



RULES COMMITTEE REPORT

Hello valued NABBA members,

You will notice that there has been an extensive overhaul of the NABBA rules. There were several issues that led to and guided this process. We hope that you find the “new and improved” rules much easier to follow. The NABBA Rules Committee worked very hard and met twice on-line in addition to countless email exchanges before finalizing the rules at last week’s fall board meeting.




The first issue was that, in the past, rule changes had been frequent and very reactionary. Every year the rules needed to be changed to reflect a different length set piece. Additionally, the landscape of brass banding had changed significantly, and the rule changes became very stuck in the past, rather than forward-looking (e.g. What do we want NABBA to look like years down the road?). We wanted to create a set of contest rules that we hope does not require changes (or at least any major changes) for years to come.

Second, many of the rules were not logistically enforceable and many did not have an explicit consequence. Those rules that we valued but were difficult to enforce, we addressed in a statement entitled “Philosophical Statement on Brass Band Contesting in North America”. This philosophy was not only vetted by the Rules Committee and the entire Board, but we turned to past presidents Dr. Ronald Holz and Dr. Paul Droste for their approval as well.

Lastly, there were many issues that were very divisive (e.g. international players, how best to implement timing penalties, etc.). We wanted to be sure to be respectful that we have a very geographically diverse country and consequently brass band resources and philosophies are equally diverse. There is no one way to create and maintain a brass band in North America, so the rules must be open enough to respect this diversity, but yet not allow for unfair competitive advantage. We have a very large and diverse board and feel we have reached a good compromise.

The overall package we have put together contains five parts, which we believe will be easier to follow:

- Philosophical Statement on Brass Band Contesting in North America
- Adjudication

-  Band Rules and Regulations
-  Registration
-  Contest Flow

We thank you for putting your trust in our Rules Committee and Board of Directors as we work towards the betterment of banding. Because this document may initially appear confusing in its new organization, several members of the Rules Committee will be available **Sunday, October 6th, 2019, from 8-9pm (EDT)** to have a Question & Answer session on Facebook for both the new rules and new Adjudication Rubric.

DR. PATRICK HERAK
Vice-President, NABBA
Chair, Rules Committee

