

REGIONAL ACTING COMPETITION

Standard Operating Procedures

The Regional Acting Competition is an educational program that offers Oregon students the opportunity to receive constructive feedback on prepared theatrical material. Using the audition approach, students can find their talents, strengths, weaknesses, and grow as artists. From Regionals, students can qualify to audition for the State Showcase. The process begins with Regionals, includes a Final Round of auditions at State, and culminates in a showcase of exemplary entries, representing the outstanding work being done by students throughout the state.

Students who receive at least one overall Superior rating during this process are also able to audition for the National Individual Events Showcase (NIES) at the International Thespian Festival in Lincoln, NE. The Festival is a full week of educational activities, of which the NIES is only a small part. It is not necessary to participate or qualify for the NIES event at the Festival to attend the many other events and activities provided there.

For the purposes of Oregon's regional event, the state is split into three regions -- Northwest, Northeast and South -- divided north and south at the 45th parallel, with the north divided east and west of Interstate 5.

On or about the first Saturday of February, each of the three regions holds its own Regional at a host high school in that region. Schools may ask or be asked to attend a different regional competition to alleviate crowding or for transportation considerations.

Guidelines for specific events:

The International Thespian Festival offers the following performance events: Solo Acting, Duet Acting, Group Acting, Solo Musical Theatre, Duet Musical Theatre, and Group Musical Theatre.. In addition, Oregon Thespians offers Pantomime, as well as Solo Novice & Duet Novice Acting categories, and separate categories for Large and Small Group Musical entries.

For All Events

1. No costumes or theatrical makeup are allowed. Participants are encouraged to dress in "professional black" attire.
2. No props are allowed in any of the event categories.
3. Only students from the same school or troupe may combine to enter duo or group scenes.
4. All performance events *except Solo Acting* are limited to five minutes with a 15 second grace period, after the introduction. The limit for Solo Acting is 3 minutes. There is NO penalty for going over, but the student will be stopped. (Introduction timing specifics may differ between International & Oregon).
5. Delegates may observe any individual events session. Seats will be available on a first come, first served basis. Keeping in mind that Individual Events includes an adjudication process, audience members need to remain quiet throughout the session.

6. All solo events may use one chair. Duo events may use two chairs. Group scenes (3-16 performers) may use up to 6 chairs and a table. The intended use of the table is as a table, not as a platform.

Oregon aligns its event rules and guidelines with NIES guidelines and procedures, but students are encouraged to review the specific NIES information posted at schooltheatre.org if they intend to participate at that level.

Solo Acting Rules

1. Students must present two contrasting selections that may be from different time periods, styles, or moods.
2. Material must be drawn from published scripts written for theatre. Works from other forms such as poetry, fiction, film, video and song lyrics are not permitted.
3. Only one character from each play may be used.
4. Both selections combined cannot exceed three minutes.
5. The introduction must be for both selections and must only include performer's assigned competition code, title of selections, characters, and the names of the playwrights. Timing begins after the introduction, once the scene starts.

Duo Acting Rules

1. Material must be drawn from published scripts written for theatre. Works from other forms such as poetry, fiction, film, video and song lyrics are not permitted.
2. Each participant must be actively involved in the scene.
3. Selection cannot exceed five minutes.
4. The introduction must only include performer's assigned competition code, title of selection, characters, and the name of the playwright. Timing begins after the introduction, once the scene starts.

Group Acting Theatre Rules

1. "Group" or "Ensemble" means three to sixteen performers.
2. Material must be drawn from published scripts written for theatre. Works from other forms such as poetry, fiction, film, video and song lyrics are not permitted.
3. Each participant must be actively involved in the scene.
4. The introduction must only include performer's assigned competition code, title of selection, characters, and the name of the playwright. Timing begins after the introduction, once the scene starts.

Solo Musical Theatre Rules

1. Material must be drawn from published scripts written for theatre. Works from other forms such as poetry, fiction, film or video are not permitted. The selection may contain dialogue.
2. Performers may either use recorded non-vocal accompaniment, or live piano accompaniment.
3. Selection cannot exceed five minutes.

4. The introduction must only include performer's assigned competition code, song title, characters, and the name of the composer and lyricist. Timing begins after the introduction, once the scene starts.

Duet Musical Theatre Rules

1. Material must be drawn from published scripts written for theatre. Works from other forms such as poetry, fiction, film or video are not permitted. The selection may contain dialogue.
2. Performers may either use recorded non-vocal accompaniment, or live piano accompaniment.
3. Each participant must be actively involved in the scene.
4. Selection may not exceed five minutes.
5. The introduction must only include performer's assigned competition code, song title, characters, and the name of the composer and lyricist. Timing begins after the introduction, once the scene starts.

Small Group Musical Theatre Rules

**Note: There is no separate Small Group Musical category at International; it is included in the general "Group Musical" category.*

1. "Small Group" means three to seven performers.
2. Material must be drawn from published scripts written for theatre. Works from other forms such as poetry, fiction, film or video are not permitted. The selection may contain dialogue.
3. Performers may either use recorded non-vocal accompaniment, or live piano accompaniment.
4. Each participant must be actively involved in the scene.
5. Selection may not exceed five minutes.
6. The introduction must only include the performer's assigned competition code, song title, characters, and the names of the composer and lyricist. Timing begins after the introduction, once the scene starts.

Large Group Musical Theatre Rules

**Note: There is no separate Large Group Musical category at International; it is included in the general "Group Musical" category.*

1. "Large Group" means eight to sixteen performers.
2. Material must be drawn from published scripts written for theatre. Works from other forms such as poetry, fiction, film or video are not permitted. The selection may contain dialogue.
3. Performers may either use recorded non-vocal accompaniment, or live piano accompaniment.
4. Each participant must be actively involved in the scene.
5. Selection may not exceed five minutes.
6. The introduction must only include the performer's assigned competition code, song title, characters, and the names of the composer and lyricist. Timing begins after the introduction, once the scene starts.

Pantomime Rules

**Note: There is no longer a Pantomime event category at Internationals.*

1. Scene may be solo, duo, or group mime.
2. No lip synching or audible vocal sounds permitted by the performers.
3. Performers may use non-vocal musical accompaniment or recorded sound effects.
4. If the performance is a duo or group pantomime, each participant must be actively involved in the scene.
5. The introduction must only include the performer's assigned competition code, character names, and title of the pantomime piece. Timing begins after the introduction, once the scene starts.

EVENT ENTRY ORGANIZATION:

Events are divided into three columns of competition. Students may enter a maximum of three events. Students may enter only one event in each of columns A or B. Students may enter up to two musical theatre scenes. Students in duet or group scenes must be from the same school.

Column A

Solo Acting Novice
Solo Acting Experienced
Group Acting
Pantomime

Column B

Duet Acting Dramatic Novice
Duet Acting Dramatic Experienced
Duet Acting Comic Novice
Duet Acting Comic Experienced

Musical Theatre Column

Small Group Musical Theatre
Large Group Musical Theater
Duet Musical Theatre
Solo Musical Theatre

TROUPE ENTRY LIMITS

Each participating Troupe can enter a limited number of entries in each category, according to the following schedule: 12 Solo Experienced; 12 Solo Novice; 4 Group Acting; 8 Pantomime; 6 Duo Dramatic Experienced; 6 Duo Dramatic Novice; 6 Duo Comic Experienced; 6 Duo Comic Novice; 8 Solo Musical; 4 Duo Musical; 2 Small Group Musical; and 2 Large Group Musical.

EXPERIENCED VS. NOVICE:

The director must be the judge of which students are experienced. A student is considered experienced if she / he:

1. Has entered in an acting event prior to the competition. This includes any speech or drama conference or competition.
2. Has appeared in a leading role in a main-stage production.
3. Has extensive summer stock or community theatre experience..

4. Has the talent, experience, and/or potential to compete with the experienced performers. This point is a judgment decision by the director and the student. A junior or senior who has never competed before may be experienced because of maturity. This also gives the very talented underclassmen the right to stretch their abilities.

If an experienced student pairs with a novice performer in duo-acting, they must enter the experienced category.

If it is discovered that a student is entered in novice and any of the above points apply to the student's experience, the competitor may be disqualified.

STUDENT FEES:

There will be a \$10 fee *per individual, per event* for members of ITS. Non-Thespians will pay \$12 *per individual, per event*. These fees are based on *individual student Thespian affiliation*, not on *school Thespian affiliation*. Fees are payable for regional competition only; there is no fee for the State Showcase Audition should the student qualify. Further, the students need not attend the entire State Festival to participate in the State Showcase auditions.

ROUNDS:

There will be three rounds of competition for each non-musical event (Columns A and B) and two rounds for each musical event at each Regional Acting Competition. There shall be one judge used for each non-musical round and two judges for each musical round. Competitors will be seen by a different judge in each round and, ideally though not always possible, compete against different entries in each round.

THE 20% RULE:

The top 20% scoring entries in each category receive recognition at the Regional Acting Competition. The only exception to the 20% rule is in the event of ties.

For all events other than Novice, the top 10% scoring entries in each event (or a minimum of two, for smaller events) are recognized as Showcase Qualifiers. Those scenes will be eligible to audition for the State Showcase and receive a Showcase Qualifier ribbon.

Scenes that place in the next 10% (or 11% - 20%) of the category will receive "Regional Finalist" ribbons.

A "Showcase Qualifier" ribbon will be awarded to the top scoring entry in each Novice category (ties allowed) and the remaining scenes in the top 20% of the category will receive "Regional Finalist" ribbons.

At the State Showcase, the judges will select a minimum of two scenes or as many as 10% of the category to perform in the State Showcase. Those scenes will receive "Showcase Performer" ribbons. If the judges selections represent less than 20% of the total number of entries in a category, the judges may select additional entries (totaling up to 20% of the category) to be recognized by receiving "Showcase Finalist" ribbons.

STATE SHOWCASE AUDITIONS:

Entries placing in the top 10% (minimum of two) at Regionals in all categories except Novice are eligible to audition for the honor of performing their scenes at the State Individual Events Showcase. One top scoring entry in each Novice event advances to this audition. State Showcase auditions usually take place during the day on Thursday of the State Festival.

Each entry performs once before two judges at the State Showcase Auditions. All entries in each category are seen by the same two judges. Judges are generally assigned to one or two events. Students do not need to be registered for the State Festival to participate in the auditions.

JUDGING & SELECTING THE STATE SHOWCASE PARTICIPANTS:

All judges for the State Showcase are trained by Oregon Thespians (see Judge's Training). The same two judges rate & evaluate every scene in a single category. A Troupe Director whose school does not have an entry in a given category may also be assigned to that category's room to monitor the judging and student behavior, but may not be part of the actual scene selection for the showcase. At the end of the auditions, the two judges will decide on two entries or 10% of the entries (whichever is greater) in each event to appear in the Showcase. The judges may rely solely on the ballots to make their choices, but in cases where the level of performance is equally high, and especially in the case where the performance ability is superior and there is a variety of material, the judges are encouraged to select scenes that showcase the breadth of quality theatre represented. Judges are also charged with selecting the "best" scenes to showcase, not just picking the maximum allowed.

Entries selected to perform in the State Showcase are announced by the end of the day on Thursday. Ideally, the Showcase is organized like a production (later in the Festival) with the order of the scenes rehearsed and tech requirements considered before the performance. If necessary (in the event that entries with students who are not attending the Festival are selected) some may be invited to perform during the Festival's opening evening events. In the interest of time, a performance playbill with the student's and school's names is preferred to an emcee introducing each scene. Showcase Finalist ribbons, if any, are awarded at an appropriate time during the Festival and/or at the Showcase performance.

TALLY AND DISPUTES:

An ad-hoc committee will be pre-appointed for the judges' room. This committee will answer any questions from judges, make certain judges have correctly marked their ballots, and settle any scoring disputes. This committee may consist of current adult State Board members, the Tournament Coordinator, Volunteer Coordinator, or other Troupe Directors.

Performers will be disqualified from advancing in the State Showcase Audition process for violating the spirit of the regulations governing the competition and the individual events as determined by the ad-hoc committee.

After potential disqualification grounds are brought to the attention of the ad-hoc committee, a ruling is made to determine the entry's eligibility to advance in the audition process. The entry in question should still participate in competition rounds while the issue is under review, so those students can benefit from the adjudicator's response.

Performers and their Troupe Directors may appeal a disqualification to the State Board either at the competition or at the next State Board meeting. Participants in the entry in question, and their Troupe Director, may speak in defense of the choices made which resulted in the disqualification. The decision of the State Board is final.

EVENT COORDINATION:

The Regional Acting Competitions are each organized and supervised by three directors/adults from each respective region. A Tournament Coordinator has the overall responsibility for the event and his/her position shall be confirmed by the State Director.

The Tournament Coordinator's primary job is to receive the registrations for the event and work with other region Tournament Coordinators to balance the event, making sure that there is an even spread of competitors at each event, without putting any transportation nor unnecessary hardship on any one school. The Tournament Coordinator organizes the competitors according to the ROUNDS rotation guidelines as well as works with the Host School Director to secure the required number of rooms for the competition and with the registering schools to confirm entries. In addition, another director will serve as Volunteer Coordinator to organize the event personnel. The Tournament Coordinator works with the Volunteer Coordinator to make sure there are enough judges to cover the event without overbooking judges.

The Volunteer Coordinator will work with the registering schools to secure TRAINED AND COMPETENT judges for the event. The Volunteer Coordinator will communicate with the Tournament Coordinator about the number of judges necessary for the event and the Volunteer Coordinator will attempt to secure the judges, either from the participating schools, the database of Oregon Thespians trained judges, or from the host school's local area. The Volunteer Coordinator will also assign participating school directors not judging the event to other duties as necessary for the event. These jobs can include, but are not limited to, security duty, timing, round support, and tally room.

The Host School Director is responsible for the physical requirements of their school to meet the needs of the event. The Host School Director will work with the Tournament Coordinator to secure the number of spaces, pianos, and physical equipment necessary for the event and will also work with the Volunteer Coordinator to secure judges for the event.

It is important that THREE Directors fulfill these roles rather than one director taking on two or even all three jobs.

TOURNAMENT COORDINATOR:

A Tournament Coordinator organizes the COMPETITION and shall be paid an honorarium of \$100. The Tournament Coordinator shall:

1. Work with the Host School Director and Volunteer Coordinator to plan the competition.
2. Work with other region Tournament Coordinators to balance the competition between regions.
3. Determines the number of judges necessary to run the event without overbooking.
4. Determines a budget for paying judges, based on number of entries and anticipated income, and communicates this to the State Director. The Tournament Coordinator is ultimately responsible for keeping the event in the black.
5. Provide appropriate tally sheets to score competitors.
6. Receive registrations for the tournament.
7. Send confirmations of registrations and a time schedule to entering schools
8. Work up a round rotation for the competitors as per the ROUNDS guidelines listed herein.
9. Create tally spreadsheets for the event for score entries.

10. Preserve tally spreadsheets for future consultation if necessary.

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR:

The Volunteer Coordinator organizes the PEOPLE for the event and shall be paid an honorarium of \$100. The Volunteer Coordinator shall:

1. Work with the Host School Director & Tournament Coordinator to plan the competition.
2. Instruct judges.
3. Supervise ad-hoc committee and tally room.
4. Assign judges to different rounds.
5. Obtain additional judges to fill in when there aren't enough provided by schools.
6. Assign participating school directors to necessary duties.

HOST SCHOOL DIRECTOR:

The host school director shall receive a \$100 honorarium. The host school shall:

1. Provide the necessary number of rooms for each event.
2. Provide a room for coaches and judges.
3. Xerox and organize the ballot sheets for judges, clearly marked as to event and round.
4. Provide an area for lunch. It is not necessary to provide food or drink.
5. Provide the necessary furniture as per the rules. Provide a piano for all musical scenes.
6. Provide refreshments for all coaches and judges, to be reimbursed, upon receipt, by the state director.
7. Provide timers for all rooms.
8. Provide a tally room.
9. Provide directions to the school and information regarding lunch.
10. Provide room for student presidents' luncheon meeting.

SCHOOL TRAVEL COMPENSATION:

In order to balance regional competitions, schools from one region may be asked to travel to another region's competition based on size or proximity to the other competition. In such cases, the State Director MAY offer some transportation compensation to schools who would have to travel extra distances to balance the competition. Schools may also petition the State Board for money to help with travel to the regional competition. However, priority will be given to schools who are gracious enough to help out the organization of the event by traveling outside their region. The council recognizes that travel within the region is ultimately the responsibility of the participating schools, but may award some money to financially strapped schools that may need to travel extreme distances within their region to attend the event. This award cannot be given to the same school more than once during a period of four years. Schools within the region are encouraged to geographically vary where the competitions are hosted every year so the cost of travel is evened out for everyone over time.

AWARDS:

At regional competitions, the top 10% scores in each category (except novice) will receive "Showcase Qualifier" ribbons, the next 10% (11% - 20%) will receive "Regional Finalist" ribbons. The top novice score in each novice category will receive a "Showcase Qualifier" ribbon while those remaining in the top 20% will receive "Regional Finalist" ribbons.

No winning entries perform (other than in competition rounds) at Regionals.

At the State Showcase, entries selected for the State Showcase will receive Showcase Performer ribbons. The remaining entries in the top 20% in each category, if any, will receive State Finalist ribbons.

SCHEDULE:

The schedule of rounds is determined by the Tournament Coordinator and any variation from the sample provided should be made available to troupes at least two weeks in advance of the tournament.

SAMPLE REGIONAL ACTING COMPETITION SCHEDULE

8:00 a.m. – 8:30a.m.	School Check-in
8:30 a.m.	MANDATORY Judge’s Orientation
8:30 a.m.	Competitor’s Orientation
10:00 a.m.	Column A, Round 1 Begins
11:00 a.m.	Column B, Round 1 Begins
12:00 a.m.	Column A, Round 2 Begins
1:00 p.m.	Lunch
2:00 p.m.	Column B, Round 2 Begins
3:00 p.m.	Column A, Round 3 Begins
4:00 p.m.	Column B, Round 3 Begins
5:00 p.m.	Entertainment
6:00 p.m.	Awards

(Please note that this is a sample schedule and is subject to change based on the number of competitors and other logistical considerations.)

BULLET POINTS FOR TROUPE DIRECTORS TO REVIEW:

- Fees are \$10 per participant, per entry, for members of ITS. Non-Thespians may enter an event for \$12 per participant, per entry. Make checks payable to Oregon Thespians.
- Fees are payable any time between registration and the day of the event. You will be responsible for paying for all entries/participants registered, even if you bring fewer.
- Additions are not possible after the registration deadline.
- Schools that show up to the competition with significantly fewer entries than registered (or who are no-shows altogether) may be fined up to \$50 in addition to fees owed, and/or barred from participating in the following year’s competition.
- After registration closes, you will receive a confirmation email with a list of entry numbers to assign to your entries. Once you’ve done so, provide a copy of the completed list with the students’ full names next to their assigned numbers at check-in.
- Please review the student handout for important reminders.
- Please review the judging information, and participate in recruiting qualified judges.

A Word About Appropriate Material

Oregon Thespians will not censor nor compel any school to follow any material selection guidelines for the Acting Competition but those established by their school district and

administrators. Troupe Directors are expected to have screened the competing material and it is generally accepted that students will not engage in any performance that is illegal nor is gratuitously vulgar.

It is also within the expectations of the judges to score scenes based on the appropriate selection of material for the student competitors. Just as it is inappropriate for a student who sings alto to attempt a musical piece that requires a soprano range, or for untrained performers to attempt difficult text with multiple shades of nuance and skill (material that would clearly challenge experienced performers such as a novice doing HAMLET or a complex love scene), it is also highly inappropriate for students to perform pieces that use PG-13 or even R rated language or situations if they are clearly using the material to get a reaction from the audience rather than in the context of the piece as intended by the author.

It is an accepted fact that experienced and trained student performers can attempt difficult material with successful and inspiring results and such students should be encouraged to use material that showcases their abilities. However, actors who merely use language and situations for puerile reactions from their teenage peers are neither representative of the talent that the competition seeks to showcase nor of quality theatre. The judges will score accordingly.

Finally, please remember that the ultimate goal of the Regional and State Showcase audition process is to be selected to perform in the State Showcase. It is important to recognize that material is being selected for performance before an audience of high school students from throughout the state, which may have considerations that are additional to material selection for classroom use. Please consider selections carefully, be knowledgeable of the material students are selecting, and be able to provide necessary information to audience members should the selection be chosen to showcase.