



REGIONAL RULES & FORMAT

Table of Contents

Florida Marching Band Championships (FMBC) Rules and Format

Overview	2
The FMBC Philosophy/Purpose.....	2
Participants.....	2
Standards.....	2
Goals	2
Regional Rules and Format.....	3
1.1 New Regionals	3
1.2 Tenure.....	3
1.3 Scheduling of Regional Shows	4
1.4 Safety.....	4
1.5 Intellectual Property and Privacy Rights	5
1.6 Proceeds.....	5
1.7 Regionals and FMBC Championship Promotions.....	5
1.8 Regional Host Benefits	5
1.9 Regional Standards.....	6
2.0 Adjudication at FMBC Regional Events.....	7
3.0 FMBC Scoring System	9
3.1 The FMBC 5-Box Adjudication System Recaps, and Tie Scores	9
4.0 Timing and Penalties.....	11
4.1 Definitions and Eligibility	11
4.2 FMBC Official Size Classes	13
4.3 Eligibility.....	14
4.4 Performance Area	14
4.5 Props and Powered Vehicles	15
4.6 Conducting the Band	16
4.7 Debris	16
4.8 Prohibited Activities	17
4.9 Use of Electronics and Audio Samples	17
4.10 Timing Considerations	19

Florida Marching Band Championships (FMBC) Rules and Format

Overview

Marching band programs throughout the state of Florida are invited to participate in FMBC sanctioned regional and championship competitions. Bands are divided into classes based on the number of students in the band, not school size. To participate in championship competition, bands must perform in at least one sanctioned regional event. Regional shows are hosted by schools across the state beginning on the first weekend in October and running weekly leading up to championships. While show hosts have discretion regarding many aspects of their shows, the educational criteria and scoring systems are standardized. If you are interested in hosting a show or learning more about Regional Events, click here. www.fmbcstate.com/regionals. Both traditional and corps style bands will find competing at FMBC events educational, fun, 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.

REGIONAL RULES AND FORMAT

1.2 New Regionals

- 1.2.1 New prospective regionals must be approved by the FMBC Regional Coordinators and the FMBC Board of Directors in order to be sanctioned. Acceptance by tenured regionals that may be affected by the new regional may also be required.

1.3 Tenure

- 1.3.1 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.
- 1.3.2 FMBC regionals may lose their tenure under the following conditions:
 - 1.3.2.1 If a new Band Director is hired that, after discussion the FMBC Board does not feel can adequately fulfill the hosting responsibilities.
 - 1.3.2.2 If a show host changes the show's weekend without the advance permission of FMBC
 - 1.3.2.3 If the show host cancels their show for any reason other than weather or verified safety issues.
- 1.3.3 If an FMBC regional event loses its tenure, there is a one-year waiting period before a school can again apply to host an event. 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.
- 1.3.4 Tenure plus years in continuous service constitute the seniority of the regionals in deciding dates for upcoming seasons.

1.4 Scheduling of Regional Shows

- 1.4.1 Regional applications must be submitted annually, by completing the registration form at www.fmbcstate.com/regionals .Payment of the hosting fee must be received, before your event will be promoted on the FMBC website.
- 1.4.2 Regionals must pay the Regional Host fee before their event will be posted. This fee is the total revenue collected by FMBC. All profits from ticket sales, concessions, parking, etc are the property of the host program and no claims shall be made against them by FMBC.

- 1.4.3 Regional events and their dates are broken into geographic regions.
- 1.4.4 Regional show dates must be reviewed and approved by their regional coordinator to minimize problems with overlapping show dates in the same region.
- 1.4.5 FMBC will do its best to accommodate potential conflicts based on seniority.

1.5 SAFETY

- 1.5.1 Regional Show Hosts are responsible in entirety for the safety and security of all participants and attendees at FMBC Regional events. All decisions related to 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.
- 1.5.2 The presence of on-site or readily available qualified personnel trained and equipped to deal with medical emergencies is highly recommended.
- 1.5.3 FMBC Regional Show hosts are strongly encouraged to have and use high-quality lightning detection equipment. In the event of the 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.

1.6 Intellectual Property and Privacy Rights

- 1.6.1 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 these rights are protected rests entirely with the show host.
- 1.6.2 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.
- 1.6.3 Regional show hosts who 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.

1.7 Proceeds

- 1.7.1 FMBC will not collect proceeds from FMBC regional events.

1.8 Regionals and FMBC Championship Promotions

- 1.8.1 Hosts will provide a 6 foot display table to promote and sell championship merchandise and provide information about attending championships.
- 1.8.2 FMBC will provide artwork to all regional hosts for inclusion in any program provided, digitally or traditionally, at events.
- 1.8.3 FMBC requests all use of the FMBC logo by hosts conform with the branding guidelines provided by your FMBC liaison.

1.9 Regional Host Benefits

- 1.9.1 One yearly badge allowing free entrance to any other FMBC sanctioned event including championships.
- 1.9.2 Promotion of your event on the FMBC official website including a dedicated webpage
- 1.9.3 Social media posts on all FMBC social medial pages
- 1.9.4 Inclusion in any weekly roundup or other FMBC newsletter
- 1.9.5 Access to FMBC training videos for show hosts, adjudicators, and tabulators.

1.10 Regional Standards

- 1.10.1 A regional can name their class sizes as the choose, but they must align with the FMBC Class sizes (refers to band size, not school size).

Class 1A- 1-50 Students

Class 2A- 51-70 Students

Class 3A- 71-90 Students

Class 4A 91-120 Students

Class 5A 121+ Students

(These class sizes may change by the end of September if we need to equal the Class sizes for State)

- 1.10.2 All regional competitions shall have a Timing and Penalty judge who is trained in the rules and regulations of FMBC. They are not required to assess penalties, but they must make the bands aware of where their

penalties would be. Beginning on October 24th weekend, all shows must assess penalties. The rules are to help ensure the shows run on time and that all rules are followed.

2.0 Adjudication at FMBC Regional Events

2.1 FMBC Regional Shows utilize 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. 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 may 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 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.

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

- 1-10 Units \$350.00
- 11-20 Units \$400.00
- 21-30 Units \$450.00
- 31+ Units \$500.00

2.3.1 Prelims-finals shows (up to 12 bands in finals) are to pay adjudicators \$200.00 per judge for the finals event (add 10.00 for each unit over 12 units).

2.3.2 Shows with 15 bands or less lasting over 5 hours are to compensate each judge and additional \$50.00.

2.4 All judges receive a flat travel allowance of 72.5 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) is \$500.00.

2.5 Support and assistance in selecting trained and qualified adjudicators is available to show hoses through the FMBC Regional Coordinators and the FMBC Adjudication Coordinator. FMBC will maintain an approved list of judges for hosts to choose from, if desired.

2.6 Your proposed judging panel must be approved by the FMBC Judging Coordinator, Ray Donato: ray@fmbcstate.com. Please submit your list by June 1. If someone on your list is unknown, the party will be researched by the FMBC advisory committee.

2.7 In the unlikely event the Adjudication Coordinator or Advisory 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 show host and will provide assistance , if requesting, in reassigning that adjudicator to a more appropriate caption and/or will assist the host in selecting another more qualified adjudicator.

2.8 Regional show hosts are responsible for communicating with all adjudicators as to arrangements for housing, shuttle services, designated report times and directions to the show.

2.9 In the event a 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 please inform the FMBC Adjudication Coordinator, as soon as possible.

2.10 Panel members should not be on staff of any school they are adjudicating. Best practices suggest that no adjudicator should have worked with a program they are evaluating in the past 2 seasons.

2.11 All FMBC Regional events must utilize the FMBC Timing and Penalty sheet, with a trained individual on that sheet, and inform participating bands of their rule violations (especially timing violations), even if they do not assign any penalties. This is required to assist bands that are planning to attend Championships to verify that their shows meet the FMBC Rules and Timing Requirements.

2.12 If a Critique is held, the T&P judge is expected to assist, to ensure that all band directors and staff receive a reasonable amount of time with the judges. Additionally, the T&P judge is to be available to discuss rules and/or timing concerns of any director at the Critique.

2.13 Regional Hosts must be aware of breaks for judges. Please take into consideration judges needs for “facility” times, meals and stretches when scheduling your show.

3.0 FMBC SCORING SYSTEM

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

3.1.1 FMBC Regional Shows 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 at www.fmbcstate.com/rules

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 by your tabulator. FMBC will transfer the posted scores from your show to our website after the scoring is completed and reviewed.

FMBC will create a login and password on the FMBC Competition Suite portal for each regional, and will set up the total format for your show.

3.1.4 ALL ties at Regionals are 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 Championship events 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 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.

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

3.2.2 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 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 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 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, and all qualifying Regionals.

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

Penalty – Disqualification

Exception: Bands may compete UP in Class, (le: 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 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 Each regional location has it's own specific requirements. Please check with the Regional website of show director for specific information.

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 Caution: Check with your regional host before including gas powered equipment.

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.

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.)

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 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.

END OF DOCUMENT