

Band Contest General Information

SCORING CAPTIONS

Marching contests are generally scored in the areas of music, marching, and effect. The scoring priorities are *usually* given as music 45%, marching 35%, and effect 20%. Within each caption, the following sub captions are used:

Music : Music Ensemble Performance (full band), Music Individual Performance (field judge)
Marching : Overall Marching (full band), Individual Marching Execution
Effect : Music Effect, Visual Effect

Independent contests (those other than the state events) will also give separate scores for percussion and colorguard. However, these scores are not included in the final band tabulation. The groups are included in the overall scoring for music, marching, and effect.

CONTEST PHILOSOPHY

We are more concerned about how we live and how we are shaped by our involvement with the band program, rather than what our peers or a panel of judges think of us. We do not worry about the things which we have no control over, such as performance order, the adjudication panel, the weather, etc. We work very hard on the things that we can control.

The value of performance or competitions is formed in the preparation invested in it.

If you do your best each day, the trophy case will take care of itself - and stand for what we are really about.

Champions are created in rehearsal not in Competition.

BAND SCORING

If you are with us for the first time, be prepared for the fact that band judging is a very subjective activity. Different judges will have varying opinions about a band's performance. However, when we enter a contest, we in effect agree to accept the judge's opinion about our band. It is of no use to complain about the judging after the contest. After each contest, we will incorporate judging opinions in our rehearsals. Generally, if we get a comment once, we will give it serious consideration. If we get the same comment twice, we will try to make changes as necessary. Regardless of the outcome, we should plan to accept all scores and ratings with professionalism and dignity.

INDIVIDUAL EVENT INFORMATION

Schedules, maps, and other pertinent information for each event are usually received three or four days prior to the event. This information is sent out via email, web , and hard copy.

Most marching events will run very close to schedule. However, our time of return to school may vary due to unforeseen circumstances at the event.

UNIFORM/EQUIPMENT PREPARATION

It is extremely important that all uniform items are clean and in good condition. Equipment should be cleaned and polished before each event. Brass (yellow) – Pledge, Silver – Silver Polish

All reed instruments should have 3 **PLAYABLE** reeds with them in the uniform coat at all times.

Uniforms should be placed in the uniform bag. Hats and shoes should be packed in the designated box or gym bag.

Due to logistical considerations, band members should not share uniform bags. All clothes bags, horn cases, etc. should be marked with the student's name in large letters. Please view the Comp Weekly for your practice uniform, Friday night uniform, and necessities for Sat.

MEALS/FINANCES

Our booster club will supply most meals for band members during the contest season. Students should note that the buses will not stop for food and/or drinks on the way home from an event. In some cases students may be allowed to visit concession stands.

EVENT DEPARTURE

The bus chaperones will begin to check the role after the conclusion of the event award ceremony. Band members should make every effort to be in their seat with all equipment loaded at that time. Unless there is an emergency or other extenuating circumstances, band members should plan to ride the buses home from each contest. However, should a student find that it is necessary to ride home with a parent; the following procedure should be followed:

- The parent should give a note to chaperone chair or Directors stating who will be in charge of transportation for the student after the event.
- It is extremely important that the chaperone speaks directly with the parent.
- Students will be released only to parents or legal guardians.
- Students must arrange for their equipment to be unloaded and properly stored at the school.

BUS SEATING

Bus seating charts are located in the band room.

BUS DECORUM

We observe a "quiet" time for approx 3 min at the start and finish of each trip. It is the intention of the band directors and the chaperones that band members be allowed to enjoy themselves on all trips. However, we must maintain a level of decorum that is appropriate for a band of this caliber. Each student is expected to fully cooperate with the chaperones and bus drivers at all times. If they ask you to do something, please comply immediately. Students are free to play radios, CD players, I-Pods, etc. only if headphones are used at all times.

TRAVEL/TRANSIT GUIDELINES

Please note that the directions on our web site are from MapQuest and may not represent the route that will be taken by the buses and equipment trucks. In the interest of safety, we usually try to keep the convoy group on the Interstate as much as possible. However, individual drivers may wish to consider alternate "through the country" routes if the driving time is shorter. We do ask that individual cars refrain from driving between the buses or trucks during transit. Keeping the convoy group closed up allows us to better monitor the situation with all vehicles should a problem develop. When we arrive at the event location, the convoy group will be parked together in the band area. All other vehicles will be parked in spectator parking areas. Please note that in some cases the equipment trucks may travel to and from the events separately from the buses.

STUDENT PICKUP

When the band returns from an event, the parking area in front of the new gym will be extremely congested due to the presence of equipment vehicles. In an effort to ease the flow of traffic, we are asking students be picked up in the front circle. Those band members driving their own cars to and from the school may park in the lot behind the band room.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

During any sort of trip or public performance, the Pickens High School Band represents both the school and the community. As such, our actions must be beyond reproach at all times. Band members must understand that they will be “on stage” throughout the trip – not just during the time that we are performing. Students should note that all policies outlined in Handbook would be in effect during all band trips and functions.

ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITY

All band members are expected to maintain grades that are acceptable to parents and school officials. During contest season, it is extremely important that all band members keep up with classwork and anticipate future tests, projects, etc. Band members experiencing problems in this area should contact Directors or staff.

BAND PICTURES/TAPES

The band will have a group picture made at many of the contest locations. DVD's of the band's performance may also be available at some locations. Interested students may purchase these items if they so choose. However, there is no obligation to purchase any items at any time. Students should note that neither the band directors, or the band in general is in any way connected with the sale of band pictures, DVD's, or other items. As a result, it will be impossible for us to vouch for the reliability of any company or sales representative.

STATE CONTEST SCHEDULES AND RESULTS

Contest schedules and results may be obtained throughout the season at www.bandlink.org

AUDIENCE ETIQUETTE

Marching shows have become more complex, many bands have become competitive, whereas only a few were 15 or 20 years ago and the support for the activity is beginning to rival football and basketball. One thing that hasn't evolved, though, is how people behave at contests. Some may have been guilty of being inconsiderate to the performing bands and other spectators. Most of the time this occurs only because people are not aware of the etiquette of marching competitions or concerts. Because of this we have outlined a few things you should and shouldn't do...

DO

Support ALL bands & students. The students, staff, and directors on the field have worked incredibly hard to perform for you – just as our students, staff, and directors.

Observe the whole show or concert. By this we mean watch different elements. Your interest may be percussion, but you might be surprised with the rifle work the guard is doing, too. Often several things are going on at once in a given performance and you may watch the same show several times and see something new on each occasion.

Respect others. Please be courteous and applaud at the end of solos, major drill moves and at the end of musical selections. Also, don't be afraid to tell a band member or band parent from another band that they did a nice job, even if you don't know them. You would be surprised how good it makes someone feel if they are told that you liked their show.

Show up early. The best seat in the stadium for a band contest is on or near the 50 yard line and as high up as you can get. Parents from the same band are encouraged to sit together to better rally

support.

DON'T

Talk. It is important to realize that although it is fun to socialize with friends and family during a contest, it is rather rude to make a lot of noise during any performance including marching band performances. To put this in perspective, you wouldn't normally openly discuss what kind of week you had with a friend at a theater during a movie. Marching band contests are no different. Granted, the venues are generally outside, but the sound of voices tends to travel pretty far in the fall air and it is disruptive to someone who may want to hear a particular performance. You might be surprised what you are missing if you paid attention to the performance on the field.

Move around. NEVER get and leave or enter the stadium during a band's performance. Something else you should avoid is any unnecessary movement during performances. This includes, getting up to run to the refreshment stand or the restroom during a performance. There is time for that in between every performance and each show is only about 8 minutes long.

Get wrapped up in the term "competition." For what it is worth, most band members call contests "shows," because that is what they are. Scores are pretty arbitrary and can vary quite a bit from show to show. The bottom line is that everyone in every band is literally trying to perform to the best of their ability and each ensemble has something to offer the spectator. Everyone loves to win, but if the main purpose of a band becomes winning every show, they are missing the point.

Make negative comments about other bands. For instance, if you don't like a particular band's uniform, be happy in the fact that you don't have to wear it and move on with your life. We all may have sat in the audience at many shows and listened to people make derogatory comments about other bands. If you have nothing nice to say, please be quiet. You never know who could be sitting close by.

Obstruct the view of others. Please avoid standing in front of people trying to watch the show. If you have a banner you wish to display, please do so from the top of the stands or in some other fashion that doesn't block the field of vision of the other spectators.

Boo other bands or the judges. We all have been at shows where you did not agree with the results, but unfortunately, those things happen from time to time.

We hope these tips will help make the experience of watching your favorite band (and all others for that matter) a more enjoyable experience.