

**ONE-ACT PLAY &
TECHNICAL THEATRE
HANDBOOK
2024-25**

**South Dakota
High School Activities Association**

Direct All Correspondence to:

SDHSAA

PO Box 1217

Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Telephone: (605) 224-9261

FAX: (605) 224-9262

Website: <http://www.sdhsaa.com>

Review information in the General Speech Handbook for regulations pertaining to all speech events.

REGULATIONS FOR DRAMA CONTESTS AND FESTIVALS IMPORTANT DATES AND INFORMATION

<u>THEATRE DESIGN</u>	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Theatre Design Registration Form			
Set Design	December 20	December 20	December 20
Costume Design	December 20	December 20	December 20
Marketing	December 20	December 20	December 20
 <u>ONE-ACT PLAYS</u>			
First Practice	Not Restricted	Not Restricted	Not Restricted
One-Act “Intent” Form Due	November 15	November 15	November 15
First Allowable Competition (Monday Week 28)	January 13	January 12	January 11
Class “A” & “B” Region Contests			
1st Week (Week 29)	January 20-23	January 19-22	January 18-21
Online Form due*	January 10	January 9	January 8
2nd Week (Week 30)*	January 27-30	January 26-29	January 25-28
Online Form due*	January 17	January 16	January 15
Floor Plan & Lighting Chart Send to Region Chair	Within 48 hours after online form.	Within 48 hours after online form.	Within 48 hours after online form.
Class “AA” State Festival Entry			
Online Forms due*	January 17	January 16	January 15
Class “AA”, “A” & “B” State Festival (Thursday-Saturday, Week 31)	February 6-8 Brookings	February 5-7 RC Central HS	February 4-6 Mitchell

TYPES OF PLAYS TO BE PERFORMED

	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Class “B” Plays	<i>Director’s Choice</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>
Class “A” Plays	<i>Director’s Choice</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>
Class “AA” Plays	<i>Director’s Choice</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>

***NOTE: LATE ENTRY FEE:** Entries submitted after the deadline date will be assessed a \$50.00 late entry fee.

FAILURE TO SUBMIT “INTENT” FORM: Following the November “Intent to Participate” Form submission deadline, Class “B” & “A” schools will be assigned to a region for one-act play competition. Class “A” & “B” schools not returning the “Intent” form by the deadline will not be assigned to a region. Class “AA” schools not submitting the “Intent” form by the deadline will not be assigned a State Festival performance time slot. Late submission will result in being assigned any remaining time periods.

MANDATORY ONE-ACT PLAY RULES MEETING DATES:

Approximate date available online – August 15, 2024

Date to be completed – October 1, 2024

CHAPTER 1 – ONE-ACT PLAY REGULATIONS

ARTICLE I - SCHOOL CLASSIFICATION, PLACEMENT, AND SEASON

Section 1. There shall be separate one-act play contests for Class “AA”, Class “A” and Class “B” high schools. The following enrollment classifications will be used:

Class “AA” - A.D.M. enrollment of 450 and above

Class “A” - A.D.M. enrollment of 90 up to 450

Class “B” - A.D.M. enrollment below 90

All Class “A” and Class “B” schools declaring their intent to participate in the program shall compete in the contests preliminary to the State Festival.

Section 2. Average Daily Membership enrollment figures from grades 9 through 11 shall be used for purposes of classification. Classification is for a two-year time period with each reclassification period beginning in years that end in 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9.

Section 3. INTENT TO PARTICIPATE. It is a school’s responsibility to file its “Intent to Participate” in the One-Act Play program. The “Intent to Participate” form can be found in the *Bound Area at www.sdhsaa.com* . **The “Intent” form is due by November 15.** If a school’s “Intent Form” is submitted after the due date, it will be assigned to the closest region where the impact of an additional school would not create a region too large to adequately hold a region contest as compared to the size of other regions. The policy of placing a school in the “nearest available region” will apply only if the “nearest” region to which the school might be assigned would not be impacted by the previously listed criteria. Once a school is assigned to a region, the school will remain with that region for the One-Act season (even if circumstances would create a vacancy at a region nearer to the school (therefore, a region with a school assigned to it will not be negatively impacted by the school being re-assigned to a different region).

Section 4. CLASS “A” & “B” ASSIGNMENT TO DISTRICTS AND REGIONS. Class “A” and Class “B” schools, after declaring their intent to participate in the program, shall be assigned to a district or region. The district/region assignments will be announced around the first week of December.

1. Class “A” is divided into six regions. And Class “B” is divided into eight regions.

2. Region numbers will be evaluated to determine whether further adjustments are needed.

Section 5. BEGINNING OF COMPETITION. All Class “A” and Class “B” schools shall begin competition at the district contest level when the number of schools participating in the program make necessary the formation of districts. Otherwise, the schools shall begin competition in the region contests as determined by the Assistant Executive Director and the members of the Advisory Committee. All Class “AA” schools will begin competition at the State Festival.

Section 6. ONE PLAY PER SCHOOL. Each school shall be permitted to enter only one play in the region contest or State Festival.

Section 7. LENGTH OF SEASON. One-Act Play contest season: Monday of Week 28 (unless a holiday) through the first weekend in February (week 31). **NOTE:** There is no restriction for the beginning of practice. Practice can begin anytime.

ARTICLE II-MANAGEMENT OF CONTESTS

Section 1. DISTRICT AND REGION COMMITTEES. Class “A” and Class “B” district and region contests shall be under the management of district and region committees respectively. The advisory committee shall appoint chairpersons for these committees.

1. If district contests are held, the district chairperson shall appoint at least two additional committee members from other schools in the district.

2. In addition to the chairman, the region committee shall consist of at least two committee members (i.e., one-act play directors or the district chairpersons).

3. When districts are not necessary, each region chairman shall appoint at least two additional committee members from other schools in the region.

Section 2. REGION CONTEST STARTING TIME. The SDHSAA Board of Directors has mandated that Region One-Act Play Contests cannot be scheduled to begin any earlier than 9:00 a.m.

Section 3. STATE FESTIVAL. The State Festival shall be under the direct supervision of the Assistant Executive Director in charge of the speech activity, with the aid of the members of the Advisory Committee at the State Festival. No admission fee is charged at the State Festival.

Section 4. DUTIES OF DISTRICT/REGION & STATE COMMITTEES. The committee for each district or region shall be responsible for selecting the contest site, setting the contest date (within the limits prescribed by the SDHSAA), and for obtaining the contest judges. Each district/region committee shall hold a random drawing in advance of the contest before a Notary Public to determine the order of performance for the contest. The copy of the official list for performance order is to be notarized and available for inspection upon request. The SDHSAA Speech Advisory Committee shall assume these functions for the State Festival.

Section 5. CONTEST ENTRY FORM. It is the school's responsibility to submit its contest entry form for the district or region contest (for Class "A" and "B" schools) or the State Festival (for Class "AA" schools) by the entry deadline. All entry forms must be electronically submitted on the SDHSAA website. **Any school whose entry form is not electronically submitted by the due date, will be assessed a \$50.00 late fee.**

Section 6. FLOOR PLAN FOR PLAY TO BE SENT TO CONTEST CHAIRMAN. Class "A" and "B" schools that advance to the State Festival are required to submit a floor plan for their play to the site host. Floor plans do NOT need to be submitted to Region contest chairs.

Section 7. WITHDRAWAL FROM REGION CONTEST. When a school finds it necessary to WITHDRAW from the region contest, notice must be given to the contest chairperson **AND** the SDHSAA Assistant Executive Director. **Notice must be received on or before December 1.** Failure to supply such notice of withdrawal makes the school responsible for its prorated share of the actual expenses of the contest. If a school finds itself unable to give notice of withdrawal before the deadline because of weather conditions, the illness of contestants, or some other act of God, release from this responsibility may be obtained by filing a report of the circumstances with the Executive Director of the Association.

Section 8. TIME LIMITS.

1. **Region Contests.** The time limit for each play entered in the contest will have a maximum time of 45 minutes to set up, perform and strike the show. Any production that exceeds 45 minutes shall be disqualified and will not be eligible to advance to the State Festival and no one in the cast will be eligible to receive acting awards. The 45-minute time for a production will begin when the cast and crew for the show are given instructions that they can go on stage. At the end of 45 minutes, all set pieces must be off the stage, and the stage must be cleaned and ready for the next production. Under no circumstances shall the "45-Minute Time Rule" be waived.
 - a) At the region level only, groups may be permitted up to 15 minutes of time on stage, prior to their performance time, in order to become acclimated to the stage. No presetting of scenery or lighting will be permitted during this time. This allotted time is to be determined by the contest coordinator and is only permitted on the day of the contest. Prior to the day of the region contest, schools may make arrangements with the host site to rehearse on their stage, if the venue is available.
2. **State Festival.** The SDHSAA Assistant Executive Director responsible for Fine Arts or a designee shall serve as the timekeeper for all State Festival productions. All State Festival productions will have a maximum time of 45 minutes to set up, perform and strike their show. Any production that exceeds 45 minutes shall be disqualified and will not be eligible for receiving "Superior Play" or any individual or ensemble acting awards. The 45-minute time for a production will begin when the cast and crew for the show are given instructions that they can go on stage. At the end of 45 minutes, all set pieces, cast and crewmembers must be off the stage and the stage has been cleaned and ready for the next production.

Section 9. ADVANCEMENT TO STATE FESTIVAL.

1. Class "A" Plays. The number of Class "A" plays that will advance from the Region Contest to the State Festival will be two plays from each Region Contest.
2. Class "B" Plays. The number of Class "B" plays that will advance from the Region Contest to the State Festival will be two plays from each Region Contest.

Section 10. VIDEO TAPING, AUDIO RECORDING AND FLASH PICTURES. Video-recording, audio recording and the use of flash cameras during a performance are prohibited at all levels of competition. The video-recording and audio recording of most of the performances would be a violation of copyright laws. The use of flash photography is a distraction to the performers as well as others in the audience.

Section 11. SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS. It is the expectation of the SDHSAA that directors will supervise their students at Regional and State competition. Directors are also expected to remain with their students when away from the premises of the competition.

ARTICLE III-EXPENSES

Section 1. APPORTIONMENT OF EXPENSES.

1. **CHAIRPERSON STIPEND.** The Chairperson for region contests will be paid a stipend of \$50.00 plus \$10.00 for each participating play. The amount of the stipend will be added to each school's contest entry expenses.
2. In region contests the surplus or deficit resulting from the contest shall be pro-rated among the participating schools. The Chairperson's stipend and other expenses of the chairperson shall be considered a part of the contest expenses. The other expenses may include such items as: postage, phone calls, rent of a theatre for the contest (if not held in the host school), and other related expenses for the operation of the contest. Other than the Chairperson's stipend, the expenses should not include personal expenses of the chairperson or committee members. **NOTE:** The Region chairperson is required to provide an itemized accounting of all expenses any time that the expenses exceed \$50.00
3. Any school refusing to pay its share of the expenses of the region contest shall be automatically suspended from the Association, and no member in the Association shall be permitted to compete in any contest where the suspended school is a competitor. Suspension automatically ends with the payment of the obligation.
4. **One-Act Regions will pay each hired judge a minimum of \$175, and no more than \$250. Regions will reimburse judge mileage at \$0.51 per mile. If lunch is not provided for judges, regions must pay \$14 to each judge for a meal allowance.**

Section 2. ONE-ACT PLAY PARTICIPATION FEES.

1. Class "A" and Class "B" regional contest fees will be each school's share of the pro-rated contest expenses and chairperson stipend. All Class "A" and Class "B" pro-rated expenses are to be paid at the time of registration at the contest.
2. Class "A" and Class "B" schools will pay no pro-rated expenses when participating at the State Festival.

Section 3. PRODUCTION EXPENSES. Each school shall be responsible for any expenses incurred by its production such as royalty fees.

Section 4. REGION CONTEST RESULTS REPORT.

1. SDHSAA policy requires each region chairperson to submit a copy of the "Region Contest Results Report" to the SDHSAA by 10:00 a.m. the day following the region contest.
2. A \$50.00 late fee will be assessed to Region One-Act Play chairpersons whose "Region Contest Results Report" has not arrived at the SDHSAA office by 10:00 a.m. the day following the region contest.

ARTICLE IV – ONE-ACT PLAY PROHIBITIONS

Section 1. COMPLIANCE WITH STATE LAW. All performances must be in compliance with all laws of the State of South Dakota. Failure to comply will result in the forfeiture of all awards by the offending school.

Section 2. POSSESSION, USE, OR BURNING OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS IS PROHIBITED. Play directors are reminded that the South Dakota Codified Laws makes illegal the possession or consumption of tobacco or smokeless tobacco by a minor (under the age of 18) (see-SDCL 26-10-20, SDCL 26-10-21 & SDCL 26-10-23). Also, SDCL 22-36-2 prohibits the burning of tobacco products on stage of a theater if the stage has not been designated as an area for smoking.

Section 3. USE OF REAL FIREARMS ON STAGE IS PROHIBITED. Play directors are also reminded that section 13-32-7 of the school law prohibits the use of firearms (real guns including starter pistols and air guns) on a stage for any reason. There are enough realistic looking replicas and other toy guns on the market to serve as props. (See SDCL 13-32-7).

Section 4. THE USE OF LIVE FLAME OR FIREWORKS WITH ONE-ACT PLAYS. The use of any live flame or fireworks that are ignited either by flame or electrically is prohibited. However, products such as flash cotton, flash paper and snaps are allowed. (*Adopted: June, 2009*)

Section 5. USE OF THE FLY SYSTEM. Use of the fly system is prohibited at Region Contest and the State Festival.

Section 6. USE OF STROBE LIGHTING. Use of strobe lighting is prohibited at Region Contest and the State Festival.

ARTICLE V – PERFORMERS

Section 1. STUDENT ELIGIBILITY. The SDHSAA Board of Directors determined that “Students in grades 7-12 may participate in region or state SDHSAA One-Act Play activities.”

ARTICLE VI-SELECTION OF PLAYS

Section 1. CONTEST PLAYS SELECTED. Plays used in competition may be selected at the discretion of the director. They may be written as one-acts or may be cuttings from longer plays. In choosing the contest play the director should pick a play with literary merit. The play selected should not offend the moral standards of the community nor be in bad taste. Directors will be required to complete the Administrative Verification form and it must be available upon request at region and state competitions.

Directors should be especially sensitive to the creation of scenes which depict situations of questionable taste or involve the use of offensive language, including cursing or profanity. Audiences at contests will be quite diverse and involve varying standards of community acceptance in regards to moral issues.

Article VII, Section 4 creates a penalty for plays that “offend the moral standards of the community” or are in “bad taste.” Judges will be instructed that they are to rate and/or rank a play lower if, in their opinion, the cast did not abide by this regulation.

Section 2. PERFORMANCE RIGHTS AND ROYALTY FEES. It is the responsibility of the local school to secure all rights to perform materials, including payment of royalties and rights to use any music that is performed. Proof of satisfaction of royalty obligations shall be available upon request at all levels of competition. NOTE: The “Proof” can be a photocopy of a performance license, a photocopy of an invoice showing the royalty cost plus a photocopy of the payment check, a photocopy from a play catalogue listing that the play is either free royalty or in the public domain, or if written by an individual other than the director and/or the cast, a statement granting the school permission to perform the play. If the play is written by the director and/or cast this must be clearly noted under the “Authorship” on the entry form.

Section 3. TYPE OF PLAYS. All participating schools can choose any play genre for their production.

Section 4. TECHNICAL LIMITS.

1. Directors are urged to select plays that do not require elaborate sets. The emphasis should be placed on the acting and interpretation of the script, not on how fancy a set can be built. Scenery shall not be considered when determining Superior Play awards. Schools are urged to exercise moderation in the design and construction of scenery for contest one-act plays. Scenery and lighting should not be employed which requires an excessive amount of time to set up, nor should scenery be so massive or lighting so complicated as to be unreasonable in the amount of space and time required for its use at the contest.
2. During the region contest and the State Festival, all schools will be given 45 minutes total time to set up, perform and strike their production.
3. At all levels of competition, schools are prohibited from pre-sets of either scenery or lighting on the stage before their allotted time on the stage. Students are permitted to test the lighting board immediately prior to the start of their performance.
4. If schools need the site host to provide a light board operator, they must make this request when submitting the region entry form. If no request is made, it is the school’s responsibility for running lights and sound at all levels of competition.

Section 5. COSTUMES AND PROPERTIES. Costumes and properties may be used as desired. Costumes, personal properties, and unusual stage sets and effects must be provided by the participating schools.

Section 6. USE OF MUSIC. An actor may accompany himself/herself, another actor or actors, on stage with a musical instrument. If some special musical effect is needed on stage in a play, the director should contact the SDHSAA office in Pierre for final approval before using the play in a contest. Schools must obtain permission/licensing from music publishers if recorded, copyrighted music will be used.

ARTICLE VII-JUDGES AND JUDGING

Section 1. SELECTION OF JUDGES FOR DISTRICT AND REGION CONTEST. Judges for district and region contests shall be selected by the committee supervising these contests. Three judges must be used. No person connected with any of the schools represented in the contest shall be selected to serve as a judge.

Section 2. SELECTION OF JUDGES FOR THE STATE FESTIVAL. The Speech Advisory Committee shall select the three acting judges and one technical theatre judge for each class at the State Festival. The judging pool will be recruited and asked to apply to the Speech Advisory Committee for consideration into the judging pool. The requirements include: each judge should have experience at the collegiate or professional level; they should possess a personality that will assure giving constructive criticism and encouragement to the contestants; they must evaluate her/his judging competencies carefully and indicate major and secondary areas of competency and preference; they should possess a vocabulary that will make it possible for her/him to record her/his impressions and suggestions clearly and concisely; and, they must have a background or experience sufficient to serve as an effective adjudicator (e.g., judging experience). This pool of judges, once formed, will be rotated through each class and a list of alternate judges will be rotated into the yearly judging pool to allow new judges to enter the pool each year. State Festival judges will be paid out of the funds of the South Dakota High School Activities Association.

****All Fine Arts judges must register as a "Fine Arts Official" on the SDHSAA website.***

Section 3. JUDGE CONDUCT & INTEGRITY. Individuals selected to serve as a One-Act Play Region Contest judge or State Festival judge are expected to maintain the highest standards of ethical conduct and integrity. These standards include:

1. Making decisions based upon the rules for One-Act Play contests.
2. Avoiding judging situations in which the judge could have a conflict of interest.
3. Judges shall arrive at their decisions independently from other judges and individuals.
4. Judges shall not consult with one another until their ballots are submitted to the contest management.
5. Judges shall direct any questions regarding contest procedure or interpretation of contest regulations to the chairperson and committee conducting the district, region or state contest.
6. Inappropriate conduct by a judge would include direct or implied recruitment of students at the time of the contest (including asking students to consider attending a particular collegiate institution). **NOTE:** This does not prevent follow-up letters and contacts after the contest.

Section 4. JUDGING THE PLAYS.

1. **District/Region Rankings.** In district and region contests, the judges shall rank the plays 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and all others 6.
2. **State Festival/Ratings.** In the State Festival, the judges shall rate the plays Superior or Not Superior. Any play receiving two superior ratings from the judges always earns a final composite rating of "Superior". The number of superior ratings awarded for plays is left to the discretion of each judge at the State Festival.
3. **Questionable content of plays.** In district or region contests, judges shall rank the play lower, when in their opinion, the director and/or cast presenting the play have not followed Article VI, Section 1 of the Drama Regulations. At the State Festival, judges shall rate the plays lower when Article VI, Section 1 has not been followed.

Section 5. JUDGING THE PERFORMERS. The judges shall designate those performers who have given a superior acting performance as a "Superior Performer".

1. **Class "A" and Class "B" District and Region Contests:**
 - A. Two plays advance. There is no limit to the number of "Superior Performers" designated by the judges.
 - B. There is no need to rank the players.
2. **State Festival:**

The State Festival judges shall award individual and ensemble "Superior Performer" ratings. There is no need to rank the players.

 - A. **Superior Individual Performer Awards-** Any student receiving nominations from two or more judges will receive an acting award.
 - B. **Superior Ensemble Awards-** Any ensemble receiving nominations from two or more judges will receive an acting award.

Section 6. JUDGING OF TECHNICAL THEATRE.

1. **Class "A" and Class "B" District and Region Contests:**
 - A. Technical theatre (set, costumes, lighting) will not be judged at the region level of competition.
 - B. **State Festival:**

The State Festival judges shall award “Superior Technical Theatre” ratings to any school that indicates they would like to be considered for this award. Directors must indicate their desire to be judged on Technical Theatre when submitting their region entry form (class A & B schools), or state entry form for class AA schools.

C. **Superior Technical Theatre Awards-** Each tech crew member of any play receiving a Superior rating from the Technical Theatre judge will receive a medal.

Section 7. PLAN OF JUDGING.

1. **SCRIPT:** The play selected for the One-Act Contest should have literary merit. The play selected should not offend the moral standards of the community nor be in bad taste.
2. **CASTING:** Adaptation of entire cast to each other and to the play; fitness of player for part.
3. **INDIVIDUAL ACTING:** Voice - diction, pronunciation, enunciation, pitch; suitability to part and audience; Rate - sufficient variety to give vitality and meaning to part; Characterization - use of entire body, adaptation to part, action to part, consistency of action.; Interpretation - in regard to meaning, mood, and attitude toward role.
4. **ENSEMBLE:** Teamwork of characters, Contrast of characters, Group Attention - effectiveness of arrangement, stage picture, tempo.
5. **ENTIRE PLAY AS A WHOLE:** How items 1-4 tie together and taking into account ALL theatrical elements.

Section 8. PLAN OF JUDGING FOR TECHNICAL THEATRE.

1. **SET:** Effectiveness of set elements in accurately portraying time and setting of the play.
2. **COSTUMES:** Costumes should enhance the audience’s understanding of the setting of the play and the character.
3. **LIGHTING:** The use of lighting should enhance the mood of each scene.
4. **OTHER EFFECTS:** The use of special lighting, sound, and other effects should enhance the overall audience experience of the performance.

ARTICLE VIII-DUTIES OF REFEREES

Section 1. SUMMARIZE DECISIONS OF JUDGES.

1. District and Region Contests. The decisions of the three contest judges shall be summarized by a committee of three or more referees. The official summary of rankings shall be reported to the Contest Chairperson.
2. State Festival. The decision of the three judges shall be tabulated digitally. The official summary of ratings shall be monitored by the SDHSAA representative.
 - A. **Disqualifications:** Any group that is found to be in violation of any rules or regulations may be disqualified from competition. The SDHSAA representative shall be responsible for disqualifying any group. Judges shall not be notified of disqualifications.

Section 2. ADVANCEMENT TO STATE FESTIVAL.

1. The number of Class “A” plays advancing from the region contest to the State Festival will be 2 plays.
2. The number of Class “B” plays advancing from the region contest to the State Festival will be 2 plays.

Section 3. COMPOSITE RANKINGS OF PLAYS. Rankings of the judges in district and region contests are to be summarized by the use of the table below. Thus, a play receiving a combination of rankings from the three judges of 2, 2, 3 would be higher than a play that received a 1, 3, 4 ranking. In ranking, position on the table is all important. A combination of rankings on the table is higher than anything to the right, regardless of totals. When the use of the rankings fails to break a tie, then all involved plays with the top rankings shall be permitted to advance.

Use the following table to determine a play’s ranking:

←	Highest Rankings	Lowest Rankings	→
	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 3 1 2 2 1 2 3 1 2 2 3 1 2 3 2 3 3 4 1 2 3 3 4 2 3 4 4 3 4 5 4 5 5 6		

1 1 1 1 1 1 2 2 2 2 2 3 2 3 2 3 3 4 2 3 3 3 4 2 3 4 4 3 5 3 4 3 5 4 4 5 3 4 4 6 5 4 5 4 6 5 4 5 6 5 5 6 5 6 6
1 2 3 4 5 6 2 3 4 5 6 2 3 3 4 4 5 3 4 5 6 4 3 5 6 5 6 4 4 5 6 5 5 6 6 4 5 6 5 4 6 6 6 5 5 6 6 6 5 6 6 5 6 6 6

Section 4. REGION CONTEST RATING OF PERFORMERS. Using the individual ratings of the three region contest judges, a composite rating for each performer shall be determined by the referees. Any performer receiving two “Superior Performer” ratings always earns a final composite rating of “Superior Performer.”

Section 5. ADVANCEMENT. The committee of referees shall certify for advancement the top-ranked plays so that the district or region will be represented by its full quota of entries in the next higher contest. When two or more plays are tied for the final position, then all plays tied for the final position shall advance.

Section 6. STATE FESTIVAL RATING OF PLAYS. At the State Festival, a composite rating for each play shall be determined by the referees. Any play at the State Festival receiving two Superior ratings from the judges always earns a final composite rating of Superior.

Section 7. STATE FESTIVAL RATINGS OF INDIVIDUAL PERFORMERS AND ENSEMBLES. Using the individual rating of the three State Festival judges, a composite rating for each performer shall be determined by the referees. Any contestant or ensemble receiving two “Superior Performer” ratings from the judges always earns a final composite rating of “Superior Performer.”

Section 8. STATE FESTIVAL RATINGS OF TECHNICAL THEATRE. One judge will be hired for each school classification. That judge will rate each play for their assigned class as either SUPERIOR or NOT SUPERIOR for their technical theatre.

ARTICLE IX-STATE FESTIVAL PROCEDURES

Section 1. ASSIGNING STATE FESTIVAL CODE NUMBERS. The schedule for the State Festival is randomly drawn. The winning plays from each Class “A” and Class “B” region will be assigned a code number. The code numbers (100, 200, and so on) will be determined alphabetically at the region contest. The 100 representative will be the winning school whose school name is listed alphabetically ahead of the other winning school’s school name on the “Classification” listing of Class “A” Regions and Class “B” Regions. The code numbers for the remaining winning schools will also be determined in the same alphabetical sequence.

At the region contest, after the code numbers for the winning schools have been determined, if a school has a conflict with the scheduled State Festival Performance time, the school can change code numbers and places with another winning school at the region contest. This exchange of code numbers must be mutually agreed upon and must be done on the same day as the region contest. All reports to the SDHSAA office must contain the code numbers agreed upon at the contest.

Section 2. DESIGNATION OF ENSEMBLE GROUPS. The State Festival judges shall confer as a panel to designate State Festival ensembles. Once the ensembles have been set, each judge will independently give their ratings.

ARTICLE X-AWARDS

Section 1. SCHOOL PLAY AWARDS.

1. **REGION CONTEST:** The SDHSAA shall furnish a suitable trophy for all plays advancing from the region competition.
2. **STATE FESTIVAL:** The SDHSAA shall furnish the following awards for all plays rated “Superior” at the State Festival:
 - A. A “Superior” play plaque for the school
 - B. Up to 20 gold medals for each play’s cast and crew. (If additional medals are needed by a school, the medals can be purchased from the SDHSAA.)

Section 2. INDIVIDUAL PERFORMER AWARDS.

1. **REGION CONTEST:** Any individual player rated to be “Superior” by at least two judges in region contest will receive a silver medal. The SDHSAA will supply 3 medals per participating school in each region. Any additional medals needed must be purchased by the participating schools.

2. **STATE FESTIVAL:** Any individual player rated to be “Superior” by at least two judges at the State Festival will receive a gold medal.

Section 3. ENSEMBLE AWARDS.

1. **REGION CONTEST:** Ensemble awards are not given at the region contests.
2. **STATE FESTIVAL:** Each member of any ensemble that is rated to be “Superior” by at least two judges at the State Festival will receive a gold medal.

Section 4. TECHNICAL THEATRE AWARDS.

1. **REGION CONTEST:** Technical Theatre awards are not given at the region contests.
2. **STATE FESTIVAL:** Each crew member of any play that is rated to be “Superior” by the technical theatre judge at the State Festival will receive a gold medal.
3. Only students will be awarded in Technical Theatre. If adult tech crews are used, they are not eligible for Technical Theatre awards.

Section 5. All State Festival acting awards shall be supplied by the SDHSAA.

Section 6. ONE-ACT PLAY AWARDS DRESS POLICY. Students receiving awards at the region contest or State Festival are strongly encouraged to wear dress clothes, cast or State Festival shirts, or play costumes.

NOTE: All students participating at an SDHSAA region One-Act Play Contest or the SDHSAA State One-Act Play Festival shall be accompanied by qualified staff personnel or will be prohibited from participating.

CLASSIFICATION OF SCHOOLS FOR ONE-ACT PLAY COMPETITION

Classifications and alignments can be found on each activity-specific page on the SDHSAA website.

STATE ONE-ACT PLAY ROTATION FOR FUTURE DATES AND SITES

ROTATION HOSTS:

Brandon Valley Rapid City Central SDSU Mitchell PAC

FUTURE DATES & SITES (Standard Calendar Week 31):

2024-25	SDSU, Brookings	Feb. 6-8, 2025
2025-26	Rapid City Central HS	Feb. 5-7, 2026
2026-27	Mitchell PAC	Feb. 4-6, 2027

2024-25 One-Act Play Region Information

Schools will be assigned to a region for One-Act Play competition following the deadline for submission of the “One-Act Play Contest Intent to Participate Form”. Region contest site and date information can be found on the SDHSAA website.

In 2024-25, depending on participation levels, the SDHSAA will have six class “A” regions and eight class “B” regions.

CHAPTER 2 – THEATRE DESIGN CONTEST REGULATIONS

ARTICLE I – PURPOSE OF CONTEST AND SCHOOL CLASSIFICATION

Section 1. PURPOSE. The Theatre Design Contest will recognize high school students for their excellence in the areas of Scenic Design, Costume Design, and Marketing (i.e., publicity) and will foster appreciation of good theatrical design

Section 2. SCHOOL CLASSIFICATION.

- A. There shall be separate theatre design contests for Class “AA”, Class “A”, and Class “B” high schools. The following enrollment classifications will be used:
 1. Class “AA” – A.D.M. enrollment of 450 and above
 2. Class “A” – A.D.M. enrollment of 90 up to 450
 3. Class “B” – A.D.M. enrollment below 90
- B. Average Daily Membership enrollment figures from grades 9 through 11 shall be used for purposes of classifications. Classification is for a two-year time period with each reclassification period beginning in years that end in 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9.

ARTICLE II – MANAGEMENT OF CONTEST AND CONTEST EVENTS

Section 1. MANAGEMENT OF THEATRE DESIGN CONTEST. Management of the Theatre Design Contest events is the responsibility of the SDHSAA Assistant Executive Director in charge of speech activities with the assistance of the Speech Advisory Committee.

Section 2. THEATRE DESIGN CONTEST AREAS. The Theatre Design Competition will be held in the following contest areas:

- A. Set Design
- B. Costume Design
- C. Theatre Marketing (i.e., publicity)

Section 3. THEATRE DESIGN CONTEST ENTRY LIMITS.

- A. Each school shall be permitted to submit only one entry in each contest event.
- B. Only one student may be involved in the design. NO COLLABORATION.

Section 4. STUDENT ELIGIBILITY.

- A. Students whose designs are submitted must meet all SDHSAA eligibility regulations.
- B. Students in grades 7 through 12 may participate in the Theatre Design Contest.

Section 5. CONTEST ENTRY FORMS. It is the school’s responsibility to submit its Theatre Design Contest entry forms to the SDHSAA on or before the entry deadline due date. A \$50.00 late fee will be assessed for any entry form not submitted by the deadline due date.

Section 6. THEATRE DESIGN CONTEST REGISTRATION FORM DEADLINE. Schools must submit registration forms by **December 20**.

ARTICLE III– GENERAL CONTEST INFORMATION

Section 1. SELECTION OF PLAY TITLE. The title of the play that will be used for the Theatrical Design Contest each year will be selected by the Speech Advisory Committee.

- A. The title of the play selected will be posted by August 20.
- B. All designs submitted shall be for the play title announced for the year.

Section 2. SUBMISSION OF CONTEST ENTRY MATERIALS.

- A. The materials for each contest entry **MUST BE** submitted separately along with the entry form.
- B. **Identifying Information on Submitted Materials.** Entries are to be labeled with the student’s name, school, and school classification. The label should be attached to the back of the entry.
- C. All materials are due by **the Thursday of the State Festival, in 2025 – February 6 by 9am.**

Send all entry materials to:
SDHSAA – Tech Theatre Contest
C/O SDSU Theatre Department
1601 University Blvd.
Brookings, SD 57007

ARTICLE IV – SPECIFIC CONTEST REGULATIONS

Section 1. SET DESIGN CONTEST. The Set Design Contest entry consists of the following:

- A. The Set Design Contest official entry form, signed by the school’s play director and a member of the school’s administration.
- B. A floor plan drawn in a ½” = 1’0” or ¼” = 1’0” scale for the setting of one scene of the play.
 1. The floor plan shall be mounted on poster board, illustration board, mat board, or foam core.
 2. The floor plan should show the set in relation to the theatrical space (stage – 38’ wide, 32’ deep from curtain line to back traveler/cyclorama/scrim, with an additional 5’ deep apron).
 3. The floor plan should utilize standard symbols for doorways, archways, windows, platforms, staircases, etc.
- C. A color rendering of the set design drawn to the same scale as the floor plan.
 1. The color rendering shall be mounted on illustration board, mat board, or foam core.
 2. The artistic medium for the rendering is not restricted (pastel, watercolor, chalk, colored pencil, computer generated, etc.).
 3. The color rendering should show the set in relation to the theatrical space including a 20’ high proscenium.
 4. The rendering should include at least one performer drawn in the same scale to illustrate proportion to scale.
- D. A two-page MAXIMUM double-spaced concept paper explaining the concept for the set design and justifying the design choices and approach to the design.
 1. At least one paragraph of the concept paper should include a summary of the play and the student’s intentions (including the intended mood to be created by the set design).
 2. Specific attention should be placed on explaining choices and the time and locale chosen for the design.
- E. The lower right corner of the floor plan and the color rendering should include the following: play title and the act of the play (and scene). **The student’s name, school, and school classification should be on the back of the floor plan and the rendering.**

Section 2. COSTUME DESIGN CONTEST. The Costume Design Contest entry consists of the following:

- A. The Costume Design Contest official entry form; signed by the school’s play director and a member of the school’s administration.
- B. Costume Design renderings for three characters in the play (one costume per character).
 1. Each individual design should be mounted on poster board, illustration board, mat board, or foam core.
 2. The artistic medium for each design is not restricted (pastel, watercolor, chalk, colored pencil, computer generated, etc.).
 3. Figures should be 8” to 10” tall. Template or trace characters may be used.
- C. Swatches of costume material for each design are optional.
- D. A two-page MAXIMUM double-spaced concept paper explaining the concept for the costume designs and justifying the design choices and approach to the design.
 1. At least one paragraph of the concept paper should include a summary of the play and the student’s intentions with the costume designs.
 2. The concept paper should include an explanation of why the designer chose the costume design and color for the particular scene.
 3. Specific attention should be placed on explaining the designer’s choice of the time period and locale chosen for the costume designs.
- E. The upper left corner of each design rendering should include the play title and playwright; the upper right corner of each design rendering should include the character’s name, act, and scene. **The student’s name, school, and school classification should be labeled on the back of the design renderings.**

Section 3. THEATRE MARKETING CONTEST (Publicity Design). The Marketing Contest entry consists of the following:

- A. The Marketing Contest official entry form signed by the school's play director and a member of the school's administration.
 - B. A poster design mounted on poster board, illustration board, mat board, or foam core measuring a maximum of 11" x 17". The poster design may be computer generated.
 - C. A press release. The release shall not exceed 100 words and shall be mounted on poster board, illustration board, mat board, or foam core.
 - D. A 2-minute maximum length video will be submitted to the SDHSAA which will detail the student's social media marketing strategy. The video will contain at least 3 examples of social media posts that the student would use in their marketing campaign.
 - E. The student's name, school, and school classification should be labeled on the back of the poster.**
- NOTE:** The Theatre Marketing materials must use the performance date, performance group, and performance space as specified on the design prompt.

ALL MATERIALS WILL BECOME PROPERTY OF THE SDHSAA AND WILL ONLY BE RETURNED IF PICKED UP AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE AWARDS CEREMONY AT THE STATE ONE-ACT PLAY FESTIVAL.

ARTICLE V – CONTEST JUDGES

Section 1. SELECTION OF THEATRE DESIGN CONTEST JUDGES. The Speech Advisory Committee shall select the judge for each area of the Theatre Design Contest. The State Theatre Design Contest judges will be paid out of the funds of the South Dakota High School Activities Association.

Section 2. NUMBER OF JUDGES. One judge per class will be selected for each Theatre Design Contest area.

Section 3. SET DESIGN EVALUATION CRITERIA.

- A. Interpretation: Does the design visually reinforce the mood, style, and theme of the play? (i.e., appropriate to production concept, appropriate to time and location of play).
- B. Execution. Are the floor plan and rendering of the set design executed with clarity and attention to detail? (i.e., precision of design, artistic quality of rendering, accuracy of details). Does the design use the playing space to maximize flexibility and variety in blocking and movement?
- C. Presentation: Is the designer able to justify the significant elements of the design in terms of the script? (Specifically: knowledge of the play, justification of design elements such as color, form, and arrangement of space) How effective is the designer in communicating ideas?

Section 4. COSTUME DESIGN EVALUATION CRITERIA.

- A. Interpretation: Are the costumes appropriate to the production concept? Are the costume designs appropriate to the time and location of the play?
- B. Execution: Are the costume designs executed with precision, clarity, and accuracy of details? Artistic quality of the renderings.
- C. Presentation: Is the designer able to justify the design elements? How knowledgeable is the designer of the play? How effective is the designer in communicating ideas?

Section 5. THEATRE MARKETING EVALUATION CRITERIA.

- A. Interpretation: Does the poster and press release match the concept of the production?
- B. Execution: Precision and clarity of poster design, artistic quality of design, accuracy of details, technology used in the materials submitted.
- C. Presentation: Justification of design elements, knowledge of the play, effectiveness in communicating ideas.
- D. Public Relations Components: Has the target audience been identified? How effective is the press release information? Overall effectiveness?

Section 6. If in the opinion of the judge, the quality of the designs submitted in any event do not meet the standards necessary to merit an award, no award will be presented in that event.

ARTICLE VI – AWARDS

Section 1. AWARDS PRESENTATION. The winning entries of the Theatrical Design Contest will be announced during the awards session at the conclusion of the State One-Act Play Festival.

- A. The finalists for each Theatrical Design Contest event will be invited to attend the State One-Act Play Festival Awards ceremony.

- B. Finalists unable to attend the State One-Act Play Festival Awards Ceremony will have their award sent to them at their school.
- C. The submitted designs of all finalists will be displayed at the State Festival.

Section 2. THEATRICAL DESIGN CONTEST AWARDS.

- A. A maximum of six awards will be presented in each contest area for each class.
- B. The SDHSAA will furnish medals to all Theatrical Design Contest finalists.
 - 1. A gold medal will be presented to the participants deemed superior.

2024-25 THEATRICAL DESIGN CONTEST

Design Prompt

PLAY TITLE: *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald

All Theatrical Design Contest entries must use this play for their set designs, costume designs, and marketing designs.

- A. Designs can be placed in any locale
- B. Designers can choose to set their designs in any time period and in any locale.
- C. Designs submitted **MUST NOT** duplicate designs from any motion picture or other stage production of the selected play.
- D. All submitted designs will include a designer's "Concept Paper" (a double-spaced, maximum two-page paper in which the designer justifies or explains the rationale as to why he/she chose the design concepts presented).

SET DESIGN SPACE

The set is to be designed for a stage with a proscenium opening of 38' wide x 20' high. The apron should be 5' deep. The stage from the curtain line to the back traveler/cyclorama/scrim shall be 32'.

COSTUME DESIGN

Costume designs submitted should reflect the time period chosen by the designer. The rationale for the period chosen should be strongly reflected in the written justification submitted as part of the entry.

THEATRE MARKETING CONTEST (Publicity)

The Marketing poster and press release should reflect the following:

- A. Performance Date – **FEBRUARY 6, 2025**
- B. Performance Group – **SDHSAA HIGH SCHOOL**
- C. Performance Space – **SDHSAA HIGH SCHOOL THEATRE**
- D. Other publicity materials – invented by the designer