



Georgia Theatre Conference

Columbus, GA - October 2023

GEORGIA THEATRE CONFERENCE MIDDLE SCHOOL COMPETITION – OFFICIAL RULES

The rules for the Georgia Theatre Conference Middle School One Act Festival reflect the rules of the GHSA and SETC competition rules with changes taken into account for the middle school student and time constraints of this festival. Theater for Youth Chair determines Festival rules. Any inquiries as to the rule must be submitted to the TFY Chair in writing.

1. **Student Eligibility:** GTC Middle School One Act Festival is open to any middle grades school in the state of Georgia. Because some districts rank their middle grades differently than others, for the purpose of this Festival, a middle school student is considered to be students from 5th grade to 8th grade only. Academies, private schools, charter schools and public schools of middle grades/junior high school classification are welcome to register.
2. **Material Eligibility:** Schools may choose to enter an excerpt or abridgement of a play as their One Act Play selection. Schools may not compete with a play or musical that was produced or workshopped in the previous school year or previous two summers. Schools found in violation of this rule will be disqualified from competition.
3. **Music:** Schools choosing to enter musical productions shall not use a reproduction of the original soundtrack as part of the presentation. Musicals may use the official accompaniment track provided by their licensed publisher (example, MTI Broadway Jr. Performances should use the tracks provided by MTI from their resource package.) Sound effects, background music, non-lip-synced music, historical sound bites, and instrumental music is allowed.
4. **Licensing:** Each school assumes full responsibility for royalties and any other limitations on the play and production material that is selected.
5. **Production Materials:** Each school is responsible for its own production materials. Any technical equipment brought by a participating school (speakers, monitors, lights, projectors, cords, ect) are also considered production materials and are subject to the same rules.
6. **Timing:** Each school is given 45 minutes to set-up, perform, and take-down its presentation. The official time will be kept by an assigned adult timekeeper.
7. **Time Penalties:** The adult timekeeper will record times and provide them to the lead judge at the end of the competition, after all the judges have completed scoring the plays. Any school that exceeds its time allotment will be penalized two (2) points for each fifteen (15) second period or portion thereof per judge.
8. **The Space:** Only free-standing set pieces may be used.

- A. Schools are not to use EXCESSIVELY LARGE or COMPLICATED set pieces that take a long time to unload and assemble, etc. This is an acting competition - not a set competition. Keep sets simple.
 - B. The time used to set-up and take-down set pieces is counted in the time of the production. Any debris and confetti must be swept up. Judges may extend timekeeping grace to productions that inadvertently and unintentionally leave small debris in the playing space. Every effort must be made to clear the stage in a timely manner.
 - C. Each play will be allotted an equal amount of time for a stage walkthrough and set up (bringing their materials from their 10x10 square to the go lines for their performance, familiarizing technicians with the boards, familiarizing actors with the stage). If they are not set up at the end of that interval, timing of their play begins and counts towards their 45-minute limit.
 - D. No part of any setting may be attached to any part of the stage, curtains, draperies, or other existing equipment of the host school.
 - E. All production materials must be stored in a 10x10 free standing area in the backstage area. All items must fit in this area to keep the backstage area clear from clutter and safe for all students performing. If an item does not fit in this holding area, it is not allowed to go onstage.
 - F. All set pieces must be placed behind the "go" lines in the Strike Area on stage. These lines shall be placed at the wing line on stage right and stage left as well as two optional lines upstage (at mid-stage traveler and back traveler). Schools must notify the timekeeper of which upstage line they intend to use. The space upstage of the selected go line will be considered part of the strike area for that production. No portion of the Strike Area holding set prior to the production may be used as playing space. Areas accessible to the audience in the house may be used as playing space once time begins. Before time is stopped, all pieces must be moved off the playing space to the strike area.
 - G. the use of spike tape is allowed. Spike tape may be placed during the school's walkthrough. Striking spike tape does not count toward the allotted production time.
9. **Safety:** No flame of any type can be used, including candles. Real weapons of any kind, such as a sword or knife, etc., cannot be used. Use of simulated weapons cannot be in violation of any local board of education policy of the participating school or the host site. Violation of this rule will result in disqualification (zero tolerance rule).
10. **Neutrality:** Plays are to be announced by the order of appearance number or the title of the play rather than by school name.
11. **Adult Participation:** Only eligible students are allowed in the playing space during play performance. Instrument placement must be outside the playing space if an adult is playing. Adults may assist in loading and unloading of the production only prior to starting time and once time has stopped. Adults are permitted to operate sound and lights during the production; but this will result in ineligibility for any technical awards.

12. **Appropriateness:** Principals must review the school's play and sign the statement on the "One Act Play Information Sheet" stating that the presentation is in good taste for middle school students and is acceptable for the morals of that community.
13. **Amplification:** The use of "body mics" is not allowed. Area mics, if present in the space, will be turned off for all productions.
14. **Scoring and Recording:** Score sheets can be found on the web page. No photography or videotaping is allowed in One Act Play competition.