The rules and guidelines in this document are standardised across all participating countries and cannot be modified. Teams participating in the Grand Finals must strictly follow these requirements.

1.0 ABOUT THE COMPETITION

The International Science Drama Competition is a yearly event that encourages participants to marry their passion for science with acting. This competition is open to teams from Singapore schools and the public. It is an excellent platform for participants to display their talents and compete on an international stage and is surely an opportunity that is not to be missed.

You may view the past performances of the winning teams from Grand Finals 2025. Do note that the criteria may have changed over the years, please refer to 2026 criteria for submission.

Category	Country	Winning team performance
Junior	Indonesia	Video Link
Open	Indonesia	Video Link
Short Films	Thailand	Video Link
Short Clips	Singapore	Video Link

2.0 THEME FOR 2026: "AI SEE THE FUTURE"

All performances and videos should be based on the theme of "AI See the Future", revolving around the recent and future trends in Science – Artificial Intelligence.

This theme focuses on increasing public awareness of the principles, potential, and limitations of artificial intelligence.

Suggested topics include (but not limited to these):
- AI applications across industries (healthcare, transportation, safety)
- AI robotics and automation
- Generative AI
- Human-AI interactions and relationships
- Machine learning and pattern recognition

3.0 COMPETITION CATEGORIES

Category	Age Requirements	Performance Length	Format
Junior	All participants 12 years or below	7 minutes max	Drama performance
Open	At least 70% of participants must be 20 years old or younger, with a maximum of 30% above 20 years old e.g. If the team has 15 participants, at least 11 of them must be under 20 years old and maximum of 4 can be above 20 years old.	7 minutes max	Drama performance
Short Films	Open to all ages	7 minutes max	Film
Short Clips	Open to all ages	1 minute max	Social media clip

4.0 GENERAL COMPETITION RULES

4.1 Team Registration

- Each school or organisation can register as many teams as they want.
- If participants are representing a school or organisation, all participants in the team must be current students or members of the school or organisation.
- Should a school or organisation decide to register more than 1 team in the same category, there should be no repetition of team members across teams; the same team members can, however, participate across categories, e.g. Member A can take part in Junior Category and Short Films Category.

4.2 Team Composition

- Each team must comprise of a maximum of 15 participants, including backstage crew for Junior and Open Categories and video editors for Short Films and Short Clips Categories.
- Backstage crew can assist to place props, control audio/visual equipment, and help cast members backstage.
- Additionally, up to 3 teachers or adults may provide extra backstage support without being counted towards the team size limit. The additional teachers or adults can place props, control audio/visual equipment, and help cast members backstage, but they cannot speak lines or participate in the acting.

4.3 Content Requirements

- Should a team participate in more than one category, the same storyline cannot be repeated.
- The performance/film/clip should combine scientific content and drama. It must relate to "AI See the Future" theme with scientific accuracy.

5.0 CATEGORY RULES & REQUIREMENTS

5.1 Junior & Open Categories

Aspect	Junior Category	Open Category
Age Limit	All participants must be 12 years old or younger. Teams with any member over 12 years old cannot participate in Junior Category.	At least 70% of participants must be 20 years old or younger, with a maximum of 30% above 20 years old.
Performance Duration	The performance should not exceed 7 minutes. A penalty will be imposed for performances that exceed these durations.	
Team Size	Maximum 15 participants (including backstage crew)	

5.1.1 Backstage Crew Guidelines
- Teams may include backstage crew within their 15-person limit to assist with technical aspects of the performance.
- Additionally, up to 3 teachers or adults may provide extra backstage support without being counted towards the team size limit. The additional teachers or adults can place props, control audio/visual equipment, and help cast members backstage, but they cannot speak lines or participate in the acting.

5.1.2 Judging Criteria

Criteria	Description	Weightage
Scientific Content	Judges will assess the accuracy of scientific information presented, relevance to the theme, as well as how in-depth the scientific content was explored in the drama.	20%
Cast Performance	Judges will evaluate the acting skills in delivering the storyline and how well the cast members work together as a team.	20%
Overall Presentation	Judges will evaluate the production quality through the pacing, transitions, clarity, and technical aspects such as background design, sound, costumes, and props.	30%
Creativity	Judges will look for unique and imaginative approaches in presenting the scientific content, as well as the originality of the storyline, characters, and concept.	30%

5.2 Short Films Category

- **Age limit:** Open to all ages
- **Film duration:** The performance should not exceed 7 minutes. A penalty will be imposed for performances that exceed these durations.
- **Team size:** Maximum 15 total (including video editors)
- English subtitles must be included in the film.
- Videos can have cuts/editing in between; part of the grading criteria will be on cinematography and video editing.
- Videos must be filmed and submitted in landscape orientation, using a 16:9 aspect ratio.
- Submissions should contain more than 1 scene and must have acting involving actual performers (minimum 1 actual human performer).
- Any usage of AI should be for special effects only.
- The performance/film/clip should combine scientific content and drama. It must relate to "AI See the Future" theme with scientific accuracy.

5.2.1 Judging Criteria

Criteria	Description	Weightage
Scientific Content	Judges will assess the accuracy of scientific information presented, relevance to the theme, as well as how in-depth the scientific content was explored in the drama.	25%
Cast Performance	Judges will evaluate the acting skills in delivering the storyline including acting skills, character portrayal and vocal delivery.	25%
Video Editing and Cinematography	Judges will evaluate the production quality through technical aspects such as video editing, cinematography, visual effects, composition, colour grading and camera movement.	25%
Creativity	Judges will look for unique and imaginative approaches in presenting the scientific content, as well as the originality of the storyline, characters, and concept.	25%

5.3 Short Clips Category

- **Age limit:** Open to all ages
- **Video duration:** The Short Clips should not exceed 1 minute. A penalty will be imposed for performances that exceed these durations.
- **Team size:** Maximum 15 total (including video editors)
- English subtitles must be included in the film.
- Short Clips should feature captivating content that engages the viewers.
- Videos can have cuts/editing in between; part of the grading criteria will be on production quality.
- Videos must be filmed and submitted in portrait orientation, using a 9:16 aspect ratio.
- Submissions should be in portrait orientation (suitable for social media) and must have acting involving actual performers (minimum 1 actual human performer).
- Any usage of AI should be for special effects only.
- The performance/film/clip should combine scientific content and drama. It must relate to "AI See the Future" theme with scientific accuracy.

5.3.1 Judging Criteria

Criteria	Description	Weightage
Scientific Content	Judges will assess the accuracy of scientific information presented, relevance to the theme, as well as how in-depth the scientific content was explored in the drama.	25%
Cast Performance	Judges will evaluate the acting skills in delivering the storyline including acting skills, character portrayal and vocal delivery.	25%
Production Quality	Judges will assess the overall production quality through technical aspects such as efficient video editing, impactful cinematography, appropriate visual effects, effective composition, and purposeful camera work, as well as clear audio quality and suitable use of music or sound effects. All elements should be optimised for and work together effectively within the 1-minute format.	25%
Creativity and Engagement	Judges will look for unique and imaginative approaches in presenting the scientific content, and how effectively the video retains viewer's attention.	25%