

# TENNESSEE DIVISION I STATE MARCHING BAND CHAMPIONSHIP

## 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. Schools participating must have a secondary school Average Daily Attendance of 1 to 500 ADA. The participating schools must use the previous year's ADA to determine Division I eligibility. In the event a new school opens, they must use their first months Average Daily Attendance to determine eligibility.
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 Music and Visual Judges shall be from out of state and a member of a judges association.
5. Judging will follow a caption system using the Tennessee Bandmasters Association 6 person adjudicator panel, consisting of two judges for Music Ensemble, two judges for Visual Ensemble, one judge for Music Effect, and one judge for Visual Effect. Points will be allocated in the following manner, according to the Tennessee Bandmasters Association Adjudication Sheets;  
40 percent Music Ensemble (two judges 20% each)  
20 percent Music Effect (1 judge at 20%)  
20 percent Visual Ensemble (two judges 10% each)  
20 percent Visual Effect (1 judge at 20%) and will include comments on auxiliaries.

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.

## **(Reference - <http://www.tennesseebandmasters.org/marching-band/>)**

When using the six (6) person adjudication panel with two (2) Music and Visual Performance adjudicators and excluding the Performance Individual sheets, the two Music Performance Ensemble and the Music Effect sheets each receive 200 points with the two Visual Performance Ensemble scores being averaged for a possible 200 points and the Visual Effect caption receiving the other 200 points. The final score is achieved by multiplying the total points earned by .10.)

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. Division IB bands shall have a small label designating their finish in class attached to their plaque. The top band in Class IB shall be afforded the honor of performing in Finals as an exhibition band. The labels shall list the top half of Class IB only.
9. Bands will be scheduled at 15-minute intervals.
10. The order of Preliminary Performance will be determined as follows:
  - 1) The previous year's champion has the option to perform last in Prelims.
  - 2) No entries may be postmarked before the day after Labor Day. Entries postmarked early will be placed after the first group of correctly postmarked entries.
  - 3) Entries postmarked on the same day will be drawn for order in Prelims, regardless of time stamps.
  - 4) The host will determine the entry deadline.
  - 5) In the case of a redraw of performance times: Performance times corresponding to the number of bands registered to attend Div. I will be placed in a container. We will draw a performance time(s) from the container- this is the performance time of the band(s) that was/were left out of the original draw. All other bands performance times will be shifted in order to accommodate the band(s) left out of the original draw.**
  - 6) The maximum number of entries that the host shall accept is 30. First priority shall be determined by the previous year's finalists and then by postmark.
  - 7) In the event of multiple bands entering on the same postmark on the day the entries reach or surpass 30 schools, priority shall be given to bands that have previously entered Division I in past years. In the event that there is still a tie between bands that have not previously entered, a drawing by the host shall determine entry.**
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
  - E. Warming up **Before** or **After** the Band's scheduled time. For the purpose of this section, "warm-up and warming up refer only to the production of sound by an instrument, and would not refer to GE, General Effect, or Guard work.
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 \$150 (entry fee) 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 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
  - D. Bands with 29 or under combined Winds & Percussion shall be included in Class IB. Bands in Class IB shall have a small label designating their finish in class attached to their participation plaques. The top band in Class IB shall be afforded the honor of performing in Finals as an exhibition band. The labels shall list the top half of Class IB only.
21. All ties will be broken using scores from the following categories until the tie is broken; Music Performance Total, Music GE, Visual Performance Total, Visual GE. 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. Adjudication sheets may only be changed after two years of use. Last change March 2015.
26. All adjudicators shall have a music education degree and prior, or current, teaching experience. The Host shall contact a judges association to provide adjudicators for the Tennessee Division I Marching Band Championship in the areas of Music and Visual. The Host may select certified WGI/SCGC adjudicators for the captions of Percussion and Guard. The Host shall select qualified adjudicators for the captions of Field Commander and Soloists.
27. In the event of a complaint concerning any Music or Visual adjudicator by any member band who participated in the latest Championship, *The Meers Formula* shall be used by the Host to determine adjudicators who do not meet standards for accuracy, knowledge, and competence. The Host shall apply the formula, make a preliminary determination, and report the results, with recommendations, to the Membership as a whole. Once a Final determination has been made, the Host shall take any appropriate action necessary, ranging from ‘No Action’, to requesting from the judges association that the adjudicator in question not be provided to the Championship again.
28. Bands must be in competition a minimum of 6 minutes, as timed from the first note to the last note. Timing will begin after the first note after the announcement. **PENALTY:** 1 point.

The host band shall contact a judges association to provide adjudicators for the Tennessee Division I Marching Band Championship. It is requested that judges not be repeated in consecutive years (2016).

**These rules and guidelines were revised by vote – April 2016.**

**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

**Approved May 19<sup>th</sup> 2010**

**Inclement Weather Rules**

**Options for Rain Rules/Performance-Division 1 State Championships**

*All events (prelims/finals) will conclude in the format (indoors/outdoors) in which they begin. Director's discretion for participation.*

**Option A:**

Prelims begin/conclude outside-Finals rained out-  
Use Prelim's scores to decide the championship.

Cancel Final's performance.

**Option B:**

Prelims begin/conclude inside-Finals held outside-  
Use Final's scores to decide the championship.

**Option C:**

Prelims begin/conclude outside-Finals held inside-  
Use Final's scores to decide the championship.

**Option D:**

Prelims begin/conclude inside-Finals begin/conclude inside-  
Use the finals scores to decide the championship.

**Option E:**

Prelims begin/conclude outside-Finals rained out-  
Use Prelim's scores for deciding the championship.  
Have a Final's Exhibition performance inside.

**Inclement Weather Scoring clarifications**

**Approved May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

Here are a few concerns and changes that should be made if the "Rain Rules" (RR) are in effect:

1. Under the "Music General Effect" sheet subcaption "COORDINATION" (30 points), we would remove any references to marching.

This is the subcaption as it reads right now:

**COORDINATION .....( 30 )\_**

**(the blending of both the musical and visual program to create effect)**

Relation of Music To Visual

Continuity

Integration

Staging

Impacts

Demand

**This would be the sub caption under the RR:**

**COORDINATION .....( 30 )\_**

Continuity

Impacts

Demand

2. Wherever we begin the competition, outside or inside, we will finish it regardless of the rain situation. If we begin outside and it begins to rain, we will finish it outside, even if it means that some bands would have to perform in the rain. If we begin it inside, and the sun comes out, we will still be inside.

3. Any directors meeting that would be needed would be in the band room at Riverdale High School.

4. In case of inclement weather, the Host will do everything that they can to get the directors together so that a meeting can be held. Directors will be called on their cell phone number.

5. Inside warm-up times will begin and end ten (10) minutes later than scheduled, due to less travel time needed.

**Division I Judges Instructions**  
**(Approved May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010)**

Judges are asked to thoroughly review the adjudication sheet for his/her specific caption, including the associated scoring rubric on the back, prior to the beginning of the competition. The criteria for range of points as described by the provided rubric must be followed to the best of his/her ability. Judges will make audio comments as the show unfolds, using the adjudication sheet for scoring and for any written notes that you make during the performance.

**Audio commentary should:**

- A. Be presented in a positive and constructive manner that is not demeaning or inappropriate.**
- B. Align with and refer to the specific rubric designed for the caption being adjudicated. Commentary should not refer to areas beyond the judge's assigned caption.**
- C. Align with the resulting ranking and rating of the group.**
- D. Assist the director in improving the structure of the program or performance.**
- E. Help the performer learn about and appreciate the judging process.**

**Score sheet adjudication should:**

- A. Adhere to the provided rubric.**

**B. Support (not contradict) the audio commentary.**

**Productive audio and written commentary that acknowledges successful achievement of criteria as well as analysis of weaknesses are welcome. Commentary may also be used to present methods/techniques to improve certain aspects of the performance as would be provided in a personal critique session, with the understanding that the adjudicators assessment may be presented to the performers as well as the director and additional instructional staff.**

**Submitted by the Division I Directors**