

MSBOA District Marching Band Rules

(There is not a State Marching Band Festival)

A. CLASSIFICATION

1. The marching band festival will use the same classification system as MSBOA concert festivals, however:
 - a. A group may enter any classification it chooses.
 - b. If a group enters a lower classification and receives a Division I rating, the group must enter a higher classification the following year.
2. This will be a festival for high school bands only.
 - a. If an all 9th grade band enters the festival, it may enter any classification.
 - b. Middle School/junior high students who are regular members of a high school group may participate with that group.
3. Participating schools must be members of MSBOA and entries must be postmarked or delivered to the District Representative no later than midnight of the deadline date. Applications should be signed by the school principal and the band director. All performers must be students at the member school.
4. Post graduate high school students may not participate in festivals.

B. ADJUDICATION

1. Adjudicators must be selected from the official MSBOA Marching Band Adjudicators List, one of which must be on the permanent list. It is suggested that adjudicators be hired with advance notice of caption assignment. Officials must be certified by the District Executive Board.
2. Director, parents and students are not to take adjudicators to task for any reason.
3. There will be three adjudicators in the press box. Adjudicators will adjudicate one of three captions: Music, marching, or General Effect Showmanship. A cassette tape as well as an adjudication form will be used by each adjudicator.

C. RATINGS

1. Each participating school will be awarded a divisional rating. It is suggested that following the festival the chairperson send each director a computation of the division ratings for each band entered in the festival.
2. The ratings awarded by the individual adjudicators will be determined by the following formula:

I	II	III	IV	V
AAA	ABB	ACC	ADD	AEE
AAB	ABC	ACD	ADE	BEE
AAC	ABD	ACE	BDD	CEE
AAD	ABE	BCC	BDE	DEE
AAE	BBB	BCD	CDD	EEE
	BBC	BCE	CDE	
	BBD	CCC	DDD	
	BBE	CCD	DDE	
		CCE		

3. The final rating will determined by the following formula:

I	II	III	IV	V
111	122	133	144	155
112	123	134	145	255
113	124	135	244	355
114	125	233	245	455
115	222	234	344	555
	223	235	345	
	224	333	444	
	225	334	445	
		335		

D. FESTIVAL OFFICIALS

1. The Official Tabulator/Timer will time the length of the show proper and record the results on the Final Rating Sheet. He/She is responsible for checking the rating sheets and recording all ratings on the Final Rating Sheet and Master Tally Sheet.
2. There will be an Official Announcer in the Press Box. The duties will be:
 - a. Keep the festival on schedule.
 - b. Announce each event number, class, band and director as the band enters the field.
 - c. Make any other important announcements deemed necessary by the Site Chairperson.
3. A Field Coordinator will supervise each band's entrance and exit. This person will also assist bands with any on-field procedures.
4. The site Chairperson is responsible for all decisions pertaining to the administration of the festival.

E. TIMING AND PENALTIES

1. Each participating band will receive a festival time schedule. Bands must adhere to the scheduled times for smooth festival operation.
2. Each event will be scheduled in a 15 minute segment.
 - a. Each band should report to the field 5 minutes before their scheduled performance time.
 - b. The band may enter the field when the preceding band has begun their exit.
 - c. The band may begin their warm-up after the preceding band has exited the field.
3. Each participating band must adhere to the following timing rules:
 - a. (7) minute show length minimum
(13) thirteen minute show length maximum.
 - b. Adjudication and show timing length will begin with the first note played or movement taken after the drum major(s) are announced and salute the press box.**
 - c. Any band show below the seven minute minimum or over the thirteen minute maximum will have their final rating lowered one division.
 - d. After the band has completed its show, please have the drum major(s) salute the press box to indicate the completion of the show.**
 - e. The following recommendations should be followed to keep the festival on schedule and to be in the "safe zone" in regards to show length:
 - (8) eight minute show length
 - (11) eleven minute show length maximum
 - (15) fifteen minute maximum time for show entrance, warm-up, show proper, and exit.
 - f. A four minute minimum "time in motion" is recommended so the marching adjudicator and the general effect showmanship adjudicator can fairly evaluate the band. Time in motion is defined in the following manner: least 50% of the band proper (marching wind and percussion players) must be moving for the band to be considered in motion.

F. THE FIELD

1. Boundaries
 - a. A regulation high school football field will be used, 100 yards by 60 yards. The boundaries of the performing area will be both goal lines and both sidelines and an area on the press box side of the field from the 35 yard line to the 35 yard line, five yards deep (off the sideline, toward the press box.)
 - b. There will be yard lines every five yards.
 - c. There will be official inserts marked upon every yard line as used in high school football games.
 - d. Yard markers should be placed on the press box side of the field.
2. Entrance and Exit
 - a. Bands may enter and exit the field from any point, and may begin the show from any point on or off the field.
 - b. Musical "warm-up" may be done prior to the start of the show, but it should be kept in mind that it must fit into the fifteen minute time period.
 - c. No member of the band may be positioned inside the boundary of the performing field until the preceding band has begun to exit the field.
 - d. Upon completion of the show, a band may "pass in review." "Pass in review" should be considered as an orderly procession, playing on drums or playing instruments past the audience. It should be noted that all audible sound must cease as the band passes the goal line.

G. CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Each festival participant is expected to conform to rules of conduct, observe care of property, use proper behavior patterns, and adherence to all rules.
2. Excessive noise during performance from your band while sitting in the bleachers could be a Code of Conduct violation. Individual bands and their members should strive to promote good sportsmanship. Directors should instruct their boosters and bands to maintain good sportsmanship in the stands and festival area at all times. Please remember the performance is on the field only and not in the stands.
3. Playing in the aural range of the performance field during the festival may be considered a Code of Conduct violation.
4. Groups who violate this conduct code at any time during the festival may be reprimanded by the festival host or chairperson through the director in question. Additional actions may be taken by the district executive board and may include:
 - a. No penalty, but a written report sent to the administration of the offending school with a copy to the director.
 - b. No rating or disqualification (in extreme cases) along with a written report to the administration, with a copy to the director.

H. PROCEDURE IN CASE OF RAIN OR IMPOSSIBLE FIELD CONDITIONS

1. Schedule a rain date. (Decided by each district)
 2. If no rain date is used, the Site Chairperson and District Officials will communicate one hour before the start of the festival to determine if conditions such as rain, snow or impossible field conditions dictate the necessity for using one of the following options. Each district should pre-determine which option or options will be used.
 - a. Hold a standstill festival using the gym or auditorium
 - b. Hold a standstill festival using the track or small area on the field
 - c. Cancel the festival (decided by each district)
3. Adjudication for a standstill performance will have all three adjudicators using the music sheet.

I. OTHER

1. These rules will be open to review and revision each year.
2. Local arrangements (entry fees, admission fees, division of proceeds, adjudicator fees, etc.) will be left up to the discretion of the district.
3. Cassette recorders and tapes must follow existing MSBOA criteria for quality and use (found in the Marching Band Adjudicator's Handbook).
4. The use of mechanized vehicles, lights out routines, animals and pyrotechnics of any type, including fireworks and discharge of firearms, shall not be permitted. Electronic or electronically assisted equipment must use their own power sources.
5. American Flag Guidelines: If the American Flag is used, it must be afforded the proper respect. (See American Legion Flag Code or D.C.I. Code of U.S. Marine Corps "How to Respect and Display Our Flag" - U.S. Government Printing Office, 1965 0-772-143). A few basic rules are:
 - a. Must be guarded at all times. Mock weapons may be used - i.e. wood rifles.
 - b. Must not be used as a working flag (formations, dance routine, flag routine)
 - c. All other flags must be subservient to it.
 - d. No side stepping or marching backward is allowed.
 - e. It must never be dipped or lower than working flags.
6. Plaques, trophies and medals will be awarded at the discretion of the district.
7. For clarification of these rules contact the Marching Band Committee Chair and The "MSBOA Marching Band Festival Adjudicator Handbook", available from the State Office. Consult the "MSBOA Marching Band Festival Checklist" for detailed procedures.