

# SCENE RULES FOR ALL DTASC FESTIVALS

## BASIC PARAMETERS

1. The selection is to be memorized.
2. Group scenes are not to exceed eight (8) minutes. Individual and small group events are not to exceed five (5) minutes. Tech categories are not to exceed eight (8) minutes. The Events Sheet included in the registration packet should be consulted for all events that have been established for a specific festival. If the time is exceeded, participants must be stopped, but are not disqualified. If participants fail to stop after a warning, they will be disqualified.
3. **The playwright's lines must be used. Individual words or phrases may not be combined at random to create new lines.**
4. Scenes must be suitable for student actors and audiences, with some only 10 years old.
  - Any suggestive acting that denotes sexual activity of any kind except kissing and embracing is strictly forbidden in festival scenes and will result in disqualification.
  - No explicit sexual language or profanity of any kind is allowed. Language found in Shakespeare's plays (i.e., hell, damn, and bastard) is acceptable. Please note that Shakespeare used "bastard" only to mean an illegitimate child, not as a pejorative.
  - No scene that makes a parody of or is offensive to alternative lifestyles, religions, sexual orientation, or culture is allowed.
  - For Middle School (Div A), kissing on the mouth is not permitted. For Junior Varsity (Div B), only a quick non-sexual kiss on the mouth is permitted. No tongues should be visible. For both divisions, any horizontal embracing or other sexually intimate body contact is strictly forbidden in festival scenes.
5. Once a group has been established in Round One, no group members can be added or exchanged for different students. If Round One is missed, approval to be double ranked in Round Two **MUST** be received from the president. Any alterations to round participation and room placement must have written approval by the DTASC president.
6. Due to copyright laws, no videotaping or photographing of scenes in any round is allowed.
7. Sound effects are permissible, but only through the use of a participant's hands, feet, or mouth. No manufactured devices may be employed.
8. The optional introduction, which by definition is at the beginning of the performance, cannot be longer than 100 words or cannot be longer than **30 seconds**. **Performers must announce school code, title and playwright; these do not count toward the 100 words total, but cannot extend the introduction past the 30 seconds maximum.** Performers **must** signal a clear break to the judges that the intro is finished and the performance will begin. The intro is counted as part of the total time.

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## SCENE RULES FOR ALL DTASC FESTIVALS, CONTINUED

9. No participant may perform in more than one event; however, a participant may portray more than one character and may enact a character of the opposite sex. Personal pronouns may be changed in the text where necessary.
10. At least one category per festival must be designated as a “straight” scene. A “straight scene” must be derived from a single scene from a play, as written by the playwright, with any editing or cuts permitted only to delete insignificant characters, to make pronoun changes for clarity, **to remove profanity (required)**, or to complete the scene within time constraints. The playwright’s intent must be honored. **Actors may play more than one role.**
11. Unless the scene is specifically designated as a parody, author’s intent must be preserved in all scenes.
12. MUSICAL is a permanent 8-minute category for Fall Festival. **Intent of the musical scene must be theatrical in nature, not choir driven. Songs in the scene need to help further storytelling.**
13. As the festival contains a MUSICAL category, all other group scenes must be from non-musical shows not listed as musicals in a catalog, with the following exceptions:
  - Audition monologues may contain a musical selection even if there is another musical category.
  - Participants may use material from a musical for non-musical categories, provided there is no singing, humming, or underscoring.
  - In Anything Goes, singing is allowed.
14. Participants must wear DTASC PERFORMANCE DRESS, including shoes as indicated in rule #15. This is established as:
  - Pants/Jeans — any solid color, plainly-styled, ankle-length.
  - Shorts — plainly-styled, solid-color, modest in style and length (fitted at the waist with legs that reach at least one inch beyond the fingertips when arms are extended at the side of the body).
  - Shirts — a plain button-up collared shirt, long or short sleeve; any plain solid color t-shirt, long or short sleeve; or any official DTASC t-shirt is acceptable. No cutting, rolling up, or modification of the shirt is allowed. (See #16 and #17 for slight exceptions.)
  - Girls may wear skirts **or dresses** — any plain solid color, plainly-styled, knee-length or longer, with a neat, same-length hemline and may wear, if desired, leggings (any solid color) under skirts **or dresses**.
  - No accessories
  - No alterations to standard design
  - No rips or cut-outs
  - No designs/writing/printing on any clothing (except official DTASC t-shirts).
  - No bare midriff, spaghetti straps, plunging necklines, underwear that is visible, nor immodestly revealing apparel.
  - Solid layering of shirts is permitted.

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## SCENE RULES FOR ALL DTASC FESTIVALS, CONTINUED

15. Shoes are required. Special footwear (i.e. tennis shoes, ballet slippers), except tap shoes, is acceptable for all events.
16. No theatrical makeup is allowed in any acting event, but may be required in tech theatre costume categories.
17. Clothing restrictions:
  - Clothing may not be used as props (e.g. scarf used as a noose), except as would be used in the normal course of a scene (i.e. actress may spread skirt to curtsy before the Duke, character may roll sleeves up or down if the scene requires it).
  - Clothing may not be rearranged during the scene to create a different “costume” or indicate a different character. (See #18 for slight exception.)
  - No clothing can be removed for any reason during a scene.
18. A skirt may be tucked to create pants. (This is the sole exception to Rule #17.)
19. No properties may be used. Only chairs will be permitted. All event participants will be permitted to use four (4) chairs, with the exception of individual event participants, who may use two (2) chairs. *Chairs may not be thrown or forcefully propelled*, but may be used in any other manner considered safe (except if the scene is pantomime, in which case the chair must not be moved in any fashion). Schools may provide their own chairs with the following stipulations:
  - Chairs must be “typical” to a secondary academic classroom.
  - Standard folding chairs are permitted. A participant may fold a folding chair during a scene.
  - Chairs should be in standard, institutional, manufactured colors only.  
*No decorations may be added.*
  - Chairs may be padded.
  - No modified stools or cubes are allowed.
  - The host school will still provide chairs for schools who do not bring them.
  - *School code should be placed on the chair in an area out of sight so that they can be returned to the proper owners if misplaced or lost.*

FOR RULES PERTAINING TO SPECIFIC FALL OR SHAKESPEARE EVENT CATEGORIES, PLEASE REFER TO FALL EVENT RULES IN SECTION E3 AND SHAKESPEARE EVENT RULES IN SECTION E4.