

# WESTERN BAND ASSOCIATION HANDBOOK

*Revised November, 2016*

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# 2015 WBA OFFICERS AND STAFF

## **PRESIDENT**

**Troy Gunter Valley Christian HS  
100 Skyway  
San Jose, CA 95111  
408-362-7606 School  
tgunter@cvs.net**

## **VICE PRESIDENT Eric**

**Weingartner Homestead High  
School 21370 Homestead Rd.,  
Cupertino, CA 95014**

## **TREASURER**

**John Hannan  
Mission Viejo High School  
25025 Chrisanta Mission Viejo,  
CA 92691 Hannan@svusd.org  
949 837-7722 school**

## **SECRETARY**

**David Lesser  
Clovis North High School  
2770 E. International Ave  
Fresno, CA 93730  
davidlesser@cusd.net**

## **PAST PRESIDENT**

**Esmeralda Lozano  
Clovis High School  
1055 Fowler  
Clovis, CA 93611  
esmeraldarochalozano@cusd.com  
559-327-1465 school**

## **ADMINISTRATOR**

**Kathy Whitcomb  
1710 San Luis Road Walnut  
Creek, CA 94597  
KathyW4657@aol.com  
925 928-8917**

## **JUDGE COORDINATOR**

**Shirlee Whitcomb  
1710 San Luis Road Walnut  
Creek, CA 94597  
ShirleeWhitcomb@aol.com  
925 939-3582**

# **MISSION STATEMENT OF THE WESTERN BAND ASSOCIATION**

This organization exists to insure a high quality  
Performing experience which is educationally  
Sound, and in full support of the total band program.  
This organization commits to a Fall marching  
band contest season, with consistent rules, show  
format, and the highest level of adjudication.  
The season will culminate with an open  
championship contest.

## ANNUAL MEETING

There will be one general meeting held annually in February, in tandem with CASMEC. This meeting is an open meeting for all member bands. The primary agenda will include:

- ◆ Updating the membership of the current state of the organization
- ◆ Provide Educational Clinics
- ◆ Hold Election of Officers who would take their positions the following February 1.

## SPECIFIC DUTIES OF OFFICERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*In addition to the duties of the officers as set forth in the Constitution and By-Laws of this Organization, the following specific duties have been delegated:*

- ◆ **President.** Subject to such supervisory powers as the board may give to the chairperson of the board, if any, and subject to the control of the board, the president shall be the general manager of the corporation and shall supervise, direct, and control the corporation's activities, affairs, and officers. The president shall preside at all members' meetings and, in the absence of the chairperson of the board, or if there is none, at all board meetings. The president shall have such other powers and duties as the board or these bylaws may prescribe.
- ◆ **The Vice President** If the president is absent or disabled, the vice president shall perform all duties of the president. When so acting, a vice president shall have all powers of and be subject to all restrictions on the president. The vice president shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as the board or the bylaws may prescribe.
- ◆ **The Treasurer** This person is charged with producing and maintaining the following documentation:
- ◆ **Deposit and Disbursement of Money and Valuables.** The chief financial officer shall deposit, or cause to be deposited, all money and other valuables in the name and to the credit of the corporation with such depositories as the board may designate, shall disburse the corporation's funds as the board may order, shall render to the president, chairperson of the board, if any, and the board, when requested, an account of all transactions as chief financial officer and of the financial condition of the corporation, and shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as the board or the bylaws may prescribe

### **The Secretary**

This person is charged with producing and maintaining the following documentation: Book of Minutes. The secretary shall keep or cause to be kept, at the corporation's principal office or such other place as the board may direct, a book of minutes of all meetings, proceedings, and actions of the board, of committees of the board, and of members' meetings. The minutes of meetings shall include the time and place that the meeting was held, whether the meeting was annual, regular, or special, and, if special, how authorized, the notice given, the names of those present at board and committee meetings, and the number of members present or represented at members' meetings. The secretary shall keep or cause to be kept, at the principal office in California, a copy of the articles of incorporation and bylaws, as amended to date.

### **The Past President**

- ◆ Chairs the nominating committee for filling WBA Board Offices. Together with one other member of the board designated by the President, solicits and presents suitable candidates for offices within the Board. (Nominations for open positions can also be made from the floor.)

## **PROPOSALS, CHANGES, ELECTIONS**

- ◆ By-law changes, Procedural changes, Scoring System or rule changes may be proposed by mail or e-mail in the month of January and voted on by e-mail ballot in the month of May allowing the **full membership** to vote.
- ◆ Proposals will be sent to the Administrator who will prepare them for Board & Membership general distribution and vote.
- ◆ Ballots will be returned to the Administrator within a designated time frame in May. She will tally & record each band's vote and provide that information to the Board for distribution to the general membership.
- ◆ Results of changes will be posted on the Web Page by June 1.
- ◆ Implementation of changes will be explained at the September meeting as well as through posting on the Web page.

# FIELD COMPETITION POLICIES & PROCEDURES

## ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility is open to all high school bands, grades 9 through 12. Each competing member must be a properly enrolled, student at the school represented by the band, or 8th grade student at the feeder school of the participating high school. An expansion to this general rule would be if a school district consolidates their programs and offers all students within a district, the option of intra district participation in the various activities. A student from one school is not eligible to participate in another school band if there is an existing band program at that school. Should an exceptional situation occur that does not fall within these guidelines, a director can petition the board for an exception.

## FEES

- ◆ Annual membership fee is \$150 per competing band.
- ◆ Bands entering a WBA sanctioned show must become members of WBA.
- ◆ Entry fee is \$250 per contest for all contests other than Championships.
- ◆ Entry fee is \$400 for the Championships.
- ◆ The fee for vendors at the WBA Championships show is \$350 per site per day

## CONTEST ENTRY DEADLINES

◆ Application, photographs, band publicity, and payment must be made via the WBA web page no later than September 1st. This can be done either on line, via credit card, or issue an invoice from the WBA web page and have a payment mailed to the office at WBA, 1710 San Luis Rd, Walnut Creek, CA 94597. The payment must be received by the dead line date to qualify for the performance draw within entry date.

Late entries are allowed for a show up to October 1, 2015. The cutoff date of the Friday three weeks prior to the event will apply to the first two weekends of October. Those entries will be placed on first in their class for all the events signed up for. The same stipulations as listed above apply. All payments, photographs, band publicity and contact information must be completed on the WBA web site to be entered into the show.

## REFUNDS

- ◆ After September 1, there will be no refunds of fees for band cancellations from WBA shows.

## CLASSIFICATION

There are five classes of bands in WBA field competition. Classification of each band is based on TOTAL number of performers (drum majors, musicians and auxiliary) as follows:

- ◆ **Class 5A** --- Any number of members
- ◆ **Class 4A** --- Bands with membership no greater than 140
- ◆ **Class 3A** --- Bands with membership no greater than 100
- ◆ **Class 2A** --- Bands with membership no greater than 80
- ◆ **Class 1A** – Bands with membership no greater than 60
- ◆ **Judged Exhibition** --- Bands new to field competition that wish to participate without competing.

A uniformed electronics person will be counted as a performer. A guard equipment retriever or prop manipulator will not be counted against a band's membership if he/she is designated as that specific supplemental person. Bands must remain in the designated classes determined by the above formula. No shifting of classes will be allowed after the September 1 cut off. Shifting of classes after September 1 will be placed on first in the new class.

## **ELECTRONICS**

Electronic instruments may be used. Sponsor will provide one electrical outlet near the "pit area" of the field. All sounds or sound effects performed in "real time" must be performed by a student performer. This includes the initiation of samples or "voice over's."

## **SANCTIONED CONTESTS PROCEDURES**

All sanctioned competitions may have whatever number of bands they can accommodate within their competition time frame. Contests exceeding 15 bands will experience an increase in the judging fee on a per band basis.

The contest field will be a regulation size football field, 160 feet wide and 300 feet long. Boundaries of the field will be marked. The field will be lined every five yards. High school hash marks will be indicated one third of the way off each sideline. Numbered yard markers will be placed every 10 yards along the front and back sideline. The competition area shall be defined anywhere at the field level. No alteration may be made to a contest venue by a competing unit.

## **SCORING**

Each band will receive a score based on a total possible 100 points computed to the nearest tenth of a point. The score will be the total of the scores given by each of eight adjudicators less any penalty points.

The calculation of the total score for each caption is:

- (30 points) Average of: 30 Points - Music Effect & 30 Points - Visual Effect
- (30 points) Average of: 30 Points - Music Perf. – Ensemble & 30 Points - Music Perf. - Individual
- (20 points) Average of: 20 Points - Visual Perf – Ensemble & 20 Points - Visual Perf-Individual
- (10 points) Total of: 10 Points - Percussion
- (10 points) Total of: 10 Points - Auxiliary
- (100 points Total)**

The percentage of the total score for each caption is:

Music Effect	15%
Visual Effect	15%
Ensemble Music Perf.	15%
Individual Music Perf.	15%
Percussion	10%
Ensemble Visual Perf.	10%
Individual Visual Perf	10%
Auxiliary	10%

All scoring will be done on a build-up, achievement basis, utilizing an educationally- oriented, criteria referenced scale for each caption and category. Scoring is assigned based upon the upper 60 percent of the total value of each sheet.

Scoring in the Percussion and Auxiliary categories will be done by a single adjudicator in each category. Each of these categories will be scored based on a total of 100 points, computed to the nearest tenth of a point. Scoring in these categories are included in the scoring or placement of the band as a whole. Judging focus in these two captions will be to assist these sections in such a way as to augment the success of the total band program.



## ADJUDICATION

All WBA competitions will use conference-approved adjudicators. Each competition will require one adjudicator in each of the following captions and categories. They will adjudicate each band from the locations indicated:

Music Effect.....	Press Box
Visual Effect.....	Press Box
Music Performance - Ensemble .....	Press Box
Music Performance - Ensemble .....	Press Box
Percussion.....	Press Box
Visual Performance - Ensemble ....	Press Box
Visual Performance - Individual ....	Field Level
Auxiliary.....	Press Box
Timing Penalty.....	Field level
Tabulator .....	Press Box or proximity to field

Adjudicators will provide cassette tape commentary in responding to each aspect of the band's performance. Commentary will be of a constructive nature and should reinforce the learning process. It must be of direct value to both the band director and the band members.

## THE TWO-TIERED SCORING SYSTEM

The intent of the two-tiered scoring system is to create a curriculum based scoring process that will reward and encourage smaller band programs for achievement which is unique to their size and development. This concept offers all students a more equitable opportunity to compete and achieve.

The primary goal is to support development of the highest quality in music performance and visual design regardless of size. However, there are unique circumstances under which the smaller band must function. This system is based on an understanding of the impacting circumstances which influence the size and development of the band programs within these 2 levels of development. It is intended to be realistic in the expectations and in the rewards for groups in this situation. All bands in every class will be measured against the "paradigm" for that class. The "paradigm" will be that band who achieves the highest standard. Judges will call upon their experience and their exposure to all bands within each class size.



## THE CONSIDERATIONS BEHIND THE 2-TIERED SYSTEM INCLUDE:

- ◆ The presence/absence of quality feeder programs which impact on the musical development of students entering secondary education.
- ◆ School values and support relative to music education.
- ◆ Funding and/or Staffing
- ◆ A school schedule that offers an accessible music program to the students.
- ◆ Administrative support of the Arts
- ◆ Building a new program. Understanding the issues for those directors and students who are in the experiencing/ discovering stages of growth & development relative to establishing the disciplines and standards within the program.
- ◆ Developing esteem during this process
- ◆ Rewarding the steps taken in musical development
- ◆ Bringing value to the young program through success in competitive situations

## CONTEST AWARDS

All WBA field competitions will include the following awards which may be in the form of trophies, plaques, band oriented merchandise or prize money. These awards will be given in all five classes.

### **1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in Each Class.**

**Best Music in Each Class:** Music Perf (Ind) + Music Perf (Ens)

**Best Marching/Movement in Each Class:** Visual Perf (Ind) + Visual Perf (Ens)

**Best Effect in Each Class:** Music Effect + Visual Effect

**Best Percussion in Each Class:** Percussion

**Best Auxiliary in Each Class:** Auxiliary

- ◆ The show sponsor will present awards as listed above.
- ◆ The scores and caption awards for all competing bands will be announced during the awards ceremony. **Scores** for caption awards will not be announced.
- ◆ In the case of a bottom-line tie between two or more bands, the tie will be broken by ranking the bands based on the winner of the combined music and visual effect scores. Should a tie still exist, the combined music performance scores will be used to break the tie. **The tabulator will be responsible for bringing the tie to the attention of the chief judge.**
- ◆ In the case of a tie in caption awards, duplicate awards will be presented.



# MARCHING BAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

This event will be run and sponsored by WBA. WBA rules and regulations will be used. It will be run separately from the rest of the season, serving as both the Class championship show for WBA as well as a combined Grand Championship contest where the 1/2/3A bands compete in joint contest and where the 4/5A bands compete in joint contest. This event is a vehicle where all bands can take part in a major championship show. The organization of the championship will be of the highest quality in every aspect. It is the intent that this event will rotate between Northern California, Central California and Southern California.

The Championship event is a two-day competition held the weekend prior to thanksgiving. There will be two competition venues; one for the 1/2/3A classes and one for the 4/5A classes. **The Saturday competition is the Class Championship.** It also serves as the basis for progressing the bands on to the combined Grand Championship to be held the following day for the top 15 bands from each site.

**Date:** The weekend prior to Thanksgiving

**Site:** Determined by WBA

**Rules:** WBA rules

**Entry Fee:** \$400.00. No refunds after September 1. Entry Deadline is October 1, or when contest fills to its capacity.

**Application Limit:** The maximum number of 1A 2A 3A bands at the Saturday site will be forty (40) The maximum number of 4A 5A bands will be thirty-five (35). Time restraints could dictate fewer participants at any site.

**Prelims Order** Entries are based on posted date of entry. All bands that enter on the same date, will be placed in a random draw upon the close of the event September 1. Entries after this date will be placed on first in their class. Payment must be received to be eligible to be considered for the draw. If payment is not received by the deadline date your date time will be forfeited and you must reenter.

**Combined Championship Progression:** The top three in each class plus the next overall highest scoring six bands in 1/2/3A, and the next overall highest scoring 9 bands in 4/5A, will move to the combined Grand Championship. Order of appearance will be determined by Reverse order of placement in Prelims. In the event of a tie for either the 6th place on 1/2/3A or 9th Place in 4/5A, both bands will progress into finals.

**Finance:** All proceeds from the gate, programs, and souvenir sales will go to WBA.

**Video Taping:** Parents may video tape or record the event at their own discretion. Tripods and mono pods are prohibited

**Tickets:**

Tickets for Championships will be good for both days. Price will be fixed by the Championship Committee. A Senior/child ticket will be available at a reduced cost.

**Class Awards:**

Standard WBA awards will be presented to the bands in each class.

Class champion banners and Class Championship medals will also be to the 5 winning bands.

All participating students will receive a Championships patch.

Standard WBA awards will be presented to the bands in each of the combined classes.

**Grand Champ Awards**

Combined class champion banners (1A, 2A, 3A Champion, 4A, 5A Champion) will be issued to each of the 2 champions from the Grand Championship competitions.

Championship medals will be issued to the members of the top 3 bands in each of the combined classes (1A/2A/3A and 4A/5A )

Grand Championship Finalist plaques will be issued to 4<sup>th</sup> through 15<sup>th</sup> place bands in each of the combined contests.

