

# CLASSIFICATION OF BANDS

Classification of Bands is determined by the total number of playing members. Do not count drum majors, silks, dance corps, majorettes, etc.

The five classes are:

<b>CLASS A</b>	<b>Up to 48</b>
<b>CLASS AA</b>	<b>49 to 64</b>
<b>CLASS AAA</b>	<b>65 to 86</b>
<b>CLASS AAAA</b>	<b>87 and above</b>
<b>NATIONAL</b>	<b>Top 5 Finalists at 3 consecutive Bands of America (B.O.A.) Regional Competitions</b>

## WHO ARE THE JUDGES?

The Pennsylvania Federation of Contest Judges (PFCJ) consists of approximately 75 highly skilled professional musicians, educators and technicians who are widely recognized for their expertise in the field of marching music.

Membership in the Federation is granted only after a rigorous screening and training process, which includes participation in numerous judging clinics and seminars, as well as a period of trial judging which assesses the applicant's qualifications and abilities.

The PFCJ constantly seeks to improve the judging skills of all of its members and demands that they keep pace with the latest innovations and techniques of the marching band activity. Thus, Pennsylvania Federation of Contest Judges, through the adjudication process, serves as an educational extension program and assists the competitive units to achieve their artistic and educational goals.

# HOW THE BAND IS JUDGED AT A CONTEST

When the band performs at a local contest (PIMBA), or a national contest (BOA), the judges are trained to evaluate on the same criteria. There is a "placemat" that is used, clarifying what criteria should be used to assign scores, and where a band would place accordingly in each judged area is determined by the use of the "Criteria Reference System."

An explanation of how each score is obtained, how many judges are in each caption, and how they judge follows:

## **MUSIC PERFORMANCE ( INDIVIDUAL )**

This judge is located on the field. He is free to move about the field. He judges the entire show from beginning to end. He assesses individual students on their performance abilities, tone production, articulation, musical nuance, and overall musicality. There is ONE (1) judge in this caption.

## **MUSIC PERFORMANCE (ENSEMBLE)**

This judge is located in the stands or in the press box, whichever location affords her the best vantage point. Her location is fixed during the entire competition. She judges the entire show from beginning to end. She assesses the band on their overall quality of sound, tone production, musical interpretation, intonation, and overall musical nuance. There is ONE (1) judge in this caption.

## **VISUAL PERFORMANCE (INDIVIDUAL)**

This judge is located on the field. He is free to move about the field. He judges the entire show from beginning to end. He assesses the students on individual techniques specific to the instrument/equipment being utilized. Strong individual marching style and techniques is the key to a high score in this caption. This caption is applied to the ENTIRE ensemble, and the color guard figures strongly into this caption. There is ONE (1) judge in this caption.

## **VISUAL PERFORMANCE (ENSEMBLE)**

This judge is located in the stands or in the press box,

whichever location affords her the best vantage point. She judges the entire show from the beginning to end, and is adjudicating the band's OVERALL visual performance. She assesses drill forms, drill transitions, overall color guard contribution and interaction with the band proper, and the band's quality of drill design, as well as how well it is performed. There is ONE (1) judge in this caption.

\*\*The two Music Performance judges (individual and ensemble) have their scores averaged for a total of 20 points. The two Visual Performance judges (individual and ensemble) have their scores averaged for a total of 20 points.

#### **VISUAL GENERAL EFFECT**

This judge is located in the press box. He assesses the overall quality of the performance as it relates to the visual content. Clarity of forms, interaction of band members to guard, guard interpretation of musical elements, and overall visual EFFECT are some of the areas taken into consideration when adjudicating this caption. There is ONE (1) judge in this caption, and his score is not averaged with any other score.

#### **MUSIC GENERAL EFFECT**

There are TWO (2) judges in this caption, and both are located in the press box. Their scores are not averaged. They assess the overall musical performance of the students. This would include overall tone quality, intonation, musical impact through use of dynamics and musical nuance, and musical interpretation and emotion.

#### **TIMING AND PENALTIES JUDGE**

This judge is located on the field. She is free to move about the field. She keeps accurate timing for each band and records any penalties for overtime, under time, boundary violations, equipment violations, or rule infractions. There is ONE (1) judge in this caption.

#### **TABULATOR**

This judge collect the score sheets, adds up the numbers and then scores are announced. Tabulations are usually done while the exhibition band performs at the end of the contest.