

# **Band Contest General Information**

## **CONTEST PHILOSOPHY**

We are more concerned about how we live and how we are shaped by our involvement with the band program, rather than what our peers or a panel of judges think of us. We do not worry about the things which we have no control over, such as performance order, the adjudication panel, the weather, etc. We work very hard on the things that we can control. The value of performance or competitions is formed in the preparation invested in it. If you do your best each day, the trophy case will take care of itself - and stand for what we are really about. Champions are created in rehearsal not in Competition.

## **SCORING CAPTIONS**

Marching contests are generally scored in the areas of music, marching, and effect. The scoring priorities are *usually* given as music 45%, marching 35%, and effect 20%. Within each caption, the following sub captions are used:

Music : Music Ensemble Performance (full band), Music Individual Performance (field judge)

Marching : Overall Marching (full band), Individual Marching Execution

Effect : Music Effect, Visual Effect

Independent contests (those other than the state events) will also give separate scores for percussion and colorguard. However, these scores are not included in the final band tabulation. The groups are included in the overall scoring for music, marching, and effect.

## **BAND SCORING**

Be prepared for the fact that band judging is a very subjective activity. Different judges will have varying opinions about a band's performance. However, when we enter a contest, we in effect agree to accept the judge's opinion about our band. It is of no use to complain about the judging after the contest. After each contest, we will incorporate judging opinions in our rehearsals. Generally, if we get constrictive criticism, we will give it serious consideration. If we get the same comment twice, we will try to make changes as necessary. Regardless of the outcome, we should plan to accept all scores and ratings with professionalism and dignity.

## **INDIVIDUAL EVENT INFORMATION**

Schedules and other pertinent information for each event are usually received three or four days prior to the event. This information is sent out via email and hard copy. Most marching events will run very close to schedule. Our time of return to school may vary due to unforeseen circumstances at the event.

## **BAND CLASSIFICATIONS**

"Regular season" competitions usually classify their bands based on similar HORN LINE size. At SCBDA Upperstate and State bands are classified based on similar SCHOOL size.

## **UNIFORM/EQUIPMENT PREPARATION**

It is extremely important that all uniform items are clean and in good condition. Equipment should be cleaned and polished before each event. Silver – Silver Polish. All reed instruments should have 3 **PLAYABLE** reeds with them in the uniform coat at all times. Uniforms should be placed in the uniform bag. Hats and shoes should be packed in the designated box or gym bag. Due to logistical considerations, band members should not share uniform bags. All clothes bags, horn cases, etc. should be marked with the student's name in large letters. Please view the WIS for necessities needed for each Saturday.

## **MEALS/FINANCES**

Students will be asked to bring money for concessions. Students should note that the buses will not stop for food and/or drinks on the way home from an event unless noted on the event schedule.

## **EVENT DEPARTURE**

The bus chaperones will begin to check the role after the conclusion of the event award ceremony. Band members should make every effort to be in their seat with all equipment loaded at that time. Unless there is an emergency or other extenuating circumstances, band members should plan to ride the buses home from each contest. However, should a student find that it is necessary to ride home with a parent; the following procedure should be followed:

- A student may leave an away event with a parent ONLY after the Directors are given written notice prior to the event. A director must personally observe the student leaving with the parent. Parents are responsible for meeting the group at the buses IMMEDIATELY after the event before roll call. As soon as all students are on buses and accounted for, the group will leave the event. If a parent has not retrieved their student by this time the student will find the bus back to the school with the group.

### **BUS SEATING**

Bus seating charts will be located in the band room.

### **BUS DECORUM**

We observe a “quiet” time for approx 2 min at the start and finish of each trip. It is the intention of the band directors and the chaperones that band members be allowed to enjoy themselves on all trips. However, we must maintain a level of decorum that is appropriate for a band of this caliber. Each student is expected to fully cooperate with the chaperones and bus drivers at all times. If they ask you to do something, please comply immediately. Students are free to play radios, CD players, I-Pods, etc. only if headphones are used at all times.

### **TRAVEL/TRANSIT GUIDELINES**

In the interest of safety, we usually try to keep the convoy group on the Interstate as much as possible. However, individual drivers may wish to consider alternate “through the country” routes if the driving time is shorter. We do ask that individual cars refrain from driving between the buses or trucks during transit. Keeping the convoy group closed up allows us to better monitor the situation with all vehicles should a problem develop. When we arrive at the event location, the convoy group will be parked together in the band area. All other vehicles will be parked in spectator parking areas. Please note that in some cases the equipment trucks may travel to and from the events separately from the buses.

### **STUDENT PICKUP**

When the band returns from an event, the bus loop can be extremely congested due to the presence of equipment vehicles, buses, and students. In an effort to ease the flow of traffic, we are asking students be picked up in the band parking lot. Those band members, crew members, and chaperones driving their own cars to and from the school may park around the perimeter of the band lot.

### **PUBLIC RELATIONS**

During any sort of trip or public performance, the York Cougar Band represents both the school and the community. As such, our actions must be beyond reproach at all times. Band members must understand that they will be “on stage” throughout the trip – not just during the time that we are performing. Students should note that all policies outlined in Handbook would be in effect during all band trips and functions.

### **ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITY**

All band members are expected to maintain grades that are acceptable to parents and school officials. During contest season, it is extremely important that all band members keep up with classwork and anticipate future tests, projects, etc. Band members experiencing problems in this area should speak with directors, staff, and/or guidance.

### **BAND PICTURES/TAPES**

Sometimes DVD's of the band's performance may be available at some locations. Interested students/parents may purchase these items if they so choose. There is no obligation to purchase any items at any time. Students should note that neither the band directors, or the band in general is in any way connected with the sale of band pictures, DVD's, or other items. As a result, it will be impossible for us to vouch for the reliability of any company or sales representative.

### **STATE CONTEST SCHEDULES AND RESULTS**

Contest schedules and results may be obtained throughout the season at [www.bandlink.org](http://www.bandlink.org)