



Georgia Theatre Conference

Columbus, GA - October 2023

GEORGIA THEATRE CONFERENCE MIDDLE SCHOOL COMPETITION – SUMMARY OF 2023 RULE CHANGES

- Description changed to reflect the festival's role in preparing students for competition in the Lynn Woody (GHSA) and Ray Horne (SETC) competition.
- Previous references to the stage used a variety of terms. They now use the term "playing space".
- The term "presentation" is updated to "production".
- References to sets/props/costumes have been updated to "production materials" to include any other materials a production may be bringing into the space and onto the stage.
- Titles have been added to each rule to assist in understanding and interpretation for new participants.
- Rule 5 clarifies that all technical equipment brought by a school is considered production material.
- Rule 8b updated to allow grace at the middle school level for inadvertent spills/debris. Grace is at the discretion of the judges.
- Rule 8c updated to specify an "equal" amount of time for each school. This provides the festival with scheduling flexibility.
- Rule 8f is updated for two purposes. 1) to ensure schools identify the difference between their strike and playing space when optional upstage lines are in use to avoid any confusion with the timekeeper. 2) Clarify that the house may be used as a playing space once time begins.
- Rule 8g is created to clarify the use of spike tape for the middle school competition.
- Rule 11 updates the word "piano" to "instruments" to be inclusive of any instrument played by an adult for a production.
- Rule 11 is also expanded to rule on technical operation by adults during a performance. Boards are outside of the playing space, so they may be operated by adults. This was always the case, but it is now clearly defined.
- Rule 13 rules on technical equipment and microphones. The rule regarding body mics was added in 2022. That rule is now clarified to include area microphones.