

The rules for the Georgia Theatre Conference Middle School One Act Festival reflect the rules of the GHSA One Act 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. 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. 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 work-shopped in the previous school year or previous two summers. Schools found in violation of this rule will be disqualified from competition.
3. 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 accompany track provided by their licensed published (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. Each school assumes full responsibility for royalties and any other limitations on the play that is selected.
5. Each school is responsible for its own props, costumes, and make-up.
6. 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. 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. Only set pieces (free standing) 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 presentation. Any debris and confetti must be swept up.

(c) Once the preceding play clears the stage, the next play has 15 minutes for set-up. If they are not set up at the end of that 15-minute 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 sets, props and costumes 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). When time is started, ALL set pieces must be moved PAST these lines onto the playing space. No portion of the Strike Area holding set prior to the production may be used as performance space. Before time is stopped, all pieces must be moved off the playing space behind the "go" lines. Sets should be designed to easily move onto and off the stage.

9. 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. Plays are to be announced by the order of appearance number or the title of the play rather than by school name.

11. Only eligible students are allowed on stage during play performance. Piano placement must be outside the performance area if an adult is playing. Adults may assist in loading and unloading of sets only prior to starting time and once time has stopped.

12. 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. The use of "body mikes" is not allowed.

14. Score sheets can be found on the web page. No photography or video taping is allowed of any physical One Act Play competition.

15. Due to physical distancing guidelines and the limitations of physical spaces, directors and students will sit in an assigned area in the theatre space to watch each show. There will be no mixing of schools together for seating arrangements. Adults chaperones who accompany the students to festival are responsible for enforcing COVID restrictions and may be subject to placement throughout the theatre in a physically distanced manner. Any contact with the adjudication panel will result in a disqualification from festival.

16. Due to COVID 19,if your school registers for the physical festival, and can no longer attend physically to perform your show live, your registration will automatically apply to the digital festival .It is your responsibility as a director to acquire recording rights.

17. Due to COVID 19, If your school registers for the physical festival: masks will be required to be worn in the auditorium, in dressing rooms, in the tech booth, and in common spaces such as restrooms. Masks will not be required by actors on stage, but will be required for technicians.

We look forward to an amazing conference!