

RULES 2021



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.

1.1 ELIGIBILITY

1.2 All Ensembles comprised of members up to and through the twelfth grade are eligible to compete in WBA competitions.

1.3 Ensembles are assigned to classes based on the number of performers as follows:

- Class 1A: 45 performers or less
- Class 2A: 46-65 performers
- Class 3A: 66-85 performers
- Class 4A: 86-115 performers
- Class 5A: 116 performers or more

1.4 All performers in the ensemble must wear soled footwear during the entire performance.

2.1 COPYRIGHT COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

2.2 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. Ensembles will not be permitted to utilize/perform copyrighted works at WBA events without the appropriate permissions/licenses.

PENALTY: Failure to comply will result in disqualification from the immediate contest and the ensemble will be placed on probation until the issue is resolved.

3.1 PERFORMANCE FIELD

3.2 There are no boundary line penalties. Ensembles may enter and exit over any painted 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 lines 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.

- 3.3 The Performance Field will be marked and the regulation football field will be lined every five (5) yards.
- 3.4 Performance Field will have cross hash marks at 53'4" from each sideline (high school hash marks), dividing the field into equal thirds.
- 3.5 In some cases, as it pertains to junior college, university, or NFL venues other hash marks may be present the hash marks for college fields are 40" and start 60' in from the sidelines, and finally NFL hashmarks 18'6".

4.1 WARM UP

- 4.2 Ensembles may not practice or warm up within earshot or visual vicinity of the stadium except at the designated times in the designated areas.
- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 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.
- 4.5 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.

5.1 ENTRY

- 5.2 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.
- 5.3 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 Chaperone aka 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

- 5.4 Any/all sound and/or lighting checks on the field may begin as soon at the ensemble enters the Performance Field.
- 5.5 Conducting podiums may be placed anywhere in the Performance Area, including the track and/or areas surrounding the Performance Field. No podiums may be places in the Audience Area.
- 5.6 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.
- 5.7 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.

6.1 TIMING

6.2 Timing definitions:

Classes	Interval	Minimum Performance	Maximum Performance
1A-2A-3A	13	4	9
4A-5A	15	4	11

6.2.1 Interval timing will begin when the Timing and Penalties Adjudicator indicates the ensemble may enter the Performance Field. The interval time includes setting up, warming-up (optional), the performance, and vacating the competition area. Ensembles must completely vacate the Performance Field, past the goal line at the designated ensemble exit, for the interval time to stop.

6.2.2 Performance timing will begin with the first note of music or the

first movement of the ensemble and end at the conclusion of the ensemble's performance.

6.2.3 Ensembles must completely vacate the Performance Field, past the goal line at the designated ensemble exit, for the interval time to stop.

6.3 Announcer process:

6.3.1 Ensembles will be introduced by the event announcer when they first cross the timing line. The event announcer will **always** make this announcement.

6.3.2 The Program Announcement (show title, drum major introduction, and ensemble name) will begin at 3:30 of the interval time unless otherwise directed by the Ensemble Director to the Timing and Penalties Adjudicator.

6.3.3 Ensembles may use their own sound equipment to play a Program Announcement in lieu of the event announcer. Ensemble-provided Program Announcements may be live or pre-recorded. In all cases, the script **must** be followed verbatim. All script timing/process rules still apply as if the Program Announcement was being carried out by the event announcer.

6.3.4 The script template is available on the WBA website in the resource section.

6.4 Any ensemble causing any unnecessary delay of contest may be assessed a penalty at the discretion of the Chief Adjudicator.

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

7.1 DELAY OF CONTEST

7.2 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.

8.1 PERSONNEL

8.2 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.

9.1 BOUNDARIES

9.2 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.

9.3 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.

10.1 USE OF ELECTRONICS

10.2 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.

10.3 Audio volumes (mixing) may be controlled by a wireless device or at the mixing board. WBA cannot guarantee the operability of wireless devices, including communication with other devices within the Performance Area. Such devices are entirely at the risk of the use.

10.4 An adult may mix, physically or wirelessly, outside of the Performance Field only. Allowed areas include the Spectator Area open to the public for the event, designated staff listening/viewing areas, or the area between the Spectator Area and the Performance Field where applicable, except in the case of "catastrophic" technical failure. Allowing an adult to mix does not grant permission for them to "contribute directly to the music or visual program."

10.5 A student may physically or wirelessly mix from within the boundaries of the Performance Area including the area between the Spectator Area and the Performance Field where applicable. Rule 3.1 still stands within this context.

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

11.1 NATIONAL COLORS

- 11.2 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.
- 11.3 Bearer of the national flag, while in possession of that flag, shall never engage in dance or theatrical steps.
- 11.4 The National Flag shall never be permitted to touch the ground.
- 11.5 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.
- 11.6 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.

12.1 EQUIPMENT USE AND SAFETY

- 12.2 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.
- 12.3 The following are NOT ALLOWED in a Performance or on the Performance Field:
 - 12.3.1 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.
 - 12.3.2 Pyrotechnics of any kind, including fire, fireworks, or the discharge of arms
 - 12.3.3 Lights-out routines
 - 12.3.4 Animals
 - 12.3.5 Off-road mechanized vehicles (defined as golf carts, garden tractors, small ATV's, etc.)
 - 12.3.6 Drones or any remote-controlled airborne device
 - 12.3.7 Hazardous equipment or illegal use of equipment
- 12.4 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:

- 12.4.1 Powder or other airborne material
- 12.4.2 Water or other (non-hazardous) liquids
- 12.4.3 Paper, confetti, or other debris
- 12.5 Props built and/or used by participating ensembles at WBA events shall be limited to a maximum height of 15 feet (including safety or other railing or equipment). Any prop found in violation will not be allowed to enter the performance field.
- 12.6 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 performance field unless appropriate safety railing and/or other safety equipment are in place and in use.
- 12.7 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)
- 12.8 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.
- 12.9 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.

13.1 GENERAL CONDUCT

- 13.2 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:

- 13.2.1 Warm-up onsite by an ensemble (or any component of an ensemble) in areas and/or at times other than those designated
- 13.2.2 Failure to follow directives from contest personnel related to conduct in any area, including parking lots, warm-up areas, etc.
- 13.2.3 Overstays in warm-ups areas that intrude into the time and space of other participants
- 13.2.4 Failure to abide by guidelines involving student performance, and use of electronics and equipment
- 13.2.5 Behaviors that compromise the safety of participants and others and/or that may violate known stadium policies
- 13.2.6 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
- 13.2.7 Any delay of contest, improper conduct, or infraction for which no specific rule or penalty is provided
- 13.2.8 Members of the competing ensembles must wear soled footwear during the entire performance.
- 13.2.9 Directors may not contact any adjudicator other than the timing and penalties adjudicator at any time during the competition.
- 13.2.10 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.