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Band Championships Contest Rules

(The rules have undergone a rewrite; major changes have been highlighted in yellow)

(As of 12/03/18)

I. Who May Enter

- A. Any British-type brass band based in North America 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. Registration – Rules and Process

- A. A band may enter only one of the following categories: Championship, 1st section, 2nd section, 3rd section, **Open, Youth Championship, Youth First, Youth Open.**
- B. General Registration Rules
 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. **The due date for that registration will appear at nabba.org.**
 2. Completed band registrations should be finalized by Close of Business on a date published in NABBA publications. Band registrations received at least one week before that date will be due an early-registration discount of \$100 from the contest registration fee.
 3. After the date of closure no further registrations will be accepted and incomplete registrations will be rejected.
 4. Band registration and membership fees are nonrefundable and nontransferable.
 5. The bands and their members must not publicize their own choice

pieces before the competition.

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

1. Accurate, timely, 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, except for the required test piece which will be supplied by NABBA. Scores may be submitted electronically during the registration process. Original paper scores shall be provided as specified in on the contest page at nabba.org and in the automated registration process also accessible at nabba.org.
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 roster of all players currently associated with the registering band, whether active, alternate or short-term substitutions, regardless of whether they might attend the contest ("FULL BAND ROSTER").
9. A listing of all anticipated band members to be on stage for the performance ("PRELIMINARY PERFORMANCE ROSTER").
10. A listing of any special requests/needs of the band (i.e. handicapped considerations, stage configuration, percussion needs *etc.*).
11. Program notes for the other item(s).

D. Registration Fees and Contest Attendance

1. Final payment amount and payment instructions will be provided upon completion of the online registration.
2. Early registration band contest fees for the 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.
3. 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.
4. Any individual not on stage competing with a band must purchase contest tickets separately through the Embassy box office.
5. Membership fees are non-refundable and non-transferable.

III. 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.
- C. Bands based outside of North America may attend and perform, however their performance will be for comments only.

IV. Constraints

- A. If a player is a regular member of more than one NABBA band (i.e., on the band's "FULL BAND ROSTER") 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 in each band. It is up to the integrity of the competing bands to use players from their full band roster and those players should be on the submitted final performance roster (see II.C.8). When necessitated by the illness or emergency absence of a full band roster player, a band may request to use a substitute player so long as they adhere to the rule and spirit of IV.E (below). Such request must be made to the contest controller(s) no earlier than 7 calendar days before and no later than 1 hour before the performance. A band shall not use more than 2 such players. All other instances should go through the contest controller(s) 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 fundraising 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 should compete with the Final Performance Roster which shall be presented as specified on the contest page at nabba.org and in the automated registration process also accessible at nabba.org. The Roster must be in a sealed envelope that is noted with your band's name.

V. GENERAL & PERFORMANCE Procedures

- A. 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.

- B. The timing for each BAND category shall be as follows (all times are in minutes):

Section	Test Piece	Minimum Music Performance Time	Maximum Stage Time
Championship	Partita (Wilfred Heaton)	Set Piece: 24 Own Choice: 13	Set Piece: 36 Own Choice: 28
1st	Another World's Hell (Simon Dobson)	23	36
2nd	Coventry Variations (Bramwell Tovey)	23	36
3rd	Chorale and Toccata (Stephen Bulla)	17	30
Open		15	30
Youth Championship	Renaissance (Peter Graham)	17	30
Youth 1st	Lucid Perspectives (Lucy Pankhurst)	15	28
Youth Open		12	26

- C. Music performance time is defined to be playing time only. Stage time is defined to be the time from when the band has been notified by the controller to enter the stage (if there is a previous band, this is when the last brass player leaves the stage), until after the performance when the last brass player exits the stage. NOTE: If percussionists from the previous band have not cleared the stage by the time the band on stage is ready to perform, there will be a timing penalty.
- D. 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 first 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.

- E. Before a band enters the stage, a representative of the Contest Controller will verify the NABBA membership status of the band and its players.
- F. 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.
- G. 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 use its own percussion it 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.
- H. 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.

- I. The results of the Competition will be announced during the contest. The adjudicators' recorded and written comments will be presented to a band representative before the conclusion of the contest.
- J. All competing bands will receive an Evaluation Form to be completed after the competition. They will be used by NABBA to improve future Championships.
- K. In the case of a physical emergency or mechanical malfunction, the Contest Controller has the sole authority to suspend the timing of a performance.
- L. 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

- A. During the Championships, the Contest Controller(s) has(have) 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(s) within 48 hours of the contest using only the appeal document available at nabba.org.

Solo Championships

I. 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.

II. Constraints

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

III. Registration

- A. Seniors (age 62 & over) may enter also enter any non-youth contest. Youth competition is open to anyone 17 years of age or younger, or enrolled in a primary or secondary school.
- B. Entries can be in one of the following categories:
 1. Cornets
 - a) Adult technical
 - b) Adult slow melody
 - c) Senior technical
 - d) Senior slow melody
 2. Flugelhorn and tenor horn
 - a) Adult technical
 - b) Adult slow melody
 - c) Senior technical
 - d) Senior slow melody
 3. Baritones and euphoniums
 - a) Adult technical
 - b) Adult slow melody
 - c) Senior technical
 - d) Senior slow melody
 4. Trombones
 - a) Adult technical
 - b) Adult slow melody
 - c) Senior technical
 - d) Senior slow melody
 5. Tuba
 - a) Adult technical
 - b) Adult slow melody
 - c) Senior technical
 - d) Senior slow melody
 6. Youth
 - a) High brass (cornet, flugel, tenor horn, trumpet, french horn). Soloists performing on a trumpet or french horn must perform on that instrument in their Youth Open Section Band in the band competition.
 - b) Low brass (baritone, trombone, euphonium, tuba)
 7. Percussion
 - a) Adult
 - b) Youth
- C. 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.
 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 and contest entry fees are nonrefundable and nontransferable.
- D. A complete solo 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 and timely payment of registration fee.
- E. Final payment amount will be due upon completion of the online registration.
 1. The entry for the Solo competition is \$40.
 2. Solo competition participants must be a member of a competing band or become an individual member of NABBA in line with the contest registration deadlines. Individuals shall join NABBA by completing and submitting the individual membership form available at nabba.org.
 - 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 and any cuts must be marked.. 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.

IV. 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.

V. Final Authority

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

Ensemble Championships

I. 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.

II. 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 12 players (see II.C below)., Percussion Ensembles may not exceed 8 members.
- C. 10-piece Brass ensembles should be either:
 - 1. 10 brass instruments and optional 1 or 2 percussionists and optional conductor (up to 13 total);
 - 2. 9 brass instruments and 1 or 2 percussionists and optional conductor.The 10-Piece Brass Ensemble must use instruments as defined in contest rule I. B. 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. Players not registered with a NABBA band may play in only one ensemble.
- E. A conductor is permitted ONLY for the 10 Piece Brass Ensemble.

III. 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 and contest 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 and timely payment of registration fee
- D. Final Payment amount will be due upon completion of the online registration:
 - 1. The entry fee for the Ensemble competition is \$50.
 - 2. All ensemble competition participants must be a member of a competing band or become an individual member of NABBA in line with the contest registration deadlines. Individuals shall join NABBA by completing and submitting the individual membership form available at nabba.org.

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, and any cuts must be marked. 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.

IV. **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.

V. **Final Authority**

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