



HOW THE BANDS ARE JUDGED - 2021

VMBC contracts premier judges throughout the US and Canada to judge its shows and to deliver educational verbal input through digital commentary and to generate accurate scoring and rankings. The evaluation of each band's show design and resulting performance is based primarily on MUSIC and VISUAL. Percussion and Color Guard will also be judged at VMBC Championships in 2021.

VMBC Captions and Weightings:

- **Ensemble Music - 20%** - Focus is on the technical components of the show which include the musical composition, excellence, sound quality, technique, and musicianship for the group.
- **Ensemble Visual – 20%** - Focus is on the technical components of the show which include the visual composition, excellence, technique, form, body movement, and auxiliary contributions.
- **General Effect Music – 20%** - Focus is on the artistry components of the show which include the effectiveness of the musical repertoire, performance, expressive qualities, pacing, and communication.
- **General Effect Visual -20%** - Focus is on the artistry components of the show which include the effectiveness of the visual repertoire, performance, expressive qualities, pacing, and communication.
- **Individual Music – 10%** - Focus is placed on the individual technical and musical components from the winds and percussion composition and excellence. This is evaluated at the field level.
- **Individual Visual – 10%** - Focus is placed on the individual technical and visual components from the winds, percussion, and auxiliary composition and excellence. This is evaluated at the field level.
- **Color Guard and Percussion** - Additional detailed focus is provided to these sections regarding their composition and excellence and how they contribute to the entire production. These captions are judged from the box and scores are NOT factored into the total placement.
- **Drum Major** - If desired by the contest host, a judge may be used to provide additional focus on the Drum Major regarding their leadership and conducting. Scores for this caption are NOT factored into the total placement.

Caption Awards:

- **Music** caption winners are determined by adding the Ensemble Music and Individual Music scores.
- **Visual** caption winners are determined by adding the Ensemble Visual and Individual Visual scores.
- **General Effect** caption winners are determined by adding the Music GE and Visual GE scores.
- **Percussion and Guard** caption winners are determined by score on their respective sheets.

NOTE: Each judge ultimately evaluates “what” is being delivered by the students along with “how well” the show is being performed. The two sub-captions are weighted equally on each scoring sheet. This judging system, which is based on achievement, was designed to provide the audience with an enjoyable and entertaining marching band show which rewards artistic quality as well as providing a positive educational environment for the performers.

Scoring Components Utilized by the Judge:

- **Impression, Analysis & Comparison** - This practice is a “process” for the judges to use to decide a scoring range and position within the box criteria and the relative score for any unit in the contest.
- **Criteria Reference** - The tenants for each sub-caption is a guide and not meant to be an absolute checklist. The overall meaning is derived from the depth of knowledge of the caption, from the understanding of the standards of the activity and from the understanding that the score is the result of the sum on the components.
- **Rate & Rank** – A Judge has the primary responsibility to rate and rank the groups in the sub-captions and derive the total score of the caption being judged. Ties may happen rarely in the sub-captions but ties of the total score must be carefully reviewed for accuracy and should be corrected as ties are not useful or desired.
- **What + How = Achievement** - Each sub-caption is always a combination to some extent of the “what and how”. The decisions in each sub-caption must be independently considered when arriving at a total score that reflects the achievement level. The profiling of the individual sub-captions truly reflects the strengths and weaknesses of each group.
- **Numerical Scale** – The Judge will determine where to place in group in the box based on the lower half and upper half of each of the 5 boxes. Those locations help give clarity and meaning to any assigned number based on this national linear scale.