



Maryland Marching Band Association

Member Guide

This document is to be used as a guide to members of MMBA. This will outline procedures, ranging from membership eligibility, to show registration, to show day expectations. MMBA is committed to meeting the needs of all bands in the state of Maryland, and we hope this document will clarify how the organization will accomplish that.

- I. Goals of the Organization
 - A. To offer a performance outlet to marching bands of all types, including a Festival component (with or without ratings) as well as competition in various divisions.
 - B. To provide meaningful feedback from highly qualified clinicians and adjudicators.
 - C. To build an organization from the ground up using input from any and all Maryland band directors and hand off governance of the organization to an executive board and several committees.
 - D. To provide all of this at a substantial cost savings to participating bands as well as show hosts.
 - E. To run a true Maryland State Championship in a large college stadium in Maryland to close our season if possible.
- II. Membership
 - A. Membership in MMBA is open to any high school marching band, public or private, Maryland or other.
 - B. There is no membership fee, however some events will have a registration fee.
 - C. Bands from outside Maryland are granted the same rights and responsibilities as Maryland bands, with the exception that only bands from Maryland may compete in State Championships.
 - D. Bands wishing to join should contact mdmarchingband@gmail.com.
- III. Show Registration
 - A. Registration will take place via the Competition Suite website/app during the registration window, which will open in the spring when the schedule is finalized and close a few weeks prior to the start of the season. Exact dates will be clearly marked in Competition Suite.
 - B. Contact Brendan Maltese (brendanmaltese@gmail.com) to get an account set up and for help with this process.
 - C. Once the registration window is closed, all changes must be made by contacting MMBA separately.
 - D. Certain events (states, regionals, etc) may require a registration fee. This fee will be visible at time of registration, and an invoice will be generated and sent through Competition Suite. Payment methods and due date will be listed on the invoice.
 - E. Directors will complete all requested surveys to allow MMBA to establish competition classes
- IV. Competition Class and Adjudication
 - A. MMBA has 2 competition classes – Open and A class.
 1. A class is generally for less experienced and/or less competition focused bands.
 2. Open class is for more experienced and/or more highly competitive bands.
 - B. Each caption is divided into Composition and Excellence. In Open Class, these are weighted evenly. In A class, Composition is weighted at 30% and Excellence is weighted at 70%.
 - C. Judging sheets will be made available on the MMBA website.
 - D. Each fall, band directors are given a choice as to which competition class they would like to have their band competing in. Throughout the season, the judging coordinator will contact

directors regarding classification if judges determine it is necessary for groups to be asked to change classes to be in a more appropriate setting.

- E. Within each class, there are divisions based on band size (includes ALL band members). Size divisions are decided each season based on the sizing of all groups within MMBA in an attempt to foster competition in all divisions. Size divisions will be set two weeks prior to the first MMBA event in the fall. For the 2024 season, those divisions are:

1. 1A: 1-39
2. 2A: 40-49
3. 3A: 50-59
4. 4A: 60+
5. Open Small: 1-59
6. Open Large: 60+

V. Show Registration, Band Information, Show Cancellation

- A. Show registration will open as early as possible in the Spring, pending final schedule completion; generally in April or May. All show registration will be done through Competition Suite online.
- B. Show registration will remain open through the summer and will close on the last day of August. After that date, any bands wishing to register for a show will need to contact MMBA directly and addition will be at the discretion of the MMBA Executive Board and the show host.
- C. MMBA will ask directors to provide logistical information as well as membership numbers for bands during the summer. This information must be provided at least three weeks prior to the first MMBA event (generally by mid-August). Directors who do not submit band information may risk having early season events canceled for their group. Any changes to this information should be sent directly to the MMBA as soon as possible.
- D. Bands who need to cancel an event are required to do so at least 10 days prior to the event happening except in case of extreme emergency. Notification of cancellation should be done directly through MMBA. MMBA will then notify local show hosts of cancellations. Late cancellations may result in a financial penalty to the band.

VI. Show Information

- A. Host directors and MMBA will work together to provide a preliminary schedule approximately three weeks prior to the show date (with the exception of States, which are seeded based on prior performance).
- B. Final show schedule and logistical information (director's packet) will be provided to bands the Tuesday prior to each event.

VII. Performance Rules

- A. All bands will be given a 15 minute time slot at all local events. There are no timing rules or penalties within that 15 minute time period. There are no minimum show length requirements. Time slots for Regional and State competitions may be adjusted as needed. Bands will be notified at least 2 weeks in advance of any adjustments.
- B. All performances should be limited to the football field and sideline area. Bands are welcome to use the sideline area, but should not be utilizing the track for performance.
- C. All performances should leave the performance area in the exact manner that they found it – no pit or props should damage the surface in any way and no materials should remain on the field after performance is completed (this includes glitter!). Groups found to be harming the performance surface may be penalized or charged for damages.
- D. All events are managed by host schools and rules and requirements set forth by those schools regarding the use of the facilities must be followed by all groups. This includes path of travel requirements and field entry and exit requirements.

- E. Bands who experience an unexpected absence of a performing member and would like the judging panel to be aware must contact the show coordinator before the start of the show or as soon as the absence is known.
- F. Bands who experience an unexpected absence of a drum major may request approval to utilize a staff member as a replacement for that drum major. When a situation like this comes up, the band director must contact MMBA as soon as possible so this information can be shared with show hosts, coordinators, and judging panels.

VIII. Regular Competitions

- A. Regular competitions will be held weekly throughout the fall season.
- B. Bands may register for as many or as few competitions as they want. There are no circuit minimum requirements.
- C. At the time registration is closed, MMBA and host bands will begin planning around those registration numbers. If you do not intend to attend a competition, please cancel your registration prior to that deadline to avoid causing financial harm to hosts. If an unforeseen circumstance after the registration deadline prohibits a band from participating, directors are expected to notify MMBA and the host immediately.
- D. MMBA and the host director will work together to establish a competition schedule. A preliminary schedule will be released approximately three weeks in advance. A final schedule will be released the Tuesday before the competition. No changes to performance times will happen once the schedule is finalized.
- E. Competitions will be adjudicated by a highly qualified panel of judges. Generally, there will be a 6 judge panel - Effect Music, Effect Visual, Ensemble Music, Ensemble Visual, Percussion, Color Guard.

IX. Regional Competitions

- A. A regional competition will function as a normal competition. At the conclusion of the regular awards ceremony, there will be additional awards given to the top three scoring bands, regardless of competing class.

X. State Championships

- A. State championships will be held as late in the season as is practical.
- B. Only Maryland bands may compete for a state championship. Any bands from other states must perform in exhibition.