

UHSAA THEATRE

Information for Judges

Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to be a part of our students' education. The feedback you give to our students is the most important part of this competition. And, without you, we wouldn't have a competition in the first place.

Eligibility

In order to be eligible to judge a UHSAA Theatre Competition, a judge must:

- ✓ Be out of high school for at least 3 years.
- ✓ Not have previously worked with any participant in a theatre coaching capacity. If you have previously coached a participant, you are ineligible to judge the entire competition, even if you do not judge that particular student.
- ✓ Not be related to any participant, coach, student-teacher, or teacher involved in the competition. If you are related to any individual involved in the competition, you are ineligible to judge the entire competition, even if you do not judge a participant you are related to.
- ✓ Taken, and passed with a perfect score, the judging test on the UHSAA website, uhsaa.org/theatre

If you discover that you are ineligible, you must inform the meet director immediately.

Competition Structure

There are three parts to a UHSAA Theatre Meet:

- ❖ The Individual Events Competition
- ❖ The One Act Play Competition
- ❖ The Technical Theatre Competition

These three parts are usually held across multiple days, with the Individual Events and Technical Theatre competitions happening simultaneously on one day, and the One Act Play competition on a separate day. At the state level, the One Act Play competition may take multiple days.

At the region level, entries that score well can qualify to advance to the state level.

Sweepstakes

Schools may also earn points that go toward a Team Sweepstakes award, where they may earn a 1st or 2nd place trophy. Both the Individual Events and One Act Play competitions award points to the Team Sweepstakes.

Individual Events

There are 6 different Individual Events that you might be asked to judge:

- ❖ Classical Scenes from Plays
- ❖ Contemporary Scenes from Plays
- ❖ Dramatic Monologues
- ❖ Humorous Monologues
- ❖ Musical Theatre
- ❖ Pantomime

Each event has different rules that you should familiarize yourself with. You can read these specific rules on the UHSAA website, or on the ballots themselves.

Usually, an Individual Events competition will have 3 preliminary rounds, followed by a medals round. For a preliminary round, you will be the only judge in the room. **For your protection, and the protection of the students, a judge must never be alone with a competitor and must always have another competitor, performer, judge, timekeeper, parent, or observer present in the room.** In general, observers that are not competing are welcome and encouraged to attend rounds, as long as there is space in the room, and they are respectful audience members.

You will likely be provided with a timekeeper to time each piece and help you keep track of time limit violations. After you call for a performance piece to take the stage, the student(s) will introduce their piece, and you will have a moment to write down the name and author(s) of their piece. **The time will only begin once a student speaks their first line, or begins the first moment of their performance.**

Please be sure to start your round on time, and be mindful of how much time is left in the round, so that the competition may stay on schedule.

You will be provided with ballots for each piece in your round. Please fill out the ballot completely for each piece, and provide written feedback on the ballot. **Please note that judges are NOT allowed to give verbal feedback.**

As soon as you have seen every piece in the round, and filled out their respective ballots, the round is over. Please return the filled-out ballots to the tabulation room before moving on to the next round.

Medals Round

Some of you may be asked to judge a medals round. In a medals round, three judges watch and score each piece at the same time. **Please do NOT discuss your point scores or rankings with the other judges.** All judging decisions must be made individually by each judge, without consulting anyone else.

One Act Play

In the One Act Play competition, three judges will watch and score each play at the same time, just like an Individual Events medals round. **Again, do NOT discuss your point scores or rankings with the other judges.**

After each one act play performs, there will be a 10-minute talkback session where the judges take turns providing verbal feedback to the students. Receiving specific, constructive feedback from judges is the most important part of the competition, and without it the competition could be worthless for many students. Please keep your feedback polite and professional.

Providing written feedback on the one act ballots is still important, as this feedback will be given to the coaches. Also, any one act play that uses more than 50 minutes of their allotted time will automatically forego a talkback session.

After you have scored and ranked each one act play on your own, the three One Act Play judges will meet and decide how to award up to 6 Outstanding Performance Awards.

The judges will need to reach consensus on what the awards will be, as well as who they will be awarded to. They may be awarded to individuals or groups of students, and may be for acting performances, student designers, directors, writers, or any other student contribution the judges would like to recognize. Possible awards include, but are not limited to:

- ❖ Outstanding Lead, Supporting, or Cameo Performance
- ❖ Outstanding Ensemble
- ❖ Outstanding Character Actor
- ❖ Outstanding Student Designer, Director, Playwright, Composer, Choreographer, etc.

It is likely that the One Act Play competition will be held on a different day than the Individual Events competition, and that there will only be a single, combined awards ceremony after both competitions are concluded. **Therefore, it is extremely important that judges not discuss or reveal any results of the One Act Play competition, or the Outstanding Performance Awards to any participants or outside parties until after all results are announced at the combined awards ceremony.**

Technical Theatre

The technical theatre competition will be judged just like the Individual Events medals rounds and the One Act Play competition, with three judges adjudicating all of the entries simultaneously. **Again, do NOT discuss your point scores or rankings with the other judges.** Students will not be present for this adjudication. Instead, each competitor will be given space to set up a display of their designs, which will all be based on the same play, selected in advance by UHSAA. Judges will then fill out a ballot for each display.

Currently, there are two categories in the Technical Theatre competition:

- ❖ Costume Design
- ❖ Scenic Design

Ballots

For each ballot, the judge will be responsible for providing the following five items:

1. Written Feedback
2. Point Score
3. Ranking
4. Notations of Rule Violations
5. Judge's Signature

Written Feedback

Receiving specific, constructive feedback from judges is the most important part of the competition, and without it the competition could be worthless for many students. Please be sure to provide specific, constructive written feedback on every ballot. Please keep your feedback polite and professional. **And remember, judges in the Individual Events competition are NOT allowed to give verbal feedback.**

Point Score

Judges are responsible for awarding a certain number of points to each entry, based on performance standards listed on the ballot. Point scores are NOT relative to the other participants. **When awarding points, judges are only comparing a piece to the descriptions of the standards written on the ballots. They are NOT comparing the competitors to each other, to a typical high school theatre production, or to professional theatre.** There are many opinions about what makes a successful piece of theatre. As judges, in order to ensure equity and parity across all competitions, we need you to set aside these opinions and score each piece according to the standards on the ballots.

Every ballot contains 4 or 5 standards, such as:

- ❖ Characterization
- ❖ Objectives/Tactics
- ❖ Voice
- ❖ Movement and Staging
- ❖ Execution
- ❖ Plot (Pantomime Only)
- ❖ Research and Analysis (Technical Theatre Only)
- ❖ Design Concept (Technical Theatre Only)
- ❖ Artistic Interpretation (Technical Theatre Only)

Each standard is divided into 4 descriptor bands:

- ❖ **Above Standard:** Pieces in this band meet the standard consistently, throughout the performance piece. These pieces are polished and prepared for performance.
- ❖ **Meets Standard:** Pieces in this band frequently meet the standard throughout the performance piece, but are not consistent.
- ❖ **Approaching Standard:** Pieces in this band only sometimes or occasionally meet the standard.
- ❖ **Little or No Effort:** Pieces in this band do not meet the standard. There is no evidence of meeting the standard at any point in the piece. These pieces are not performance ready. **These pieces are extremely rare in UHSAA Theatre competitions.**

Under each band, you will find descriptions of what each standard looks like in that band. **Please circle or mark the description that most accurately matches the design or performance for each standard.** A single piece may achieve different levels of mastery for each standard. Therefore, you may select different bands for each standard. But, for each standard, only select a single description.

After selecting a single description for each standard, you will need to award a number of points, according to the value of the description you selected. Each band is worth a range of points, as indicated by the ballot, and you will need to choose how many points to award according to how well the piece meets the standard. **Record these points in the column to the right of the descriptions. You must award whole numbers of points. You may not use decimal places.**

Finally, after awarding points for each standard, add up all the points and record the total point score in the space provided on the last page of the ballot.

For point scores, ties are possible and allowed. There is no limit to the number of high or perfect scores you may award. If every piece in a competition consistently meets the standards on the ballots, you can and should give them all scores that reflect this achievement.

Ranking

Once every piece in a round or competition has performed and been scored, you will need to rank the entries. This is the only time you will compare the competitors to each other. Note that rankings do not affect sweepstakes points, nor do poor rankings prevent students from advancing to the state level. Rankings are mainly used for awarding medals/trophies, and for determining the composition of medals rounds.

The way you will rank each entry depends on the type of competition you are judging:

<u>For this type of competition:</u>	<u>You will award these rankings:</u>
Individual Events Preliminary Round	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd , and 4 th
Individual Events Medals Round	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th , and 6 th
One Act Play Competition	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , and 5 th
Technical Theatre Competition	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th , and 6 th

If you forget, the ballots indicate which rankings must be awarded.

Rankings must be awarded according to the total point scores. The entry with the most points, or one of the entries with the most points if there is a tie for most points, **MUST** be given 1st place. The entry that receives 2nd place must have the same number or fewer points than the entry that received 1st place. The entry receiving 3rd place must have the same number of points or fewer still, and so on.

Ties for most rankings are not allowed. If multiple pieces have the same number of points, you must choose which pieces to rank higher and lower. There is only one exception to this rule: **You will usually judge more pieces in a round or competition than you have rankings to award. In these cases, all pieces that would normally be ranked below your lowest ranking all receive that same ranking.**

Again, if you forget how to award rankings for a specific competition, the ballot explains the process and what is/is not allowed.

Rule Violations

The specific rules for each event or competition are outlined on the ballots, and on the UHSAA website. Be sure to familiarize yourself with the rules for the event or competition you will be judging **BEFORE** the round or competition begins.

If you believe an entry has violated a rule, simply note the rule violation in the space provided on the last page of the ballot. Then, score the piece as you normally would. All rule violations will be handled by the meet director.

Judge Signature

After completing a ballot, be sure to write your name in the space provided, and sign the ballot. All ballots must be filled out completely and signed by the judge before they are returned to the tabulation room.

At the end of a round or competition, take a moment to double check that everything is in order. For each ballot, did you remember to:

- ✓ Write specific, constructive written feedback?
- ✓ Circle or mark a description for every standard?
- ✓ Award a whole number of points for each standard?
- ✓ Add up the total point score, and record this number in the space provided?
- ✓ Rank the entry according to the piece's relative total point score?
- ✓ Make note of any rule violations?
- ✓ Write your name in the space provided and sign the ballot?

Finally, to be safe, double check that all the rankings are correct. Make sure that:

- ✓ The rankings are awarded according to total point scores.
- ✓ There are no ties for rankings, except for the lowest rank, which is awarded to all pieces that would normally rank below the lowest allowed ranking.

Please remember that all judging decisions are confidential. Please do not discuss your ballots with other judges or competitors until after all results are announced at the awards ceremony.

Advancing to State

At the region level, total point scores are the primary method of determining which pieces advance to compete at the state level. **As a judge, you should be aware that the total number of points you award is indicative of whether or not you believe a student has met the standards of the event and should be allowed to advance to the state level.**

The following are the minimum average scores a student needs from each judge in order to advance to the state level:

	1A, 2A	3A, 4A, 5A, 6A
Individual Events (Max 25)	19	20
One Act Play (Max 50)	37	40
Technical Theatre (Max 20)	15	18

If you score a piece lower than this amount, it means you believe the student has not met the standards of the event, and should not be allowed to advance to the state level. **Remember, there is no limit to the number of students that may advance to the state level.**

Thank you again for judging! Have a wonderful time, remember to breathe, and enjoy the show!