



## NIDDERDALE AND DISTRICT DRAMA ASSOCIATION

*President: Ian Clarke*

### Rules of the Nidderdale and District Drama Association

- **NAME:**

The Association shall be known as **THE NIDDERDALE AND DISTRICT DRAMA ASSOCIATION**

- **OBJECTIVES**

The aim of the Association shall be to promote an annual competitive festival of one-act plays with a view to the encouragement of the appreciation of Drama and to raising the standard of Amateur Drama Productions. We also support the objectives of the All-England Theatre Festival (AETF) Constitution.

- **MANAGEMENT**

Each member society shall be entitled to be represented by two voting members at each meeting (although more than two members are welcome to attend these meetings).

A Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected by and from the participating Societies at the Annual General Meeting.

The Committee shall have the power to co-opt additional members.

- **FESTIVAL RULES**

#### **WHO CAN ENTER?**

1. Any bona fide adult amateur Society, or recognised Youth Theatre.
2. Definition of a professional group: A professional group performs an activity to earn an income, whereas an amateur group performs an activity as a hobby.
3. Definition of Youth group: all performers to be 18 years or under by 1<sup>st</sup> September of the year of the NDDA Festival.
4. A group's public presence/marketing must clearly demonstrate a group's amateur status and must not promote professional work.
5. Any festival production must not be available to hire for financial gain.
6. All players must be amateurs i.e. whose main income is not earned by acting.

#### **WHAT CAN WE ENTER?**

7. The dramatic work shall be a One Act Play, an Act from a full-length play (provided it makes sense as it stands), plays developed to performance level from original improvisations or pieces of theatre involving mime, movement, sound etc in unscripted form for which synopses are provided for use by the adjudicator.
8. The entry must consist of **not less than two speaking** parts.
9. A member of a Society may only appear in one production at any one Festival.
10. A Youth play must conform to the time rules, but need not have a minimum number of speaking parts. It must, however, be understood by the entrant that if there are less than two speaking parts, in the event that the Youth play wins the whole Festival, it will not be eligible to enter the next round of the AETF.
11. Dramatic Schools for the training of professional actors are not eligible.
12. No Society shall enter the same play in the Festival more than once in five years.

#### **WHAT ARE THE TIME CONSTRAINTS?**

13. The length of performance of the entry shall be not less than **20 MINUTES** and not more than 55 minutes **including** any **change** of scene. Setting and striking times will **not** be included in the **55-MINUTE LIMIT**.
14. A time of 10 minutes shall be allowed for the setting of the stage and 5 minutes to strike the set, in addition to the time of the performance. The penalties for not keeping within the allotted times for performance, setting and striking the set shall be as follows:

Up to 1 minutes over (or under) time	1 mark
Up to 2 minutes over (or under) time	3 marks
Up to 3 minutes over (or under) time	6 marks
Up to 4 minutes over (or under) time	10 marks

Up to 5 minutes over (or under) time  
More than 5 minutes over (or under) time  
(‘under time’ applies only to performance times)

15 marks  
Disqualification

15. Disqualification means that the group forfeits the right to all awards to which any member of that group might be eligible in the Festival. THIS RULE WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED

#### **WHAT ARE THE STAGING CONSTRAINTS?**

16. The responsibility for acquiring the author’s permission for performance and the payment of her/his royalty fee in advance shall be that of the competing society. Any alteration to the text of the play should have the author’s permission and proof that this has been obtained may be required by the Committee.
17. Either a curtain set or a cyclorama and side-flats (with or without curtains) will be provided. Societies may bring additional scenery providing these do not constitute a box set.
18. Additional lighting, unusual sound effects, naked lights, firearms etc may be used at the expense of the competing society, subject to the approval of the Committee and providing appropriate safeguards are used.
19. An official Timekeeper and a Stage Manager will be appointed by the Committee. The decisions of the Stage Manager in respect of all backstage matters will be final and binding.
20. The Stage Manager and her/his assistants shall be responsible for the switchboard and lighting equipment. Directions to the Stage Manager shall be given to her/him by the representative of the competing society.
21. The competing society is responsible for seeing that the lights and scenery are set to its own requirements and to see that the curtain is raised and lowered at the proper times.
22. No part of the performance shall be filmed, recorded or televised without the permission of the Committee, nor shall any recording be made of the adjudication without both the Adjudicator’s and the Committee’s consent.

#### **HOW WILL IT BE JUDGED?**

23. The public adjudication will be given by the Adjudicator on each play in the Festival. The Adjudicator will take care that her/his assessment is constructive and helpful both to the societies taking part and to the audience. The Secretary will ensure that the Adjudicator is provided with a copy of these Objects and Rules. The Adjudicator shall announce the first two places and other awards as appropriate at the end of the Festival. A list of current awards is listed in the attached *Appendix ‘A’*.  
NB. Awards specifically given for JUNIORS may only be awarded in Junior productions eg. An under seventeen in a SENIOR play may not be awarded a JUNIOR ACTING AWARD.
24. Each entry will be marked out of a total of 100 marks divided as follows.

Acting	40 marks
Production	35 marks
Stage Presentation	15 marks
Endeavour, Originality and technical attainment	10 marks

#### **THIS IS IN LINE WITH THE ALL-ENGLAND THEATRE FESTIVAL MARKING SCHEME**

25. Each competing Society shall forward by a date specified before each Festival a copy of the play to the Secretary of the Association. The Secretary will ensure that these are delivered to the adjudicator and that they are returned to the relevant societies after the Festival.
26. Any society entering the Festival may receive, at a fee, a written report containing a summary of the Adjudicator’s criticisms of its performance. The member society will be responsible for the payment of the fee requested by the Adjudicator. The written report, besides showing the comments, will bear a letter indicating the standard by the marks awarded:

A Very good (75 or over)	B Good (60-74)
C Fair (40-59)	D under 40 marks

#### **THE ADJUDICATOR’S DECISION SHALL BE FINAL.**

#### **OTHER INFORMATION**

27. The Committee will arrange insurance for the Festival against Public Liability and Employer’s Liability but will not hold itself responsible for any liability whether or not covered by this insurance. The Committee will not hold itself responsible for any loss or damage to scenery, costumes, properties, furniture or any other theatrical equipment. Competing societies are recommended to arrange their own insurance for the Festival and are expected to arrange insurance for Festival trophies while in their possession.
28. Membership of the Association will be £35 per society which will include entry of one play in the Festival. Additional entries will pay a further £35 per play.
29. Profits from the Festival, after deduction of all incidental expenses, will be shared equally among the teams taking part, except that a proportion of the profits - to be determined by the Committee - shall be retained for the working expenses of the Association and for the furtherance of future Festivals.
30. Any infringement of the above rules may lead to disqualification at the discretion of the Committee, The Adjudicator has no power to disqualify, but s/he shall bring to the notice of the Committee any case where s/he sees cause for disqualification.
31. Cases of doubt as to the interpretation of these rules or any matter not covered by them should be brought to the notice of the Committee for its decision.

APPENDIX A

**NIDDERDALE DRAMA FESTIVAL TROPHY LIST**

1	<u>Audience Award</u> (BETTY CLARKE TROPHY)
2	<u>Best Male Junior</u> (NDDA ELSIE CHARLTON MEMORIAL TROPHY)
3	<u>Best Female Junior</u> (RIPON ROWEL PLAYERS AWARD)
4	<u>Adjudicator's Special Prize for a Junior Actor</u> (JACK SANDERSON YOUTH SHIELD) * <i>only a junior in a junior play is eligible</i>
5	<u>Best Junior Play Producer</u> (NDDA BEST PRODUCER JUNIOR SECTION)
6	<u>Best Junior Play</u> (NDDA BEST JUNIOR PLAY SHIELD)
7	<u>Best Stage Décor</u> (F H BARRON CUP)
8	<u>Artistic Originality</u> (MICHAEL WADE MEMORIAL CUP)
9	<u>Adjudicator's discretionary award</u> (DAVID CRUMPTON MEMORIAL CUP)
10	<u>Adjudicator's Special Cup for Acting</u> (PHILIP HICKSON MEMORIAL CUP)
11	<u>Best Actor</u> (GRAHAM NORTH MEMORIAL CUP)
12	<u>Best Actress</u> (ALAN LYONS CUP)
13	<u>Runners-up trophy</u> (GARTH RAWSON CUP)
14	<u>Best Producer</u> (CHARLES SMITH TROPHY)
15	<u>Best Play</u> (EVA HOUSMAN TROPHY)
16	<u>Play going forward to AETF Semi Final</u> * (RIPON & PATELEY BRIDGE RDC CHALLENGE TROPHY) *Awarded to play going forward.