

## **FMBC TOURNAMENT RULES AND FORMAT**

### **OVERVIEW**

The intent of **Florida Marching Band Championships (FMBC)** is to develop, maintain, and provide a uniform, educational criteria and scoring system and to work towards consistent application of this scoring system to sanctioned marching band contests and festivals in Florida. FMBC consists of Regional Show Sponsors who host independently run marching band contests/festivals at their schools, utilizing the FMBC Adjudication Sheets and scoring format. The contest management, awards and trophies presented are entirely up to the Regional Show Sponsor. Adjudication training, selection and evaluating are priorities to our members.

The **Florida Marching Band Tournament** is the process of high school marching bands attending the FMBC sanctioned Regional Competitions or Festivals throughout the marching season. High School Bands participating in those events are invited to participate in the FMBC Marching Band Championships, where they can perform their program and compare their musical and visual skills with the state of Florida's best in their size class in the pageantry arts. The top five (5) bands from each of the size classes advance to the FMBC Championship Finals event that same evening.

The **Florida Marching Band Championships** is a two day Class Championship (Prelims and Finals) event held annually to showcase the tournament's top participants. A select panel of over 40 nationally known and highly respected adjudicators, representing one of the finest panels assembled anywhere in the United States, evaluate and provide educational guidance to all participating high school marching bands and their directors and staff.

Florida College and University bands, as well as service military bands are invited to participate in this event for public relations exposure to these fine young musicians. College marching bands wishing to perform in exhibition at the Florida Marching Band Championships are welcome. Contact FMBC for further information.

### **THE FMBC PHILOSOPHY/PURPOSE**

To provide the means for a consistent and educationally based evaluation system that rewards growth through standards of achievement. To provide the uniform application of number criteria throughout the state by way of a standardized set of evaluation sheets. To provide training to adjudicators utilizing these sheets and system.

### **PARTICIPANTS**

To bring together directors, educators, performers, adjudicators, staff members and supporters toward a common understanding and respect for efforts and qualities in all phases of the pageantry arts.

### **STANDARDS**

To listen, view, and appreciate all styles of musical and movement presentations in a consistent and fair manner and then reward them according to their excellence in technical and expressive achievement with consideration for musical repertoire and visual composition.

## **GOALS**

To promote the entertaining and educational activity of high school marching band. To inspire all those within the activity to recognize, appreciate and grow from their experience in this exciting musical art form.

*Items in red are new for this season (minor grammatical changes that do not affect the intention of specific items are not highlighted).*

## **TOURNAMENT RULES AND FORMAT**

### **1.0 FMBC SANCTIONED REGIONAL EVENTS**

#### **1.1 New Regionals**

1.1.1 New Prospective Regionals must be approved by the FMBC Regional Coordinator and the FMBC Board of Directors in order to be sanctioned. Acceptance by specific Tenured Regionals that may be affected by the new Regional may also be required.

#### **1.2 Tenure**

1.2.1 Active FMBC Regionals become eligible for Tenure after a two-year probationary period. Regionals may become Tenured based on a 67% majority vote of the approval by the FMBC Board of Directors.

1.2.2 FMBC Regionals may lose their Tenure under the following conditions:

1.2.2.1 If a new Band Director is hired that, after discussion, the FMBC Board does not feel can adequately fulfill the hosting responsibilities.

1.2.2.2 If a Show Host changes the show's weekend without the advance permission of FMBC.

1.2.2.3 If the Show Host cancels their show for any reason other than weather or verified safety issues.

1.2.3 If an FMBC Regional Event loses its tenure, there is a one-year waiting period before a school can again apply to host an FMBC Regional show. If desired, after the one-year waiting period, the Band Director can request that the school be added to the list of Prospective New Regionals. If approved, they must go through

the probationary period once again.

1.2.4 Tenure plus years in continuous service constitute the Seniority of the Regionals in deciding dates for upcoming seasons.

### **1.3 Scheduling of Regional Shows**

1.3.1 Sanctioned Regionals must reapply annually, file required paperwork (supplied by the FMBC Tournament Coordinator) and receive the approval of FMBC in order to continue to be authorized as an FMBC sanctioned event, including payment of their hosting fee.

1.3.2 Regionals must pay the annual FMBC hosting fee (due May 1st each year) to FMBC before any benefits, including but not limited to listing on the FMBC website, promotion and adjudication selection assistance will be provided.

1.3.3 Regional events and their dates are broken into geographic regions. Regional events are monitored and sanctioned annually according to seniority and service.

1.3.4 Regional Show Dates must be reviewed and approved by their FMBC Regional Coordinator to minimize problems with overlapping show dates in the same region.

1.3.5 FMBC will do its best to accommodate schedule differences year to year that affect these Regional show dates, based on seniority.

### **1.4 Safety**

1.4.1 Regional Show Hosts are responsible in entirety for the safety and security of all participants and attendees at FMBC Regionals. All decisions related to the hosting of FMBC Regionals are to be made in accordance with any and all school and school board rules, applicable Florida legislation and common sense.

1.4.2 The presence of on-site or readily available qualified personnel trained and equipped to deal with medical emergencies is highly recommended.

1.4.3 FMBC Regional Show Hosts are strongly encouraged to have and use high-quality lightning detection equipment, and in the event of threat of lightning in the area, immediately halt all outdoor activities and relocate participants and spectators to a safe location. Safety of all participants and guests is solely the responsibility of the

Show Host.

## **1.5 Intellectual Property and Privacy Rights**

1.5.1 FMBC respects the intellectual property rights of music composers and arrangers and the right to personal security and privacy of all participants in FMBC events.

FMBC sanctioned events are autonomous with regard to the rights and responsibilities pertaining to all performances without regard to medium. The responsibility to insure that these rights are protected rests entirely with the Regional Show Hosts.

1.5.2 Regional Show Hosts who photograph or otherwise record visual images of participants must obtain appropriate permission from the participants in accordance with local school board requirements, as well as state and federal law for all participating units.

1.5.3 Regional Show Hosts who charge admission to their shows and/or record performances or allow recordings of performances to be made must obtain the permission of all performing units and confirm that all performing units have obtained the permission to modify (if required), play and perform copyrighted materials in accordance with Federal Copyright laws.

## **1.6 Proceeds**

1.6.1 FMBC will not collect proceeds from FMBC Regional events.

## **1.7 Regionals and FMBC Championship Promotions**

1.7.1 Regionals will allow FMBC to set up a display table (on request) to provide information about FMBC Championship Event(s).

1.7.2 FMBC Regional Events will allow FMBC to place a ½ page ad in their programs at no cost when provided by the FMBC office in a timely manner.

## **1.8 Regional Host Entitlements**

1.8.1 FMBC Regional Host Band Directors have the following entitlements;

1.8.2 A yearly badge allowing free entrance to any other FMBC sanctioned event including FMBC state championships.

1.8.3 FMBC hosts annual Training Seminars for participating Show Hosts, adjudicators, and tabulators. See the FMBC Website (FMBCSTATE.com) for dates and times.

## **1.9 Regional Standards**

1.9.1 A Regional can name their class sizes as they choose, such as “Gold, Silver, Bronze”, etc. But they MUST align with the FMBC Class Sizes:

Class 1A: 1-45 Students

Class 2A: 46-69 Students

Class 3A: 70-99 Students

Class 4A: 100-145 Students

Class 5A: 146 and more students

1.9.2 All Regionals shall have a T&P judge who is trained in the rules and regulations of FMBC. They are not required to GIVE penalties, but they must make the bands aware of where their penalties would be. The month of Nov., all shows *will* assess these penalties. The rules are to help ensure the show runs on time and that all rules are being followed.

## **2.0 Adjudication at FMBC Regional Events**

2.1 FMBC Regional Shows utilize an Adjudication Panel consisting of 6 Primary Caption Judges. Each judge is assigned to evaluate a specific Caption, based on their area of expertise. These scores are added to produce the final score of the performing ensemble. The common Supplemental Captions (Color Guard and Percussion) may also be evaluated, but these scores are not used in calculating the final score of the ensemble. Some shows also choose to evaluate and award Drum Majors or other specific sections of the performing ensemble, such as Woodwinds or Brass.

2.2 The six Primary Captions are;

Ensemble Music Performance (20 Points)

Ensemble Visual Performance (20 Points)

General Effect Music (20 Points)

General Effect VISUAL (20 Points)

Individual Field Music Performance (10 Points)

Individual Field Visual Performance (10 Points)

(The score sheets are set as 200 for the 20 point captions, and 100 points for the 10 point captions, for ease of the judges to assign point spreads, and then calculated down by the tabulation software) 100 is the maximum total score a band can receive.

2.3 Regionals are required to compensate all adjudicators at least the minimum standardized fee based on number of units judged in the day (including the host band, if applicable) as follows;

1- 10 UNITS \$300

11-20 UNITS \$350

21-30 UNITS \$400

31-UP UNITS \$450

2.3.1 Prelims-Finals shows (up to 12 bands in finals) are to pay adjudicators \$150 dollars per judge for the finals event (add \$10 for each unit over 12 units) after the above scale has been utilized for the prelims event.

2.3.2 Shows with 15 bands or less lasting over five hours are to compensate each judge an additional \$50.

2.4 All judges receive a flat travel allowance of 55 cents per mile from the center of their zip code to the center of the show's zip code. This covers all tolls, meals, gas, parking, and other associated costs of travel. The maximum required travel allowance (including airfare) - \$500.

2.5 Support and assistance in selecting trained and qualified adjudicators is available to Regional Show Hosts through the FMBC Regional Coordinators and the FMBC Adjudication Coordinator. FMBC will maintain an approved list of judges that has been compiled for Regionals to hire from, if needed. You must submit your list to the Judging Coordinator (Daniel Wood: [chip@fmbcstate.com](mailto:chip@fmbcstate.com)) by June 1st. There is a committee that will research your list and let you know if it is approved.

2.6 Central States Judges Association (CSJA) is an option to Regional Show Hosts. On request, CSJA will locate, contact, assign, and hire trained and certified adjudicators for any FMBC Regional Show. A nominal service fee payable directly to CSJA will apply. The use of CSJA Certified adjudicators for FMBC tenured Regional Shows is optional, and is solely at the discretion of the Regional Show Host.

2.7 Regional Show Hosts are responsible for communicating with all adjudicators as to arrangements for housing, shuttle services (if required), designated report times, honorariums and directions to the show.

2.8 Regional Show Hosts are required to submit a preliminary list of adjudicators to FMBC for review by the FMBC Adjudication Coordinator and/or the Adjudication Review Committee no later than June 1st , or risk losing their FMBC Sanction.

2.8.1 The Adjudication Review Committee can consist of the FMBC Adjudication Coordinator and the FMBC Regional Coordinators.

2.8.2 All Primary Caption adjudicators must be reviewed by and approved by the Adjudication Coordinator and/or a majority vote of the Adjudication Review Committee.

2.9 In the unlikely event the Adjudication Coordinator or the Adjudication Committee believes that a proposed adjudicator for a Primary Caption is not adequately trained or qualified to evaluate that specific caption, The FMBC Adjudication Coordinator will notify the Regional Show Host and will provide assistance, if requested, in reassigning that adjudicator to a more appropriate caption and/or will assist the Show Host in selecting another more qualified adjudicator.

2.10 In the event a Regional Show Host changes an adjudicator from his or her assigned caption, or finds it necessary to hire a different Primary Caption adjudicator prior to the show date for any reason, such as conflict of interest, availability, etc., the change must be approved by the FMBC Adjudication Coordinator. PLEASE make sure to inquire from your panel if they have designed any of the shows of bands

that are attending your show, or have worked with a band in the last 2 years, in ANY capacity.

2.11 FMBC requests that all proposed adjudicator changes be made as early as possible, and the information communicated to FMBC well in advance of the show to prevent last-minute problems.

2.12 All FMBC Regional Events must utilize the FMBC Timing and Penalty sheet, with a trained individual on that particular sheet, and inform participating bands of their rule violations (especially timing violations), even if they do not assign any penalties at their FMBC Regional Event. All Regionals in November must assign Penalties. This is required to assist bands that are planning to attend FMBC Championships to verify that their shows meet FMBC Rules and Timing Requirements (See Section 3).

2.13 If a Critique is held, the Timing and Penalty Judge is expected to assist with Critique to insure that all band directors and staff receive a reasonable amount of time with the judges, and in addition the Timing and Penalty Judge is to be available to discuss rules and/or timing concerns with participating directors at the Critique.

2.14 Regional Hosts must be aware of breaks for judges, especially in a prelims/finals setting. If they are going to be required to do a critique in between the 2 shows, they need preparation time, "facility" time, and a good amount of time for their meal.

### **3.0 FMBC SCORING SYSTEM**

#### **3.1 The FMBC 5-Box Adjudication System Recaps, and Tie Scores**

3.1.1 FMBC Regional Shows electing to become sanctioned FMBC events must utilize the FMBC adjudication sheets and criteria reference in total and not parts thereof.

3.1.2 FMBC periodically reviews and updates or revises scoring sheets and format. Current sheets can be found on the FMBC Website.

3.1.3 ALL FMBC Regionals will be utilizing Competition Suite for tabulation, and your scores will be automatically uploaded to the Competition Suite website. FMBC will



transfer the posted scores from your show to our website.

3.1.4 ALL ties at Regionals, Class Prelims, or Evening Finals level to be broken by the following priorities:

1st The total points from the Ensemble Music Judges

2nd The total points by the GE Music Judges

3rd The total points from the Music Performance Judges

3.1.5 Regional show hosts may choose to present duplicate awards rather than break ties.

3.1.6 FMBC understands the dynamics of each contest and its particular judging panel and believes in the panel decision process. FMBC encourages all participants, including judges, directors, staff, parents, and supporters to accept the outcomes without displays of poor sportsmanship.

3.1.7 FMBC encourages all participating directors at Regional and state levels to complete and submit the provided adjudication critique sheets to the FMBC Adjudication Coordinator. These critique sheets will be held in confidence, unless specific authorization to share the information is received from the individual providing the critique sheets. This information enables all of us to learn through both positive and negative feedback.

3.1.8 All scoring disputes must be submitted to the FMBC Judging Coordinator within 24 hours after the conclusion of the contest. Logic and good sense will be used to best serve all participants. After this time all scores will be considered final.

### **3.2 Seeding For FMBC Prelims**

3.2.1 A Florida high school marching band must participate in at least ONE FMBC Regional Show to participate in the FMBC State Class Prelims event. Seeding is based as follows:

FMBC Seeding process is based on Registration payment date, either by PayPal or Credit Card payment, or postmark date of check. You will be assigned numbers, in random order, with others received in the following calendar month

groupings.

The 1st Block is Early Registration, received May 20th-May 31st.

2nd Block of Registration dates, will be posted as they are received by postmark, (no random draw), received June 1st-October 15th...Registration ends at midnight on the 15th of October.

For FMBC State Prelims, each class is then arranged in performance order, chronologically in reverse order, with the smallest number performing last, per class.

3.2.2 If a band is unable to attend a qualifying FMBC Regional Event for any of the reasons listed below, they may request an exemption in writing. If approved, the director would then submit a video of a performance for review by a judging panel selected by the FMBC Board of Directors.

3.7.2.1 Cancellation of the only FMBC Regional they were scheduled to attend.

3.7.2.2 No FMBC Regional is held within 200 miles of their school.

#### **4.0 TIMING AND PENALTIES**

##### **4.1 Definitions and Eligibility**

**4.1.1 High School Band** – A public, private or charter high school performing musical organization in which all participating Band Members meet the requirements of 3.1.2. Students from feeder elementary, junior, and/or middle schools that directly feed the high school or high schools or that are home-schooled as elementary, junior, and/or middle school students, reside in the geographic district served by the high school or high schools, and are of a comparable age as elementary, junior, and/or middle school students enrolled in school systems in that geographic area are eligible.

Exception – If two or more high schools have combined their marching band programs, and these programs are under the direction of the same instructor or instructors with formal written approval of the administrators of the high schools involved, this combined band may petition FMBC for

permission to participate in FMBC events as a single unit. This petition is subject to approval by the FMBC Board of Directors prior to the first competitive FMBC event of the season. Each situation will be reviewed on an individual basis.

**4.1.2 Band Member** - A person that is currently enrolled in a high school, a feeder school to the high school or a home-schooled person from the high school's geographic district that is enrolled in the high school band, guard, or dance unit in such a manner as to meet the applicable state law and/or school policy.

**4.1.3 Drum Major** - A Drum Major is considered a Band Member and counts in your number of "Total band Members on the Field"

**4.1.4 Authorized Non-Performing Personnel** – Authorized Non-Performing Personnel includes Band Directors, staff, other students (including students who are members of the high school band but are not performing in the contest), parents and other persons that assist the band in entering or exiting the Competition Area or adjusting sound levels of amplified equipment (See Section 3.9.3).

**4.1.5 Music** – The art of generating sounds in time so as to produce a continuous, unified and evocative composition through melody, harmony, and timbre.

**4.1.6 Wind Instrument** - A wind instrument is a musical instrument that contains some type of resonator in which a column of air is set into vibration by the Band Member blowing into (or over) a mouthpiece set at the end of the resonator.

**4.1.7 Percussion Instrument** - Any of various musical instruments that produce a sound when their resonating surfaces are struck directly as with a stick or mallet, by leverage action, or through the resistance of stroking the surface of the instrument. They may be of definite pitch, indefinite pitch, or a mixture of both. They can be of manual and/or electronic nature

**4.1.8 Performance Area** - The surface of a football field. An area of **Fifteen (15)** feet that extends the front sideline from the front of one end

zone to the front of the other end zone is included in the Performance Area. A painted field line marking the Performance Area is considered within the Performance Area.

**4.1.9 Competition Area** - The entire surface of the stadium including the Performance Area but not including spectator stands or other areas designed by the Contest Director.

**4.1.10 Entrance Line** - This is the line that when crossed or directed to be crossed by the starter or designee, will start the calculation of total Show Time. This line may be inside or outside the Competition Area but should be within fifty (50) feet of the end zone line.

**4.1.11 Exit Line** - This line when crossed will end the total Show Time. This line must be clearly defined by the show host, and may be inside or outside the Competition Area but should be no further than fifty (50) feet from the end zone line.

**4.1.12 Performance Time** - Performance Time begins when the first musical note sounds, (either electronically or human produced) or a choreographed movement of a Band Member takes place after set-up is apparently completed, or four (4) minutes after the beginning of Show Time, whichever is earlier. Spoken word, either electronically or human produced and/or pre-show movement intended to establish the mood of the presentation while the band is preparing to perform is not in itself considered beginning Performance Time. Performance Time ends with the last note (either electronically or human produced), with the last movement of the band, or with the Drum Major's closing salute indicating the performance has ended. If only spoken word (either electronically or human produced) is used to end the show, Performance Time is considered ended when the last word is spoken or when the Drum Major closing salute, if any, is presented.

**4.1.13 Show Time** – Show Time begins when the starter or designee releases the band into the Performance Area from the Entrance Line, whether or not the band crosses the Entrance Line at that time. Show Time can begin before the band is physically

at the Entrance Line if the band is late due to its own fault. Show Time includes Performance Time. Show Time ends when the last Band Member, Authorized Non-Performing Personnel, equipment or prop crosses the Exit Line.

#### **4.2 FMBC Official Size Classes**

4.2.1 FMBC designs their competitive system around grouping bands together based on their band size. These classifications are reviewed annually as the population of the classifications change and warrant a shift to achieve balanced classes.

4.2.2 Wind players, Percussion personnel, and Auxiliary are counted based on the number of Band Members performing, at any time during the performance time. Drum Majors are also included in the band total.

4.2.3 All bands are to compete in one of the following classes for FMBC Championships, and all qualifying Regionals.

Class A 1 - 45 Performing Students

Class AA 46-69 Performing Students

Class AAA 70-99 Performing Students

Class AAAA 100-145 Performing Students

Class AAAAA 146 and over Performing Students

Show Bands No Restrictions

Penalty – Disqualification.

Exception: Bands may compete UP in Class, (Ie: 1A up to 2A, etc) in any Regional, through the end of October. ALL November Regionals, bands must compete in the Registered State Class.

#### **4.3 Eligibility**

4.3.1 The use of an ineligible individual in a performing role (see Section 3.1.2) is prohibited.

Penalty – 1.0 point(s) per violation up to and including disqualification at the discretion of the Contest Director.

#### **4.4 Performance Area**

4.4.1 Band Members, Authorized Non-Performing personnel, equipment or props may not cross the Entrance Line prior to the start of the Show Time without the specific permission of the Contest Director, Starter, or Timing and Penalties Judge.

4.4.2 Only Band Members and individuals designated as Authorized Non-Performing Personnel are allowed in the Competition Area during the actual show time. All Non-Performing Personnel that remain in the Competition Area are to remain sitting or otherwise positioned during the Performance Time so as not to obstruct the view of the audience or judges. A specific area may be designated by the Contest Director, where all Authorized Non-Performing Personnel in the Competition Area must remain during the Performance Time.

4.4.3 All Authorized Non-Performing Personnel must vacate and not re-enter the Performance Area once the performance has begun.

Exception – Authorized Non-performing Personnel may enter the Performance Area to assist a student who is ill or injured without penalty.

The band director has the option to notify the T&P judge to stop the show if there is a danger to an ill or injured Band Member. After the Band Member is removed from the Performance Area, the band director can reset the band to the last logical formation and restart the performance.

All judging, timing and penalties will be suspended during this time.

4.4.4 All Band Members must be in the Performance Area at the beginning of the Performance Time and remain in the Performance Area for the full Performance Time. Stepping, standing or sitting on or reaching over a Performance Area field line is not considered exiting the Performance Area. The Band Member must deliberately exit the Performance Area to be assessed a penalty. This includes retrieving equipment, props or instruments from outside the Performance Area.

Exception - Drum Majors may exit the Performance Area but must remain in the Competition area during the Performance Time.

Exception - A choreographed ending may occur that requires some band

members to exit the performance area at the end of the show, just prior to when the last word, note or movement is made by the band or when the Drum Major closing salute, if any, is presented. This may only occur after the band has met all minimum timing requirements.

4.4.5 Dropped equipment, props or instruments can be retrieved by any Band Member (or Authorized Non-Performing Personnel if and only if the dropped items could present a safety hazard to performing members) with no penalty.

4.4.6 At no time may a Band Member perform in the spectator area(s).

4.4.7 Penalty – Violation of Authorized (or other) Non-Performing Personnel in the Performance Area after the Performance Time has begun or other boundary violation – 1.0 point for each infraction and each person, up to disqualification at the discretion of the Contest Director.

#### **4.5 Props and Powered Vehicles**

4.5.1 The only mechanized vehicles allowed in the competition area are golf carts, garden tractors, all-terrain vehicles (ATV's), etc. that will not leave tracks or marks on the performance field or track.

Exception – If the performance venue does not allow the use of motorized vehicles in the Competition Area, the Contest Director will advise the participants at or before registration. Directors are to be prepared for this contingency. If in doubt, participating directors can contact the show host using the contact information available on the FMBC web site.

4.5.2 All other powered vehicles are prohibited unless provided by or specifically approved for use in advance by the Contest Director.

Exception – Motorized wheelchairs used by disabled performers are permitted.

4.5.3 All gasoline or other fossil-fuel powered vehicles must be equipped with bibs when used in covered stadiums and stadiums with artificial turf.

4.5.4 Participating bands must be prepared to move all equipment and props in and out of the Competition Area within the designated Show Time using their own Band Members and their own Authorized Non-Performing Personnel, since the use of motorized equipment may not be allowed and assistance at the show site may not be available.

4.5.5 All props, designed to be used in the Competition Area, must be designed to withstand normal Florida weather conditions, and must be placed in the Competition Area at the start of the Performance Time and must remain in the Competition Area for the duration of the Performance Time. No props may be taller than 12'.

Powered vehicles in any form may not be used to relocate props or performers during the Performance Time except as noted in Section 3.5.2.

Battery or other power may be used within a prop to operate lighting and/or simple mechanical functions not related to relocating the prop.

Caution: Some stadiums with artificial turf may prohibit the use of generators or other fossil fuel fired equipment due to risk of fire or damage to the artificial turf surface. Check with the Show Host in advance of the show date.

No participant may be on, or placed on, any portion of the prop where the participant's feet are more than six (6) feet above the playing surface of the stadium unless there is appropriate safety railing and/or other safety equipment in place and in use.

Any prop that is moved during a performance with a student on or attached to the prop must have a safety railing or equivalent.

Props judged unsafe by the Contest Director or their designate, at the sole discretion of the Contest Director, will be prohibited from use during the performance.



Exception - At the discretion of the Contest Director, if weather conditions warrant, Authorized Non-Performing Personnel will be allowed to support (not move or manipulate) props. This exception is granted *only* under *extreme* weather conditions.

4.5.7 Penalty – Violation of the Performance Area restrictions – 1.0 point for each instance. Violation of the authorized vehicle limitations – at the discretion of the Contest Director - up to and including disqualification.

#### **4.6 Conducting the Band**

4.6.1 Only Drum Majors or Band Members are permitted to coach, cue, conduct, or provide instructions (either verbally or physically) to the band during the Performance Time.

Penalty – Violation of Non-Performing Personnel (including Authorized Non-Performing Personnel that have been allowed to enter the Competition Area) conducting or providing instructions during the Performance Time - 1.0 points per incident.

#### **4.7 Debris**

4.7.1 No debris including paper, glitter, powder, water, tinted fluids and other items that will be visible or may cause injury may remain in the Performance or Competition Areas. A band leaving any of the above will be responsible for removing the debris. Fog machines are acceptable as long as they leave NO residue.

4.7.2 Balloons or other props that are suspended in the air must be removed from the Competition area and not allowed to float away. No balloons or other props that are suspended by lighter-than-air gases will be allowed in a domed stadium.

Penalty - Violation for leaving debris in the Performance or Competition Area, including balloons or other props that can float away used in a domed stadium – 1.0 point up to disqualification at the discretion of the Contest Director. Timing penalties may also be assessed if clean-up cannot be completed within the maximum permitted Performance Time.

#### **4.8 Prohibited Activities**

4.8.1 The following items or activities are not allowed in the Competition Area;

Pyrotechnics or hazardous equipment of any kind, including but not limited to flaming batons, fireworks and discharge of fire arms, including lights-out routines

Any materials that may cause damage or present a safety hazard that could remain on the field or in the air at the conclusion of the Performance Time.

Live Animals (except for seeing-eye or guide dogs).

Any activity that disrupts the schedule of the contest.

4.8.2 Unsportsmanlike Conduct is never acceptable. All Band Members and Authorized Non-Performing Personnel must exhibit sportsmanlike behavior while at the competition site. This includes the Performance and Competition Areas and the entire host school campus or stadium area including parking lots.

Penalty – Violation involving banned items or activities - At the discretion of the Contest Director, up to and including disqualification.

#### **4.9 Use of Electronics**

4.9.1 All Music from traditional wind and percussion instruments, human voices or electronic instruments intended to provide a tonal or rhythmic enhancement to the program must be performed by a Band Member(s) live and in real time with the Band Member(s) present and performing during the Performance Time. The use of recorded sampled sounds (prerecorded/sequenced) of human voices, woodwind, brass and percussion instruments is not permitted.

Exception - Sounds other than Music, such as the spoken word or sound effects, including brief instances of melodious sound generated by the human voice may be prerecorded (triggered automatically or by a Band Member) and used at any time during the Performance Time without penalty. Any recorded sounds that are copyrighted must have

permission obtained for their use.

4.9.2 Electronic equipment (connected by wires or wirelessly) may be located in or adjacent to the Performance Area. Band Member(s) operating this equipment must remain in the Performance Area for the duration of the Performance Time.

4.9.3 No communication with any Band Member from non-performing personnel or audience members by voice, physical motion, or through electronic communications is permitted during performance time.

Exception – Authorized Non-Performing Personnel may adjust wireless equipment from anywhere outside of the Performance Area (including from the spectator stands) before or during the performance.

Exception – Authorized Non-Performing Personnel may adjust wired equipment located adjacent to Performance Area Boundaries from the Competition Area (without entering the Performance Area), as often as necessary before or during the performance.

Exception – Authorized Non-Performing Personnel may enter the Performance Area or otherwise communicate with the band members or other support personnel to set or adjust electronic equipment for a brief period of time and/or no more than twice during the Performance Time.

4.9.4 All electronic sounds must be initiated by performing Band Members and meet all requirements as outlined in Section 3.9.

3.9.4.1 Penalty - Violation involving the use of electronics – 1.0 points to disqualification at the discretion of the Contest Director.

#### **4.10 Timing Considerations**

4.10.1 The maximum Total Show Time is fifteen (15) minutes with a one (1) minute extension if all Band Members, Authorized Non-Performing Personnel, equipment and props have exited the Performance Area and are moving towards the Exit Line. Field Warm-ups, trouping the stands and prop or electrical set-ups are included in this 15 minutes and are given no special exemptions.

Show Time can commence for a band prior to the preceding unit's Show Time ending at the Timing & Penalty judge's discretion.

All bands must be ready to enter the Performance Area at their scheduled show starting time unless instructed to delay by the Timing and Penalties judge or the Starter. Entry to the Performance Area is to begin at the Starter's cue and not necessarily the scheduled time.

No band will be required to enter the Performance Area prior to the band's scheduled show starting time unless agreed to by the director.

Exception – Performance order of bands and size classes at any FMBC sanctioned event may be modified on the day of the event due to logistical issues, weather, or other considerations without public announcement except to the directors of the affected participating bands.

At approximately three and one-half (3 1/2) minutes after the beginning of Show Time, the T&P judge will notify the announcer to start announcing the band, unless informed by the band director or designee that it is acceptable to start the Performance Time clock earlier.

The last announcement, which will advise the Drum Majors that the Performance Time is about to begin (whether the Band is visibly ready or not) will contain the words "Is the band ready?" This announcement will be given no later than four (4) minutes after the beginning of Show Time.

At this time the Performance Time Clock will start. A salute from the Drum Majors is recommended but not required.

If it is difficult to determine the precise beginning of the Performance Time due to substantial choreographed movement during band set-up prior to the actual performance, the Performance Time will be considered to start approximately ten seconds after the announcement in Section 3.10.1.6, at the sole discretion of the Timing and Penalties Judge.

If Performance Time commences from the starter's clock at four (4) minutes, rather than with a musical note or movement, then the T&P judge will indicate to the Drum Major and/or staff and judges that Performance Time has officially started.

Penalty - Violation of Show Start Time (If the band is not ready to enter the field due to their own fault) – 0.5 for each minute or fraction thereof up to 5 (five) points. If the band crosses the Exit Line within the allowable total Show Time, this penalty will be waived.

Penalty – Violation of total Show Time – 0.1 points for each three (3) seconds or fraction thereof over the maximum allowable total Show Time. If the band exceeds the total allowable Show Time, the Performance Start Time penalty may be waived and only the Show Time penalty assessed if it results in a lower penalty at the discretion of the Contest Director.

4.10.2 The Minimum Performance Time is five (5) minutes and the Maximum Performance Time is eleven (11) minutes. Any music or movement prior to or after the Performance Time is not judged. Judging will commence at the beginning of Perform

Penalty - Violation of Minimum or Maximum Performance Time - 0.1 points for each three (3) seconds or fraction thereof either under or over the required Performance Time.

4.10.3 All Bands participating in the FMBC Finals Events must perform in their assigned sequence unless specifically directed to perform out of sequence by the Contest Director, the Starter, or other Contest Official.

Penalty - Any band performing later than their assigned time, unless directed to do so by the Contest Director, regardless of the reason, will be penalized 1.0 point per band out of sequence at FMBC championship events.

4.10.4 The American Flag, if used or displayed as part of a performance must be handled, used, and/or displayed with respect and dignity.

Penalty – At the discretion of the Contest Director. Not to exceed 0.5 points.

4.10.5 Items in the Timing and Penalties section are intended to help insure a fair and uniform opportunity for all Participating Bands to present their show for the appreciation and enjoyment of an enthusiastic audience and for a fair and uniform evaluation by a panel of qualified adjudicators. In order to help insure that this goal is achieved, any item in a band's presentation that could require a special interpretation of these rules must be called to the attention of the Contest Director by the Band Director prior to commencement of the performance. Failure to do so may be considered unsportsmanlike conduct, resulting in a penalty up to and including disqualification.

4.10.6 The final decision involving assessment of all penalties is at the discretion of the Contest Director.

4.10.7 FMBC Reserves the right to update all Timing and Penalty guidelines at any time.

## **5.0 FMBC CHAMPIONSHIPS**

### **5.1 Prelims and Finals Performance Order**

5.1.1 All bands must compete in the appropriate size class as defined in Section 4.2.3, and cannot move up or down in class.

5.1.2 Size classes will be adjusted yearly by dividing the state participants into groups and resetting the numbers accordingly, if required.

5.1.3 Performance order for all bands qualifying and registering for the FMBC Prelims by the registration deadline will be based on the following priorities:

5.1.3.1 Late entries accepted to fill open slots with earliest postmark going on later.

5.1.3.2 All bands qualifying at their own show hosted FMBC Regional.

5.1.3.3 All bands in order as described in section 2.3.1

5.1.4 Any band competing with the incorrect amount of students OVER the class number will be DISQUALIFIED at the championship events. FMBC understands numbers might fluctuate UNDER due to quarantines and illness, and will not assess penalties.

5.1.5 Any band performing later than their assigned time, regardless of reason, will be penalized at the championship events, unless directed to do so by the Show Coordinator or the Show Coordinator's authorized representative.

5.1.6 Penalties for timing and boundaries will be enforced at FMBC championship events.

5.1.7 If conditions dictate that it is necessary to hold a portion of FMBC State Prelims indoors, the Contest Director and the Chief Judge will determine what percentage of bands from the Indoor Performance portion of the event (if any) and what percentage of bands from the Outdoor Performance of the event (if any) will advance to FMBC State Finals. Their decision is Final.

5.1.8 2021 all Prelims and Finals Performances will be held at one location, with 2 performance sites.

5.1.8.1 The number of individual Prelims sites used and the specific classes of bands at each site can vary depending on the number of bands entered and qualifying to participate in each size class. This will be based on bands entered and qualifying by Oct. 15th. 2 classes can also be combined at one site.

5.1.9 Performance order at FMBC Finals is as follows;

5.1.9.1 A percentage of bands from each class will perform at Finals, to be determined after registrations are complete.

5.1.9.2 Order of performance of Size Classes at Finals can be based on the scheduled completion time of Prelims at each Prelims site, and may change on the day of Finals due to weather, traffic conditions or other items, at the discretion of the Tournament Director.

5.1.9.3 Finals performance order of the bands in each class will be based by random draw, to be done at the Prelims site, after announcement of

those bands continuing on to Finals.

## **5.2 FMBC Championship Prelims – Adjudication**

5.2.1 Multiple panels of eight to ten judges will adjudicate FMBC State Prelims at each site at the discretion of the tournament director. Judging panel for the Ensemble and/or Effect Captions may be doubled and their scores averaged at the sole discretion of the Tournament Director;

General Effect Music (General Effect Entertainment for Show Bands)

General Effect Visual

Ensemble Music

Ensemble Visual

Music Performance Individual – On Field

Visual Performance Individual (Visual/Dance Performance for Show Bands) –  
On Field

Percussion – On Field or In the Stands (depending on the venue)

Color Guard

## **5.3 FMBC Championship Prelims Awards**

5.3.1 The FMBC State Prelims awards ceremony is an officer-only retreat conducted approximately 15 minutes after the last band's performance in that size class.

Four-year seniors are also invited on the field and their directors are invited to participate with the medals presentation to those seniors. These members must be identified on your FMBC State Semi-Finals registration form. No names are needed, just a total number.

5.3.2 All four year seniors will receive a Medallion

5.3.3 All participating bands will receive a placement trophy indicating their specific placement in FMBC State Prelims.

5.3.4 A percentage of bands will be presented with an award and the opportunity to advance to FMBC State Finals (ties broken per Section 3.1.4).

5.3.5 There will be Best in Caption awards at FMBC State Prelims only in each class



for the following:

Outstanding Musical Performance

Outstanding Visual Performance

Outstanding General Effect

Outstanding Percussion

Outstanding Color Guard

4.3.6 The announcement of Finalist Bands will be last. All ties will be broken based on FMBC tournament criteria.

4.3.7 FMBC reserves the right to modify the awards presented as necessary in the event of weather-related issues.

#### **5.4 FMBC Championship Finals - Adjudication**

5.4.1 One panel consisting of a mix of judges from the Prelims sites, with some judges changing captions within their expertise, will adjudicate the FMBC Finals for each size class. A list of scheduled adjudicators will be posted on the FMBC Website approximately one week prior to the event.

General Effect Music 1

General Effect Music 2

General Effect Visual 1

General Effect Visual 2

Ensemble Music 1

Ensemble Music 2

Music Performance Individual

Ensemble Visual 1

Ensemble Visual 2

Visual Performance Individual

5.4.2 FMBC reserves the right to modify Sections 4.1.8 and 4.1.9 as necessary in the event of weather-related issues and/or a high level of qualifying bands in one or more classes.

5.4.3 FMBC Prelims and Finals Adjudicators are selected by the FMBC Adjudication Coordinator with the coordination and approval of the Tournament Director.

## **5.5 FMBC Championship Finals - Awards**

5.5.1 Past FMBC Class Champions are encouraged to bring their class championship flags to the FMBC Finals Olympic retreat and display them.

5.5.2 Finals awards are presented with an Olympic-style retreat beginning approximately 15 minutes after the last bands performance and/or after an exhibition performance, as soon as the scores are accurately tabulated.

5.5.3 All Finalist Bands will receive a placement trophy indicating their specific placement within their classification at the FMBC State Finals event.

5.5.4 Class champions will be honored with the award of their class champion flags. Individual members will receive champion medallions, and class runner-up members will receive runner-up medallions.

5.5.5 There will be no caption awards at FMBC Finals.

## **6.0 FMBC BAD WEATHER PROTOCOL – THE STANDSTILL EVENT**

6.1 Options - In Bad Weather an FMBC Regional Show Host has three options. These options provide an opportunity for an FMBC Regional Show Host to salvage their financial investment, and also an opportunity for bands to qualify for FMBC State Semi-Finals by participating in an FMBC Regional Event.

6.1.1 Cancel the show, or

6.1.2 Run a 'Track' standstill show in the stadium (if the weather is OK but the field is not usable)

6.1.3 Hold an indoor show in a school facility, usually the school gymnasium.

6.2 FAQ Guide Sheets for staff and directors are available on the FMBC Website and should be downloaded in advance of the event if weather is threatening.

6.3 Guidelines for Indoor or Track Show Performance

6.3.1 Directors can set up their band at their discretion. Concert arcs and block set-ups are the most common.

6.3.2 Grounded percussion is usually set in front of the band, but depending on band size, may be located in the middle of the band or at any location the director deems appropriate.

6.3.3 The Color Guard may be judged at the discretion of the Contest Director and/or Chief Judge. It is most common to put the Color Guard in an arc behind the band or in a block adjacent to the band.

6.3.4 The Drum Major(s) can be on a podium in front of the band, or even locate in the stands if the facility is adequate for this option.

6.3.5 Props are limited to those that can fit through the building doors.

6.3.6 Performing units must take appropriate precautions, and are responsible for damage to the facility floor. Winterguard-style floor mats, if available (provided by the Show Host), are often used to protect the facility floor.

6.3.7 A brief warm-up in place (which must take place within the allocated Performance Time limitation) is permitted and encouraged.

6.3.8 Movement is at the discretion of the director. However directors should note that scoring is heavily weighted towards music performance, and movement may detract from the overall score of the band if the movement is not well choreographed in advance, and if the sound of the band suffers due to the movement.

6.3.9 Marking time and limited individual choreographed movement (changes of facing, etc.) can add to the band score and is encouraged.

6.3.10 Horn and percussion visuals can add to the score of the band, and are encouraged.

6.3.11 Music volumes and blend should be adjusted for the performance venue. If indoors, this usually means toning down the field percussion. Indoor performance scoring is heavily weighted towards music performance, and the music judges can only judge what they hear.

6.4 Adjudication

6.4.1 There will be 3 Music Judges, although one or more captions may be 'doubled' (more than one judge may judge that caption). If a caption is 'doubled,' the points of the two judges evaluating that caption will be averaged, not doubled.

Music Performance (20 Points - Stands)

Music General Effect (20 Points- Stands)

Individual Music (10 Points - Floor)

6.4.2 There will be 1 Visual Judge who will evaluate and credit posture, carriage, horn angles, and other visual items contributing to the presentation.

Visual Performance Individual (10 Points – Stands or floor)

Caption and sub-caption definitions on the Adjudication Sheets may be slightly modified as necessary to accommodate the facilities available, as appropriate for a standstill performance, at the discretion of the Chief Judge and/or the Show Host.

6.4.3 Support Captions

6.4.3.1 If there is room to safely stage the Color Guard, the Color Guard may be judged.

6.4.3.2 Other support captions may be judged at the discretion of the Show Sponsor and the Chief Judge.

6.5 Scores and Qualification for FMBC State Semi-Finals

6.5.1 The Maximum Achievable Overall Score is 60.0

6.6 Recaps

For Competition Suite, adjustments will be made to determine the placing's

6.7 Timing and Penalties

6.7.1 Standard FMBC timing penalties are waived. Appropriate timing requirements can be put into place at the discretion of the show host to insure that the show runs on time.

6.7.2 FMBC recommends that penalties be assessed only for flagrant disregard of timing

that affects the flow of the overall show, for incorrect wind player count, for unsportsmanlike conduct, or for carelessness that results in or that could result in damage to the facility.

6.7.3 Considerations related to intellectual property rights and safety and security of performers in accordance with Sections 1.5, 3.5 and 3.8 are to remain in effect.