

FMBC ADJUDICATOR QUICK GUIDE

WELCOME & ORIENTATION

First and foremost, on behalf of the Florida Marching Band Championships, thank you for being an essential part of our season. We are incredibly grateful for the time, dedication, and expertise you bring to our events.

As adjudicators, your insight and feedback play a pivotal role in the educational growth of thousands of young performers across Florida. The guidance you provide on the tape and on the sheet doesn't just evaluate a single performance—it inspires students, guides directors, and elevates the standard of excellence across our entire pageantry community.

This quick orientation guide is designed to refresh your familiarity with FMBC adjudication protocols, scoring mechanics, numbers management, and commentary standards. Taking a few minutes to align on these expectations ensures a fair, consistent, and high-quality experience for every ensemble taking the field today.

USING THE FMBC SHEETS & SCORING SYSTEM

- **Reference Standards:** Reference criteria and keywords are provided on your caption score sheet. Please assign all scores strictly in accordance with these standards.
- **Subcaptions & Weighting:** Each caption is judged using two 100-point subcaptions. The scoring software automatically handles all weighting and final score calculations.
- **Percussion Judge Placement & Safety:** At the discretion of the contest director or chief judge, percussion judges may be stationed on the field or in the press box. All field judges are permitted on the performance field, but must exercise caution to avoid interfering with performers and use discretion when near members so as not to distract or alarm them.

NUMBERS MANAGEMENT

5-Box System Mechanics: FMBC score sheets utilize a 5-box evaluation system, with each box subdivided into thirds (lower, middle, and upper).

- **Boxes 1 through 4:** An ensemble fully meeting all criteria for a box is assigned a score in the **middle third**. Scores move to the upper third if performance aspects approach the next box, or down to the lower third if performance falls short toward the box below.
- **Box 5:** An ensemble meeting all criteria begins in the **lower third**. Scores are adjusted upward into the middle or upper third as higher levels of mastery and exceptional quality are demonstrated.

Subcaption Spread Guidelines (100-Point Scale): Maintain strict awareness of the value of a point and its impact on final standings.

POINT SPREAD	PERFORMANCE RELATIONSHIP & COMPARISON
1 – 2 Points	Ensembles are highly comparable. Performance outcomes could easily reverse in a subsequent head-to-head match.
3 – 4 Points	Ensembles are comparable, with minor discernible differences in performance quality.
5 – 7 Points	Ensembles demonstrate definite, noticeable differences. Re-evaluation would likely yield the same outcome.
8+ Points	Ensembles exhibit significant, clearly defined differences in overall performance quality.

Early-Show Calibration: Judges may hold their first 3 to 4 score sheets (refraining from locking them in on CompetitionSuite) to calibrate performance tolerances to the Florida regional scale. Adjusting early score spreads is acceptable, though judges are under no obligation to alter initial rankings.

SCORING FORMATS: "ONE SHOW" VS. SEPARATE SHOWS PER CLASS

"ONE SHOW" FORMAT (REGIONAL DISCRETION)

At the contest director's discretion, an FMBC regional event may be scored as "one show." Class divisions are set aside, and all bands are judged directly against each other. Judges must eliminate bottom-line ties and strive to prevent subcaption ties across the entire contest. Used when awarding an overall "Grand Champion."

SEPARATE SHOWS PER CLASS (DEFAULT & CHAMPIONSHIPS)

At FMBC Championships or standard regional contests, each class is scored and awarded independently. Judges compare bands only within the same division and may reuse score numbers across different classes. Bottom-line ties are strictly prohibited, and subcaption ties within a division should be avoided.

DUAL-STYLE COMPETITIONS (CORPS VS. TRADITIONAL)

When an event hosts both Corps Style and Traditional Style bands on the same panel, the contest director may direct judges to treat each style as a completely separate show. Ensembles are evaluated on distinct score sheets and are never compared against each other.

Tenths Usage: Use tenths of a point whenever necessary to establish score separation and break ties.

Uniform Benchmarks: Expectations remain absolute regardless of format, ensemble size, or class. Unlike WGI (where expectations scale by division), FMBC evaluates every band against a single set of benchmarks. Hold all ensembles to the exact same standard—an 85 represents the same level of achievement from the first band to the last.

RECORDED COMMENTARY STANDARDS

- **Balanced Feedback (50/50 Split):** Maintain an equal balance between content/composition (what is written) and execution/achievement (how it is performed).
- **No External Comparisons:** Never reference or compare other performing ensembles on recordings, or compare a band's show to previous seasons.
- **Caption Integrity:** Adhere strictly to your assigned sheet's boundaries; do not comment on elements governed by other captions.
- **Regional Evaluation Standard:** Evaluate strictly on the Florida regional linear scale. Do not apply national circuit paradigms (BOA, WGI, DCI).

FMBC ADJUDICATION PHILOSOPHY (JON KERSTEN PRINCIPLES)

- **Confidentiality & Discretion:** Avoid discussing performances where the public or booster volunteers can hear.
- **Comment Tone:** Keep commentary constructive, positive, and encouraging while scoring accurately and honestly.
- **Panel Autonomy & Focus:** Focus strictly on your assigned caption/subcaptions, manage numbers carefully, and trust the panel system.
- **Caption Integrity:** The highest-scoring band in your caption may not necessarily be the highest-scoring band overall.
- **FMBC Criteria:** Strictly apply FMBC criteria over standards from other circuits.
- **Execution Over Size:** A small, well-executed show can outscore a larger, unrefined show.
- **Lower-Box Scoring Standards:** Box 1 performances should be scored strictly within the upper third of Box 1 to reflect accurate evaluation standards.

CLOSING NOTES & CONTACTS

Thank you once again for your dedication to these incredible students and for bringing your passion and expertise to the field! Have a wonderful event, and enjoy the show!

Event Day Operational Questions: Contact your assigned Chief Judge

Adjudication Inquiries: Dr. Ray Donato, Adjudication Coordinator — ray@fmbcstate.com

CompSuite Questions: Josh Gelman, Events and Scoring — josh@fmbcstate.com

General Inquiries & Other Concerns: Cathy Kersten, Executive Director — cathy@fmbcstate.com