INTRODUCTION TO USBANDS

Welcome to the 2014 season of USBands Indoor. Since its inception in 1988, USBands has taken great pride in the continued growth of the organization. We are committed to supporting all of our constituents, in an effort to provide your student performers with a world class experience based on fairness, education, and excellence. Regardless the size, style, and experience of our participating units, we strive to care for each and every unit as we do our own Cadets performing ensembles.

Our governing rules for USBands are, by design, limited and general. We really, truly do not assess penalties the way you may find in other organizations; our ultimate goal is to provide support and assistance to your unit, so that your performers can display their skills in a user-friendly environment. That said, please make yourself familiar with the content of this book, both prior to and during the season; there are a few specific guidelines that we ask each unit to respect at USBands events. If you have any questions at all, please contact the office and our team will gladly assist you.

Thank you for being a part of the USBands Indoor 2014 season. I look forward to supporting you and your program in the never-ending pursuit of excellence!

Best Regards,

Justin Heimbecker
Director, USBands
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. By 2013 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, The Cadets, Cadets 2 and The Cadets Winter Percussion Ensemble 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 all Cadet programs through the years.

The mission of YEA!

is to support the development of young people

into magnificent human beings

through participation

in the performing arts.
PHILOSOPHY

The focus of USBands 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, and now indoor percussion and color guard.

The 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

GROUP:

Scholastic: 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.

Within this group, there will be the subdivision of all the classifications, including 4A, 3A, 2A, 1A, Novice, Middle School and Elementary. Please reference pages 5-6 to determine your classification.
**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 4A, 3A, 2A, 1A, Novice, Middle School and Elementary. Please reference pages 5-6 to determine your classification.

There is no age limit to participate in this group.

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

All participating color guard or percussion units must have at least five (5) members to participate.

### USBANDS FEE STRUCTURE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2014 Fee Breakdown</th>
<th>First Show</th>
<th>All-Inclusive Season Fee Membership &amp; Championships</th>
<th>Regular Season Only</th>
<th>Championships Only</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Unit</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Unit</td>
<td>+ $100 ($50 Championships / $50 Season)</td>
<td>+ $50</td>
<td>+ $50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Schools who have more than two (2) competing units will be offered additional discounts towards the “Additional Unit” fee. Members who register for the 2014 season during the month of December will be invoiced after January 2, 2014. Please contact the USBands office for individualized invoices for your school district.

### USBANDS CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

**CLASSIFICATIONS:**

“**4A Class**” is the highest classification offered by USBands starting for the 2014 season. These programs set the standard within the indoor circuit and on a national level. The complex skill sets, show design and performance expectations set a 4A group apart from others, and shows a unique identity.

“**3A**” 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 and is also for units who may have experience on a National level.

“2A” 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.

“1A” 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.

“Novice” Class is for units at the basic level with little to no experience in the competitive setting, very limited resources or true novice groups. This class will while working towards the same goals and experiences as the 1A groups is reserved for high school level programs that are in their first two years of existence.

“Middle School” Class is generally for units in the 6th – 8th grade level. Unlike the Novice class, high school programs will not be permitted to compete in the Middle School Class.

“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.

“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.

Criteria for classification will include, but not be limited to

- Scoring
- History through the years
- Director Status
- Direct observation
- Classification in other competitive arenas
- 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.

The director of USBands reserves the right to promote units throughout the course of the season based on adjudicator feedback, program history and recent achievements. The final decision will rest with the director of USBands.

**RULES OF PERFORMANCE**

**PERFORMANCE AREA**
The basic performance area will be a regulation size high school 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.

Units are not required to provide a protective floor covering, mat or tarp, but one will be used at Championships.

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 prior to 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 CRITIQUE ORDER**
At all local events, units perform and attend critique in opposite the order of registration. Registration is open to all units at once, not based on timing of dues payments. Critique is open to all performing ensembles regardless of classification and will be held in performance order. In special circumstances, critique order may be shifted to accommodate groups who travel longer distances.
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. For the ease of scheduling, performance intervals for most shows will be 10 minutes for all groups under the 3A classification.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Interval Time</th>
<th>Min Perf. Time</th>
<th>Max Perf. Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4A</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3A</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2A</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1A/Novice</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle/Elementary</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Get rid of min / max perf time?

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. If a space is not provided, groups may refold their floors during intermission or after the conclusion of the event. The on site coordinator will have more information about floor refolding specific to the event you are attending.

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 inspected 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 by unit directors 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 events. 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 five (5) 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 penalty ranging from one (1) point to disqualification, to be determined by the Event Coordinator and a USBands representative.

**CRITIQUES**

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). In most cases, the order in critique will be based on performance order. Critique is open to ALL units regardless of
classification. Special arrangements may be made for groups who have traveled extensive
distances, and can be communicated to the event staff team on the day of the event.

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.

WITHDRAW 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 withdraw 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.

Regular Season Withdrawal Fee Schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Withdraw more than 31 days prior to event</th>
<th>No Penalty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Withdraw 15-31 days prior to event</td>
<td>$50 penalty per unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Withdraw 8-14 days prior to event</td>
<td>$100 penalty per unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Withdraw 3-7 days prior to event</td>
<td>$150 penalty per unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Withdraw within 48 hours prior to start of event</td>
<td>$300 penalty per unit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Championships Withdraw Fee Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>31 days prior to April 6, 2014</th>
<th>No Penalty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 – 31 days prior to April 6, 2014</td>
<td>$100 penalty per unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-14 days prior to April 6, 2014</td>
<td>$300 penalty per unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-7 days prior to April 6, 2014</td>
<td>$400 penalty per unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48 hours prior to start of Championships</td>
<td>$600 penalty per unit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Withdrawal date will be defined as acknowledged, written correspondence to the USBands
office (mreese@yea.org and justin@yea.org)

PASSES - STAFF, CHAPERONES, CREW ACCESS

Season passes will be issued for each unit. The passes may be used for access to any regular
season USBands event, excluding 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. Participating Championship units will be given wristbands on site, which will not exceed the original total number of passes given.

Parents, prop and pit movers do not need special access to enter the performance area while accompanying a unit. After a performance, parents who wish to re-enter the event as a spectator must purchase a ticket or present a pass upon entry.

**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](http://www.usbands.org)

**Judging Captions and Scoring Breakdown**

### Color Guard

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Caption</th>
<th>Composition/Excellence</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual Analysis – Movement</td>
<td>100/100</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Analysis – Equipment</td>
<td>100/100</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensemble Analysis</td>
<td>100/100</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Effect (2 judges)</td>
<td>100/100</td>
<td>200 x 2 = 400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1000 x .1 = 100 points

### Percussion (Standstill and Concert)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Caption</th>
<th>Composition/Excellence</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Performance Analysis</td>
<td>150/150</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensemble Performance</td>
<td>150/150</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Effect</td>
<td>200/200</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1000 x .1 = 100 points

### Percussion (Marching)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Caption</th>
<th>Composition/Excellence</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Performance Analysis</td>
<td>100/300</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensemble Performance</td>
<td>100/100</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Effect</td>
<td>200/200</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 31 days before the show date. This information must be communicated to the USBands office and will be included on the official show sheet.

**CHAMPIONSHIP SEEDING**
Undetermined. 2013 was reverse order of singups. 2012 may have been the same?

**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 event, reserve the right to act in accordance with the values of the USBands including, but not limited to: fairness, kindness, and inclusion.
Contacts

Justin Heimbecker – Director of USBands
610.821.0345 X126 | Justin@yea.org

Melissa Barlow – Administrative Manager
610.821.0345 x115 | Melissa@yea.org

Melissa Reese - Participant Relations
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Larry Markeiwz - Adjudication and Education Director
610.821.0345 x161 | larry@yea.org

Nate Foreman – Host Relations
610.821.0345 x117 | nate@yea.org

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Connect with USBands

www.usbands.org