

**TENNESSEE DIVISION I  
STATE MARCHING BAND CHAMPIONSHIP  
(Revised by vote on May 2nd, 2008)  
(Revised by host directors to adhere to the USSBA Sheet format on  
October 15, 2007 – see article #5)**

Statement of Philosophy

The purpose for the establishment of the Division I State Marching Band Championship is to provide the bands of smaller schools with a high-quality, prestigious event in which each participant has a reasonable chance to win the top prize. It is our hope that these bands will be boosted by the challenge and realistic possibility of becoming Tennessee State Marching Band Champions and will strive to become the best they can be. It is our hope that every band student and supporter involved in this event will display good sportsmanship and will strive to become champions by pursuing excellence and that they will recognize this pursuit is what makes champions and not the trophies that might elude.

Rules and Guidelines

1. All participating schools must have an enrollment of 500 students or less. The enrollment figures by the previous years Tennessee State Board of Education enrollment number will determine classification.
2. The date for the event must fall within a three-week window encompassing the last two weekends in October and the first weekend in November. The date will be determined by the host band with input from Division I directors. The host band will try to avoid conflicts with the ACT test.
3. Bands in exhibition class (for comments only) will perform first. Each band in this class will receive a participation plaque. The host band will not compete but may give an exhibition performance as the scores are being tabulated.
4. With the exception of unforeseen last-minute cancellations, all judges will be from out of state and contracted by the host band.
5. Judging will follow a caption system with one judge per caption and with points allocated in the following manner:

Music Performance- Ensemble	400 Points X .10 = 40 pts. divided by 2 = 20 points total
Music Performance- Individual	400 Points X .10 = 40 pts divided by 2 = 20 points total
Overall Effect- Music	400 Points X .10 = 40 pts divided by 2 = 20 points total
Visual Performance-	400 Points X .10 = 40 pts divided by 2 = 20 points total
Overall Effect- Visual	<u>400 Points X .10 = 40 pts divided by 2 = 20 points total</u>
	100 points total

Separate judges for Color Guard, Percussion, and Field Commander will determine the winners in these categories. The soloist judge will determine the best soloists. Only solos performed by one person will be adjudicated. Solos must be a minimum of 8 measures or ten seconds in duration.

The guard, percussion, and field commander scores will not affect the overall band score. All judges will be located in appropriate positions in the press box area. No judge will be on the track or on the field except the Music Performance – Individual judge.

6. Each band will be awarded a division rating of I or II. All preliminary Division I or II ratings and the number averages of each band in the finals will be announced at the awards ceremony following the finals competition. No ratings will be announced until after the finals.
7. In determination of the State Champion, only the Finals score will be used.
8. Bands will receive a participation plaque on which ratings of I or II will be noted for Band, Percussion, Field Commander, and Guard. The eight or ten bands in finals will receive trophies in recognition of their state rank.

9. Bands will be scheduled at 15-minute intervals.
10. The order of performance in Prelims will be determined by the postmark of entry forms. The earliest postmark will perform next to last. The previous year's champion will have the option of performing last in the Prelims. **No entries may be postmarked earlier than the day after Labor Day!** Entries postmarked on the same date will be drawn for placement. Entries postmarked early will be placed after the first group of correctly postmarked entries. The host will determine the entry deadline.
11. If fewer than twenty bands attend Division I, then eight bands with the highest score in the prelims will be asked to compete in the Finals Competition. Following the Preliminary Competition, the finalist bands will be announced (in order of preliminary appearance) .No numerical scores or score sheets will be given out until the end of the Finals Competition. Judges' tapes will be made available at the end of Prelims. **If twenty or more bands attend Division I, then ten bands with the highest score in prelims will be asked to compete in the Finals Competition.**
12. The eight(or 10) finalist bands will draw for performance position in Finals. The last band in Prelims will draw first for Finals and cannot perform first in Finals competition. The remaining seven(or 9) bands will draw in Prelims performance order.
13. Tapes of all adjudicated comments, score sheets, and final results of the Prelims and the Finals will be furnished each band. However, all audio and video tapes of finalist bands will be available at the end of Preliminary competition.
14. The following violations will result in a participating band's grade being lowered five points:
  - A. Reporting late to the field entrance gate
  - B. Rehearsal or warm-up in undesignated areas
  - C. Failure to leave warm-up areas at the proper time
  - D. Exceeding the 15-minute time limit
15. Each band must report to the field entrance gate at the band's scheduled performance time. Each band will have a total of 15 minutes to enter, perform, and exit completely from the playing surface.
16. Profits from the gate, program (sales and ads), concessions, evening meals, and other sales (shirts, souvenirs, etc.) will go to the host.
17. Each participating band is required to buy a page in the program for \$75 and \$1 per student entry fee. The bands will receive a reasonable number of complimentary tickets for chaperones and bus drivers.
18. The host band will have external control (money, tickets, programs, selection of adjudicators etc.), and the Division I Association will have internal control (adjudication sheet, rules, dates, site, etc.) of the event. Advanced tickets must be sold before the day of the contest. One price, all day tickets are preferred.
19. To insure consistency for the contest and to adapt rule changes from year to year, there will be a meeting of all Division I directors on the first or second Saturday in January at 1:00 p.m. at a Middle Tennessee Division I School. (or at Riverdale High School, if no Division I School is available). (The following schools have volunteered to host the Div. I Directors meeting: Eagleville, East Robertson, Forrest, Goodpasture, Ezell Harding, and Mt. Pleasant.)The director of the championship band is in charge of informing Division I Directors of the agenda for the meeting and providing refreshments. All members will vote by ballots (mailed) on all important issues within a specific time frame set by the host band. Schools will have only one vote per issue.
20. Awards will be as follows:
  - A. High Music, (Includes the scores from all Music judges(Music, Music, and Music GE); High Visual, (Includes the scores from all Visual judges(Visual, Visual, and Visual GE); 1st and 2nd Place Guard; 1st and 2nd Place Percussion; 1st and 2nd Place Field Commander; Best Soloist. Separate awards will be presented for Preliminary and Finals Performance scores.
  - B. Division ratings will be awarded for Guard, Percussion, Field Commander, and Band.
  - C. Eight or ten Finalist Bands

21. All ties will be broken in the following manner: first use the music scores, second use the visual scores, and finally the general effect scores. A complete tie will result in the judges having to break the tie.
22. Finals Trophy Sizes  
1st Place- No less than **66** inches tall.  
All other trophies will drop in size 4 " per place.
23. The Governor's Challenge Cup is given to the State Champion for one year. It is to be returned the following year and replaced with a plaque. This cup can never be permanently retired.
24. No band will be eligible to compete in both the Division I and Division II State Marching Band Championships in the same competitive season. If a Division I Band is found competing in both events that Division I Band will be disqualified and all subsequent placing and awards will be adjusted.
25. The host band shall contact a judges association to provide adjudicators for the Tennessee Division I Marching Band Championship.

**These rules and guidelines were approved on May 2nd, 2008**

## Inclement Weather Rules for the Tennessee Division I State Marching Band Championship Approved April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007

In the event, or the *potential event*, of rain, a decision will be made by 8:00 am on the date of the competition to move the contest indoors. In the event of rain, the judging format will be changed.

Our rain rules will only go into effect if the field is clearly soaked and/or rain is inevitable during the time of the competition.

- Music will be the only aspect of the performance to be evaluated. Thus, the scores of only three judges will be counted in determining the final score.
- Individual Music Performance will be judged from the same level of the performers.
- Ensemble Music Performance and Music Effect will be judged from the stands.
- Each adjudicator will assign scores as they would normally do. The scoring criteria for the competition will remain the same, minus any marching.
- There would be no points given for marching in the gymnasium. The visual ensemble (guard) may mark time for their own benefit, but it will not help their scores.  
All captions would retain their judges' sheets. They would still be adjudicated on their indoor performance, minus any marching.
- Judging will follow a caption system with two judges per caption and with points allocated in the following manner:

67 percent music

33 percent music general effect