



TALENT SPOT RULES 2026

(INFRINGEMENTS TO RULES 1, 2 OR 3 WILL CAUSE TEAMS TO LOSE TEN POINTS FROM THEIR FINAL SCORE)

1. A team will consist of not less than two artistes, and not more than thirty full members of any Young Farmer's Club affiliated to the Scottish Association of Young Farmers Clubs, who must not have attained their 28th birthday by the day of the contest. Teams can have one associate member per every five members of the cast who must not have attained their 30th Birthday by the day of the contest.

It is permissible for up to two Producers and two accompanists NOT to be Club members, and these will not count as part of the team. Each team can also have up to four back stage crew, all of whom must be full or associate members. Backstage crew must not at any time be on stage during the performance unless they are included within the thirty cast members.

	NUMBER ALLOWED	AGE LIMIT	MUST BE PAID MEMBERS
ON STAGE	30	1 PER EVERY 5 MAY BE AN ASSOCIATE THEREFORE A MAXIMUM OF 5 ASSOCIATES IN A FULL TEAM OF 30	YES
BACK STAGE	4	UNDER 30	YES
SPOT LIGHT	2	ANY AGE, MAY BE OVER 30	NO
SOUND	1	ANY AGE, MAY BE OVER 30	NO
PRODUCERS	2	ANY AGE	NO
ACCOMPANISTS	2	ANY AGE	NO

A producer can be an accompanist or be in the sound box.

Additional accompanists and producers must be part of the thirty artistes and be full members.

Any off stage contribution to the performance must be made by a cast member.

2. The Competition shall take the form of an entertainment review and be of the team's own choice - but not in the form of a play.
3. Teams cannot contact or visit the venue at any time with regards to the Talent Spot. No backcloths will be allowed. The definition of a backcloth is one, which is suspended from above. Self-standing structures shall not constitute a backcloth. Nothing is allowed to be pinned on the curtains.
4. No alcohol to be consumed or to be seen with prior to your team's performance on the day of competition. Absolutely no alcohol to be backstage or in changing rooms at all. This includes all personal named on entry forms.
In the opinion of and at the Chief Stewards' discretion a competitor or team could be disqualified for conduct by word or act which is deemed to bring the event and/or the YFC into disrepute. In the opinion of and at the Chief Stewards' discretion a competitor or team could be recommended for disciplinary action by the appropriate committee in the event that their conduct or that of any of their supporters is, during or after the event, deemed threatening, aggressive or inappropriate.
5. Any content bringing bad or foul language on stage or deemed to be inappropriate by any Office Bearer, Chief Steward or judge will result in automatic disqualification

Producers and members should be mindful of the following:

- **SAYFC is an inclusive association**
- **Discrimination will not be tolerated within the content of club performances**
- **Be cautious of sensitive issues/subjects which may cause offensive or upset to the audience.**
- **The depiction of minority groups MUST be within context to the scene**

6. The decision of the judges is final. The judges will be asked to write individual crits after the competition and therefore judges should not be contacted. All comments should go through the West Regional Committee.
7. Members taking part must produce their membership cards or a form of identification if asked.
8. **SCORING** - Teams will be marked on the following criteria:

Entertainment Value (e.g. entertainment, story line)	/50 points
Presentation & Production (e.g. costumes, use of stage, scenery, choreography)	/30 points
Balance of programme (e.g variety)	<u>/20 points</u>
Total	/100 points

TIMING

9. The total time allowed will be TEN minutes. Timing starts when the performance starts. Timing ends when the music stops. Penalty marks for OVER or UNDER TEN minutes will be TWO marks per full minute up to FIVE minutes, after which the team will be disqualified. Microphones will be handed out once scenery is set up and taken away before scenery is taken down.
EXTRA STAGE TIME will be allowed as follows:-
SETTING OF STAGE - Maximum TWO minutes
CLEARING OF STAGE - Maximum ONE minute
Any excess of time used will be subject to Penalty Points of TEN marks for each minute or part of a minute over. Timing starts on the steward's signal and finishes when the scenery is removed from the stage. The bands will not be timed coming in and out of orchestra pit as instruments will already be there.

PRIZES

10. The Wiseman Crystal Thistle - First Team
The Fresh 'N' Lo Rosebowl - Second Team
The Ayrshire Milk Plinth - Third Team

Awards will also be made to Best Act and Best Reserve Act Overall

GENERAL NOTES

- (a) The West Regional Committee will not be responsible for any expense incurred by teams in the presentation of their entertainment.
- (b) The West Regional Committee reserve the right to amend or cancel any of the foregoing rules at any time.
- (c) The Regional final will be held on Saturday 4th April in the SEC Glasgow.
- (d) The allocation of Club teams at the Regional Competition will be 2 from each District
- (e) Hand props will be allowed and other props will only be allowed provided that they can be ASSEMBLED ON and CLEARED FROM the Stage in the time allotted. If items land off-stage, the Clubs will not be responsible for clearing. Persons will be allowed off the stage whilst still competing. Scenery must be contained in the allocated bay (10ft x 6ft), and be in place by 5.45pm. It must NOT be removed before the end of the Competition. (THIS MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DEPENDING ON VENUE)
- (f) Teams will be allowed twenty-five minutes before the Competition for a rehearsal. This will be between 10.00am & 4.00pm on the day of competition.
- (g) Two spotlights shall be available in the venue and Clubs wishing to use them shall supply their own operators.

- (h) Clubs must submit a sound & lighting plan no later than two weeks before the competition. This includes requests for any particular microphones i.e. number & type.
- (i) Pyrotechnics cannot be used.
- (j) Vocal backing tracks cannot be used as all singing and speaking must be done live. Teams wishing to use musical discs or tapes must adhere to this rule meaning that they can be instrumental only. **FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THIS RULE WILL CAUSE TEAMS TO LOSE TEN POINTS FROM THEIR FINAL SCORE.**
- (k) No live animals are allowed in the performance.
- (l) Projectors are not allowed in the performance.
- (m) As per Technical Guidance for 2026, please see below, any club to not adhere to these rules will be disqualified.

NEW RULE FROM STARTING IN 2024:

The SEC have imposed a new rule for all performances, meaning that any piece of scenery that a person sits or stands on must not be taller than 590mm in height (measured from floor level). The basis of this is a legal requirement for any scenery over this height to be inspected by the council prior to use which incurs a huge cost and in many cases is not practical as they also ask for structural drawings to back this up.

If you wish to discuss anything further please do not hesitate to contact Emily on emily@sayfc.org or 07748847105