



General Regulations, Definitions and Contest Management for the VMBC Affiliated Shows, Regionals, & Championships.

Summary of Penalties

Penalties will be assessed for:

- a) Under 5-minute performance time: 0.1 point for every 3 seconds under time
- b) Overtime of 15-minute total time: 0.1 point per 3 seconds over time
- c) Penalty for delay of contest: 0.5 points for every minute of delay up to 10 points.
- d) Performer violation: 3 point total penalty regardless of number of infractions
- e) Electronic Violation: 3 point total penalty regardless of number of infractions
- f) Other penalties that may include disqualification are outlined in Sections 1.0-8.0 of this document.

1.0 Eligibility

VMBC defines a high school band as one in which:

- a) All participating members are registered at the same high school.
- b) If a school doesn't have a competitive marching band, the student may enroll in another high school marching band.
- c) Students from all feeder elementary, junior high, and middle schools are eligible. All elementary, junior high, and middle school wind and percussion students participating in a high school band program **MUST** be a member of the band at their respective school.

Note: Exceptions to this eligibility rule are members of the auxiliary or students who are used by the band to move or set props. All band members/ performers who contribute to the performance **MUST** be students.

Penalty: Violation of the eligibility rule may result in disqualification.

2.0 Classification

- a) Bands will be classified by total band size into classes "A", "AA", "AAA", "AAAA", and "AAAAA" based on total band size. Classes will be evaluated annually.

3.0 Performers

- a) All aspects of the field show "performance" (i.e. music, narration, sound effects, lighting, special effects, etc.) must be performed/initiated by students. Any aspect of the performance (including but not limited to playback devices such as MP3, CD, synthesizer, computer, sound pad, etc.) must be initiated by a student within the "performance field". No adult activity during the performance may contribute directly to the musical or visual program.
- b) Exceptions include:
 - 1) Adults used when potential high winds when props are in danger of falling over
 - 2) Adults may set up and take down equipment before and after the Performance
 - 3) Assistance when band member becoming ill or injured during a performance may be assisted from the field by a staff member, emergency technician, parent, or VMBC official without any penalty.

Penalty: 3-point penalty regardless the number of infractions or at the discretion of the chief judge, up to and including disqualification.



4.0 Performance Procedures

- a) Each participating band will have 15 minutes to enter, set-up, warm-up, perform, and exit the performance area.
- b) Bands will be given 4 minutes to set-up/ warm-up time.
- c) At three (3) minutes, thirty (30) seconds, the timing official will cue the introductory announcement. The announcement may be cued earlier if official is given direction by the Drum Major / Director.
 - 1) **"Joining us from [School City & State], please welcome the [School] Marching Band!" (Announcer pauses for audience response.)**
 - 2) **"[School]'s musical selections include the following:" (Announcer reads their selections.)**
 - 3) **"VMBC and the [Contest Name] is proud to present in competition performance, Drum Major(s) [Drum Major(s) name(s)] and the [School] "nickname".**
 - 4) ***If the Band's Drum Majors are going to salute, it should occur as the announcer is reading/announcing the sentence in section "3" above. A Drum Major salute is not necessary to indicate the Band is ready to start.**
- d) Bands must present a performance of no less than 5 minutes and no more than 11 minutes. The beginning of the show is to be defined as the first note or the first movement FOLLOWING the conclusion of the introductory announcement. Performance timing and adjudication will end with the last note played or last step taken. Musical exits will be included in the performance time.
- e) Bands must completely vacate the performance area within the 15-minute total time.
- f) Note: PERCUSSION CADENCE AND TROOPING STANDS ENTERING OR EXITING THE STADIUM IS NOT ALLOWED IN VMBC MARCHING BAND EVENTS. Percussion Cadences will no longer be allowed to be a part of a pre-show.

Penalty: A deduction for under time/overtime will be 0.1 points per 3 seconds deducted from the total raw score for each rule infraction.

Penalty for delay of contest – 0.5 points for every minute of delay up to 10 points.

5.0 Electronics

- a) All music from traditional wind, percussion, string or electronic instruments must be performed by a student(s) live and in real time with the student(s) present and performing at the time of the performance. The use of sampled sounds ("prerecorded/sequenced") of woodwind, brass, winds, string and/or percussion instruments will not be permitted. For any performance which utilizes the playback of electronic sounds(s), this must be initiated by a student within the performance field. One-stroke, One-note definition is applicable here.

Penalty: 3-point penalty regardless the number of infractions or at the discretion of the chief judge, up to and including disqualification.

Useful notes: For performance purposes, the definition of music shall be the organization of sound through time. Everything else, then, is a sound effect, be it spoken text, the sound of twisting metal, falling rain, or the crumpling of cellophane, for example. If what you want to play electronically has elements of melody, harmony, or rhythm, it must be performed by the student. It may not be prerecorded or sequenced for playback during the Performance, even if the initiation of the recording playback or triggering of the sequence is done by a student at the time of the performance.



6.0 Copyright Requirements

- a) VMBC requires all enrolled bands to comply with copyright laws regarding performance and/or arrangements of copyrighted music, visual images and other materials, as well as the use of copyrighted audio text, and the display of copyrighted words and images. Copyright is a federal system that creates a set of rights and protections for original works of authorship or creation. The protection extends to literary works, musical works, dramatic works, compilations, computer programs, choreographic works, graphic works, sculptural works, audio-visual works – in short, any creative work that is fixed in a manner that can be perceived by human eyes or ears, or through machines. Protected are (1) the right to reproduce the work, (2) the right to perform the work publicly, (3) the right to display the work publicly, (4) the right to create new works based on or derived from the work and (5) the right to initially distribute the work.
- b) Practical Application at VMBC Events. No band will be permitted to perform if it is not in compliance with the copyright laws of the United States. As such, each participant shall take such steps necessary to obtain and provide VMBC with evidence that it has purchased or otherwise obtained permission/license to use and arrange music performed by it, as well as any visual and/or audio images presented.

Penalty: For Copyright Infringement – Disqualification. Participants who fail to comply with or knowingly violate copyright law may be penalized up to and including disqualification.

Special Note: Civil and criminal penalties may be imposed upon violators for copyright infringement. Civil remedies include an award of monetary damages, substantial statutory damages, which in cases of willfulness, may total up to \$100,000 per work infringed, or actual damages (including the infringer's profits). An award of attorney's fees, injunctive relief against future infringement and the impounding and destruction of infringing copies and infringing materials may also be required.

7.0 Equipment & Restrictions

- a) Dropped equipment of any kind will not be penalized. It may be retrieved by a band member, a VMBC official, or a judge without penalty.
- b) Off-road mechanized vehicles (defined as golf carts, garden tractors, ATV All-Terrain Vehicles, etc.) will be allowed to pull equipment trailers for set up and take down unless prohibited by an individual site. A protective bib must be rigged underneath the vehicle so no fluids drop to the turf or carpet. Pick-up trucks or smaller vehicles are not permitted. The participating Band and its school are liable and will be held responsible for any damage to a Performance Area or venue caused by violation of these policies and/or actions of the operators generally.
- c) The following are NOT ALLOWED in a Performance or on the Performance Field:
 - 1) Any equipment, object, or material (including, but not limited to debris, powder, water, or other liquids) that may cause damage to the Performance Field or Performance Area, that presents a safety hazard, or that disrupts the scheduled flow of the contest.
 - 2) Pyrotechnics of any kind, including fire, fireworks, or the discharge of arms.
 - 3) Animals
 - 4) Off-road mechanized vehicles (defined as golf carts, garden tractors, small ATVs, etc.)
 - 5) Drones or any remote-controlled helicopter, aircraft or similar items
 - 6) Hazardous equipment or illegal use of equipment
- d) Because VMBC is a guest at our host stadiums, any concerns expressed by the stadium management will be addressed and must be acted upon by the band in question.
- e) Bands are financially responsible for damage to any part of the stadium, parking areas, warm-up areas or any of the facilities used by the VMBC to host the event.
- f) Props and Equipment: All props and equipment must be designed and be of a quantity so as they may be brought into the Performance Field from the band entrance gate.



- g) While the physical parameters of stadiums remain the same generally, some variation of stadium floors, access and egress may exist. VMBC (through the contest director and/or the chief judge) will invoke procedures and methods of contest operation specifically intended to ensure the safe, fair, smooth and consistent operation of shows. Such procedures will be developed as needed, and the contest director or chief judge shall always have the full or final discretion and authority to modify these procedures as he/she shall determine to be in the best interests of the show and its participants.
- h) Any instrument or piece of equipment wheeled onto the field surface, including and surrounding the performance field must have pneumatic-like tires. Non-conforming equipment may be penalized (per piece of equipment) and/or may be prohibited from entering the performance field. Any instrument or equipment may be carried onto and off the performance field, given the condition that they are not moved (wheeled) once placed on the field.

Penalty – For rule(s) violation and/or failure to comply with venue directions, at the discretion of the Contest Director or Chief Judge, up to and including disqualification.

Note: Directors are encouraged to contact VMBC to inquire about the use of specific equipment or materials when its permissibility under this section or at a specific site may be in question.

8.0 General Conduct / Conditions

- a) Directors/Staff members may contact the chief judge or the contest director at any time with questions or concerns not related to judges scores or commentary.
- b) No directors or representatives of competing bands may be in the press box or adjudication areas during a competition event.
- c) Any comment(s) regarding scoring or judge's commentary are to be directed to the Chief Judge upon completion of the VMBC event.

Penalty: At discretion of the chief judge up to disqualification

- d) Any delay of contest, improper conduct, or infraction for which no specific rule or penalty is given may be grounds for warning or penalty at the discretion of the Chief Judge. The Chief Judge may issue warnings and/or penalties for behaviors contrary to the VMBC mission and values.
- e) Actions that violate the principles of fair play and professional and collegial behavior representative of VMBC including, but not limited to:
 - 1. Warm-up on-site - any component of a band in areas and/or at times other than those designated.
 - 2. Overstaying in warm-up areas that intrude into the time and space of other participants.
 - 3. Behaviors that compromise the safety of participants and others and/or that may violate known stadium policies.
 - 4. Verbal remarks and behaviors (on and off field by students, staff and/or other badge/pass holders) that are generally disrespectful and contrary to the mission or core values of VMBC and general human conduct and dialogue.
- f) Any event that is postponed will be rescheduled as conditions improve. VMBC will not be liable for any traveling costs associated with any delays or cancellations of contests. NOTE: In the event of a cancellation of state championships, all qualifying bands will forfeit their entry fees. The entry fee money will pay for all the expenditures associated with the contest.
- g) Unauthorized duplication of VMBC documentation (Staff passes, bus/equipment truck passes, etc.) by a director, staff member, or parent of a participating band may result in penalties to the band, loss of privileges, and/or revocation of credentials.
- h) Use of the National Colors is optional, and care should be taken for proper flag etiquette.



9.0 Glossary of Important Terms

- a) **Performance**: The musical and visual program presented for adjudication.
- b) **Performance Field**: The regulation size football field with end zones and including the area from out-of-bounds lines on the ends to fifteen (15) feet (when the facilities allow) in front of the front side line (360 feet long) and from the out of-bounds lines on the ends to the back limit of the stadium surface, normally the back grandstand or wall. The boundaries of the field will be marked and the field will be lined every five yards.
- c) **Spectator Area**: The seating areas and aisles of the stadium.
- d) **Student**: A person currently enrolled in a high school or a lower grade school. See Eligibility section above.
- e) **Penalty**: A deduction of 0.1 from the total score assessed for a rule infraction. Various infractions have different penalties.
- f) **One Stroke, One Note** – The production of music using any device, provided each individual note is produced by a separate trigger (“stroke”) by a student.
- g) **Boundary Lines** – These are included as part of the Performance Field. Stepping on a boundary line does not constitute a violation. The crossing of these lines, defined as one entire foot of a performer placed beyond the boundary, will constitute a boundary violation. Boundary rules apply only to a performer’s body, specifically feet. Equipment and instruments can be placed, utilized, and retrieved from outside the boundary lines, so long as the performer’s feet remain inside the boundary.
- h) **Drum Major** – A primary student conductor or another performing students conducting for a limited period during a performance.
- i) **Electronic Instrument** – Any electronic device or component that produces and/or amplifies sound
- j) **Live and in Real Time** – Performance on the field through the traditional use of a musical instrument (including the voice) or electronically on a “one stroke, one note” basis.
- k) **Music** – Organized sound, having the elements of rhythm, harmony and melody through time.
- l) **Prerecorded Music** – Music in any form (single or multiple voices and/or instruments) previously taken directly or indirectly from a live source (including amateur or professional performance).
- m) **Prop** - Any item used primarily or solely for visual effect during the Performance. Examples of props used during recent seasons include, but are not limited to, backdrops, flats, stages, risers, tarps, banners, etc.
- n) **Sample** – Any captured sound that can be triggered on an electronic instrument.
- o) **Sequenced Music** – Music pre-constructed from one or more electronic sources (including audio samples, synthesizers, etc.). Prerecorded and sequenced music are treated identically in the rules.
- p) **Sound Effect** – All sounds other than music or spoken text, e.g. the sound of twisting metal, falling rain, etc. Permission must be obtained for use of any copyrighted material.
- q) **Spectator Area** – The seating areas and aisles; generally, the entire stadium other than the Performance Area.
- r) **Student** – A person currently enrolled in a high school or a lower grade school or educational environment, as permitted by state law and/or school policy.
- s) **Tempo-Specific Sample** – Any sample from which tempo, through rhythmic intent, can be derived relative to the moment. This includes sequenced music, looping, and sustained effects with rhythmic intent. Tempo- Specific samples and musical loops are not permitted during the Performance.



Band: Click or tap here to enter text.
 Contest: Click or tap here to enter text.
 Group: Click or tap here to enter text.
 Judge: _____

TIMING/PENALTIES

Scoring Sheet

The T&P judge is located on the field. He/she is free to move about the field. He/she judges the entire show from beginning to end and uses this sheet and VMBC rules for comments regarding all timing and penalty considerations of the show.

Timing	Penalty
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PERFORMANCE TIMING (Minimum of 5 min and max of 11 min show time) <i>Timing begins w/ first note following introduction/salute & ends w/ last note or last step taken</i> Show Start Time: _____ Show Stop Time: _____ Show Total Time: _____ <i>x 0.1 for Every 3 Seconds Under/Over Time</i> 	Penalty (if any)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> INTERVAL TIMING (1.5 minutes for field entry, warm up, performance and field exit) Interval Start Time: _____ Interval Stop Time: _____ Interval Total Time: _____ <i>x 0.1 for Every 3 Seconds Over Time</i> 	Penalty (if any)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DELAY OF CONTEST Delay in (Minutes): _____ <i>x 0.5 for Every 1 Minute of Delay</i> 	Penalty (if any)
Penalties	Penalty
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performer Violation <i>No adults can actively participate during a band's performance in anyway. (i.e. live music, sound effects, movable props/backdrops, etc.) 3 pt. penalty for 1 or more infractions & up to DQ</i> 	Penalty (if any)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electronics Violation <i>All music from traditional wind, percussion, string or electronic instruments must be performed by a student(s) live and in real time. 3 pt. penalty for 1 or more infractions & up to DQ</i> 	Penalty (if any)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other Violations (Safety, Hazardous Materials, Equipment, Conduct, Copyright) Desc. of Violation _____ <i>Discretion of Chief Judge / Contest Director up to DQ</i> 	Penalty (if any)
Total Penalties	
Penalty Pts.	
Judge: _____	