



Band Championships Contest Rules

(As of 11/27/17)

(Changes from 2017 rules highlighted in
YELLOW)

I. Who May Enter

- A. Any British-type brass band and its members that are current members of NABBA.
- B. British-type is defined as band instrumentation utilizing Eb Soprano and Bb Cornets, Bb Flugelhorns, Eb Tenor Horns (sometimes referred to as Eb Alto Horns), Bb Baritones, Bb Euphoniums, Bb Tenor and Bass Trombones, Tubas, and Percussion.
- C. While membership in a NABBA band is unlimited, a competing band in the Championship, 1st, 2nd, 3rd Sections **is** limited to 28 brass players, up to 5 percussion players (as required by the score) plus the conductor on the competition stage at any time.

II. Exceptions

- A. Any brass band at variance with Section I.B. or I.C. must enter **an Open Section** of the Championships.
- B. Entries in the Youth category are limited to 40 brass players, percussion players as needed, plus the conductor on the competition stage at any time. **Entries in the open sections are limited to 50 players on the stage at any time, plus the conductor.**

III. Constraints

- A. If a player is a regular member of more than one NABBA band then they may play with **more than one** of those bands at contest as long as the total number of doubling players does not exceed **three** brass players **and two** percussionists. It is up to the integrity of the competing bands to only use regular members of their bands with regards to this rule and those players should be on the submitted roster. All other instances should go through the contest controller for clarification.
- B. Members of bands in the Youth section must be 17 years of age or younger or enrolled in a primary or secondary school on the day of performance.
- C. No band member is allowed to play more than one brass instrument unless necessitated by the score. It is permissible for a brass player to also play a

percussion instrument.

- D. No re-arrangements of parts will be permitted. Parts written for any particular instrument will be played only on that instrument. Parts designated for Eb or Bb Tuba may be played on tubas in any key.
- E. No band is permitted to compensate or remunerate any player for their services to rehearse for or to play in the NABBA competition. This does not prevent bands from fund raising toward covering travel, lodging and NABBA membership costs for its members, nor does it prevent bands from using substitute players when necessary. Examples that it does prevent include the payment of intercontinental airfares and the payment of honorariums to section leaders and substitutes.
- F. Bands are expected to compete with the Roster which shall be presented to the Embassy Theatre Box office no later than 5:00 PM EST on Friday of the Championships. Roster must be in a sealed envelope that is noted with your band's name.

IV. Registration

- A. A band may enter only one of the following categories of its choice:

Championship	3 rd Section	Youth
1 st Section	Open	Youth Open
2 nd Section		

- B. The timing for each category shall be as follows:

Section	Test Piece	Minimum Music Performance Time	Maximum Stage Time
Championship	As If a Voice Were In Them	30 min	30 min for Set Piece 32 min for Own Choice
1 st Section	Diversions on a Bass Theme	20 min	42 min
2 nd Section	Frontier Vision	20 min	42 min
3 rd Section	Lake of the Moon	18 min	42 min
Open	None	18 min	42 min
Youth	Impromptu	15 min	35 min

Youth Open	None	15 min	35 min
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Music performance time is defined to be playing time only.

Stage time is defined to be the time from the first member or conductor of the band entering the stage to the time that the last person leaves it.

C. A band's program shall consist of an assigned Test Piece (determined by NABBA), and other item(s) of the band's own choosing. The Open Sections have NO set Test Piece.

1. A completed band registration must be submitted online via the automated registration form that is accessible via the 'REGISTER FOR CONTEST' link on the championships page at NABBA.ORG.
2. Completed registrations should be finalized by Close of Business on a date publicized in NABBA publications. Completed registrations received a least week before that date will receive an early-registration discount. After the date of closure no further registrations will be accepted and incomplete registrations will be rejected.
3. Membership fees are nonrefundable and nontransferable.
4. The bands and their members must not publicize their own choice pieces before the competition.

D. A complete band contest entry is defined as follows:

1. Accurate and full completion of the automated registration process that is accessible via the 'REGISTER FOR CONTEST' link on the Championships page at NABBA.ORG.
2. Delivery of Three original scores (with each measure numbered, and with no other annotations or markings) of each piece to be performed, excepting the required test piece which will be supplied by NABBA. Scores may be submitted electronically, provided permission has been gained by the copyright holder. Such permission should be shown at the registration table.
3. Full payment of registration fee.
4. One black and white photo of conductor (Jpeg format only).
5. One black and white photo of band (Jpeg format only).
6. A brief biographical note about the conductor (MS Word format only).
7. A brief biographical note about the band (MS Word format only).
8. A listing of all anticipated band members to be on stage for the performance.
9. A listing of any special requests/needs of the band (i.e. handicapped considerations, stage configuration, percussion needs etc.).
10. Program notes for the other item(s).

E. Final payment amount and payment instructions will be provided upon completion of the online registration.

1. Band contest fees for the 2018 contest are flat fees of \$1600 for any adult band entering any eligible division, \$1200 for any youth band (all members under 17 years of age) entering in any eligible division.
2. Payment of band contest fees for the contest will cause each competing band member and conductor to be an individual member of NABBA and will cause each competing band to be a member of NABBA.
3. Any individual not competing with a band must purchase contest tickets separately through the Embassy box office.
4. Membership fees are nonrefundable and nontransferable.

V. Procedure

- A. NABBA officials will conduct the draw for contest order and will communicate the same to band contacts by February 1st. When a band has drawn the #1 position that band has a right to request that in the succeeding year their name be withheld from the draw for the first pick provided they enter the same section. After the first pick is made their name is resubmitted into the draw pool. This request must be made in writing at the time of submitting the entry materials.
- B. Before a band enters the stage, a representative of the Contest Controller will verify the NABBA membership status of the band and its players.
- C. Stages will be pre-set in a standard brass band configuration with percussion instruments furnished by NABBA. A list of provided percussion will be posted www.nabba.org.
- D. Competition Day Outline
 1. Bands should assemble in the designated area of the performance venue no later than 75 minutes prior to their estimated competition time.
 2. A volunteer will be assigned to each band to assist you from location to location.
 3. Bands will proceed to a secure room to open and store cases until the conclusion of their competition.
 4. Bands will be escorted to a warm-up room that coincides with the competition period preceding their own.
 5. As the band on stage begins their final piece, the band will assemble adjacent to the Competition venue.
 6. As soon as the band on stage completes their program and the brass has exited the stage the band will be permitted to enter the contest stage, arrange percussion and chairs, and be seated. **(Note:** If a band

chooses to utilize its own percussion they may move the provided percussion aside with the clear understanding that a) no additional time is allowed for the switch, and b) the provided percussion must be returned to its original position prior to exiting the venue). Players may play during this set-up period. Sound produced by an instrument will not cause the performance time to start. The performance time will not start until after the band is introduced.

7. After a signal from the stage manager (noting the adjudicators are ready) and a signal from the conductor, contest personnel will introduce the band and announce its program. The band will then perform its contest program.
 8. After conclusion of a band's performance, they must immediately exit the stage to return to their case storage room.
 9. Pictures may be taken at this point at the discretion of the individual band.
- E. If a band's program does not fall within the required time, penalty points will be deducted from the adjudicators total at the rate of one point from each adjudicator's score for each minute or fraction thereof by which the time is exceeded or lacking. Points may also be deducted if, in the opinion of Contest personnel, a band inserts inordinately long pauses between movements or musical selections in order to achieve the minimum time requirement. Bands are expected to perform the program submitted on their registration form. Changes are allowed only with the prior approval of the Contest Controller. Any band performing a program other than that submitted and/or approved by the Contest Controller will receive adjudicator comments but will be ineligible for points.
- F. The results of the Competition will be announced Saturday evening. The adjudicator's recorded and written comments will be presented to a band representative at the conclusion of Saturday evening's event.
- G. All competing bands will receive an Evaluation Form to be completed after the competition. They will be utilized by NABBA to improve future Championships.
- H. In the case of a physical emergency or mechanical malfunction, the Contest Controller has the sole authority to suspend the timing of a performance.
- I. Judging is in secret. Any band member overheard that impairs the secrecy of the judging will cause his or her band to be disqualified.

VI. Scoring

- A. Adjudicators will rank bands based on criteria to include: tone quality, balance, blend, intonation, rhythm, technique, and musical interpretation.

- B. The final scores will be weighted as follows: 60% for the test piece, and 40% for the free choice item(s).
- C. In addition to the score sheets, adjudicators will provide recorded verbal comments on each performance.
- D. In the event of a tie, the band with the highest combined point total in the test piece will be declared the winner. In the event that the test piece scores are also tied, the band rated higher on the test piece by two of the three adjudicators shall be declared the winner.

VII. Final Authority

During the Championships, the Contest Controller has final and absolute authority regarding penalties, appeals, interpretation of the rules, and conduct of the Championships. Appeals must be made in writing by the music director of appealing band to the contest controller within 48 hours of the contest. An appeal document will be available on nabba.org.

Solo Championships

VIII. Who May Enter

- A. Any current NABBA member performing on a cornet in either Eb or Bb, flugelhorn, tenor horn, baritone, tenor or bass trombone, euphonium, tuba or percussion instruments utilized in a "British Style" brass band.
- B. Accompanied solos may be utilized but soloists must make arrangements for their own accompanist. Accompaniment is not required and is not taken into consideration for the final placement.

IX. Constraints

Entry is limited to one solo entry per individual. However a soloist may participate as a member of a brass or percussion ensemble.

X. Registration

NOTE – Seniors (age 62 & over) may enter either one of the 1st four contests below (i.e. Any Age) as in previous years, or enter one of the new Senior contests (i.e. 5 through 8) below.

- A. Entries can be in one of the following categories:
 - a. Adult High Brass (cornet, flugelhorn and tenor horn) Slow Melody – Any Age (Cornets, Flugelhorns & Tenor Horns only)
 - b. Adult High Brass Technical Work – Any Age (Cornets, Flugelhorns & Tenor Horns only)
 - c. Adult Low Brass Slow Melody – Any Age (Baritones, Trombones, Euphoniums & Tubas only)
 - d. Adult Low Brass Technical Work – Any Age (Baritones, Trombones, Euphoniums & Tubas only)
 - e. Adult High Brass Slow Melody - Senior (Cornets, Flugelhorns & Tenor Horns only)
 - f. Adult High Brass Technical Work – Senior (Cornets, Flugelhorns & Tenor Horns only)
 - g. Adult Low Brass Slow Melody – Senior (Baritones, Trombones, Euphoniums & Tubas only)
 - h. Adult Low Brass Technical Work – Senior (Baritones, Trombones, Euphoniums & Tubas only)
 - i. Youth Brass Solo – must be 17 years of age or younger or enrolled in a primary or secondary school.
 - j. Adult Percussion Solo
 - k. Youth Percussion Solo – must be 17 years of age or younger or enrolled in a primary or secondary school.
- B. A completed ensemble registration must be submitted online via the automated registration form that is accessible via the 'REGISTER FOR CONTEST' link on the Championships page at NABBA.ORG.
 - a. Completed registrations should be finalized by Close of Business on a date publicized in NABBA publications. After that date, no further registrations will be accepted and any incomplete registrations will be rejected.
 - b. Membership fees are nonrefundable and nontransferable.
- C. A complete solo contest entry is defined as follows:
 - a. Accurate and full completion of the automated registration process that is accessible via the 'REGISTER FOR CONTEST' link on the Championships page at NABBA.ORG.
 - b. Full payment of registration fee
- D. Final Payment amount and payment instructions will be due upon completion of the online registration:
 - a. The entry fee for the Solo competition is \$30.
 - b. Solo competition participants must be a member of a competing band or become an individual member of NABBA
- E. A complete solo contest entry is defined as follows -
 - a. Accurate and full completion of the automated registration process that is accessible via the 'REGISTER FOR CONTEST' link on the Championships page at NABBA.ORG.
 - b. Full payment of registration fee

F. An original (no photocopies) of the piece to be performed must be provided to the solo adjudicator at the time of your performance. The music must be unannotated, except for the addition of measure numbers which must be written in. Failure to number the adjudicator's copy of the score as prescribed above will result in a 5 (five) point deduction. Remember to also have a second copy (may be a photocopy) of the music to perform from.

XI. Procedure

- A. The contest order will be posted at www.nabba.org by February 1st.
- B. There is a 10-minute time limit per soloist (including set-up, tuning, performance and exit), 7 minutes of which being the maximum a soloist will be allowed to play.
- C. Any soloist exceeding the 7-minute playing limit will have 5 points deducted from their final score.
- D. Contest personnel will halt performances once the maximum time is exceeded by 30 seconds.

XII. Final Authority

During the Solo Championships, the Contest Controller has final and absolute authority regarding penalties, appeals, interpretation of rules, and conduct of the Championships.

Ensemble Championships

XIII. Who May Enter

A. Any current NABBA members performing on cornet, flugelhorn, tenor horn, baritone, tenor or bass trombone, euphonium, tuba or percussion instruments utilized in a “British Style” brass band.

XIV. Constraints

A. No more than 2 Brass Ensembles or more than 1 Percussion Ensemble may be entered from any one band.

B. All ensembles must have a minimum of 3 members. Brass Ensembles may not exceed 10 members, Percussion Ensembles may not exceed 8 members.

C. 10-piece Brass ensembles should be 10 brass instruments with optional 1 or 2 percussionists and their conductor (13 total). The 10-Piece Brass Ensemble must use instruments as defined in rule I. B, with optional percussion of up to two players. The instrumentation must include at least 3 cornets, 1 Eb tenor horn, 2 trombones, 1 baritone or euphonium, and 1 tuba.

D. No individual may play in more than one ensemble per NABBA Band of which the player is a regular member. For example, if a player is a regular member of two NABBA Bands, then that player may perform with one ensemble per NABBA Band.

E. A conductor is permitted ONLY for the 10 Piece Brass Ensemble.

XV. Registration

A. Entries can be in one of the following categories:

1. Adult Brass Ensemble
2. Youth Brass Ensemble - all members must be 17 years of age or younger or enrolled in a primary or secondary school.
3. Adult Percussion Ensemble
4. Youth Percussion Ensemble – all members must be 17 years of age or younger or enrolled in a primary or secondary school.

B. A completed ensemble registration must be submitted online via the automated registration form that is accessible via the ‘REGISTER FOR CONTEST’ link on the Championship’s page at NABBA.ORG.

1. Completed registrations should be finalized by Close of Business on a date publicized in NABBA publications. After that date no further registrations will be accepted and any incomplete registrations will be rejected.

2. Membership fees are nonrefundable and nontransferable.

C. A complete ensemble contest entry is defined as follows:

1. Accurate and full completion of the automated registration process that is accessible via the ‘REGISTER FOR CONTEST’ link on the Championships page at NABBA.ORG.
2. Full payment of registration fee

D. Final Payment amount and payment instructions will be due upon completion of the online registration:

1. The entry fee for the Ensemble competition is \$40.
2. All ensemble competition participants must be a member of a competing band or become an individual member of NABBA.

E. An original copy (no photocopies) of the piece to be performed must be provided to the ensemble adjudicator at the time of your performance. The music must be unannotated, except for the addition of measure numbers which must be written in. Failure to number the adjudicator’s copy of the score as prescribed above will result in a 5 (five) point deduction. Remember to also have a second copy (may be a photocopy) of the music to perform from.

XVI. Procedure

A. The contest order will be posted at www.nabba.org by February 1st.

B. There is a 15-minute time limit per ensemble (including set-up, tuning, performance and exit), 10

- minutes of which being the maximum an ensemble will be allowed to play.
- c. Any ensemble exceeding the 10-minute playing limit will have 5 points deducted from their final score. Contest personnel will halt the performance once the maximum time is exceeded by 30 seconds.

xvii. Final Authority

During the Ensemble Championships, the Contest Controller has final and absolute authority regarding penalties, appeals and conduct of the Championships.