



USBands
2013 INDOOR RULE BOOK
Revised: November, 2012

INTRODUCTION TO USBands

Welcome to the fourth season of the USBands Indoor. Since its inception in 1988, USBands has taken pride in the growth of the organization, the support and development of member bands and the ongoing pursuit of excellence. One of the basic principles of USBands has always been to provide groups, regardless of style, size, and experience, an opportunity to be successful in the competitive arena.

The rules that govern USBands competitions are by design, limited and general. As the director and staff of a participating unit, please review the material found in this book. Each year as we assess the season, feedback from directors is very important. Defining rules and responsibilities is part of the “fine tuning” process that we follow. Please do not assume anything. Read carefully, be informed and if you have ANY further questions regarding USBands shows, please feel free to call the office. We will be happy to clarify any questions you might have.

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



George Hopkins
Executive Director, Youth Education in the Arts

HISTORY

USBands was formed in the Fall of 1988 by THE CADETS Drum & Bugle Corps. There was one competition that year held in Giants Stadium. In 2009 there were over 130 local, state and regional USBands events across the country. With over 750 bands participating in events, USBands has become the largest independent scholastic music organization in the Nation.

USBands and THE CADETS are under the Youth Education in the Arts banner. In addition to marching band events, USBands serves as a resource to music programs across the country through 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.

The following rules and regulations will apply to the indoor competitions held this year.

The mission of YEA! is to support the development of young people into magnificent human beings through participation in the performing arts.

PHILOSOPHY

USBands's focus is (1) on the educational development of today's music student through hands on, interactive learning opportunities, (2) to enhance the awareness and importance of music programs in the schools, and (3) provide opportunity to experience quality events. The goal of the rules outlined in the following pages is not to restrict but rather enhance the programs within the world of marching music.

USBands adjudication system rewards achievement through evaluation of performance and effect. The form(s) or method(s) a unit chooses to communicate their idea(s) is/are wide open to all styles.

GOALS OF USBANDS

- To provide educational, quality and positive *performance opportunities* for high school students
- To provide experienced *instructional support* for directors and staff
- To provide constructive and consistent *evaluation and adjudication*
- To support *music education* by generating popular interest in pageantry arts performances and competitions
- To promote *innovation, creativity, and growth* for units in the region and the nation

MEMBERSHIP

Performing members of scholastic-based units must be full time students, enrolled in grades K through 12th. Scholastic-based units are open to school-affiliated ensembles that have members who are students that are enrolled in an elementary, middle/junior or high school. College students or high school graduates are NOT allowed to perform in this division. This division does not compete against the Independent division.

USBands will also offer the opportunity for independent units to perform in USBands' Indoor competition. They will be in an individual class of their own and will not be competing against the scholastic organizations.

A USBands Registration Form must be completed by all units performing in a USBands sanctioned local, regional or championship event.

Colorguard units must have at least five (5) members to participate. Percussion units must have at least five (5) members to participate.

USBANDS CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

CLASSIFICATIONS:

"AAA" Class is generally more seasoned or experienced units with access to greater resources. The advanced show design and high level of skills displayed by performers lead to a more competitive indoor experience.

"AA" Class is generally for units at the intermediate level with some experience in the competitive setting, average resources and staffing. Performers' exhibit intermediate skill levels and designers begin to explore moderately complex show concepts and writing ability.

"A" Class is generally for units at the basic level with either little experience in the competitive setting, limited resources or novice groups that serve as a beginning experience to students. Performers are still discovering ability and new skills, while design elements remain basic to allow for performer growth.

"Novice" Class is generally for units at a basic level with either little experience in the competitive setting, limited resources or novice groups. This class will also serve as the previous "Junior" classification, which was previously for programs where a majority of the students were enrolled in the 6th to 9th grade level.

"Elementary" Class is generally for units in elementary school with little to no experience in the indoor competition field. These members should be ranging in grades from kindergarten to 6th.

"Festival" Class allows a unit to perform in a non-competitive setting at any of the USBands-sanctioned shows, including the Regional and Championship events. Festival Class units will receive judges' tapes, score sheets and will be awarded a score. Festival class units may also receive feedback from the adjudicators at the post show critique session. This score will not be announced or included in any recap. A participation plaque will be presented to each Festival Unit at the

awards ceremony.

"Exhibition" Units may choose to perform in non-judged exhibition. Exhibition units will **NOT** receive critique tapes or judges' sheets and will not be included in the critique schedule unless requested. A participation plaque will be presented to these units at the awards ceremony.

A listing of units 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 January 31st and a ruling will be made prior to the unit's first competition.

Criteria for classification will include, but not be limited to

- Scoring
- History through the years
- Director Status
- Direct observation
- Comparison to other units in the Class
- Potential

New units to USBands will be classified in collaboration with the unit director's selection on the registration form. USBands may review and make changes to a new unit's classification after their first performance in a USBands event.

GROUP:

Scholastic: performing ensembles that are associated with a school or a scholastic organization. Within this group, there will be the subdivision of all the classifications, including AAA, AA, A, Novice and Elementary.

Independent: performing ensembles that are not associated with any school or scholastic organization and are private organizations. Within

this group, there will be the subdivision of all the classifications, including AAA, AA, A, Novice and Elementary. There is no age limit to participate in this group.

RULES OF PERFORMANCE

PERFORMANCE AREA

The basic performance area will be a regulation size basketball court, 70 feet by 50 feet. Units may use floor covering no larger than 60 feet by 90 feet. The unit may start or conclude its performance anywhere on or off the competition area with the exception of the front boundary line. The front boundary line shall be considered to extend the full width of the competition area and shall be clearly marked. There will be a safety zone of 5 feet from the audience on the front side.

At all USBands Indoor events, 110 Volt AC power will be located at the center line on the front AND back sidelines.

All performers will be required to wear protective footwear while OUTSIDE the performance area.

REPORTING TIME

Units are expected to be at the designated performance area 10 minutes in front of their scheduled performance time. Any emergency circumstances must be made known directly to the designated USBands show staff person via telephone or in person as soon as is reasonable.

PERFORMANCE AND JUDGING TIMES

Each unit will have an interval of time in the competition area established by USBands during which they will set up, warm up, perform, and exit the floor. This time begins once a USBands Show Official prompts the unit to enter the performance area.

| Class | Interval Time | Min Perf. Time | Max Perf Time |
|---------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| AAA | 11 | 4 | 8 |
| AA | 10 | 4 | 7 |
| A | 9 | 4 | 6 |
| Novice/Junior | 8 | 3 | 5 |
| Elementary | 8 | 3 | 5 |

The Show Coordinator may start performance time on a unit if they fail to enter the primary performance area when instructed to do so.

There will be no flying of floor covering (also known as “ballooning”) to clear the floor at the conclusive of an ensemble’s performance.

Units may not re fold their floor in the performance area. Most schools will provide an area where re-folding will occur, or direct units to a large space outside where you can properly refold your floor.

EQUIPMENT USE

All equipment tips on rifles, flagpoles and sabres must be padded or taped. The bottom of all props, flats, scenery made of wood, metal or PVC must be padded or taped to protect the competition floor from damage. All percussion instruments on wheels should have working wheels that can roll without damaging the floor or leaving any marks.

The floors of our sponsors will be expected before and after each performance. It is necessary to do this so that we can correctly identify any damage that has occurred from a performing unit. If there has been damaged caused to the floor of the hosting venue, the director of the site will be notified of the offending party so that a remedy can be found. To avoid such a situation happening, all equipment must be examined before it enters the contest floor.

The use of fire extinguishers, water as a prop, live animals, or pyrotechnics (including fire batons) are prohibited at all USBands shows. This also includes the release or use of any and all materials that may result in debris on the floor. The penalty for violation of this rule ranges from one (1) point to disqualification at the discretion of

the Show Coordinator and a USBands administrator.

Any question on this issue must be directed to the USBands office at least 3 days in advance of the competition.

Any damage to the floor or damaging material left on the floor after a unit's performance will result in a penalty ranging from one (1) point up to disqualification, depending on the severity of the damage. The amount of the penalty given is at the discretion of the Show Coordinator and a USBands Administrator. Any and all costs incurred to clean, replace or repair the impacted area(s) will be borne by the offending unit.

There are no restrictions on the number or types of electronic music, instruments or amplification systems that may be used.

No gasoline-powered generators will be allowed in the competition area.

EQUIPMENT PLACEMENT AND RETRIEVAL

Anyone (adult, student, non-student) may place, move, or remove equipment any time during a unit's performance.

USE OF THE NATIONAL FLAG

The use of the national flag is optional. If a unit does choose to display the American Flag, all the respect, etiquette and dignity traditionally afforded our national emblem must be shown.

Failure to display the flag properly will result in a one point (1.00) penalty.

CRITIQUES

Comment [J1]: Explanation of Critique

A post-contest meeting is held between adjudicators and the band director and staff of each band in order to discuss the unit's individual

performance at this event. These meetings will last for 15 minutes with a 5 minute rotation.

Each unit's staff will be assigned time to meet with judges at the conclusion of all shows (excluding designated regional championship contests). The order in critique will be based on performance order.

If a unit'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 Show Coordinator with notice to participating units.

WITHDRAWAL FROM USBANDS SHOWS

Any unit may withdraw from a USBands-sanctioned show up to two (2) weeks prior to the event without penalty. After that point, a withdrawal will result in a monetary fine and **suspension from further USBands events** until that fine is received by the USBands. The fine will then be forwarded to the show sponsor to be applied toward expenses and lost income resulting from the withdrawal.

Comment [J2]: What are the Membership fees? Local Show Fees are for the first show \$100 for the first group and \$50 for the second group of the same district. For 2 or more it is \$200 for the first group and \$150 for the second. Championships are \$250 for every group

PASSES - STAFF, CHAPERONES, CREW ACCESS

Season passes will be issued for each unit. The passes may be used for access to any USBands show prior to Championships. Each unit will receive a total of 10 passes. Individual passes **MUST** be displayed at all times, at all shows for access to the event. Special passes or wristbands may be issued to bands participating in shows designated as Championship events.

Comment [J3]: How Many Passes per group? 5 comments

ADJUDICATION

USBands uses a Box Criteria Reference System on all adjudication sheets. Each box may include a range of numbers that **may** move

upward during the season. Sample sheets are available online: www.usbands.org

Comment [J4]: Do we have the sample sheets and are they available?

Judging Captions and Scoring Breakdown

Color Guard

| <u>Caption</u> | <u>Composition/ Excellence</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Individual Analysis – Movement | 100 / 100 | 200 |
| Individual Analysis – Equipment | 100 / 100 | 200 |
| Ensemble Analysis | 100 / 100 | 200 |
| General Effect (2 judges) | 100 / 100 | 200 |
| | | 1000 x .1 = 100 points |

Percussion (Standstill and Concert)

| <u>Caption</u> | <u>Composition/ Excellence</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Performance Analysis | 150/150 | 300 |
| Ensemble Performance | 150/150 | 300 |
| General Effect | 200/200 | 400 |
| | | 1000 x .1 = 100 points |

Percussion (Marching)

| <u>Caption</u> | <u>Composition/ Excellence</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Performance Analysis | 100/300 | 400 |
| Ensemble Performance | 100/100 | 200 |
| General Effect | 200/200 | 400 |
| | | 1000 x .1 = 100 points |

HOST UNITS PERFORMING IN SHOWS

Units hosting a show have the following options:

- Compete – If a host unit decides to compete, it will compete at the same time as other units in its class. The host unit will have the option of performing last in its class. The score will be included on the re-cap sheet and will be included as a possible

“high score”.

- Perform in judged exhibition - Numerical scores of units performing in judged exhibition will not appear on the recap, and will not count towards high scores for championship seeding, however, the hosting band does reserve the right to perform last in their ensemble type.
- Perform in a non-judged exhibition – no sheets, no tapes.

If a host unit decides to perform in either type of exhibition, time of performance will be determined by the show host.

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

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

USBands reserves the right to act in accordance with the principles of the organization as deemed necessary. Accidents, crisis and other “special” circumstances could create the unexpected. USBands and the assigned “event manager” for a specific contest, reserve the right to act in accordance with the values of the USBands including, but not limited to: fairness, kindness, and inclusion.

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