

JUNIOR FIELD BAND RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. TIME AND PLACE

The contest will be held in the Department convention city at a time and place selected by the Department Contest Supervisory Committee on the day of the convention immediately preceding the day of the parade.

Should preliminary contests be required, they will be held at a time and place designated by the Department Contest Supervisory Committee.

In the event of inclement weather, the contest may be held at a site agreed upon by the Department Contest Supervisory Committee, if no site is available indoors, which would prevent the staging of the evening show, the scores of the preliminaries will be the basis of determining the championship.

The contest field shall be in the shape of a football field 160 feet wide by 300 feet long, with the outside lines and the 50 yard line marked, with visual markers at each corner and end of the 50 yard line.

2. SUPERVISION

- a. Such competition shall be under the supervision of the Department Contest Supervisory Committee.
- b. All rulings during the contest or during the preceding representatives, or other meetings, made by the Supervisory Committee representative or representatives in charge of such contest or meeting shall be subject to review and correction by said committee, and upon any such review and correction, said committee may take such other action as may seem proper.
- c. No agreement between contestants, as to the penalty for the violation of any rule or as to the waiver or variation of any rule or requirement, shall have any force or effect without the consent of the Department Supervisory Committee.

3. ENTRY BLANKS

- a. The Department Contest Supervisory Committee will mail copies of these rules and regulations, with entry blanks, to the Commander of all bands on the mailing list in Department Headquarters. A duplicate mailing will be made to the Post Commander.

4. ENTRY

- a. Each competing band shall, not later than 45 days prior to the Department Convention, forward by registered mail to the Department Adjutant of the American Legion, on the prescribed form, a list of its members, with their ages, if a sponsored unit, certified by the Commander and Adjutant of the organization which the band represents. Entry blanks may be delivered in person at Department Headquarters and a receipt showing date and time of delivery will be issued. Entry blanks must be postmarked no later than 45 days prior to the

opening of the Department Convention or unit will not be permitted to participate in the contest.

b. The American Legion Organization that has such a unit will send in to the Department Headquarters, at least 45 days prior to the Department Convention, an affidavit to the extent of what they have done to have a Junior unit. The affidavit must be signed by at least 3 officers of the American Legion Organization that has such a unit with one of the officers being the person bonded and to whom all monies are to be mailed. This will enable the DCSC to rule on the qualifications of eligibility of the Junior units.

c. Any band may up to 15 days prior to the opening of the Department Convention make additions to or deletions from the roster submitted on the entry blank filed 45 days prior to the opening of the Department Convention. Such changes must be post marked no later than 15 days prior to the opening of the Department Convention and shall be certified by the Commander and Adjutant of such organization as aforesaid. No prize will be awarded any band until its eligibility has been approved by the Department Adjutant.

d. Order of appearance in band preliminaries and in final contests will be by DRAW. The champions of the previous year will be last during final show.

5. ELIGIBILITY

a. Only Junior bands composed of (a) at least 20% bona fide members of the S.A.L. in good standing with a membership card for the current year and not over 21 years of age as of September 1; and/or bona fide members of the American Legion Auxiliary in good standing and not over 21 years of age as of September 1, may be part of the S.A.L. groups; or (b) boys and/or girls not over 21 years of age as of September 1, which are sponsored by a Post or Posts, County, District or City Council of the American Legion shall be permitted to compete.

b. No member shall compete with more than one such band.

c. Such contest shall be open to all bands desiring to compete, having a minimum of thirty pieces.

d. Directors, drum majors and color guards taking any part in the contest will not be counted toward the minimum membership, but are subject to judging and all other requirements, except that a musical director for field concert only may be over 21 years of age.

e. Each such unit must be one supervised by an American Legion Post or Posts, County, District or City Council Organization, the American Legion Organization having assumed responsibility for and control over the personnel, the training and equipping of the unit for such a period of time as to evidence the permanency of the relation between the American Legion Organization and the units; that these units be made of at least 80 residents of the State of Michigan not over the age of 21 as of September 1; that they should hold all regular practice sessions in the State of Michigan within 50 miles of their Post home.

6. PARADE

a. Each band entering the contest must participate in the Convention Parade with not less than 5% of its competing personnel and wear the uniforms in which they competed.

b. Second uniforms for bad weather will consist of trousers, shorts or skirts of near color, shoes (no sandals), shako or caps and jackets, all the same. Inspection will be made at the start of the parade by a member of the Department Contest Supervisory Committee. Any infraction of this rule will result in the loss of parade money.

7. MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES

a. At a time prior to the contest and at a place, both to be designated by the Department Contest Supervisory Committee, one representative of each competing unit shall meet with the representatives of that committee to receive instructions and transact any business which may properly come before such meeting. Each unit shall be represented by a member of the unit or of the sponsoring Post at the drawing for a position in the contests. If unable to appear, it may delegate the authority in WRITING to a member of the DCSC in a registered letter or by telegram. Failure is cause for a penalty to be assessed. No judges are to be in attendance at the meeting for drawing of position for competition.

8. JUDGES

a. The Department Contest Supervisory Committee shall select seven judges; two to judge marching and maneuvering; two to judge music execution; two to judge general effects; one to judge timing and penalties. Judges of marching and maneuvering and of execution may follow the band about the field.

b. Judges shall have absolute privacy during the contest, and no one except representatives of the DCSC shall be permitted to have access to them under any circumstances or conditions. All judges will adhere to the Regulations for Competing Musical and Drill Units of the American Legion.

c. Prior to taking the field a uniform and general appearance inspection will be made by the DCSC with a Penalty Caption in effect. If preliminary contest is held, the inspection grades shall be used in the final contest.

9. POINTS

a. Bands will be judged on the following points:

1. Marching and Maneuvering,	30 Points
2. Music Execution	30 Points
3. General Effect-Music	20 Points
General Effect-M&M	20 Points
TOTAL	100 Points

b. By General Effect is meant all of those elements in the band's performance which collectively present with impressive effectiveness its superior ability, originality and showmanship.

10. CADENCE

- a. Cadence shall be optional.

11. EQUIPMENT

- a. The musical equipment of each band during contest shall be limited to appropriate Woodwind, Brass and Percussion Sections, balanced in size.
- b. All instruments shall be inspected before competition.
- c. A band must compete with the same uniform and equipment worn and carried during inspection.
- d. No pyrotechnics, appliances or articles of nonconforming costumes not in keeping with the uniform of the band proper (except musical equipment, uniforms, flags, guidons, director's baton and appropriate arms for color guard), shall be taken on the field.
- e. A podium may be used by the Director, only, off the field.
- f. Simulated rifles are to conform in outward appearance to military rifles, past or present, sight, sling, trigger guard and trigger are optional.
- g. No discharge of arms, pressurized canisters, flammable liquids and/or hazardous materials will be permitted on or around the competition field.
- h. Identification shall be that of the sponsoring American Legion Organization.

12. COLORS AND STANDARDS

- a. Each band shall be required to use its colors and standards in the contest, such colors and standards to be composed of a squad of at least four which shall be: one U.S. Color, one American Legion Banner, and two guards. A commander in addition to the foregoing basic color guard is optional. All other flags, silks, banners, etc., not a marching part of the U.S. Color section shall be considered as part of the band proper. They may, however, take a position in the field between the starting line and 25 yards from the starting line.
- b. When forming a front, the U.S. Flag shall fly to the right of all other flags, banners, guidons, silks, or other identifying material.
- c. No other flag, banner, guidon, silk, or other identifying material shall ever precede the U.S. Colors while facing in the same direction. (Note: This violation is commonly termed "trailing".)
- d. The U.S. Flag shall always be guarded, and while guarded, no other flag shall pass between the guard and the U.S. Colors.
- e. The U.S. Flag shall never be lowered or dipped.
- f. A unit's National Colors and American Legion Banner must appear on the contest field. The American Legion Banner must be accorded proper respect and may be posted along with the National Colors in accordance with the American Legion Competitive Flag Code.
- g. No Rebel flag shall be used in competition.

13. CONDUCT OF THE BAND

- a. A one minute warm-up (playing) period which the band may choose to take but which must be prior to the start of competition will be allowed.
- b. Each band shall enter the field over the starting line, to the left of the judges' table, and extending along the back sideline, and exit over the finish line at the opposite end of the field, to the right of the judges' table, and extending along the back sideline.
- c. After timing has commenced, there will be no penalty for marking time on the starting lines or for entering and leaving the field over the starting lines up to the first 60 seconds of the band's performance. All boundary lines will be enforced after the first 60 seconds.
- d. The band must march and play for a period not less than minutes or more than 13 minutes.
- e. The band must be in motion at least 7 minutes.
- f. Time in motion shall be determined by deducting stop time from 10 minutes.
- g. A stop begins when the first man of the band proper comes to a halt and ends when the last man of the band proper leaves a halt, except that stops of 20 seconds or less shall not be considered stop time.
- h. The drum major is to salute the timing judge when the band is assembled in the starting position.
- i. Thereafter, the official time begins with the first note or the first step.
- j. Timing ends when the last member of the band crosses the exit line. As stated, the term "member of the band" or "band member" include all performing personnel, whether playing or non-playing, drum major excepted.
- k. A band which chooses to conclude its performance on the field will be timed until all marching or playing; have stopped and the drum major has saluted the timer to signal the end of the performance.
- l. The band must then leave the field over the exit line without music or drum beat, other than a cadence drum, tap.
- m. A warning signal will be given at the expiration of 10 minutes and again after 13 minutes of competition.
- n. Singing, chanting, talking or shouting, either in unison or individually while on the field is not permitted, except for drum majors, color guard commanders, national color squad commander or weapons squad commander issuing orders to their respective units.

14. PENALTIES

- a. A band violating any time requirement for which no specific penalty is provided shall be penalized one point for each thirty seconds, or fraction thereof, over a maximum or under a minimum requirement.
- b. A band violating any requirement of Rule 5 shall be disqualified, and its position and standing in the contest shall be forfeited.
- c. The failure of any band to report at the inspection line ready for inspection at the time set for it to report shall be penalized one-half point. For each 15 minutes or part thereof and up to the conclusion of the contest another one-half point shall be assessed.
- d. Once a unit reports to the starting official that the unit is ready, the unit must start in 60 seconds or less, or be assessed a one-point penalty.
- e. A band violating any rule, or part of a rule, for which no specific penalty is provided, shall be penalized for each such violation, not less than one point nor more than disqualification, in the discretion of the SC.
- f. Any infraction of flag etiquette shall be penalized 3/10 point for each offense. The authority adopted for flag etiquette is "American Legion Competitive Flag Code" adopted by the DCSC, revised 1975.
- g. Violation of Rule 6 will result in disqualification for this year and the ensuing year.
- h. Any band violating Rule 7 will be assessed a two point penalty.
- i. For a stop of more than 20 seconds a 2/10 point penalty, per 6 seconds or fraction thereof will be assessed.
- j. A 1/10th point penalty shall be assessed for each piece of dropped equipment or uniform. Equipment or uniform items may be deliberately grounded without penalty.
- k. A one point penalty shall be assessed for the retrieval by any member of each piece of dropped equipment or uniform, Equipment obviously grounded deliberately may be retrieved by any member of the competing unit without penalty.
- l. There will be a two point penalty for the use of any illegal equipment, instrumentation or implement.
- m. After the band has entered the field of competition, a full one point penalty will be assessed for each occurrence of members crossing any boundary line and returning onto the field, with the exception of drum majors and musical directors.
- n. For any display of unsportsman-like conduct on the field there shall be a penalty of a minimum of 2 points up to and including disqualification.

- o. There shall be no foul language used and all members shall show the proper respect to all members of the committee, judges, and all other persons connected with this contest. Any member of the committee observing an infraction of this rule can make a protest and report to the chairman, following which, action will be taken on the protest.

15. PROTESTS

- a. Any protest regarding these contests shall be filed in the office of the Department Adjutant at the established headquarters in the convention city no later than 5:00 P.M. of the day following the contest, by which hour copies of the protest must have been given any other units involved or affected. The protesting unit must be represented by a proper officer at the meeting of the DCSC at 10:00 A.M. of the day following the convention parade, at said established headquarters.

16. PRIZES

- a. No prize shall be deemed awarded until confirmed by the Contest Supervisory Committee.
- b. Cash prizes appropriated from the Department Music and Drill Fund will be awarded and all competing units shall participate in the -prized fund.
- c. The winner of the first place will be awarded a plaque representing the Trophy and will be designated as the Department Junior Field Sand Champion.
- d. The winner of first place shall be awarded the championship flag; which will remain the permanent property of the American Legion, Department of Michigan and will be awarded from year to year. Flag must be turned in to the Department Contest Supervisory Committee 15 days before the competition for presentation to winner at the close of the contests. Bands and sponsors will be held responsible for the condition of the flag.

REGISTRATION

\$15.00 Entry Fee **REQUIRED** of all Entries and must accompany application.

INSURANCE OPTIONS:

- A. If registered with the Convention as a Delegate, Alternate or guest, your \$5.00 registration automatically covers insurance.
- B. If not registered with the Convention, a \$2.00 per person fee is required at the time of application
- C. The \$2.00 fee can be avoided by submitting **PROOF OF INSURANCE**.

NOTE: If A or B is chosen, insurance is limited to **FIRST AID SERVICE** on the Field at the time of the contests, including any accident that results from neglect on the part of the Convention Corporation.