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N A T I O N A L



2012 RULE BOOK

INTRODUCTION TO USBands

Welcome to the 2012 USBands marching band season. USBands, operates along side The Cadets Drum & Bugle Corps and the Urban Arts Center under the banner of the Youth Education in the Arts (YEA!) non-profit organization. Since the first event in 1988, USBands has supported the development of marching bands through exceptional service, adjudication and venues in which to showcase their music programs.

The basic principle of USBands has been to provide bands, regardless of style, size and experience, an opportunity to be successful and allow students to benefit from their involvement with scholastic music.

The rules that govern USBands events are limited by design. We pride ourselves on having very few rules, and only in the most egregious of circumstances would there ever be a penalty imposed.

As you read this rule book, you will notice that the rules are segregated into two separate areas; administrative and competitive. The administrative rules deal with definitions of membership, band size, classification and participation requirements. The competitive rules deal specifically with the adjudication and performance guidelines.

As the director and/or staff of a participating band, please review the material found in this book and let us know of any questions you might have.

Thank you for being a part of the USBands experience and best wishes for a great year.

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HISTORY

The organization later to be known as USBands, was formed in the fall of 1988 by The Cadets Drum & Bugle Corps when a single competition was held in Giants Stadium. Now in it's 24th season, the calendar is expected to include over 150 local, state and regional events across the country, concluding with two National Championship events in November. With over 700 bands participating in events, USBands has become the largest independent scholastic music organization in the nation.

In addition to marching band events, the USBands programs include student leadership workshops, judge training seminars, and presentations to band boosters and school administrations. The commitment to excellence in each of these programs is based on a model that has been the foundation for success of The Cadets through the years.

PHILOSOPHY

The USBands focus is on the educational development of today's music student through hands-on, interactive learning opportunities, raising awareness to the importance of music programs in the schools, and providing opportunities for students to experience high quality events.

The goal of the rules outlined in the following pages is not to restrict, but rather enhance the programs that participate. USBands adjudication system places strong emphasis on rewarding performance and musical repertoire in lieu of design and visual components to ensure that the performers are rewarded for achievement.

GOALS

- To help support music educators continue to remain engaged with the reason they originally became music educators – the students.
- To create an atmosphere whereby music educators can use marching band to teach life lessons such a discipline, perseverance and a commitment to excellence.
- To provide high-quality, educational, positive performance opportunities for high school students.
- To provide experienced instructional support for band directors and staff.
- To provide constructive and consistent evaluation and adjudication.
- To support music education by generating popular interest in band performances and competition.
- To promote innovation, creativity, and growth for bands around the nation.

STUDENT PARTICIPATION

USBands encourages participation by any student within their music program, as long as the student is in good standing as determined by each school's extracurricular activity policy. Therefore, we maintain a very liberal approach to band student participation. USBands participants must be full time students, enrolled in the school district of the participating school. Exceptions to this policy require a written request per school district Principal or Director of Music to USBands, in advance of the fall marching band season.

BAND MEMBERSHIP

Member Bands are entitled to a variety of benefits in order to make participation within USBands simple and beneficial for the band director, staff and students. Member Bands pay an annual school year membership fee in relation to the total number of USBands events attended (local and non-local).

A Band can qualify for USBands membership by attending at least 2 USBands events that are Local and/or Free Regional Events. This excludes USBands Regional, State and National Events. Qualifying bands are automatically enrolled as Member Bands and will be eligible for benefits of membership for the fall season.

Select Regional and Championship level events have an additional registration fee and/or ticket requirement as a requirement to participate. Please contact the USBands office if you would like a list of all events and their pricing.

USBANDS CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

USBands uses a classification system based on Group and Class designations to make sure bands of like size, style and experience are grouped together to compete. A tier based adjudication system is utilized where each competitive class is adjudicated on a separate scale that reflects the expected level of proficiency for each class. Class A bands are adjudicated on a scale representing fundamental to intermediate skills. Open bands are adjudicated on a scale supporting intermediate to advanced skills.

"Groups" are based on the number of performers (I through VI) "Classes" are based on the level of general competitiveness of the band.

(A and Open Class)

Count is For Total Performing Members: (This excludes Texas Bands. For Texas Bands, please see USBands 2012 Texas Rule Book).

Group I:	1-40
Group II:	41-55
Group III:	56-75
Group IV:	76-100
Group V:	101-135
Group VI:	136+

CLASSIFICATION BY GROUP

USBands classification for participating bands is based on the total number of performers, not the size of the student population at their school. This count includes playing members, auxiliary (color guard, majorettes, etc.), and command personnel (drum majors, guard captains, etc.). This does not include members of an American Flag Section (or Honor Guard) when these members do not move or otherwise add to the effect of the program during the band’s performance.

Count is For Total Performing Members: (This excludes Texas Bands. For Texas Bands, please see USBands 2012 Texas Rule Book).

Group I:	1-40
Group II:	41-55
Group III:	56-75
Group IV:	76-100
Group V:	101-135
Group VI:	136+

The number of performing members is verified by a USBands official at every performance by both asking the director of the group and by physical count. If there is a discrepancy between the two counts, the USBands will contact the director of the group within 72 hours of the performance. If it is determined that a band should be reclassified, the Group Assignment for the remainder of the season will be established by the USBands.

At any event after October 15, 2012, bands appearing with more performers than their registered Group Size will be reclassified immediately by the USBands according to their actual performing group size.

CLASSIFICATION BY CLASS

“Open Class” is generally populated by more seasoned or experienced bands with access to greater resources and expanded skill sets.

“A Class” is generally for bands in the process of building a program, of a lower skill set, new to the competitive setting, limited resources or other circumstances impacting the program.

“Festival Class” allows bands to perform in a non-competitive setting at any of the USBands-sanctioned shows, including the Regional and Championship events.

Festival Class bands will receive judges’ tapes, score sheets and will be awarded ratings of Superior (90-100), Excellent (80-89), Good (70-79), or Fair (69 & below). Only the rating is announced and will appear on recaps. A participation award will be presented to each Festival Band.

“Exhibition” bands will NOT receive critique tapes or judges’ sheets and will not be included in the critique schedule unless requested. A participation award will be presented to these bands.

A listing of bands by classification is available from the USBands office. A director wishing to appeal the assigned classification must submit a written request, signed by that director and the school principal. The reason(s) for the appeal must be stated in the request. Appeals for review must be received in the USBands Office by August 1 and a ruling will be made prior to the band’s first competition.

Criteria for classification will include, but not be limited to

- Scoring
- Program history through the years
- Band Director Status
- Direct observation
- Comparison to other bands
- Potential
- Competitive circumstances that warrant review

New bands will be classified in collaboration with the band director’s selection on the Band Date on-line database. USBands may review and make changes to a new band’s classification after their first performance in a USBands event. No changes in classification can be made after October 31, 2012.

RULES OF PERFORMANCE

PERFORMANCE AREA

The basic performance area will be a regulation size football field, 160 feet wide by 300 feet long, marked in 5 yard intervals from goal line to goal line. The band may start or conclude its performance anywhere on or off the competition field. There are no boundary penalties.

HASH MARKS

The USBands will only guarantee “High School” hash marks, to be marked every 5 yards.

In the state of Texas these markings are set at 60’ from each sideline. In all other states these marking will appear at 53’4” from each sideline.

Other hash marks may appear depending on the existing stadium configuration. Information regarding which hash marks will appear on the field will be available 30 days before the date of the event.

REPORTING TIME

It is the responsibility of the band director to ensure that their band is able to report at their assigned gate time. Any band reporting more than ten (10) minutes late may be permitted to perform in judged exhibition at a later point in the show. A penalty or disqualification will only be assessed in extreme cases after consultation between the USBands Coordinator, a USBands administrator and the unit’s representatives. Any emergency circumstances must be made known to the USBands show staff directly, via telephone or in person as soon as is reasonable.

PERFORMANCE LENGTH

Each band will have an interval of time on the field during which they will set up, warm up, perform, and exit the field. This time begins once the USBands Coordinator prompts the band to enter the performance area. The interval time will be no less than thirteen (13) minutes and no more than fifteen (15) minutes, as to be determined on an event by event basis.

A penalty will only be assessed in extreme cases after consultation between the USBands Coordinator, a USBands administrator and the unit's representatives. USBands will help in any way to accommodate issues relating to technical difficulties, electronic use, etc. and will not penalize groups because of such issues.

Warm-ups may flow directly into the program and may be played in any direction. Any special circumstances related to your performance MUST be communicated directly to the USBands Coordinator on site.

EQUIPMENT USE

Motorized vehicles moving equipment on and off the field must be in top condition and equipped with a diaper (a covering to assure there is no leakage of fluids). Any pit or prop equipment pushed or pulled onto the field surface must have large inflatable tires or wheels with a minimum of 6 inch in diameter (pneumatic wheels/casters). Any equipment with smaller wheels must be lifted and placed into position.

The use of mechanized vehicles during the performance is prohibited.

Mechanized vehicles may not drive onto the performance field. The penalty for violation of this rule is disqualification.

The use of fire extinguishers, water that comes in contact with the field surface when used as a prop, live animals, or pyrotechnics (including fire batons) are prohibited at all USBands events. This also includes the release or use of any and all materials that may result in debris on the field. Any damage to the field or damaging material left on the field after a band's performance will result in a penalty.

The penalty for violation of these rules ranges from one (1) point to disqualification, at the discretion of the USBands Coordinator and a USBands administrator.

Any and all costs incurred to clean, replace or repair the impacted area will be the responsibility of the offending band.

There are no restrictions on the number or types of electronic music, instruments or amplification systems that may be used. This includes any use of voicing/singing, sampling, or other uses related to the performance of pre-recorded digital media.

EQUIPMENT PLACEMENT AND RETRIEVAL

Anyone (adult, student, non-student) may place, move, or remove equipment at any time during a band's performance. Individuals who are used only to move equipment, hold props, etc., and who do not appear in uniform, will not be counted in the total number of performing members of the band.

USE OF THE NATIONAL FLAG

The use of the national flag is optional.

If a band chooses to display the American Flag, all the respect, etiquette and dignity traditionally afforded our national emblem must be shown. Failure to display the flag in this manner will result in a one point (1.00) penalty.

CRITIQUE

Each band's staff will be assigned fifteen (15) minutes to meet with judges at the conclusion of all shows (excluding designated regional and championships events). The order of critique will be based on performance order.

Three staff members of three participating bands at a time will be admitted into the critique room. The three groups will rotate through three stations of judges: Music, Visual and Effect at five minute intervals.

When a Color Guard Judge is on the panel, they will sit with the Visual Judge. When a Percussion judge is on the panel, they will sit with the Music Individual and Music Ensemble judge.

If a band's staff is not present when called into the critique room, their critique time may be forfeited. The critique format may be changed by the USBands Coordinator with notice to participating bands.

CREDENTIALS – STAFF, CHAPERONES, CREW ACCESS

Credentials will be issued for each band for a given season based on group size. The credentials may be used for access to any USBands show prior to National Championship events. Once these credentials are distributed, no others will be made available. These credentials must be displayed at all times at events. In addition to the numbers below, each band will receive (1) Director's credential.

Credential Allocations:

Group I:	10 credentials
Group II:	15 credentials
Group III:	20 credentials
Group IV:	20 credentials
Group V:	25 credentials
Group VI:	25 credentials

WITHDRAWAL FROM USBANDS SHOWS

Any band may withdraw from a USBands-sanctioned show up to 12 days prior to the event without penalty. After that point, a withdrawal will result in a monetary fine and a possible suspension from further USBands events for bands that habitually abuse the system.

WITHDRAWAL DEADLINES

Event Date:	Last Date to Withdraw From Event:
September 15, 2012	September 4, 2012
September 22, 2012	September 11, 2012
September 29, 2012	September 18, 2012
October 6, 2012	September 25, 2012
October 7, 2012	September 26, 2012
October 13, 2012	October 2, 2012
October 14, 2012	October 3, 2012
October 20, 2012	October 9, 2012
October 21, 2012	October 10, 2012
October 27, 2012	October 16, 2012
October 28, 2012	October 17, 2012
November 3, 2012	October 23, 2012
November 8, 2012	October 25, 2012
November 9, 2012	October 25, 2012
November 10, 2012	October 25, 2012
November 11, 2012	October 25, 2012

If the USBands event has a Registration Fee, the entire amount of the fee will be forfeited, or in the case the band has not yet submitted payment, they will be invoiced for the amount of the fee.

For Local events, the fine is forwarded directly to the Local Event Host to be applied toward expenses and lost income resulting from the withdrawal.

For USBands events, the penalty for a band withdrawing from an event that does not have a registration fee will be the same as the Local Event listed below.

The fine schedule is as follows:

Group I:	\$250
Group II:	\$300
Group III:	\$350
Group IV:	\$400
Group V:	\$450
Group VI:	\$500

ADJUDICATION

The USBands adjudication system places strong emphasis on rewarding performance and musical repertoire in lieu of design and visual components to ensure that the performers are rewarded for achievement.

USBands uses a 5 - Box criteria reference system on all adjudication sheets. Each box includes a range of numbers that move upward during the season. Sample sheets are available online at www.usbands.org. The 'standard captions' that make up the USBands judging system are as follows:

Music Performance – Individual	400 points
Music Performance - Ensemble	400 points
Visual Performance	400 points
Overall Effect	400 points

CRITERIA-BASED ADJUDICATION

USBands utilizes a criteria based adjudication system where each competitive class is adjudicated on a separate scale which reflects the expected level of proficiency for each class. Class A bands are adjudicated on a scale representing fundamental to intermediate skills. Open bands are adjudicated on a scale supporting intermediate to advanced skills.

ADJUDICATION AT LOCAL SHOWS

Local Shows are identified as either Gold Star or Silver Star.

A Gold Star show adds a Percussion and Color Guard judge to the panel shown below. These additional captions are awarded a possible 20 points and are not included or used in determining a final rating or placement.

A Silver Star show utilizes the four adjudicators shown below to determine the ranking and rating.

In order to preserve the consistency of the criteria between the captions, a multiplier is used when calculating the final score.

		Example:
Music Performance – Individual	400 x .050 = 20.000	375.0 x .050 = 18.750
Music Performance – Ensemble	400 x .050 = 20.000	80.0 x .050 = 19.000
Visual Performance	400 x .075 = 30.000	360.0 x .075 = 27.000
Overall Effect Judge	400 x .0375 = 30.000	364.0 x .0375 = 27.300
Total Score	100.00	92.050

A Bronze Star show is a three judge show. The captions adjudicated to determine the final score are Music Performance, Visual Performance and Overall Effect.

ADJUDICATION AT NON-LOCAL SHOWS

For all USBands Regional, State and Championship level competitions, the adjudication system will consist of a five member panel and two additional judges in the Percussion and Color Guard caption as described above.

In order to preserve the consistency of the criteria between the captions, a multiplier is used when calculating the final score.

		Example:	
Music Performance – Individual	400 x .050 = 20.000		375.0 x .050 = 18.750
Music Performance – Ensemble	400 x .050 = 20.000		380.0 x .050 = 19.000
Visual Performance	400 x .075 = 30.000		360.0 x .075 = 27.000
Overall Effect Judge 1	400 x .0375 = 15.000		364.0 x .0375 = 13.650
Overall Effect Judge 2	400 x .0375 = 15.000		368.0 x .0375 = 13.800
Total Score	100.00		92.050

MISSING ADJUDICATOR POLICY

In the event a judge does not arrive at the event, the remaining three judges are to be re-assigned using the following policy.

- If one Music Judge is missing, the remaining Music Judge will be assigned to Music Performance - Ensemble. If a Percussion Judge has been assigned to the event, the Percussion Judge should be moved to either Music Ensemble or Music Individual. The Chief Judge will make the final determination.
- If a Visual Performance judge is missing, the remaining judge will be assigned to Visual Performance. If a Color Guard judge has been assigned to the event, the Color Guard judge should be moved to either Visual Performance or Overall Effect. The Chief Judge will make the final determination.
- Each adjudicator will assign scores, using the specified point sheet. The scoring guidelines for the event will remain the same. The tabulator will add the three raw scores and divide by three (3). This average will be used as the “placeholder” for the missing 4th score, then add all four scores to arrive at a final score/percentage.
- Essentially, the performance is being judged with 3 judges instead of the standard 4. There is an assumption the score for the missing caption would be near the average for the other 3.

NOTE: If a Judge appears late to the show, he should begin judging immediately, but his score should not be counted in the total until the beginning of a new group or class.

An example of scoring for a missing judge in a 4 person panel:

Judge 1 =	20 points (Music Performance - Individual)
Judge 2 =	20 points (Music Performance - Ensemble)
Judge 3 =	30 points (Visual Performance)

The missing Judge 4 = (Overall Effect) would ordinarily have 30 points available

Judge 1 =	gives 15 out of 20 (75%)
Judge 2 =	gives 18 out of 20 (90%)
Judge 3 =	gives 26 out of 30 (87%)

Totals for the 3 judges present 59/70 = 84%

The total percentage of each judge present is divided by 3 and that percentage of the missing judges available points is added to the scores of the other 3 judges, becoming the total score for the evening.

CAPTION AWARDS

ONLY THESE AWARDS ARE TO BE PRESENTED. PLEASE DO NOT ADD ANY OTHER PLACEMENTS OR CAPTIONS AWARDS.

In addition to awards for placement, awards for Percussion and Color Guard will be presented at Local Gold Star events as well as at USBands sponsored events.

The following awards will be presented:

Best Music	Best Visual
Best Overall Effect	Best Percussion
Best Color Guard	

Best Visual, Music and Overall Effect: Awarded to the band with the highest average score in those respective captions. The Visual Performance score relates to Best Visual.

Best Color Guard: Awarded to the band with the highest combined score awarded by the Color Guard judge. In the event the Color Guard judge is absent, the average of the Overall Effect Judge and the Visual Performance Judge will serve as the score of record.

Best Percussion: Awarded to the band with the highest combined score awarded by the Percussion judge. In the event the Percussion judge is absent, the average of the Music Individual and the Music Ensemble Judge will serve as the score of record.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

In the event of inclement weather, Band Directors should call the USBands contact listed at the top of the Show Information Sheet from a cell phone that they can be reached at throughout the event. This will serve as the most efficient means to keep all the interested parties informed as the event progresses. USBands will also try to stay in communication with the event host via text message alerts.

A determination will be made between the USBands event staff, local event host and participating bands as to whether the event will proceed as a normal competition, a judged standstill, a postponement or will be cancelled.

In the case of a judged standstill event, the Music and Effect captions will be the only ones used to determine final score and placement. The Music Individual caption will be judged from the floor or field, while the Music Ensemble, Overall Effect, along with the Percussion caption

will be judged from the audience level. Each adjudicator will assign scores as they would normally do. The scoring criteria for the week will remain the same.

If a Visual, Percussion and/or a Color Guard judge are present, they may judge all units as they normally would, however in this setting, a score is not assigned.

The Individual and Ensemble Music captions will be judged utilizing the same 40 point scale and the scores will not be averaged. The Effect caption will also use the 40 point scale, but the score will be divided in half to give the caption less weight based on the lack of visual performance.

Individual Music	40 points
Ensemble Music	40 points
Overall Effect	20 points (40 points divided in half)
Total	100 points

HOST BAND PARTICIPATION POLICY

USBands encourages host bands to participate in their own event. Bands hosting a show have the following options of performance:

Competition - If a host band decides to compete, it will compete at the same time as other bands in its class. The host band will have the option of performing last in its class. The score will be included on the recap sheet and will be included as a possible "high score".

Perform in judged exhibition - The band will receive judge's tapes and scores but scores of bands performing in judged exhibition will not appear on the recap, and will not count towards high scores for championship seeding.

Perform in a non-judged exhibition – no scores, sheets or tapes. If a host band decides to perform in either type of exhibition, time of performance will be determined by the host band.

The host band will decide which option it will take no later than 17 days before the show date. This information must be communicated to the USBands office and will be included on the official show sheet.

There is no Registration Fee for the host band to perform. Host bands are not counted in determining the cost local events.

USBANDS REGIONAL EVENTS

The USBands regional series of events were established to serve bands by providing events at larger high school, municipal, college and professional stadiums. All bands, regardless of membership are eligible to participate in USBands regional events. Sponsored events such as the Yamaha Cup, Remo Invitational and DeMoulin Challenge events, for the purposes of this Rule Book, are considered "USBands Regional Events".

REGISTRATION FEES

Select Regional Events have a fee requirement associated with the event. Registration Fees vary by event and can be found on the Band Data online database.

TICKET INFORMATION

Each band will receive (50) optional tickets for each 'non-Championship' regional event. The price charged to the band for these optional tickets will be below face value (differs by event) and can be sold to boosters, parents, etc. by the band at face value. Any unsold tickets, along with all required monies are due at check-in at each event.

For example, if the USBands Hawaii Regional has a printed ticket price of \$15, the band will only be charged a discounted ticket cost of \$12 per ticket by USBands and as a result the band can keep the commission of \$3 per ticket as a fund-raiser.

Tickets will be sent to the attention of the band director at the school address. In addition, an e-mail will announce their mailing. It is the responsibility of the band director to claim these tickets. A signature acknowledging the receipt of tickets will act as confirmation of delivery. You will receive tickets for each USBands Regional Event that your band participates in.

PERFORMANCE ORDER

USBands will determine the Performance Order for events. Regional events will be determined by the date of registration in the Band Data on-line database. Bands will perform in the reverse order of their registration within their group size.

RELEASE OF SCHEDULE/REGISTRATION DEADLINE

The USBands will make every effort to release both a 'preliminary/early-release' schedule and a 'final' schedule based on the following time line.

Early-Release of Schedule By 8:00 am EST - 12 days prior to event date
Final Schedule By 8:00 am EST - 7 days prior to event date.

These schedules will be posted on the associated event's page on the Band Data system. Please contact the USBands as soon as possible for special scheduling considerations and when the Early-Release of the schedule is posted please confirm your time to ensure all information is correct.

A band may not Register for these Regional events after the 'early-release' of the schedule has been posted. Please see the following pages regarding State Championships events as the Registration Deadline for those events is different.

DEMOULIN CHALLENGE

DeMoulin Challenge events were established to give performance opportunities to groups wishing to perform in events with a 'Prelims / Finals' format. There are a limited number of these events on the USBands calendar. These events have a limit of 20 to 25 bands appearing in Preliminary Competition, with all bands from the Preliminary Competition appearing in the Finals Competition. The Preliminary Competition is by Group Only (I - VI). The Finals Competition is all bands no grouping or classes.

There is a separate ticket for the Prelims and Finals portions of the event and the stadiums are cleared of spectators between the two sessions. USBands-issued credentials are honored at all segments of the event.

There is a single registration fee with optional tickets provided as a fund-raiser to participating bands.

PLEASE NOTE: DeMOULIN CHALLENGE ALLENTOWN IS A SINGLE PERFORMANCE FORMAT EVENT. ALL BANDS WILL BE COMPETING WITHOUT GROUPINGS OR CLASSIFICATIONS.

USBANDS STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

USBands State Championships were established in 2002 after the events of September 2001 when many schools seriously reconsidered their extracurricular activities and associated travel. USBands determined with input from many band directors and administrators that State Championship events would allow for bands to complete their season against top competition, in excellent venues, before a high quality panel of adjudicators without the need for extensive travel. And thus, the State Championships were born.

REGISTRATION FEES

Each State Championship event combines a registration fee that is often less than many standard USBands regional events with a required ticket allotment based on group size to reduce the cost incurred by the participating bands.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TICKET REQUIREMENTS

The number of required tickets are based on Group Size and are as follows. The total amount due for tickets is required at check-in of the State Championship events. Checks can be made payable to the USBands.

Band Size	Registration Fee
Group I	\$100
Group II	\$150
Group III	\$200
Group IV	\$250
Group V	\$300
Group VI	\$400

Quantity of Required Tickets

If you do not contact USBands by September 15, 2012 to request the Optional Ticket Option, your organization will be invoiced for the tickets.

Group I	30
Group II	40
Group III	50
Group IV	70
Group V	90
Group VI	110

No Tickets Option

If you do not contact USBands by September 15, 2012 to request the Optional Ticket Option, your organization will be invoiced for the tickets.

Group I	\$250
Group II	\$350
Group III	\$450
Group IV	\$550
Group V	\$650
Group VI	\$750

MULTIPLE STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

In some cases, bands from different states, but similar geographic region will compete at the same event for multiple State Championships (such as the USBands New England State Championships). Competition will be held for each state independently and overall rankings announced for Group or Class will not be announced.

OUT OF STATE COMPETITORS

If space allows, bands from other states will be allowed to compete in a USBands State Championship different from the state of their origin. These bands will receive a score which the score will be announced prior to the State Championship results, with the Out-of-State competitors not having the opportunity to place in the state event, but receive achievement acknowledgement based on their participation in the event.

RELEASE OF SCHEDULE/REGISTRATION DEADLINE

The USBands will make every effort to release both a 'preliminary/early-release' schedule and a 'final' schedule based on the following time line.

Early-Release of Schedule By 8:00 am EST - 12 days prior to event date
Final Schedule By 8:00 am EST - 7 days prior to event date

These schedules will be posted on the associated event's page on the Band Data system. Please contact the USBands as soon as possible for special scheduling considerations and when the Early-Release of the schedule is posted please confirm your time to ensure all information is correct.

A band may register for a State Championship event after the 'early-release' of the schedule has been posted, but will have to perform at the beginning of their Group. This policy supersedes any information below.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP PERFORMANCE ORDER

New Jersey State Championship ONLY: 50% of your seeding position will be based on your bands highest score as on 11:59pm on Sunday, October 28, 2012 and 50% of your seeding will be based on the number of USBands shows that your band appeared in over the 2012 Season. This will include shows that you hosted, any regional events and National

Championships, if you are entered and your account is satisfactory as of the deadline on October 28, 2012.

All Other State Championships: A blind draw will be conducted 17 days prior to the State Championship competition to determine the performance order. Bands will perform within their Group size.

Two caveats to the performance order policy are:

- If a band has performed in the first 20% of the slots in the previous year, they will be protected from having to perform in those same positions the following year.

Example:

If there are 20 bands in Group V Open Class in the Championship, and a band performed in the 4th slot in 2011, they will NOT have to perform in slots 1-5 (the first 20%) in 2012. If they are drawn in that slot, they will be re-drawn.

- The Director of USBands has the right to alter the order of appearance to address logistical challenges. Such changes will be made only as necessary.

USBANDS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The USBands National Championship was established in 2006 in order to provide a season-ending showcase for the more advanced competitive units, bringing together top bands from across the United States that normally end their season in their regional circuit or state competitions.

USBands provides separate National Championship events for bands of both "A" and "Open" classification. "A Class" bands may still compete at the "Open Class" National Championships but will compete as an Open Class band.

- The 2012 USBands Class A National Championships will be held November 10 and 11 on the campus of the United States Naval Academy at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium in Annapolis, MD.

Please note, the City of Annapolis has strict noise ordinances in place barring excessive sound creation from 9 pm until 8 am. These rules are factored into the schedule each year and limits the number of participating bands, as well as prevents bands from warming-up too early in the morning and performances in the parking lot and stadium after the event.

- The 2012 USBands Open National Championship event will be held November 10 - 11 at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ.

PARTICIPATION

All bands, whether members or non-members of the USBands are eligible to participate in the USBands National Championships.

Registered bands can withdraw from the event with no penalty before October 25, 2012.

Bands withdrawing from the event after October 25, 2012 will forfeit their Registration Fee in full.

TICKET INFORMATION

Ticket prices for USBands National Festival (Non Competitive Event) are \$20. Ticket Prices for USBands Class A National Championships are \$25 each. Ticket prices for USBands National Championships are \$30 each.

Optional tickets will be shipped to each school at least six weeks prior to the event. Each participating band will receive optional tickets to the event which can be sold for the face value, or for the discounted band price. If sold at the discounted price, the band is able to keep the \$5 commission as a fund-raiser. Any unsold tickets, along with all required monies are due at check-in for the National Championship events.

Tickets will be sent to the attention of the band director at the school address. In addition an e-mail will announce their mailing. It is the responsibility of the band director to claim these tickets. A signature, acknowledging the receipt of tickets, will for the purpose of the USBands, act as confirmation of delivery.

PERFORMANCE ORDER

Performance times for National Championships will be based on the scores as of the weekend of October 27-28, 2012 to determine the performance order. Should a band not perform on the weekend of October 27- 28, 2012 the band's highest score before October 28 will be used to determine the step-off time.

For bands whose only performance with USBands in 2012 are at the National Championships, their performance time will be determined by the At-Large Random Draw on October 29, 2012.

Two caveats to the performance order policy are:

- If a band has performed in the first 20% of the slots in the previous year, they will be protected from having to perform in those same positions the following year.

Example:

If there are 20 bands in 5 Open in the Championship, and a band performed in the 4th slot in 2011, they will NOT have to perform in slots 1-5 (the first 20%) in 2012. If they are drawn in that slot, they will be re-drawn.

- The Director of USBands has the right to alter the order of appearance to address logistical challenges. Such changes will be made only as necessary.