



**NABBA**  
North American Brass Band Association

## NORTH AMERICAN BRASS BAND CHAMPIONSHIPS (NABBC) BAND COMPETITION

### PHILOSOPHICAL STATEMENT ON BRASS BAND CONTESTING IN NORTH AMERICA

In the spirit of promoting the growth and development of brass bands in North America, it is our hope that competing bands will make decisions pertaining to their contest participation – and their entire season – in accordance with that spirit.

Specifically, NABBA bands strive to:

1. Promote awareness of brass bands and brass banding by being highly visible in frequent performances in their home region. The best way we can further music education and advance the public's appreciation of brass bands is for people to see and hear them in their local community throughout the year.
2. Do their best to recruit, train, and develop players for their roster from within their region. The ideal is for each band to sustain a full player roster without the need to share players with other NABBA bands. Despite all the growth North American brass bands have enjoyed, it still can be challenging to accumulate a contest roster entirely of local brass band musicians. Moreover, some musicians enjoy the challenge of playing in more than one group. Nevertheless, our best opportunity to grow as a movement is to convince more musicians to try playing in brass bands.
3. Limit the use of non-North American players and conductors, especially when used for competitive advantage. Players from overseas can contribute immensely to our shared knowledge about brass band technique, repertoire, traditions, and more. When non-North American players are utilized for competition, we expect that our member bands will try to maximize the opportunities available to have those players share their talents and information with musicians in their home communities through additional performances, workshops, and/or clinics.
4. Keep contesting an amateur activity. Paying players for their services, either directly in wages or indirectly through subsidized expense remuneration, undermines the long and admirable tradition of brass bands creating incredible musical performances with a roster of players who are not paid to perform.

5. Support other individual NABBA musicians and member bands enthusiastically. The great thing about the brass band community in North America is that we are comprised of a diverse set of talented individuals and ensembles, all of whom share their passion for the brass band movement freely. While players and bands may espouse different missions or methods, we all share a common goal of developing a passion for brass bands here and abroad. We are proud of the mutually supportive camaraderie, friendship, and appreciation displayed for fellow competitors on an annual basis.

## ADJUDICATION

1. Adjudicators will score bands using criteria based on Technical Achievement (50%) and Artistic Achievement (50%).
2. The final scores will be weighted as follows: 60% for the set test piece, and 40% for the own choice program.
3. Total bands scores will be out of 100 points (The raw scores will be scaled down to a 100-point scale)
4. Adjudicators will only provide recorded comments during each performance. (There will be no written comments.)

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.

## BAND RULES AND REGULATIONS

The following rules apply to the NABBC Band Competition:

1. The Contest Controller along with the Associate Contest Controller(s) (with aid from the NABBA Rules Committee) are the authority in hosting and running the NABBC. All rules interpretations and decisions are theirs and are final.
2. Entries into the NABBA Championships are limited to bands in the United States and Canada, that are registered members of NABBA. All performers and conductors must be individual members of NABBA. Any violation in the entries will constitute an incomplete registration and result in disqualification (the band will perform for comments only).
3. Bands will be limited in the number of players on stage. A conductor is not allowed to play an instrument with the band they are conducting. Any violation in the number of players will result in disqualification.
  - 3.1. Entries in the Championship, First, Second, and Third Sections are 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.



- 3.2. Entries in the Youth Championship and Youth First Sections are limited to 40 brass players, percussion players as needed, plus the conductor on the competition stage at any time.
  - 3.3. Entries in the Open and Youth Open Sections are limited to 50 players on the stage at any time, plus the conductor.
4. Members of bands in the Youth section must be
  - 4.1. 17 years of age or younger, or
  - 4.2. Enrolled in a primary or secondary school (K-12) on the day of performance.  
Any violation in qualification of youth players will result in disqualification.
5. A representative of the Contest Controller will verify the NABBA band roster. Any discrepancies between band members performing on stage and the names on the roster will result in disqualification.
6. No band member is allowed to play more than one brass instrument per piece unless necessitated by the score. It is permissible for a brass player to also play a percussion instrument. Any violation will result in disqualification.
7. Players may perform with two, but no more than two bands, as long as the total number of doubling players in each band does not exceed three brass players and two percussionists. (Scheduling accommodations may not be made). Any violation will result in disqualification for the band(s) sharing the excess number of players.
  - 7.1. Even though it goes against the spirit of North American contesting, any non-North American residents that play with a band (of which there may be no more than two), will count against the total shared players. Bands may only use non-North American-resident players that can provide proof that their home band registration is in an equal or lower section (Any other non-North American resident players may only compete in Championship section)
8. The Contest Program will consist of a set test piece (which must be performed first) and an own choice program. The set test piece for each section will be posted online on (or before) the date that contest registration opens.
  - 8.1. The own choice program will be timed from the end of the last note of the set test piece until the last note of the own choice program; this includes all pause intervals, percussion changes, and applause/bows between pieces.
    - 8.1.1. If a band elects to perform multiple selections for their own choice program, any applause and interval time in between own choice selections will count toward the overall timing.
  - 8.2. Any timing penalties will be assessed at a rate of a 1-point deduction (out of 100) per ½ minute overtime or part thereof.
  - 8.3. Minimum and maximum own choice program times (from last note of the set test piece through last note of the own choice program) are as follows:
    - 8.3.1. Championship Section: 13-20 minutes. (For Championship Section bands, this time is measured from the first note to the last note of the own choice program.)
    - 8.3.2. First Section: 12-20 minutes.

- 8.3.3. Second Section: 10-18 minutes.
  - 8.3.4. Third Section and Youth Championship Section: 10-16 minutes.
  - 8.3.5. Youth First Section: 10-15 minutes.
  - 8.3.6. Open and Youth Open Sections: 13-20 minutes. (For Open Section bands, because there is no set piece, this time is measured from the first note to the last note of their program.)
9. All penalties will be assessed by the contest controller after the adjudicator's scores have been turned in.

## REGISTRATION

1. Registration must be completed via the online process. Registration will be posted on November 1st and due by the Close of Business on January 15th.
2. A band may enter only one of the following categories: Championship Section, First Section, Second Section, Third Section, Open Section, Youth Championship Section, Youth First Section, Youth Open Section.
3. Registration fees are \$1,600 (\$1,200 for bands in the youth category).
4. NABBA band registration fees and band membership fees are non-refundable and non-transferable.
5. A completed performance roster must be submitted two weeks prior to the contest (as per the instructions online). When necessitated by illness or emergency absence, a band may request to use a substitute player. Such request must be made to the contest controller(s) who has the final word in the matter.
6. Three (3) scores for each piece of the own choice portion must be submitted by February 1st. Scores must be originals. For unpublished works, verified permission must be provided.
7. When a band has drawn the first position in the previous year's contest, 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). This includes two separate draws for the Championship Section Test Piece and Own Choice Piece. Either draw must be specified on your application.
8. After the date of closure, no further registrations will be accepted, and incomplete registrations will be rejected.
9. Final payment amount and payment instructions will be provided upon completion of the online registration.
10. All NABBA members are eligible for admission to the contest (upon proof of their active membership)



## CONTEST FLOW

1. Stages will be pre-set in a standard brass band configuration with the percussion instruments furnished by NABBA. A list of provided percussion and a diagram of standard brass band configuration will be posted [www.nabba.org](http://www.nabba.org).
2. Stand-by bands should assemble in the designated area of the performance at the appointed time in the schedule.
3. A volunteer will be assigned to each band to assist you from location to location.
4. Stand-by bands will proceed to a secure room to open and store cases until the conclusion of their competition.
5. Stand-by bands will then be escorted to a warm-up room.
6. As the performing band on stage begins their own-choice program, the stand-by band will assemble in the holding area at the discretion of the stage manager.
7. As soon as the performing band on stage completes their program, they are expected to exit the stage as quickly as possible.
8. Once the final brass player of the previous performing band has exited the stage, the stand-by band will be permitted to enter the contest stage, arrange percussion and chairs, and be seated.
9. Players may play during this set-up period.
10. After a signal from the stage manager (noting the adjudicators are ready) and a signal from the conductor, contest personnel will introduce the new performing band and announce its program. The band will then perform its contest program.
11. The new performing band will perform the set test piece first, followed by their own choice program. Each band should familiarize themselves with timing considerations in the Rules and Regulations.
12. After conclusion of each performing band's performance, they must immediately exit the stage and will be offered guidance to the photo area. Pictures may be taken at this point at the discretion of the individual band.

