

# WESTERN BAND ASSOCIATION 2017 CONTEST RULES

## 1.0 **ELIGIBILITY**

Eligibility is open to all high school bands, grades 9 through 12. Each competing member must be a properly enrolled, student at the school represented by the band, or 8th grade student at the feeder school of the participating high school. An expansion to this general rule would be if a school district consolidates their programs and offers all students within a district, the option of intra district participation in the various activities. A student from one school is not eligible to participate in another school band if there is an existing band program at that school. Should an exceptional situation occur that does not fall within these guidelines, a director can petition the board for an exception.

1.1 Bands are assigned to classes based on the number of performers as follows:

- Class 1A – 60 or under
- Class 2A – 61-80
- Class 3A – 81-110
- Class 4A – 111-140
- Class 5A – 141 and above

1.2 All performers in the Band must wear soled footwear during the entire performance.

## 2.0 **COPYRIGHT COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS**

2.1 All bands must comply with copyright laws in regarding performance and/or use of arrangements of copyrighted music, visual images and other materials, as well as the use of copyrighted audio or spoken text, and the display of copyrighted words and images. Each Band shall take steps necessary to obtain permission/license to use and arrange music performed as well as any visual and/or audio images presented.

## 3.0 **PERFORMANCE FIELD**

3.1 The Performance Field will be marked and the regulation football field will be lined every five (5) yards. Pit area will be marked in front of Performance Field.

3.2 Performance Field will have cross hash marks at 53'4" from each sideline (high school hash marks), dividing the field into equal thirds.

## 4.0 **BAND WARM UP**

4.1 Bands may not practice or warm up within earshot of visual vicinity of the stadium except at the designated times in the designated areas.

- 4.2 Time-keeping devices such as metronomes, jam blocks, megaphones or similar voice amplification devices, and audio systems may be tested and used in warm-up areas, but *must* be used with wire-connected microphones, and must remain at a reasonable volume depending on the acoustics of the warm-up area and proximity to other

bands/warm-up areas, judging areas, and the Performance Field. Wireless microphones and audio and/or lighting control devices may interfere with performances in the stadium and may not be used in warm-up areas.

- 4.3 Use of specific devices may be restricted or ordered discontinued use on-site if such devices interfere with other bands in the Warm-Up areas or with performances in the stadium.

***PENALTY – At discretion of the Chief Judge up to disqualification.***

## **5.0 ENTRY**

- 5.1 Band report times will be at least ten (10) minutes prior to the Band's performance start time. Distances from warm-up areas to the stadium vary from venue to venue. Bands should be ready to enter the Performance Field at their designated performance time.
- 5.2 On cue from the Timing and Penalty Judge, the Band enters the Performance Field. A Band is allowed four (4) minutes to set-up and warm-up anywhere in the Performance Field. All performers, including any Pit Pass holders used for on-field staging of equipment, must enter as described above. Directors information sent prior to the event will include additional site-specific information regarding the Performance Field.
- 5.3 Any/all sound and/or lighting checks on the field may begin as soon as the Band enters the Performance Field.
- 5.4 Conducting podiums may be placed anywhere in the Performance Area, including the track and/or areas surrounding the Performance Field. No podiums may be placed in the Audience Area.
- 5.5 Adults may enter the Performance Field before the performance to set up equipment and after the performance to remove equipment. Adults, including those assisting in setting up props or equipment, must clear the Performance Field for the duration of the performance. However, adults may enter the Performance Field during the performance to attend to an issue concerning the safety of the performers, retrieve props or failure or loss of power or connectivity to a sound system without penalty, as determined by the Timing and Penalty Judge.

***PENALTY for inadvertent or apparently unintended adults present on the the Performance Field – 0.1 points per violation.***

***PENALTY for adults contributing to Performance (except as permitted above) – 0.5 points per violation.***

## **6.0 TIMING**

- 6.1 1A-2A-3A bands are scheduled in increments of 13-minute intervals. Bands must perform for minimum of five (5) minutes with a maximum of nine (9) minutes.
- 6.2 4A-5A bands are scheduled in increments of 15-minute intervals. Bands must perform for a minimum of seven (7) minutes with maximum of eleven (11) minutes.

- 6.3 Interval timing will begin at the cue of the Timing and Penalty Judge to enter the Performance Field. The announcer will introduce the Band as follows:

*“Now entering the field from [School City & State]...please welcome the [School] Marching Band!”*

Announcement of the Band begins at 3 minutes, 30 seconds into the set-up/warm-up time. The announcer will announce the band as follows:

*Presenting their program “[Program Title]”, Western Band Association is proud to present the “[Band Name]!”*

*Are the judges ready?*

*Drum majors [Drum Major Name(s)] is your band ready?*

*[Band Name] you may take the field in WBA competition!*

- 6.4 Following the completion of the pre-show announcement, the first note of music or the first step or visual move (not including any drum major salute) by a member of the Band will start the performance timing.

- 6.5 Performance timing will end with the end of live music or obvious conclusion of the program.

- 6.6 Bands must completely vacate the Performance Field by end of their total interval time past the goal line at the designated Band exit included in pre-event communications.

***PENALTY for under time/overtime Performance – 0.1 points per 6 seconds or fraction thereof.***

- 6.7 Any Band causing any unnecessary delay of contest may be assessed a penalty at the discretion of the Chief Judge.

***PENALTY for under time/overtime Performance – 0.1 points per 15 seconds or fraction thereof.***

## **7.0 BOUNDARIES**

- 7.1 All props, sound-related equipment, instruments, performers, performances, etc. are limited to the Performance Field. The Spectator Area must remain clear and inviolate, separate from the performance, its performers, and/or performance equipment.

- 7.2 The entire Performance including all music must be performed from within the Performance Field. Drum Majors are exempt. Directors, adults, non-performing students or alternate students (other than Drum Majors) may not, without penalty, enter the Performance Field to retrieve or hand off instruments or equipment during the Performance.

***PENALTY for adults contributing to Performance (except as permitted in 5.5) – 0.5 points per violation***

## **8.0 USE OF ELECTRONICS**

- 8.1 Electronic units for the production or amplification of music, other sounds, lighting, and/or visual effects are permitted, provided that their use conforms to this and other applicable sections of these rules. WBA will provide access to front sideline power as close as possible to the 50-yard line, but takes no responsibility for supplying power or the failure of a power source it provides.
- 8.2 Audio volumes may be controlled with a wireless device from any place in the Performance Field or the Spectator Area open to the public for the event, ~~including designated staff listening/viewing areas.~~ WBA cannot guarantee the operability of such devices, including the devices' communication with other devices with the Performance Field. Such devices are entirely at the risk of the use.
- 8.3 An adult may operate electronic devices, but must do so from outside the Performance Field, except in the cast of "catastrophic" technical failure.

***PENALTY for adults contributing to Performance (except as permitted above) – 0.5 points per violation***

BAND DIRECTOR CONDUCTION EXEMPTION

## **9.0 EQUIPMENT USE AND SAFETY**

- 9.1 Off road mechanized vehicles (defined as golf carts, garden tractors, small ATV All-Terrain Vehicles, etc.) will be allowed to pull equipment trailers, only for set-up and take-down, unless prohibited by contest venue. Pick-up trucks, large tractors, or similar vehicles are not permitted. The participating Band and its school are liable and will be held responsible for any damage to a Performance Field or venue caused by violation of these policies and/or actions of the operators.
- 9.2 The following are NOT ALLOWED in a Performance or on the Performance Field:
- Any equipment, object, or material (including, but not limited to debris, powder, water, or other liquids) that may cause damage to the Performance Field, that presents a safety hazard, or that disrupts the scheduled flow of the contest.
  - Pyrotechnics of any kind, including fire, fireworks, or the discharge of arms
  - Lights-out routines
  - Animals
  - Off-road mechanized vehicles (defined as golf carts, garden tractors, small ATV's, etc.)
  - Drones or any remote-controlled airborne device
  - Hazardous equipment or illegal use of equipment
- 9.3 The following may be used in a performance, provided they are not hazardous and do not remain on the Performance Field or in the air following a performance:
- Powder or other airborne material
  - Water or other (non-hazardous) liquids

- Paper, confetti, or other debris

- 9.4 Props built and/or used by participating bands at Western Band Association events shall be limited to a maximum height of 12 feet (including safety or other railing or equipment). No participant may be, or be placed on, any portion of any prop where the participant's feet are more than six (6) feet above the playing surface of the stadium, unless appropriate safety railing and/or other safety equipment are in place and in use.

The Chief Judge shall at all times have the authority to prohibit the use of any prop or equipment that they believe presents an unreasonable or unacceptable risk of injury or harm to participants or others or potential danger to a venue or its property.

***PENALTY*** – *At the discretion of the Chief Judge, including (but not limited to) prohibition of the use of over-height/unsafe prop(s) or disqualification. Such penalty shall be assessed based on a number of factors, including the height, number, and/or type of equipment subject to penalty and the possibility of a safety or property damage issue arising from the use of such equipment.*

**NOTE: WBA strongly recommends that Bands and their teachers use the utmost caution and forethought in planning and use of props and equipment that might place participants and others in potential danger during assembly or use. Directors are encouraged to contact WBA to inquire about the use of particular equipment or materials when its permissibility under this section may be in question.**

- 9.5 Prop assembly must be done within the directed flow during the Band's allotted time for arrival, unload and warm-up. No additional setup/tear down time will be allowed. Prop disassembly and removal must not be disruptive or hindering the next performance or performance area of the next Band. (See Rule 6.7 for penalties for delay of contest)
- 9.6 Because WBA is a guest at our host stadiums, additional stadium and/or venue specific policies may be in effect. WBA will identify and include known restrictions/limitations in pre-contest communications. However, any concerns expressed by the stadium management onsite will be addressed and must be acted upon and complied with by the participating Bands.

***PENALTY*** – *For rule(s) violation and/or failure to comply with venue directions, at the discretion of the Chief Judge, up to and including disqualification*

## **10.1 GENERAL CONDUCT**

- 10.1 WBA may issue warnings and/or penalties for actions and/or behaviors that violate the principles of fair play or professional behavior, and do not represent the values of WBA. Such actions and behaviors include, but are not limited to:
- Warm-up onsite by a Band (or any component of a Band) in areas and/or at times other than those designated
  - Failure to follow directives from contest personnel related to conduct in any area, including parking lots, warm-up areas, etc.
  - Overstays in warm-ups areas that intrude into the time and space of other

participants

- Failure to abide by guidelines involving student performance, and use of electronics and equipment
- Behaviors that compromise the safety of participants and others and/or that may violate known stadium policies
- Verbal remarks and behaviors (at the venue, whether in or outside the Performance Field, by students, staff and/or other badge/pass holders) that are generally disrespectful and contrary to the values of WBA and/or general human conduct and dialogue.
- Any delay of contest, improper conduct, or infraction for which no specific rule or penalty is provided

***PENALTY – 0.10 point up to disqualification at the discretion of the Chief Judge***