



RULES MANUAL 2019

WBA FIELD COMPETITION & GENERAL CONTEST RULES

Please note: Penalties start after the first two weeks in the season, after week one (1) in Northern California and after week two (2) in Central and Southern California, however this can extend to all regions at the discretion of the adjudication coordinator and all penalties are at the discretion of the Chief Adjudicator no matter the date of the event.

1.0 ELIGIBILITY

- 1.1 All Ensembles comprised of members up to and through the twelfth grade are eligible to compete in WBA competitions.
- 1.2 Ensembles are assigned to classes based on the number of performers as follows:
 - Class 1A: 60 performers or less
 - Class 2A: 61-80 performers
 - Class 3A: 81-110 performers
 - Class 4A: 111-140 performers
 - Class 5A: 141 performers or more
- 1.3 All performers in the ensemble must wear soled footwear during the entire performance.

2.0 COPYRIGHT COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

- 2.1 All ensembles 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 ensemble 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 There are no boundary line penalties. Ensembles may enter and exit over any boundary line. Ensembles may begin and end their performance anywhere on or off the competition area as long as timing requirements are met. Ensemble members (including drum majors) may cross any boundary line at will anytime, but they may NOT enter the stands or seating area for any reason. Because of the latitude afforded with regard to boundary lines, the pit area can be any place within the competition area and will not contain any specific markings or designations.
- 3.2 The Performance Field will be marked and the regulation football field will be lined every five (5) yards.

- 3.3 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 WARM UP

- 4.1 Ensembles may not practice or warm up within earshot or 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 a wired-connected microphone, and must remain at a reasonable volume depending on the acoustics of the warm-up area and proximity to other ensembles /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 ensembles in the warm-up areas or with performances in the stadium.
- 4.4 Musical warm-up prior to the optional field warm-up must be done in an area removed from the hearing range of the stadium.
Rule of thumb: If you can hear the competing ensembles, they can hear you. Be courteous to all competitors.

PENALTY – At discretion of the Chief Adjudicator up to disqualification.

5.0 ENTRY

- 5.1 Ensemble report times will be at least ten (10) minutes prior to the ensemble's performance start time. Distances from warm-up areas to the stadium vary from venue to venue. Ensembles should be ready to enter the Performance Field at their designated performance time.
- 5.2 On cue from Timing and Penalties adjudicator, the ensemble enters the Performance Field. An ensemble 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 ensemble 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: to retrieve errant props, or attend to failure or loss of power or connectivity to a sound system without penalty, as determined by the Timing and Penalty Adjudicator.
- 5.6 Statement Regarding Noncompetitive Personnel - There will be no penalty for the use of noncompetitive personnel such as parents who need to retrieve props that are blowing away, electronics crews, and the like. It is suggested that good judgment be used when utilizing noncompetitive personnel. (Scores can be affected if the noncompetitive personnel are a hindrance to the performance.)

PENALTY for inadvertent or apparently unintended adults present on 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 ensembles are scheduled in increments of 13-minute intervals. Ensembles must perform for minimum of five (5) minutes with a maximum of nine (9) minutes.
- 6.2 4A-5A ensembles are scheduled in increments of 15-minute intervals. Ensembles 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 Adjudicator to enter the Performance Field. The announcer will introduce the Ensemble as follows:

Begin reading script at **3 minutes and 30 seconds** after the ensembles is given the cue to enter the field.

*(**PLEASE NOTE** Head Director has the ability to cue the timing and penalty Adjudicator to cue the announcer to start reading the script early if there is no pre-show (or limited pre-show) to allow for the ensemble to remain within the prescribed interval time.)*

Sponsored and Super Show Events

“Joining us from [CITY/STATE], please welcome the [ENSEMBLE NAME]!”

(Announcer waits for the audience applause)

The [ENSEMBLE NAME]'s program is entitled [NAME OF PROGRAM].

The Western Band Association is proud to present in Class [INSERT BAND'S CLASS] Performance, drum majors [INSERT DRUM MAJOR(S) NAME], and the [ENSEMBLE NAME]!

Class Championships

“Joining us from [CITY/STATE], please welcome the [ENSEMBLE NAME]!”
(Announcer waits for the audience applause)

The [ENSEMBLE NAME]'s program is entitled [NAME OF PROGRAM].

The Western Band Association is proud to present in Class [INSERT BAND'S CLASS] Championship Performance, drum majors [INSERT DRUM MAJOR(S) NAME], and the [ENSEMBLE NAME]!

Grand Championships

“Joining us from [CITY/STATE], please welcome the [ENSEMBLE NAME]!”
(Announcer waits for the audience applause)

The [ENSEMBLE NAME]'s program is entitled [NAME OF PROGRAM].

The Western Band Association is proud to present in Grand Championship Performance [INSERT BAND'S CLASS] Performance, drum majors [INSERT DRUM MAJOR(S) NAME], and the [ENSEMBLE NAME]!

- 6.4 Following the completion of the pre-show announcement, the first note of music, the first step, or visual move (not including any drum major salute) by a member of the ensemble 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 Ensemble must completely vacate the Performance Field by end of their total interval time past the goal line at the designated ensemble exit included in pre-event communications.
- 6.7 Any ensemble causing any unnecessary delay of contest may be assessed a penalty at the discretion of the Chief Adjudicator.

1A - 2A – 3A TIMING (detail from 6.0)

- 1A-2A-3A ensembles must be in competition for a minimum of 5 minutes and a maximum of 9 minutes. Timing will occur by the Timing and Plenty stopwatch and will begin with the first note of music or the first step of the ensemble proper.

Judging will cease at the conclusion of the ensemble's performance.

- 1A-2A-3A ensembles will begin their performance in increments of a maximum of 13 minutes. This time will begin when the starter gives the signal for the ensemble to move from the staging area to the competition area. This time includes setting up, a warm-up (optional), and vacating the competition area.
- When the ensemble appears to be ready, the announcer will ask if the ensemble is ready. The drum major(s) will indicate readiness through a salute or some other appropriate signal. The announcer will then tell the ensemble to take the field in competition.
- It is recommended that ensembles report to the gate at least one ensemble prior to their performance.

4A - 5A TIMING (detail from 6.0)

- 4A-5A ensembles must be in competition for a minimum of 7 minutes and a maximum of 11 minutes. Timing will occur by the Timing and Plenty stopwatch and will begin with the first note of music or the first step of the ensemble proper. Judging will cease at the conclusion of the ensemble's performance.
 - 4A-5A ensembles will begin their performance in increments of a maximum of 15 minutes. This time will begin with the starter gives the signal for the ensemble to move from the staging area to the competition area. This time includes setting up, a warm-up (optional), and vacating the competition area.
 - When the ensemble appears to be ready, the announcer will ask if the ensemble is ready. The drum major(s) will indicate readiness through a salute or some other appropriate signal. The announcer will then tell the ensemble to take the field in competition.
 - It is recommended that ensembles report to the gate at least one ensemble prior to their performance.

PENALTY: 0.1 of a point per 6 seconds or fraction thereof will be assessed for over/under time or for a contest delay.

7.0 DELAY OF CONTEST

- 7.1 Any ensemble causing any unnecessary delay of contest will be assessed a penalty of 0.1 per 15 seconds (or fraction thereof) at the discretion of the Chief Adjudicator.

PENALTY: 0.1 of a point per 15 seconds or fraction thereof will be assessed for unnecessary delay of contest.

8.0 PERSONNEL

- 8.1 Any ensemble member, director, paraprofessional staff member, or other noncompetitive personnel directly connected with the performance of the ensemble who exhibits extraordinary or disruptive behavior for which there is no specific rule or penalty will be subject to appropriate penalties as discerned by the Contest Director.

PENALTY: Violation of the above rules - 0.1 of a point to disqualification.

9.0 BOUNDARIES

- 9.1 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.
- 9.2 The entire Performance including all music must be performed from within the Performance Field. Drum Majors are exempt. Directors, adults, non-performing members or alternate members (other than Drum Majors) may not, without penalty, enter the Performance Field to retrieve or hand off instruments or equipment during the Performance.

10.0 USE OF ELECTRONICS

- 10.1 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.
- 10.2 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 communication with other devices with the Performance Field. Such devices are entirely at the risk of the use.
- 10.3 An adult may operate electronic devices, but must do so from outside the Performance Field, except in the case of “catastrophic” technical failure.

PENALTY for adults contributing to Performance (except as permitted above) – 0.5 points perviolation except in case of Head Director conducting

11.0 NATIONAL COLORS

- 11.1 Use of the National Colors is optional. Should an ensemble opt to use the National Flag, the following guidelines are recommended for its use. These guidelines shall not be authority, either expressed or implied, to violate any national, state or provincial laws at variance with them.
- 11.2 Bearer of the national flag, while in possession of that flag, shall never engage in dance or theatrical steps.
- 11.3 The National Flag shall never be permitted to touch the ground.
- 11.4 The National Flag shall always be afforded the general respect and dignity associated with our National symbol. The National Flag shall be guarded by at least one weapon (or simulated weapon) at all times.
- 11.5 The National Flag may be posted according to proper posting procedure.

PENALTY: 0.1 to 5.0 points will be assessed for flagrant offensive violations of these guidelines at the discretion of the contest coordinator.

12.0 EQUIPMENT USE AND SAFETY

- 12.1 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 ensemble 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.
- 12.2 The following are NOT ALLOWED in a Performance or on the Performance Field:
 - 12.2.1 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.
 - 12.2.2 Pyrotechnics of any kind, including fire, fireworks, or the discharge of arms
 - 12.2.3 Lights-out routines
 - 12.2.4 Animals
 - 12.2.5 Off-road mechanized vehicles (defined as golf carts, garden tractors, small ATV's, etc.)
 - 12.2.6 Drones or any remote-controlled airborne device
 - 12.2.7 Hazardous equipment or illegal use of equipment

- 12.3 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:
 - 12.3.1 Powder or other airborne material
 - 12.3.2 Water or other (non-hazardous) liquids
 - 12.3.3 Paper, confetti, or other debris
- 12.4 Props built and/or used by participating ensembles at WBA 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.
- 12.5 Prop assembly must be done within the directed flow during the ensemble'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 ensemble. (See Rule 7.0 for penalties for delay of contest)
- 12.6 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 ensembles.
- 12.7 The Chief Adjudicator 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, Facilities, or others or potential danger to a venue or its property.

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

NOTE: WBA strongly recommends that ensembles 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.

13.0 GENERAL CONDUCT

- 13.1 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:

- 13.1.1 Warm-up onsite by an ensemble (or any component of an ensemble) in areas and/or at times other than those designated
- 13.1.2 Failure to follow directives from contest personnel related to conduct in any area, including parking lots, warm-up areas, etc.
- 13.1.3 Overstays in warm-ups areas that intrude into the time and space of other participants
- 13.1.4 Failure to abide by guidelines involving student performance, and use of electronics and equipment
- 13.1.5 Behaviors that compromise the safety of participants and others and/or that may violate known stadium policies
- 13.1.6 Verbal remarks and behaviors (at the venue, whether in or outside the Performance Field, by members, 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
- 13.1.7 Any delay of contest, improper conduct, or infraction for which no specific rule or penalty is provided
- 13.1.8 Members of the competing ensembles must wear soled footwear during the entire performance.
- 13.1.9 Directors may not contact any adjudicator other than the timing and penalties adjudicator at any time during the competition.
- 13.1.10 Ensemble must meet eligibility requirements as stated in the policies and procedures.

PENALTY – 0.10 point up to disqualification at the discretion of the Chief Adjudicator.