

Performance Standards Policy

(Adopted July 28, 2007)

The Arizona State Thespian Board recognizes there is a wide variation in the “contemporary community standards” among the public, charter, and private high schools in the state. Thus, the following policy will govern **all** performances at the annual Arizona Thespian Conference, as well as the regional acting festivals which are sponsored by the above Board.

No performance will be allowed (full length, one act, or individual event) which is prohibited, or not protected by the First Amendment – i.e. “Unprotected speech.” A condensed definition of “unprotected speech” follows:

- 5) Material that has content that is “obscene as to minors, “(under the age of 18). This is defined as follows:
 - a) Where the average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find that the performance and/or production, taken as a whole, appeals to a minor’s prurient interest.
 - b) Where the performance and/or production depicts or describes in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct such as actual or simulated sexual intercourse (normal or deviate), masturbation, excretory functions, and actual lewd exhibition of genitalia; and
 - c) where the performance and/or production, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.
- 6) Material that has content that is “defamatory,” – defined as the depiction of false unprivileged communication about an individual which injures that person’s reputation in the community or good name.
- 7) Material that has content that will cause “a material and substantial disruption of school activities,” - defined as student rioting; unlawful seizures or destruction of property; widespread shouting or boisterous conduct; school boycotts, etc.
- 8) Material that infringes on “separation of church and state.” Under this doctrine certain religious activities, such as proselytizing, have been held to be unconstitutional if conducted within the context of a school-sponsored activity.

(For a complete discussion of the above see: *Teaching Theatre*, Spring 2007 Edition, pp. 4-13, which includes the MiamiDade County policy on play selection.)

Instructor’s Approval

I hereby certify that: a) at least one public performance has been given; and that such performance(s) conforms to the local school’s “contemporary community standards,” and that it contains no examples of “unprotected speech,” as defined above. b) If no public performance has been given I certify that I have perused the script(s) and have found nothing objectionable in its content re: “contemporary community standards” or “unprotected speech.”

(On a practical note: NO performance will be allowed at any of the above events that are listed on the event’s application form as: “TBA.” i. e. without an exact title.)

I hereby certify that all productions/performances listed on the event’s application form(s) have had at least one public performance at _____ (name of school) on _____ (date) AND/OR: I have perused the script(s) and/or cuttings from a script of each production listed on the event’s application form(s) and have found no violations based on the local school’s “contemporary community standards” or “unprotected speech.”
_____(signed) _____(date)

(Failure to adhere to this policy may result in A.I.A. sanctions to your school.)

Coaches Code of Conduct

The Arizona Thespian's believes that sportsmanship is a core value and its promotion and practice are essential. Thespian Coaches have a duty to assure that their teams promote the development of good character. This code of conduct applies to all theatre coaches involved in interscholastic festivals and activities.

1. The theatre coach will promote academics and the educational process.
2. The theatre coach will teach, enforce, advocate, model, and promote the development of good character to include:
 - a) Trustworthiness
 - b) Respect
 - c) Responsibility
 - d) Fairness
 - e) Caring
 - f) Citizenship
3. The theatre coach will respect participants, officials, opponents, parents, and all other involved.
4. The theatre coach will promote fair play and uphold the spirit of the rules in the activity.
5. The theatre coach will model appropriate behavior at all times.

I have read and understand the requirements of this Code of Conduct and acknowledge that I may be disciplined if I violate any of its provisions.

Signature

Date

The AIA Theatre Advisory Committee has the final action on all Code of Conduct violations

Student Participants Code of Conduct

The Arizona Thespian's believes that sportsmanship is a core value and its promotion and practice are essential. Student participants have a duty to assure that their teams promote the development of good character. This code of conduct applies to all student participants involved in interscholastic festivals and activities.

1. Student participants will support the value of academics and the educational process.
2. Student participants will advocate, model, and promote the development of good character to include: a)

Trustworthiness

- b) Respect
- c) Responsibility
- d) Fairness
- e) Caring
- f) Citizenship

3. Student participants will respect peers, coaches, officials, opponents and other associated with the event.
4. Student participants will promote fair play and uphold the spirit of the rules in the activity.
5. Student participants will model appropriate behavior at all times.
6. Student participants will engage in a healthy lifestyle.

I have read and understand the requirements of this Code of Conduct and acknowledge that I may be disciplined or removed from a team if I violate any of its provisions.

Signature

Date

The AIA Theatre Advisory Committee has the final action on all Code of Conduct violations

AIA and Arizona Thespians Code of Conduct FOR JUDGES

- I will be attentive to the performance and to the performer and limit all possible distractions.
- I will remember that I am watching high school students who are trying their best to create an effective theatrical experience and I will judge them as high school students.
- I will to make my critique positive and user friendly.
- I will make any negative comments, constructive and useful critique.
- In my critique, written and/or verbal, I will avoid personal comments such as, “I love (hate) that play/author.” “I really liked (did not like) the way you placed your chairs.” “When I directed that show I did it this way,” “and it should be done this way.” And my comments will reflect the score given or the score given will reflect my comments.
- I will do my best to make comments that refer to an effective/non-effective theatre performance such as “I think that you expressed the author’s desire for this piece because _____.” “The way you placed your chairs allowed for effective blocking.” “Another way to do this play would be _____.”
- I will not alter my scores for certain schools or teachers, but to judge fairly as all plays are equal in the opportunity to display their talents.”

Name of Judge – Signature

Printed Name

Name of Event

Date