



# CHAMPIONSHIP . . . . . RULES & FORMAT

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# Florida Marching Band Championships (FMBC) Rules and Format

## Overview

The Florida Marching Band Championships (FMBC) State Championships bring together qualifying high school marching bands from across Florida for the culminating event of the FMBC season. Bands compete in classes based on the number of students in the band, not school size. To participate in the State Championships, bands must meet FMBC championship eligibility requirements, including performance in at least one sanctioned FMBC Regional event. This Regional participation requirement applies only as a qualification pathway to the Championships; Regional event procedures, credentials, awards, and host-specific policies do not carry over to the State Championships unless specifically stated in this document. Both Traditional and Drum Corps style bands will find the FMBC State Championships educational, competitive, and inspiring.

## 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.

# CHAMPIONSHIP RULES AND FORMAT

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## 1.1 Single Show Format

1.1.1 2026 FMBC Championships will be held at FIU Pitbull Stadium in Miami. All participants will perform at FIU Pitbull Stadium in a one and done single performance platform. Both Traditional and Drum Corps style bands in Classes 1A, 2A and 3A will have a mid-day full Olympic style retreat. Classes 4A and 5A will have an evening retreat. This format will allow everyone the opportunity to perform at FIU and enjoy the events happening inside the club house.

## 1.2 Event Registration

1.2.1 Registration is done through the FMBC websites. Class size is determined by band size, not school sizes. Bands can choose between Drum Corps or Traditional tracks.

## 1.3 Event Fees

1.3.1 Drum Corps style bands pay a fee of \$800.00. This fee includes one band director credential, 9 band staff credentials and 20 chaperone wristbands. Fees can be paid online using a credit card or a band check can be mailed to: FMBC 915 Doyle Rd #306, Deltona, FL 32725. *Please note this is a new address.*

1.3.2 Traditional style bands pay a fee of \$400.00. posted. This fee includes one band director credential and 9 band staff credentials. Fees can be paid online using a credit card or a band check can be mailed to: FMBC 915 Doyle Rd #306, Deltona, FL 32725. *Please note this is a new address.*

1.3.3 Bands interested in offsetting their fees can sell program ads at a commissioned rate. Please contact sue@fmbcstate for more information.

## 1.4 SAFETY

1.4.1 Performers and staff members are encouraged to bring and apply sunscreen. The most significant safety incidents we experience are related to the South Florida sun. Stay hydrated and follow a few simple precautions to assure your safety and enjoyment throughout the day. Water is located in key locations throughout the area. Your volunteer liaison can direct you to the nearest water stations. Band members are encouraged to bring their own water container and fill as needed throughout the event. The provided cups are small and wasteful.

1.4.2 Both Miami Dade County and Campus Security personnel are located throughout the stadium. In case of an emergency, have someone in your party flag down a security team member and they will assist you in any way necessary. Miami-Dade Emergency Rescue personnel will be located at both ends of the stadium to assist as needed. A rescue vehicle is standing by at all times.

1.4.3 In case of inclement weather, you will be directed by security personnel to a waiting area under the bleachers. Students must remain with their band and will be directed to a sheltered area. Our complete weather plan is located in the next section.

## **1.5 Weather Policy**

1.5.1 While average temperatures in Miami in November range from a high of 87 to a low of 68, temperatures can reach as high as 95°. The average rainfall for the month of November is 3.5 inches. [www.weatherspark.com](http://www.weatherspark.com) predicts less than a 5% chance of rain on November 14. Nevertheless, the weather does not always cooperate. To improve communication, we have recruited a weather specialist to keep an eye on conditions beginning on November 1, 2026.

1.5.2 Beginning November 1, 2026 a volunteer weather specialist will monitor both the National Weather Service and AccuWeather forecasts and report any unfriendly weather predictions. Beginning on Monday November 9<sup>th</sup> we will email the forecast to participants for the week and let you know what you should be prepared for. If necessary, we will send daily updates.

1.5.3 Excessive Heat After reviewing best practices for performing outdoors, FMBC will be following Wet Bulb Globe Temperatures. Please note that WBGT temperatures are not the same as traditional temperatures and use multiple factors including humidity and wind speed to determine. In the case of WBGT temperature in excess of 85°, hydration breaks must be given hourly. Water stations will be located near warm up areas, at the information table located by the front gate entrance and near the staging areas. Students should have their own refillable bottles, as the cups provided do not hold sufficient quantities for suitable hydration. Bands may choose not to wear shakos, wool jackets and accessories that block airflow. Judges will be advised of this. In the case of WBGT temperature in excess of 90°, hydration breaks must be given every thirty minutes. A small break will occur between performance to allow the field staff, photographers and safety personnel the opportunity to hydrate. Bands may choose to perform in travel or warm-up clothing. This will not impact your score.

#### 1.5.4 Rain and Thunder

A lightning alarm will sound when lightning is within 10 miles of the stadium. All activity must cease and appropriate shelter must be found. The FIU security personnel will direct spectators to seek shelter under the bleachers. FMBC staff will direct bands to appropriate sheltered areas. Updates will be posted continuously on the FMBC band app chat group. The competition will be halted for a minimum of 30 minutes. Additional lightning strikes will delay the restart by 30 minutes. If conditions are not forecast to improve, an estimated time for restart will be posted on the FMBC Band App chat group.

In the event of rain, without the presence of lightning, the Adjudication coordinator, at his discretion, may either continue, postpone or cancel competition. Notification will be made through the Band App chat group in as timely a manner as possible.

The complete weather policy for FMBC may be found at [FMBCState.com/weather](http://FMBCState.com/weather)

## 2.0 Adjudication at FMBC Championships

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### 2.1 Panel Selection

Selecting trained and qualified adjudicators is the responsibility of the FMBC Judging Coordinator, Ray Donato: [ray@fmbcstate.com](mailto:ray@fmbcstate.com) and reviewed by the FMBC advisory committee.

### 2.2 Panel make up

FMBC Championships utilizes an adjudication panel consisting of six primary caption judges. Each judge is assigned to evaluate a specific caption, based on their areas of expertise. These scores are added to produce the final score of the performing ensemble. Traditional and Drum Corps adjudicators represent some of the most renowned in the Music and Pageantry industry. 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.

### 2.3 Adjudication Captions:

- 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 for the 10 point captions, for ease of the judges to assign point spreads, and then calculated down by the tabulation software.) The maximum total score a band can receive is 100.

### 2.4 Timing and Penalty Judge

All FMBC Championships utilize the FMBC Timing and Penalty rules discussed in 4.0. A qualified and trained T&P judge will also preside over the participants.

## 3.0 FMBC SCORING SYSTEM

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

**3.1.1** The FMBC State Championships will utilize the official FMBC adjudication sheets and criteria references in their entirety and not in part.

**3.1.2** FMBC periodically reviews and updates or revises scoring sheets and format.

**3.1.3** The FMBC State Championships will utilize Competition Suite for tabulation. Scores will be uploaded to Competition Suite by the event tabulator and posted by FMBC after scoring is completed and reviewed.

**3.1.4** All ties at the FMBC State Championships will 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** Championship ties will be resolved using the tie-breaking priorities in Section 3.1.4.

**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 the State Championships 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.

## 4.0 TIMING AND PENALTIES

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### 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 Section 4.1.2. 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 of 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 4.9.3).

**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 Corps style bands are to compete in one of the following classes for FMBC Championships.

Class 1A: 1-50 Students

Class 2A: 51-70 Students

Class 3A: 71-90 Students

Class 4A: 91-120 Students

Class 5A: 121 + Students

**4.2.4** All Traditional Bands will be categorized by size of band, and divided into 2 Classes:

Class 1A: 1-95 Students

Class 2A 96 + Students

### 4.3 Eligibility

4.3.1 The use of an ineligible individual in a performing role (see Section 4.1.2) 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** All props and powered vehicles used at the FMBC State Championships must comply with the requirements of the Championship venue, FIU Pitbull Stadium, and with all FMBC event safety and operational requirements communicated to participating bands.

**4.5.2** Motorized wheelchairs used by disabled performers are permitted.

**4.5.3** 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.

**4.5.4** 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'**.

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

**4.5.6 Gas-powered equipment may not be used at the FMBC State Championships unless specifically approved in advance by the Contest Director and permitted by FIU Pitbull Stadium policies.**

**4.5.7** Insurance regulations stipulate that 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.

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

**4.5.9** 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.

**4.5.10 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.

**4.5.11** Drum Major stands that are 6 ft tall or higher **MUST** have safety rails for the safety of the students.

**4.5.12** 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.

**For safety, ANY DRUM MAJOR STANDS 6 FT TALL OR TALLER MUST HAVE A SAFETY BAR**

## 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 and Audio Samples

**4.9.1** A sample is defined by a digitally triggered sound by a computer, midi controller, or electronic instrument.

All wind instrument, vocalist, and percussion musicality must be performed live and in real time. Exception - Sounds other than Music, such as the spoken word or sound effects or samples, including brief instances of melodious sound generated by the human voice may be pre recorded and used at any time during the Performance Time without penalty. Samples and audio files may not exceed a playing time of 5.0 seconds. Files can be immediately sequenced so long as they are individually triggered by a performing member. (Pre and Post show music is exempt from this rule but must follow appropriate copyright regulations.)

NOTE: The use of copyrighted spoken word and sound require appropriate licensing by the performing band.

**4.9.2** Electronic equipment (connected by wires or wirelessly) must be located in 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** 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. Non-performing staff may operate the audio away from the field only for adjusting volume and blend. Non-performing staff may not trigger samples, audio

effects, or show programming. Any sound checks that occur within the performance area are to be included in the bands setup time.

**4.9.4** Use of recorded wind-instrument, percussion or vocalist files is not permitted.

**4.9.4.1** Penalty - Violation involving the use of electronics – 1.0 points to disqualification at the discretion of the Contest Director. Penalties for electronics and audio related infractions cannot be accessed retroactively.

## **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.

**4.10.1.1** Field Warm-ups, trouping the stands and prop or electrical set-ups are included in this 15 minutes and are given no special exemptions.

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

**4.10.1.3** 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.

**4.10.1.4** 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.

**4.10.1.5** 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.

**4.10.1.6** 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?"

**4.10.1.7** 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 4.10.1.6, at the sole discretion of the Timing and Penalties Judge.

**4.10.1.8** 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 the Performance.

**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 State Championships 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.

**END OF DOCUMENT**