

Frequently Asked Questions

Directors, Contest Managers and Adjudicators

March 4, 2021

Are visiting schools required to follow the host site's safety protocols?

Safety Protocols

Each contest site will determine the safety protocols for their space and will inform the competing schools and adjudicators no later than 21 days prior to contest. Sites should follow at minimum the [UIL COVID-19 Risk Mitigation Guidelines \(UPDATED 3/4/21\)](#), the OAP Planning Guides and the most recent updates.

IMPORTANT: Contest site hosts should inform the Contest Manager and contest staff **if there are any changes after the 21-day deadline**. Contest Managers will inform the Adjudicators and competing schools of changes in site-specific protocols.

What if I am not told of a change in safety protocols in advance and I arrive and the protocols have changed? May I recuse myself from the contest?

If an adjudicator or a contest manager does not feel the contest is safe, please inform the state theatre director, immediately. **(UPDATED 3/4/21)**

Will the judging ballot/evaluation change for this COVID-19 year?

For schools **required** to wear facial coverings, adjudicators shall not evaluate vocal dynamics. When evaluating staging and composition, adjudicators are aware that some districts require students to follow social distancing guidelines onstage and the staging/blocking may reflect that. Schools not wearing facial coverings in performance will be evaluated on voice.

See Resources and Forms [PAGE](#) for updated ballots and Evaluation forms.

Withdrawals

What if our school should need to withdraw due to COVID-19 reasons; quarantine, lack of participation, sickness...?

Here is the process for withdrawal-

- Contact the state office- prodriguez@uiltexas.org that you are officially withdrawing from contest.
- Contact the Contest Manager immediately. Your school's withdrawal may affect the OAP contest arrangements.

- We need a letter (there is no form), from your Principal stating that your school is withdrawing from competition and the reasons why. That letter is due no later than June 1.
- The letter should be sent to the District Executive Committee and the State Theatre office.

Alignments

Are we rearranging alignments due to schools withdrawing from competition?

No, we are not rearranging the OAP alignment.

Advancing

There are now only two schools remaining in our district? Are we able to hold a district contest?

Option A- If your District Executive Committee approves it, the two schools could have a district contest for acting awards, critiques and points. Both schools will still automatically advance to Bi-district competition.

Option B- With DEC approval, the two schools would skip the district contest, no points or acting awards and advance to Bi-District competition.

What if there remain only 3 schools in a Bi-District Contest?

A Bi-District contest will be held to determine the two top ranked schools that will advance to the regional level.

What if there only remains 2 schools at a Bi-District contest?

The two schools would skip the bi-district contest and advance to regional competition.

Contest Schedules

Option "C" Schedules- rehearse, perform, strike, critique and exit.

Is the set-up time waived with this option?

It is unnecessary for a school to strike their set offstage at the end of rehearsal for the **Option C schedule**. When the Contest manager and company is ready, the contest manager shall allow 7 minutes for a school to set up for the start of the show.

Can our school waive the verbal critique this year if using the Option B or C schedule?

Whether it is post awards, virtual or post performance, the verbal critique is strongly recommended due to the educational value. For this year, a school may waive the verbal critique if using Option B/C. Schools will not receive the written evaluation until after results.

Schools waiving the verbal critique shall not contact the adjudicators for a verbal critique, after the contest.

Performance Order

Our district has changed to a non-traditional schedule (option B/C). Is our Contest Manager allowed to change the performance order for schools who are traveling long distances?

The Contest Manager should collaborate with schools to create a safe and fair contest for all students. This includes adjusting performance if necessary for schools traveling to and from contest from long distances. At the District and Bi-District levels, the District Executive Committee(s) has final authority over changes to the performance order and schedule.

Contest Managers/Adjudicators/Directors

Will the judging ballot/evaluation change due to the new Academic modifications? (updated 3/4/21)

Yes. **Adjudicators shall not evaluate vocal dynamics this year if students are required to wear face coverings due to district or host site requirement.** When evaluating staging and composition, adjudicators should be aware that many districts require students to follow social distancing guidelines onstage and the staging/blocking may reflect that. Updated Evaluation Sheets and Ballots may be found under Resources and [Forms](#) on the UIL Theatre Website.

If critiques are occurring after the performance, may judges draw for critiques before the contest?

No. *Judges may not* draw for critique order before the contest. The critique draw shall happen after each performance.

As an adjudicator, what happens if my contest gets cancelled or if there are fewer schools at the contest due to schools withdrawing?

The contest manager should inform the judges of any changes to the contest as soon as possible. Schools are struggling with many issues due to COVID-19 and it is beyond the school's control. Judges should check in with contest managers prior to arriving at the contest. If you need to cancel, inform your contest manager immediately.

Performance Order

I'm a contest manager and one or more schools want to change the current contest schedule/performance order. Are we allowed to change the performance order for schools who are traveling long distances?

The Contest Manager should collaborate with schools to create a safe and fair contest for all students. This includes adjusting performance if necessary for schools traveling to and from

contest from long distances. At the District and Bi-District levels, the District Executive Committee(s) has final authority over changes to the performance order and schedule.

What if a school or if spectators refuse to follow the mandatory safety protocols of the host site? Am I responsible for enforcing the COVID-19 guidelines, in addition to the rules in the Handbook and C&CR for all participating schools?

In addition to enforcing the rules for participating schools, as the contest official, **do your best** to encourage non-participants to follow the UIL COVID-19 Risk Mitigation Guidelines. However, you are not responsible for how a school stages their play. It is not your responsibility to restage a production. Schools must follow the TEA, UIL, and local district policies. The One-Act Play Ethics Code shall carry the force of the rule. Administrators are required to sign the Community Standards and Copyright Compliance form prior to competition, agreeing that they have approved of all the language and physical action performed onstage. If you witness safety concerns or violations of UIL Rules please contact the state theatre director

What if a judge needs to cancel a contest assigned by the UIL State Office (Region and State)?

Contact Paula Rodriguez, state theatre director at prodriguez@uiltexas.org/512-471-4517 immediately.