

TENNESSEE MARCHING BAND STATE CHAMPIONSHIP - DIVISION I

RULES & GUIDELINES

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 the Tennessee Marching Band State Champion and 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.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Schools participating must have a secondary school (grades 9-12) attendance of 1 to 500 according to the TSSAA (Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association).
2. Bands performing for comments-only shall constitute exhibition class and will perform first. The host band will not compete but may give an exhibition performance as the scores are being tabulated.
3. Bands with 29 or fewer combined Winds & Percussion shall constitute IB Class.
4. Entry fee is \$150 per band plus \$1 per student. Bands will receive a page in the program and a reasonable number of complimentary tickets for chaperones and bus drivers.
5. 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.

ADJUDICATION

6. 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. The host band shall contact a judges association to provide adjudicators. Adjudicators shall have a music education degree and teaching experience (prior or current).
The Host may select certified adjudicators from a circuit for the captions of Percussion and Guard (e.g. WGI/SCGC/BOA/DCI/etc).
The Host shall select qualified adjudicators for the captions of Field Commander and Soloists.
All judges will be located in appropriate positions in the press box area. No judge will be on the track or on the field. It is requested that judges not be repeated in consecutive years (2016).
7. 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. **SEE FOOTNOTES FOR INFO**
8. All ties will be broken using scores from the following categories until the tie is broken; Music Ensemble Total, Music GE, Visual Ensemble Total, Visual GE. A complete tie will result in the judges having to break the tie.
9. Separate judges for Field Commander, Guard, and Percussion will determine the winners in their respective categories. Field Commander, Guard, Percussion, and Soloist scores will not affect the overall band score.

10. The soloist judge will determine the best soloists. Only solos performed by one person will be adjudicated and must be a minimum of 8 measures or ten seconds in duration.
11. In determination of the State Champion, only the Finals score will be used.
12. Adjudication sheets may only be changed after two years of use (last change March 2015).
13. 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 band 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.

AWARDS / RATINGS

14. Each band will be awarded a rating of I or II (Superior or Excellent). All preliminary 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 prior.
15. All bands, including Exhibition-class, shall receive a participation plaque on which ratings of I or II will be noted for Band, Percussion, Field Commander, and Guard. Finalist bands will receive trophies in recognition of their state rank.

Bands in IB Class shall have a label designating their finish in class included on their plaque. IB Class placement labels shall be for the top half of IB Class only.

16. Adjudication comments, score sheets, and results of the Prelims and the Finals will be furnished each band. Finalist bands will receive audio comments at the end of Preliminary competition. At the conclusion of Preliminary competition, bands may receive their individual score sheets, however, no score recaps will be given out until the end of the Finals Competition.
17. Awards will be as follows:
 - a. High Music, Includes the scores from all Music judges (Music Ensemble & Music GE),
 - b. High Visual, (Includes the scores from all Visual judges (Visual Ensemble and Visual GE),
 - c. 1st and 2nd Place Guard,
 - d. 1st and 2nd Place Percussion,
 - e. 1st and 2nd Place Field Commander,
 - f. Best Soloist. Separate awards will be presented for Preliminary and Finals Performance scores.
 - g. Ratings will be awarded for Guard, Percussion, Field Commander, and Band.
 - h. Finalist Bands
 - i. IB Class. The top half of bands in IB Class shall have a small label designating finish in class attached to their participation plaques.
18. Finals Trophy Sizes
1st Place- No less than **66** inches tall. All other trophies will drop in size 4 " per place.
19. 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.

CONTEST SCHEDULE

20. Bands will be scheduled at 15-minute intervals. Each band will have a total of 15 minutes to enter, perform, and exit completely from the playing surface.

21. The order of Preliminary Performance will be determined as follows:
 - a. The previous year's champion has the option to perform last in Prelims.
 - b. 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.
 - c. Entries postmarked on the same day will be drawn for order in Prelims, regardless of time stamps.
 - d. The host will determine the entry deadline.
 - e. In the case of a redraw of performance times: Performance times corresponding to the number of bands registered to attend will be placed in a container. A performance time will be drawn, which will then be the performance time of the band omitted from the original draw. All other bands performance times will be shifted in order to accommodate said band.
 - f. 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.
 - g. 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.

FINALS

22. Finals Competition will consist of the 8 bands with the highest score in prelims if fewer than twenty bands attend. Finals Competition will consist of the 10 bands with the highest score in prelims if twenty or more bands attend.
23. If no IB Class band is selected for finals, the top band in IB Class shall be afforded the honor of performing in Finals as an exhibition band.
24. 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' comments will be made available at the end of Prelims.
25. The 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 bands will draw in Prelims performance order.

SHOW REQUIREMENTS / VIOLATIONS

26. Bands must be in competition a minimum of 6 minutes, as timed from the first to last note. Timing will begin after the first note after the announcement.
 - a. Performing less than minimum. **PENALTY: 1 point.**
 - b. Reporting late to the field entrance gate. **PENALTY: 5 point.**
 - c. Rehearsal or warm-up in undesignated areas. **PENALTY: 5 points.**
 - d. Failure to leave warm-up areas at the proper time. **PENALTY: 5 points.**
 - e. Exceeding the 15-minute time limit. **PENALTY: 5 points.**
 - f. Warming up Before or After 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 General Effect Body or Guard work. **PENALTY: 5 points.**

CONTEST LOGISTICS

27. 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.
28. Profits from the gate, program (sales and ads), concessions, meals, and other sales (shirts, souvenirs, etc.) will go to the host.

29. 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.
30. 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 the championship site, 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 ballot on all important issues within a specific time frame set by the host band. Schools will have only one vote per issue.

FOOTNOTES -

Adjudication

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.

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.)

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

These Rules and Guidelines were last revised May 2017.