

FALL 2015

TOURNAMENT OF BANDS

Field Rules

March 2015, TOB Rules Congress

1. GROUP SIZES/CLASSIFICATION:

Bands will be grouped according to the number of players in the band proper as follows:

- Group 1 - up to 30 musicians and a maximum of 30 auxiliary
- Group 2 - 31 to 50 musicians and a maximum of 50 auxiliary
- Group 3 - 51 to 75 musicians and a maximum of 75 auxiliary
- Group 4 - 76 or greater

Group Size Confirmation:

For the purpose of group size, a musician shall be defined as any student playing an instrument or simulating the playing of an instrument while obviously performing in the role of a musician/ band proper member. Any band not conforming to group size classifications will be assessed a five (5.0) penalty for each person over the limit. It will be the Field Coordinator's responsibility to check each unit for size confirmation. All members of the auxiliary will be counted in size confirmation requirements. A member of the auxiliary who contributes to the musical effect or content of the program will be judged by the appropriate judge. Auxiliary members singing will not change group size. (2013)

Auxiliary Size:

The number of band front/auxiliary members contributing to the visual effect of the show shall be limited to the same maximum numbers which apply to the playing members of that classification. Musicians utilizing auxiliary equipment during the contest will not affect the size classification for front/auxiliary, but will be judged by the appropriate judge.

There are three levels of performance classification that a member may elect to participate:

1. OPEN CLASS

This level is what has been offered in the past - bands will compete throughout the season for TOB scoring and conclude their season with the annual Region Championship and qualification for the annual Atlantic Coast Championship

2. A CLASS

This level is for the less experienced bands - bands will compete throughout the season, with emphasis on education and development, and reflect the TOB A Class scoring. Student education, development, and staff training will be emphasized throughout the season.

3. FESTIVAL CLASS

This level will introduce bands to TOB - bands will compete, but at more of an exhibition level with awards based on a rating program without the announcement of a numeric score or place. Student education, development, and staff training will be emphasized throughout the season.

This season concludes with the annual Region Championship, still following the rating system.

Every regular season TOB Show will offer the three levels of participation - in every group Region Championships will include three levels of participation/awards
Separate Atlantic Coast Championship will be offered to the OPEN CLASS and A CLASS participants. (2013)

2. PROMOTION:

A TOB A Class band scoring 92+ total and 92+ in four(4) of the six(6) captions at TOB Region Championships and/or A Class Championships will be promoted to the Open Class for the following season. Box 4(92+) on the TOB A Class Scale will indicate “ready for the TOB Open Class”. NJA members will be educated annually concerning the A Class Promotion. A TOB Band Director will have the opportunity to appeal the promotion, in writing by August 1 to the TOB Director(copied to Region Coordinator), and will participate in a TOB Preview Show the first week of the TOB season to be re-evaluated. (2013)

3. DECLARATION OF GROUP SIZE/CLASS:

All bands will declare their group/class of competition by September 1. At no time during the season may a band move down in group/class once they have competed in a group/class. Bands may move to higher group size, or A Class to Open Class, up to two weeks prior to Region Championship and must compete two (2) times in the new group/class prior to the Region Championships.

4. GIMMICK EFFECTS:

Any instrument carried by a member of the auxiliary and/or Drum Major (s) can be considered a gimmick, and as such will be judged by the appropriate judge. This will not affect class size. Any instrument carried by a member of the auxiliary and/or Drum Major (s) that is utilized in a manner that contributes to the musical effect or content of the program will also be judged by the appropriate music judges. Such performers then become countable in adhering to group size classification. Non Instrumentalists of a participating band who are singing will not affect group size. (2012)

5. EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT:

Group 1 & 2 - \$400.00 Groups 3 & 4 - \$450.00

TOB members will be reimbursed for expenses in a combination of total cash and/or adult tickets. If a sponsor chooses the ticket method of reimbursement, all tickets will be in the hands of the competitor two weeks prior to the show. If tickets are not received by this time, the sponsor will reimburse that unit in cash at the contest site, according to the chart above. Arrangements for contest will be made between the sponsor and the competitor.

Prior to the start of the competition season individual regions can elect not to do the expense reimbursement for region contests and members only. Any TOB member outside that region will receive the expense reimbursement according to the chart above.

Expenses for the Region Championships will be worked out by each Region's Executive Committee.

6. SCORING:

- Visual: (Both scores are averaged) 20 Points
 - Visual: Individual - 20 Points
 - 10 points Composition
 - 10 points Achievement
 - Visual Ensemble - 20 Points
 - 10 points Composition
 - 10 points Achievement
 - Music: Individual- 20 points
 - 10 points Composition
 - 10 points Achievement
 - Music: Ensemble - 20 points
 - 10 points Composition
 - 10 points Achievement
 - General Effect Music - 20 points
 - 10 points Repertoire
 - 10 points Performers
 - Visual: General Effect - 20 Points
 - 10 points Repertoire
 - 10 points Performers
- (2014)*

The TOB A Class Scale will be separate from the TOB Open Class Scale. *(2012)*

The TOB A Class scoring will reflect emphasis on training/achievement/performers. Scores will be weighted/calculated/multiplied via the tabulation system(WINDI) at .7 for Content/Composition and 1.3 for Achievement/Performer. *(2014)*

The TOB Festival Class will be rated with Bronze(basic), Silver(proficient) and Gold(advanced) on three music sheets and three visual captions. An average of all six(6) scores will determine the final rating. *(2012)*

Specialty awards – Percussion and Auxiliary- will also be 20 point captions using TOB captions and NJA staff. If a host fails to request special award judges, and presents awards, the host will make those selections and notify all Band Directors that no NJA judges will score/select special awards. No scores will be given. *(2012)*

Specialty awards will be announced along with the individual band placement. Ties will not be broken at ACC for music/visual awards. *(2012)*

7. SCORING (INDOOR):

Only the following Music Captions will be adjudicated in a regular contest manner:

- Music: Individual
 - Music: Ensemble
 - Music: General Effect
- (2014)*

The three music scores will be adjudicated, added, and used as total for placement at an indoor contest. Scores will not be announced or reported/published. *(2012)*

8. CONTEST PRIZES:

All contest prizes will be awarded on total unit scoring and shall be the same for all group sizes. Specialty awards are made at the host's discretion, exclusive of the Region Championships. Special awards are to be given by competing group size in both A Class and Open Class. (2013) Specialty awards are limited to those drawn from current TOB sheets. Most specialty awards will necessitate a separate judge for each award and they must use an official TOB judging sheet for that caption.

9. AMPLIFICATION: (within the performance time of 7:00-10:00)

Amplification of string, wind, percussion, electronic instruments, and voice is permitted.

The use of pre-recorded music and pre-recorded singing is not allowed.

Pre-recorded effects and/or narration may be introduced; however, no single, triggered, electronic sound may produce rhythmic intent. (2012)

PENALTY: Use of pre-recorded music /pre-recorded singing is two(2) points. (2012)

Mixer Board Operator - student may operate a mixer/sound board within the pit as part of his/her playing performance. Or a student manager (non-musician) or staff member may be assigned to operate mixer/sound board (yet not create sounds). Ensembles may manipulate their mixer/sound board by using a remote controlled wireless device through a self-supplied wireless network. Only one designated staff member may adjust the volumes using wireless technology. The mixer/sound board may be located no more than 6 foot maximum beyond drum major podium (stadium conditions permitting). (2015)

The Field Coordinator, and Chief Judge, in conjunction with the host school will decide on use of power in the case of severe weather.

Please note: TOB does not require hosts to provide power source or guarantee the watt/amp/power will be sufficient to run every amplification/electronic system. This information should be provided by the host, and requested from interested competitors. There is to be no guarantee, by TOB, on watt/amp/ground/electrical power source. (2010)

10. COMPETITION FIELD:

The Competition Field shall be a standard High School Football Field 160 x 360 feet with yard lines every five(5) yards and yard line markers every ten(10) yards on both front and back sidelines.

Regulation High School Hash Marks must be visible, An additional fifteen(15) feet performance area from goal line to goal line will be available(stadium conditions permitting) across the front sideline of the Competition Field. No equipment or personnel, other than soloists, conductors, and podiums may be placed beyond this additional area(stadium conditions permitting). Equipment and props may be placed along the front boundary of the additional performance area for retrieval during the performance. Crossing(not merely stepping on) the front additional area performance boundary on foot will result in a 0.1 penalty per occurrence to a maximum of 2.0 points. Hands, arms or upper body may cross the boundary for equipment retrieval. (2010)

Speakers may be placed an additional three(3) feet beyond this fifteen(15) foot line(stadium conditions permitting). (2012)

The mixer/sound board may be located no more than 6 foot maximum beyond drum major podium (stadium conditions permitting). (2015)

11. PLACEMENT/RETRIEVAL OF EQUIPMENT:

Anyone may place or remove equipment before or after the performance. However, during the performance, only clearly-identifiable student personnel may assist with equipment. There are no limits to the number of student equipment personnel used, but they must be declared to the Field Coordinator prior to the start of the performance and be clearly-identifiable throughout the performance. Only students are allowed on the field once the performance starts. It is the responsibility of the competing unit to ensure the safety and well-being of these persons with regard to the placement and retrieval of said equipment. No parents, or adults, may enter the field. Runners that add to the effect of the performance must be counted as part of the band front/auxiliary (moving scenery, etc.).

12. ENTRANCE-PERFORMANCE-EXIT TIMING:

Each band will have an interval time of fifteen(15) minutes during which they will enter, set up, warm up, perform, and exit the Competition Field. The visual and music performance must be a minimum of seven(7:00) and maximum of ten(10:00) minutes.

- A. All props/pit equipment/auxiliary equipment/drum major podiums may enter the field to set up as long as a) the Field Coordinator has given them permission and b) they do not interfere with the previous ensemble's exit. These items may be carried by the students, adults, or a combination of both.
- B. Entrance/exit of the band proper may be from any point (as defined by Rule #10 *Competition Field*). Any group that enters the field in a non-traditional location (ie a place other than the endzone) must let the Field Coordinator know in advance of the contest. Fifteen (15) minute interval will begin upon the Field Coordinator's signal.
- C. Entrance/exit for all championship events will be dictated by the host facility layout. These directions will be sent to Band Directors in the championship information packet.
(2013)

13. LATE TO THE LINE:

Any band late to the line will be assessed a two (2.0) point penalty and will be inserted into the schedule at the discretion of the Chief Judge, and Field Coordinator, of the contest. A band late for their group shall comply with Rule #15 BAND ORDER.

14. STADIUM LIGHTS:

The dimming of stadium lights for special effect is not permitted. Penalty for infraction will be disqualification.

15. BAND ORDER:

Any band added to a show after bands have received notification of the order of performance (usually with the tickets) must be added to the beginning of their respective group. Any bands unable to compete with their respective group, regardless of reason, must perform an exhibition. Bands must compete in continuous Group Sizes. All regular season TOB contests must be set up in Class(A/Open) order and then by Groups within the particular class. (2012)

16. ADJUDICATOR FILES:

All judges except Field Coordinator will use digital(mp3) files for adjudication. Files will be loaded to website for access by the Band Director. (2012)

17. JUDGES MEETING/CRITIQUE:

The judges meeting will begin fifteen (15) minutes after the last judged band. Units will limit staff members to a total of six(6), four(4) to critique and two(2) to silently observe, at a time at the post-contest meeting. (2012) Additional staff may attend based on specialty judges assigned to the contest (1 for percussion, 1 for auxiliary).

Recaps will be distributed (if available) at the post-contest meeting.

The Field Coordinator will monitor the meeting so that all competitors have time with the judges. Any band director or instructor using loud or abusive language in the post-contest meeting will be barred from the next critique. If this should happen a second time during the same season, Bylaw #9 will be enforced leading to the immediate suspension of the unit from the organization pending the decision of the TOB Executive Board.

Each staff will meet minimum 3 minutes at each judge station as set by the Chief Judge and Field Coordinator. At shows with 14 or more bands, each staff will meet minimum 2 minutes at each judge station as set by the Chief Judge and Field Coordinator.

18. NATIONAL FLAG POLICY:

The use of the American Flag shall be optional in TOB. If used, however, the National Colors will be treated with respect and dignity. If used, however, the National Colors will be handled according to The Tournament of Bands Competitive Flag Code. Copies of the Code will be available from your Region Coordinator. Failure to do so will result in a one (1.0) point penalty.

19. PROHIBITED ITEMS:

The discharge of firearms or pyrotechnic displays is not permitted. For this purpose, pyrotechnics is defined as the use of any device involving explosives or fire. The use of fire extinguisher and/or CO2 devices is prohibited. The release of helium-filled objects is prohibited. No live animals, except for Seeing Eye dogs are permitted. The penalty for violation of this rule is disqualification.

20. STAFF INTERFERENCE:

If staying adjacent to the competition field area, the staff of a competing band must stay outside the 30 yard lines of the competing field. At the discretion of the Chief Judge and Field Coordinator, band staffs may be deemed to be interfering with the orderly progress and adjudication of the contest. The Chief Judge and Field Coordinator may request that staffs move or stop any bothersome behavior. A one (1.0) point penalty may be imposed. It is further suggested that each contest host provide space in the stands to be set aside for each band staff to view its unit's performance.

21. MEDICAL AIDE

The sponsor must provide qualified medical aide at a contest site.

22. VIDEO:

Hosts should provide a video area for the competing bands to tape their designated band only. Taping is restricted to their own band. No video equipment will be permitted into a sanctioned TOB contest other than provided in this rule.

23. ACC ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The public address announcer at ACC's will announce the Band, Band Director, Region and musical repertoire of each band before it performs, as listed in the on-line ACC Registration.

24. TOB REGION CHAMPIONSHIPS:

To qualify for the Tournament of Bands Atlantic Coast Championships, a unit must compete in a minimum of two(2) TOB sanctioned competitions and Region Championships unless utilizing BYLAW 15. (2015)

25. STUDENT PARTICIPATION:

Tournament of Bands recognizes the interest of member bands to allow participation by all students. TOB authorizes member bands to use, in the competitive arena, any accommodations established for a student as a result of school actions related to Section 504 of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) or an Individual Education Plan developed in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Such accommodation should be made by the competing organization, in the interest of safety and serve only to benefit the student with disabilities. The Chief Judge of the contest should be made aware of any such accommodation. (NOTE: This rule is intended to address a student's need for accommodations such as, but not limited to, a personal student guide for a student with visual impairment or sign language interpreter for a student who is deaf or hard of hearing.) It is strongly encouraged that students be used as these assistants.