



Tennessee Division II State  
Marching Band Championship  
Contest By-Laws

By-Laws and Official Contest Rules



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Date of Last Revision – April 2023 Band Director's Roundtable

# Statement of Philosophy

The purpose for the establishment of the Division II State Band Championship is to provide our bands with a high-quality, prestigious event in which each participant has a reasonable chance to win the top awards. It is our hope that every band student and band supporter involved in this event will display good sportsmanship and will strive to pursue excellence in pride and behavior as well as in performance.

## Rules and Guidelines

All participating schools must have an enrollment of 480-1000 students or be a member in the Division II system. Bands from all schools that have an enrollment of 0-480 students or would qualify for the Division I Contest may choose to “play up” and are welcome at this event. However, if a Division I Band competes at the Division I Championship during a particular school year, this band will not be eligible for the Division II Championship in that same school year. The most recent available enrollment figures by the state department of education (the previous school year’s numbers or better) will determine classification.

1. The date for the event will be the first Saturday in November of each year.
2. Registration for the contest will take place online. Complete registration will consist of the signed confirmation page, school enrollment and band verification form, and entry fee. A public, certified drawing will determine order of performance in the preliminary competition. The previous year’s champion will perform last in the preliminary competition. The host will determine the entry deadline.
3. The total number of bands accepted for the preliminary competition will be 28.
4. The host will accept the first 28 qualified bands according to all complete submitted registration materials (online registration confirmation page, enrollment and band verification form, and entry fees being sent via mail and postmarked by a date determined by the host). The site host’s band will not compete but may give an exhibition performance as scores are being tabulated.
5. Preliminary schedule: The first band will be scheduled to perform at 10:00 AM or later. Travel allotment: Bands will not be required to leave their school before 5:00 AM (their local time). Travel time will be determined by Google Maps (or other GPS app.) and is calculated with arrival to the contest one hour before the scheduled warm-up time.
6. With the exception of unforeseen last-minute cancellations, all judges will be from out of state and contracted by the site host.
7. Judging will follow a caption system with two judges per caption using the Tennessee Bandmaster’s Sheets. The Band Scores will determine all placement for the contest including the top ten to finals and the finals awards and state champion. A six person adjudication panel using all TBA sheets including field judges. The three (3) music captions receive 200 points each with the Visual Performance Individual and the Visual Performance Ensemble scores averaged for a possible 200 points and the Visual Effect caption receiving the other 200 points. The final score is achieved by multiplying the total points earned by .10.

Music Individual 20 points (20% of total score)  
Music Ensemble 20 points (20% of total score)  
Music Effect 20 points (20% of total score)  
Music Total 60 points (60% of total score)

Visual Individual 10 points (10% of total score)  
Visual Ensemble 10 points (10% of total score)  
Visual Effect 20 points (20% of the total score)  
Visual Total 40 points (40% of total score)

100 total points - (100% total)



8. A separate judge will rate percussion, color guard, and field commander. Top three rankings for the Percussion, Color Guard and Drum Major captions will be awarded for preliminary and finals competition.  
Scores from these captions will not count toward selection of finalist bands nor in the finals ranking.
9. \*A judge will be designated for any wind instrument solo submitted from each of the participating band for the preliminary competitions. The wind instrument solo scores will not be included in the total band score in determination for overall ranking. Each band may submit a list of feature solo wind players and each solo feature should be no less than 8 measures in length.
10. All preliminary Superior and Excellent ratings and caption awards will be announced at the preliminary awards ceremony. Number averages of each band in finals will only be announced at the awards ceremony following the finals competition. In determination of the State Champion, only the finals scores will be used.
11. Ratings Scale: Superior (I) = 75 – 100; Excellent (II) = 55 – 74.9;  
Good (III) = 40 – 54.9; Fair (IV) = 20 – 39.9
12. Each band in the preliminary competition will receive a participation award with an engraved plate for each Superior and Excellent rating.
13. All finalist bands will receive a placement trophy.
14. Awards for Best Music Performance, Best Visual Performance, and Best Effect will be awarded to the top scoring bands in each caption during the finals competition.
15. All ties for overall placement will be broken in the following manner:
  - First, music scores
  - Second, visual scores
  - Third, combination of general effect scores
16. The Governor's Challenge Cup is given to the State Champion for one year. It is to be returned the following year and replaced with a plaque. This cup can never be retired. Challenge Trophies for the captions of Percussion, Color Guard, and Drum Major will be issued each year to the first-place winner in those captions. These trophies are returned the following year and replaced with a plaque.
17. The top ten (10) bands with the highest score in the preliminary competition will be asked to compete in the finals competition. Should one of the top ten wish not to compete, the eleventh-place band will be asked. This process will be repeated until the ten finalist positions are filled.
18. Following the preliminary competition, the finalist bands will be announced (in order of preliminary appearance). No numerical scores or recap sheets will be given out until the end of the finals competition. Judge's comments will be made available at the end of the preliminary competition.
19. The finalist bands will draw for performance positions in finals. The draw will be done by a Top 5 / Bottom 5 split for finals performance with the bottom 5 drawing first in preliminary performance order followed by the Top 5 in preliminary performance.
20. Adjudication score sheets, preliminary competition results, and final competition results will be furnished to each participating band at the end of the contest finals awards ceremony. However, all audio and video will be available at the end of the preliminary competition.
21. Each band must report to the field entrance gate at the bands scheduled report time. Each band will have a total of 14 minutes to enter, perform, and exit completely from the playing surface.
22. Profits from the gate, program (sales and ads), concessions, meals, and other sales (shirts, souvenirs, etc.) will go to the host.
23. Each participating band is required to pay \$130.00 plus \$1 per student entry fee. The band will receive 1 complimentary ticket for every 10 band members plus 1 for each bus and truck driver. A limit of 10 additional tickets may be purchased at ½ price of admission cost.
24. The site host will have external control (judges, money, tickets, programs, etc.) and the Division II association will have internal control (rules, dates, site, etc.) of the event.



25. The site host is required to select a Chief Adjudicator that will manage the nine caption judges. The Chief Adjudicator is not to judge any band or caption area.
26. The site host is required to select all Caption Adjudicators (those judges that affect the overall scores and placements in the contest) along with the Chief Adjudicator.
27. To ensure consistency for the contest and to adapt rule changes from year to year, there will be a meeting of all Division II band directors during that will take place each year. The site host will be responsible for scheduling the meeting date, time, location, and method (in-person or online video meeting) There will be an Executive Committee consisting of all participating band directors from the most recent contest and the site host. Each school is asked to send a representative, and each school represented will have voting powers on any proposed changes, one vote per school.

\*Changes to these by-laws last occurred April 2023 at the roundtable meeting of band directors of the participating schools from the 42nd Annual Tennessee Division II State Marching Band Championship.

