified by the tournament manager. These judges may represent their own school or the IHSSA as a hired judge. A coach/school must contact the division manager to get the approval for this judge before they are allowed to use this student. If deemed qualified by the Tournament Manager, the judge furnished by the school may be assigned to other areas of competition.

Clause 4. Each member school will pay a "refundable" judges bond of \$200. This bond must be received by the State Office prior to the state tournament and accompany the tournament entry forms. The refund will occur after the completion of your school's judging obligations.

Section 2. Houses of Congress

Clause 1. The number of houses will be set by the Tournament Manager based upon the number of entries. Should entries fall to 20 or below the day of contest, one congress session will be held the first day and one session the second day. The six judges' ballots will be used to determine the awards. The top five speakers will receive awards. Each house will be considered a unicameral.

Clause 2. At the conclusion of Session 3, a student's total scores will be totaled from Sessions 1, 2 and 3. The highest rated students (generally the top 3 - 8 members in each house) will be assigned to the AWARDS HOUSE for the final session. The presiding officer will be appointed by tournament management.

Section 3. Each school planning on entering Student Congress must fill out an intent form from the State Office and submit it and at least two bills or resolutions to the State Office by November 15. The Bill(s) or Resolution(s) shall be suitable for the United States Congress and/or Iowa State Legislature (see Section 10 as to style). These bills will be read by a committee appointed by the Executive Director. This committee will then pick at least one bill from each school to be used at the State Tournament in preliminary sessions. From the pool of remaining bills and resolutions not selected for preliminary sessions, 6 - 8 of these will be selected for Session III for use in all houses. The Committee may provide up to five bills in addition to those provided by schools. A separate agenda will be set for each session. The bills will be sent by December 1 to the schools who have returned an "intent to enter" form.

Section 4. On-Line registration will be completed no later than Wednesday, three and one half weeks prior to the date of the tournament and the fees will be mailed to the State Office.

Section 5. Each house will have judges assigned to it. One of the judges will be designated as the parliamentarian. The judges will be re-assigned each round. Additional judges will be assigned to the AWARDS HOUSE for the fourth session.

Section 6. Points.

Clause 1. At the end of each session, each of the judges will award points for each member of the house (including the presiding officer). The judge will also assign a rank for the first through the tenth member.

Clause 2. For members the points will be awarded on the basis of quality of arguments, quality of evidence, refutation skills, clarity and persuasiveness, attitude toward colleagues and presiding officer, knowledge and skill in use of parliamentary procedure, and general leadership skills. The Session 1 PO gets credit for running the meeting and/or points equal to two speeches.

Clause 3. For presiding officers the points will be awarded on the basis of attitude toward members, knowledge and skill in use of parliamentary procedure, and general behavior.

Section 7. At the beginning of each session elections will be held in each house for the presiding officer, except for the Awards House where the presiding officer will not be a student. If there is no member in the house qualified to be a presiding officer, the parliamentarian may preside upon approval by a member of the Debate Committee. Seating charts for all members will be determined by lottery upon entering the chamber.

Section 8. Appropriate awards will be given to all members of the AWARDS HOUSE and House B. Certificates will be awarded to the top members of the other houses.

Section 9. Evidence and Use of Electronic Devices

Clause 1. Members are responsible for the validity of all evidence they read in the session. Members must, at a minimum, orally deliver the title of the source, the author's name and dates associated with the source. Complete citations for each piece of evidence introduced in the session must be available if the session for verification if requested by a judge. Falsification or deliberate misuse of evidence may result in being disqualified. Evidence may be original research by the member or that which is procured from a third source such as a debate research service.

Clause 2. Contestants may use electronic devices (including laptop computers, tablets, and/or cell phones) to access the internet during Congress sessions with the following conditions:

- a. Computers or other electronic devices may not be used to receive information for competitive advantage from non-competitors (coaches, assistant coaches, other non-competing students) inside or outside of the room in which the competition occurs.
- b. Internet access may be used to retrieve files, exchange evidence and/or arguments, research arguments, and communication with the other participant in the round. These electronic device guidelines do not limit communication between participants during the round.

Clause 3. If students are suspected of violating these rules a protest must be filed with the Contest Manager prior to the start of the next round. If the student is found in violation of the rule, they will lose the round in question.

Section 10. Following are some basic parliamentary rules and procedures. Any question of procedure not covered by these will be ruled on according to Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

Clause 1. All voting in the Student Congress will be done only by those members in the chambers at the time of the voting. Absentees and/or abstentions will not be counted in determining the results of the vote. On the final vote on a bill or amendment to the main motion, and in all cases where other than a majority is required for passage, a hand vote should be taken. For other types a voice vote may be used. A division of the house may be demanded by any two members on any question on which a voice vote has been taken. The call must be made before another motion has been placed before the assembly.

Clause 2. Bills and resolutions will be considered in the order in which they appear on the agenda as set by the tournament director, unless the rules are suspended by members in a given chamber by unanimous consent or a simple majority vote. Once the agenda has been accepted or set by the members, a motion to consider a bill out of sequence requires a suspension of the rules and a two-thirds vote.

Clause 3. A member should not ask for the floor unless they wish to oppose the views of the preceding speaker. Debate must alternate from affirmative to negative. If no one wishes to oppose the preceding speaker, the presiding officer may recognize a speaker upholding the same side.

Clause 4. The author of the bill or resolution, or someone appointed by the author, will be recognized to open the debate, but thereafter they will take their chance with the rest of the members for further speaking opportunity. No special privilege will be given to close the debate. All speeches are limited to 3 minutes. The authorship speeches and First Negative Speech are followed by two minutes of cross-examination, which cannot be amended. All other speeches are followed by one minute of cross examination, which can't be amended.

Clause 5. Once a bill or resolution is taken up on the floor of the assembly, it no longer belongs to the author, but to the group. It, therefore, is not correct to ask the author what the bill (or part of the bill) means. It means what it says, and the group is not obligated to accept the author's interpretation.

Clause 6. The motion of the previous question should not be over-worked. As long as someone has something to say the opportunity to speak should remain.

Clause 7. There is a right way and a wrong way to speak in a legislative assembly. By studying parliamentary procedure a student can learn to use the correct language.

Clause 8. When referring to another member, use the following form: "Representative..." or "the Representative from...."

VIDEOCASTING (EXPERIMENTAL 2025-2026)

Section 1: Entries.

Clause 1: Each school will be entitled to enter one to three contestants in the District Contest.

Section 2: Selections/Materials.

Clause 1: The content of the videocast is to be written by the contestant. The video will be on any subject appropriate for a videocast and **MUST** be presented in a digital format.

Clause 2: The material may market, advertise, or promote a product, person, event, organization, or idea or bring awareness to a particular need.

Clause 3: Special effects, transitions, music, etc., should enhance the performance, should be used thoughtfully, and should not be the focus of the presentation.

Clause 4: May re-record for the state contest using new, the same, or edited material.

Clause 5: Material used for this category can not be used for another entry.

Clause 6: Materials used or the manner of presentation deemed by the local contest judge(s) to be obscene or disruptive may receive lower ratings or, in some cases, may result in disqualification.

Section 3: Length. The video will be limited to five minutes.

Section 4: Preparation and Presentation.

Clause 1: The participant will edit their video based on the contestant's chosen style. While various styles are appropriate, there should remain an aspect of discovery.

Clause 2: Entries will be limited to a five-minute presentation, recorded in any environment.

Clause 3: The performance will be viewed by a judge. The participant or school representative will bring a projector, media source, and speakers. The host school will not provide internet access; however, it will provide a projection surface.

Clause 4: All aspects of the videocast may be edited at any time.

Section 5. Timing. Timing for the videocast will begin with the first spoken word, visual image, or music/sound heard and will conclude with the last spoken word, visual image, or music/sound heard.

Section 6. Judging. Judging will be based on content and delivery. Content is to be judged on organization and development of material, transitions, and engagement (element of discovery). Delivery will be judged on both oral and physical presentational skills, including characterization, voice quality, vocal rate, emphasis, pronunciation, facial expressions, and camera presence.

CASEBOOK Questions--Answers

1. Q. What is videocasting?
A. Videocasting refers to a unique, engaging, and often visually appealing video designed to capture attention, teach concepts, and foster a following.
2. Q. What would be appropriate for videocasting?
A. It could be a review of a product, a tutorial on something (studying for a test), a travel or event recap, finding magic in the mundane (a humorous take on school life), completing a mission (you found keys, and your mission is finding who they belong to), opening up on a personal aspect (dealing with diabetes), a videocasting-style storytelling; event coverage or "on-the-spot" reporting; a guided tour of a location or space; a creative product unboxing; behind-the-scenes-look at an activity, event, or process, etc. The material may market, advertise, or promote a product, person, event, organization, or idea or bring awareness to a particular need.

3. Q. Does the contestant need to be present at the contest?
A. Each school entering must have a school representative at the contest to present the videocast. (Coach and/or student)
4. Q. Can more than one camera or a video mixer be used to enhance the videocast?
A. Yes.
5. Q. Could a contestant focus on a local item of interest for the videocast?
A. A local interest issue could certainly be appropriate; however, the film will bear no school identification.
6. Q. Must the content of the entry be serious in nature?
A. No. The genre is up to the discretion of the performer.
7. Q. Is there a time minimum?
A. No.
8. Q. Can we change and edit our videocast between districts and state?
A. Yes.
9. Q. May special effects, transitions, and music be used to enhance the performance?
A. Yes
10. Q. May we use clips from other sources (ie: TV, films, and video)?
A. The contestant is the focal point of the videocast (either seen in the video or heard in a voiceover); however, video or photos could be used to enhance the editing process.
11. Q. May we use another person's idea, short story, or videocasting, for our script idea?
A. Yes, but it must not be a direct copy. Use the spirit not the direct content.
12. Q. Must the student always be in front of the camera?
A. No.
13. Q. Can anyone else be in the video besides the student?
A. Yes, as long as the presenter is the focus, crowd shots are allowed.
14. Q. Can the student interview someone?
A. No. However, people can be in the background of a shot.