



2020-2021

MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

One Act Play Sub-section and Section Guidance and Information

January 21: Updates on pages 5-9, including clarification on masks

Note that the resumption of all activities and athletics are subject to change based on the most current information, directives from state government and health department officials, and member school feedback.

General Guidance

- All aspects of activities including meetings, practices, rehearsals, competitions, transportation and facility usage must align with the requirements of the Minnesota Department of Education plan for return to learning, must follow the requirements from the Minnesota Department of Health, and must include the required actions identified in the Governor's Executive Orders.
- The first week of practice/rehearsal should focus on implementing effective protocols and routines for pre-participation screenings, effective social distancing, compliance with all health recommendations, establishment of pod limits of 25 or less, and additional actions that mitigate the spread of disease and enhance safety of students and coaches/directors.
- Activity programs must follow the identified protocols for students or coaches/directors who have tested positive, are experiencing symptoms consistent with a COVID-19 diagnosis or have had exposure to an individual who has been diagnosed with COVID-19.
- For schools that are required by localized metrics to be in a distance learning mode, practices are limited to virtual contact only.
- Competitions with opponents from bordering states are allowed when less than 50 miles one way and when determined as local. Competitions of greater distances may be approved by the MSHSL with supporting rationale. Any out of state competition must follow MSHSL guidelines for competition types.
- Sportsmanship should have a constant presence in all school-based athletics.
 - Teams are encouraged to find appropriate methods of demonstrating good sportsmanship and respect towards others within the physical distance guidance.
 - Additional care should be taken when addressing contest officials with questions or seeking interpretations. At no time, other than in the natural course of competition, should a coach or participant violate the required physical distance with an official. Any coach or participant verbally interacts with an official must do so with a mask on and at a safe distance

COVID-19 NOTICE

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

In accordance with governmental directives, the MSHSL will offer certain activities subject to compliance with local, state, and federal laws, regulations, and guidelines. The Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Department of Education and the MSHSL have developed guidance and requirements related to youth sports, use of school facilities and modifications of MSHSL activities designed to keep participants safe and reduce the spread of COVID-19. Even with these measures, the MSHSL cannot guarantee that students or other individuals participating in organized athletic activities (“Participants”) will not be exposed to COVID-19. Participants and their parents/legal guardians should consider the risks before participating in any MSHSL activities. It is a shared responsibility to protect everyone from COVID-19 and Participants should follow MDH/CDC guidelines to reduce the risk of exposure, including but not limited to the following:

- Stay home as much as possible;
- Stay at least 6 feet from other people if you are in public places;
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick;
- Wash your hands often, with soap and water. Wash for at least 20 seconds;
- Always wash your hands after being in a public place;
- Always wash your hands after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing;
- If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer that is at least 60% alcohol;
- Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze. Cough or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue. Throw used tissues in the trash;
- Wear face coverings/masks that cover your nose and mouth and fit snugly against the sides of your face.

In recognizing the serious nature of the COVID-19 pandemic and the positive impact that participation in MSHSL fine arts activities and athletics has on student participants, it is imperative that students and families know and understand the following:

1. Participating in MSHSL activities is **voluntary**.
2. While participating in MSHSL activities, all laws as well as MSHSL and school rules, guidelines, and protocols related to COVID-19 must be followed.
3. Participant acknowledges the contagious nature of COVID-19, and the Participant understands that there is risk of injury and/or illness from participating in MSHSL activities, including the risk to have direct or indirect contact with individuals who have been exposed to and/or diagnosed with COVID-19.
4. Participant agrees that if he/she is exposed to, or infected by, COVID-19 during the period of participation, they will immediately cease participation and follow Minnesota Department of Health protocols for schools and activities and MSHSL guidelines for notification and return to participation.
5. Participant has signed a separate Eligibility Statement connected to general participation in MSHSL athletics/activities and agrees that the terms of that statement are wholly incorporated into this document and that the terms of this document are incorporated into the Eligibility Statement.

Additional information regarding Activity Participation and COVID can be found at:

- health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/sportsguide.pdf,
- health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/k12planguide.pdf
- www.mshsl.org
- www.nfhs.org

COVID Related Guidance:

1. Educate students about physical distancing, handwashing and sanitizer use, and other immune system protocols.
2. Any person who has had a fever or cold symptoms in the previous 24 hours should not be allowed to take part in rehearsals and should contact his or her primary care provider or other appropriate healthcare professional.
3. Individually or as a group, participants should confirm that they are symptom free. These confirmations can be aligned with the CDC's "Coronavirus Self-Checker" or current MDH recommendations.
4. A record should be kept of all individuals present at rehearsals and performances (contact tracing).
5. It is recommended that personal prep areas are to be set up prior to rehearsal – Markers should be set up at least 6 feet apart so participants have a specific place for their own bag, water bottle, etc. One marker should be assigned per student.
6. Avoid grouping of participants at start and end of practice/rehearsal or during transitions. Staggered start times for practices and meetings are recommended, when possible and when practice space does not allow students to come and go from separate areas.
7. Whenever possible, participants should maintain the recommended six feet of distancing between individuals and should not be in contact with each other. In addition, there is to be no sharing of equipment/props to the extent that it is possible.
8. Post-performance celebrations or congratulations should be no-touch and should be done with appropriate social distancing.

Additional Fine Arts-specific guidance and links can be found here: [MSHSL Fine Arts Guidance](#)

2021 One Act Play

Sub-Section and Section Modifications

The following procedures were created in consultation with the MSHSL One Act Play Advisory Committee.

Performance Format

In order to allow safe participation from all schools regardless of learning mode – in-person, hybrid, or distance learning – and frequent changes to learning modes, each registered school will create and submit a video of their production for judging. The video can be either:

- A. A recording of an in-person production
- B. A recorded online production (recording a video conference in Zoom, Google Meet, Microsoft Teams, WebEx, etc. where the play is performed).

No post-production alteration of the video is allowed. This is not intended to create a “video production” competition. The focus will be on the students’ performance.

Regardless of the performance format, all other rules in the [MSHSL One Act Play Rules and Policies](#) still apply, including rules on prohibited props and safety.

Option A: In-Person Format

For this option, the submitted video will be the recording of a single take of an in-person performance.

- Video recordings must be shot from one camera and be created in a single shot. Zooming in and out, panning, and the moving of the camera IS permitted. Note: This is a change from original guidelines.
- No post-production alteration of the video is allowed.
- Set-up will not be timed or recorded. The performance area can be set up ahead of time. Note: This is a change from original guidelines.
- If a school does not have a theater, the performance area can be a classroom, cafeteria, gym, or other space. Judges will be instructed to take into account that different schools have different resources, and the show should not be judged based on the available performance area.

- Masks: Executive Order 20-81 addresses the use of masks in public, indoor spaces: *“Face coverings ... may be temporarily removed under the following circumstances: c. When testifying, speaking or performing in a public indoor space, in situations or settings such as theaters ... provided that social distancing is always maintained.”*
<https://www.leg.mn.gov/archive/execorders/20-81.pdf>
 - The MSHSL interprets the Executive Order to mean that masks should be worn during the performance unless a performer is speaking. When a performer is speaking, he/she can remove the mask provided that he/she is distanced from other performers. If it is crucial for the performers to be in close proximity, the masks need to stay on. Once a performer is done speaking, the mask should be returned to the face. If they are part of an ongoing dialogue, the mask could stay off for the dialogue.
 - Per Executive Order, a face shield is not a replacement for a face covering. According to Executive Order, a “face covering” must be worn to cover the nose and mouth completely, and can include a paper or disposable face mask, a cloth face mask, a scarf, a bandanna, a neck gaiter, or a religious face covering. For One Act Play productions, face shields are not permitted as a substitution for a face covering as defined above. Face shields can be worn in addition to a “face covering.”
 - See FAQs for more information about masks. Link to FAQs is at the bottom of this document.
- Schools will only be able to rehearse and perform in an in-person format when the Executive Order 20-99 is lifted and if local district metrics and rules allow.
- All other rules in the [MSHSL One Act Play Rules and Policies](#) still apply, including rules on prohibited props and safety.
- The video should be recorded without an audience.
- An introduction or title slide is not necessary. The judge will see the show title before clicking on the video. The time shown on the uploaded video will be used to determine the length of your show.

Option B: Videoconference Format

For this option, the submitted video will be the recording of a single take of a videoconference. Examples of platforms for this option include Zoom, Google Meet, Microsoft Teams, WebEx, etc.

- Videoconference features can be used to enhance the story during the single take including:
 - Displaying the character names instead of the name of the videoconference attendee
 - Turning personal computer cameras off and on in order to highlight certain performers
 - Using gallery view or single-speaker view
 - Using virtual backgrounds or adjusting real backgrounds to fit the show
 - Screen sharing
 - Sound effects that are played during the single take
- No post-production alteration of the video is allowed.
- Set-up will not be timed or recorded.
- Executive Order 20-99 or district learning model does not limit virtual rehearsal or performance. [MSHSL Fine Arts Guidance Relative to EO 20-99](#)
- All other rules in the [MSHSL One Act Play Rules and Policies](#) still apply, including rules on prohibited props and safety. For example, just because a performer is in his/her own house, food/beverage rules will still apply.
- An introduction or title slide is not necessary. The judge will see the show title before clicking on the video. The time shown on the uploaded video will be used to determine the length of your show.

Sub-Section Competition

- The completed video will be sent to the sub-section contest manager by a date set by the section.

- Information/guidance about the uploading platform was sent to directors on Jan. 18. Uploading site: https://anywhereseat.com/competition_form.php?competition_id=1000002
- The manager will send a video link to the judges to access the recording.
- The judges will have 48 hours to view, critique and rank. Judges will receive suggestions about how to judge a video format, keeping in mind the play should not be judged by the quality of the video or available performance space. While judging is always subjective, we acknowledge that it may be more subjective than ever due to the varied formats, but appreciate the opportunity for students to receive feedback on their performances. Judges can confer with one another. Judges are not to share the videos with anyone.
- The manager will collect the critique sheets and the rankings, announce the results to the schools, and send the critiques to the schools. Results can be announced/sent out electronically, or announced on a virtual meeting. The number of teams that advance to the section competition will be based on section rules, similar to past years.
- Sections can create their own dates and deadlines for sub-section competition. Section tournaments must be complete by Saturday, February 6.

Section Competition

- Using judge feedback, advancing schools will be encouraged to create a new video, if their learning mode and health of participants allows. A videoconference virtual performance will likely allow an opportunity for rerecording, but an in-person production may not, depending on learning mode or if any participants are in required quarantine.
- The above process will be repeated: Schools will send their videos to the contest manager, the contest manager will send a link of the video to the judges, and judges will critique and rank, conferring if desired. When the section contest manager has the critiques and ranking, she/he will announce the results, send the critiques to the schools, and send the results to the MSHSL to publicize section champions.
- Section tournaments must be complete by Saturday, February 6.

State Festival

- Using judge feedback, advancing schools will be encouraged to create a new video, if their learning mode and health of participants allows. A videoconference virtual performance will likely allow an opportunity for rerecording, but an in-person production may not, depending on learning mode or if any participants are in required quarantine.
- The above process will be repeated during the week of February 8, with specific deadlines to be determined: Schools will send their videos to the contest manager (MSHSL staff), the contest manager will send a link of the video to the judges, and judges will critique and rank, conferring if desired. The MSHSL will publicize all participants, and note the starred performance.
- Cast and crew pictures – whether in person or through a video conference format – will be requested.

Play Selection Suggestions

When selecting a play, keep in mind that your current learning mode may change. For example, your school may currently be able to create an in-person performance, but may only be able to perform virtually in the future. In addition, individual students may need to undergo quarantine, which could affect available cast members for in-person performance. Adaptability and versatility will be important. Plays will look different than they did pre-COVID and than they will post-COVID. Consider the numerous scripts available online for virtual performances, in addition to readers theatre-style, series of monologues, radio shows and others. Reach out to local directors or members of the One Act Play Advisory Committee for brainstorming ideas.

Securing Rights

None of the videos will be streamed online for section competition purposes. One pre-recorded video will be shared through a secured, unlisted link with judges. Streaming rights are not necessary for participation in section competition. Additional performance or livestream rights are at the discretion of each school. Contact licensing companies for specific protocols and guidance.

Live or Streaming Performance Opportunities

The MSHSL and the One Act Play Advisory Committee agrees that creating a video performance is significantly different than performing in person in front of a live audience. Based on local health metrics and school learning mode, schools may still opt to perform their plays live outside of the MSHSL section competition. For example, a school could still perform for a local audience, or neighboring schools could perform for one another. All Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Department of Education, and local rules would apply to these optional performances. This will not be part of the MSHSL section competition. In addition, schools may opt to stream a performance of their play if they have secured the rights to do so; this will not be part of the MSHSL section competition.

The MSHSL will consider assisting schools in advertising any available streamed performances.

It is strongly advised that schools wait until after the conclusion of the section competition to share videos with one another.

Hiring Judges

Development of a judges' registration system on the new MSHSL webpage is still in production. Sections may hire previously registered judges or locally recommended new judges. Note: Because of this year's video format, it may not be necessary to select judges who are geographically close to your sub-section or section, or based on time constraints of a specific day. Consider reaching out to judges in other areas of the state. Region Secretaries will be sent a list of previously registered judges.

Further details will be shared as they are developed.

[One Act Play FAQs](#)