



THE ONE ACT DRAMA FESTIVAL CIRCUIT: ADJUDICATORS' BRIEF 2026

The following guidelines for adjudicators should be considered in conjunction with the One-Act Drama Festival Circuit: Rules 2026. The Joint Committee of the ADCI/DLI (hereafter the Joint Committee) reserve the right to amend both. Any issue arising not covered by this document, must be discussed with the Joint Committee, through the national secretary.

1. The adjudicator must familiarise themselves with The One-Act Drama Festival Circuit Rules: 2026.
2. The adjudicator will receive a copy of all original scripts at least three weeks in advance of the festival to allow him/her to familiarise themselves with the script.
3. ALL SCRIPTS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE GROUPS AFTER THE FESTIVAL.
4. Following each night's performance, the adjudicator will give a public adjudication of no longer than 15 minutes total, to be agreed in advance with the festival committee.
5. Each group is entitled to a private adjudication of a maximum of 10 minutes; a member of the festival organising committee must be present at the private adjudication in an observation capacity only.
6. The focus of the adjudication should be on the performance and what the group did with the production rather than on the work itself.
7. The adjudicator must be sensitive to and respect the efforts of the performing groups in both the public and private adjudications and the critiques should be of a constructive nature.
8. The marking system is set out in The One Act Drama Festival Circuit: Rules 2026. Ties for places may not be awarded.
9. The festival committee shall inform the adjudicator if a play has exceeded the fifty-five minute time limit, in such an event five points per minute or part of a minute must be deducted, however should a play run over by five (5) minutes, the group will be automatically disqualified.
10. For the purposes of timing, the play is adjudicated to commence on lights up and end on lights down.
11. The festival committee shall inform the adjudicator if a group has overrun their scheduled set-up/strike times, in this event the adjudicator must penalise the group by a deduction of ten (10) marks from their total.
12. The application of the penalties set out in 9 and 11 is not discretionary.
13. The spirit of the One-Act Drama Festival Circuit is that groups essentially perform in front of drapes and therefore the use of sets is not allowed. Only free-standing pieces shall be used and proportionally the majority of the setting (not including props or furniture) should be drapes/curtains and not flats. To this end groups must set-up in 10mins and strike in 5mins.

The adjudicator shall be concerned to especially encourage groups showing imagination in dealing with this limitation. The adjudicator shall decide on whether a set has been used in a production. In the event of an adjudicator deeming a set to have been used, the penalty is disqualification.

14. An official marking sheet will be supplied by the festival committee, and the adjudicator must use this for marking each group in each competition and placing the groups in each section in order of merit. When complete the adjudicator must sign same and allow the festival secretary to check the marking and countersign the sheet before the announcement of results.

15. When announcing the results the adjudicator must announce 3rd Place, 2nd Place and 1st Place. In the event of their only being three groups in a particular competition only 2nd Place and 1st Place will be announced.

16. The adjudicator must ensure clarity as to the reason/category of the adjudicator's award.

17. Groups will receive a copy of their own marks and placing and the marks of the winning group.

18. An adjudicator may officiate at a maximum of two festivals in any one season, and they may be in the same Province.

19. If an adjudicator is requested to officiate at the All-Ireland Finals and has been engaged for qualifying festival(s), the qualifying festival(s) will be expected to release the adjudicator from the contract. The responsibility for finding a replacement adjudicator lies with the qualifying festival.

20. The One-Act Drama Festival Circuit: Rules 2026 also apply to the All-Ireland Finals. However, no private adjudication is required at the Finals.

21. In the event an adjudicator is unable to perform their duties at a festival to which they have been contracted they must provide a replacement adjudicator acceptable to the qualifying festival.

22. The adjudicator's decision in relation to awards and marking (having consideration for any penalties) shall be final.

23. The adjudicator shall report to the national secretary of the Joint Committee any attempt by person or persons to influence his/her decision in any matter pertaining to the competition

24. Where an adjudicator is unhappy or concerned about any aspect of a festival, whether from an audience member, a festival committee member or from a member of a group participating in a festival, they are encouraged to report the incident to the Joint Committee for investigation.