

Northern California Band Association

Winter Percussion Rules and Regulations

The purpose of NCBA Winter Guard and Winter Percussion is to educate and encourage performance and musical excellence. To that means and to insure consistency, our philosophy is to establish perimeters that will allow for creativity while at the same time provide structure and limits that promote all band programs, regardless of size or funding, to have equal opportunity.

CLASSIFICATIONS:

1. **Junior High School/Middle school** – Units who are in the 6-7 8-9 grades.
 - a. **Novice** – Percussion Programs with limited experience and rudimentary level of equipment facility.
 - b. **Amateur** – Middle Schools with moderate experience and level of equipment facility.
 - c. **Scholastic** – Percussion programs with advanced experience and advanced level of equipment facility.
2. High school
 - a. **Standing** – High school percussion programs that stand in position only. No mvt.
 - b. **Novice** – High School Percussion Programs with little experience and median level of equipment facility.
 - c. **Intermediate.** – High school percussion programs with some limited experience
 - d. **Amateur** – High school percussion programs with moderate experience and moderate level of equipment facility
 - e. **Scholastic** – High School Percussion Programs with advanced experience and advanced level of equipment facility.
 - f. **Open** – High School Percussion Programs with sophisticated competitive units with complex facility and body movement.
 - g. **Exhibition** – Percussion units who do not want to compete. Performing units have the option of being evaluated by the adjudication panel.

Note: Show hosts may combine categories if there are not enough entries for each category. All units should be advised if there are not enough entries in the contest for separate divisions.

CONTEST AREA & BOUNDARY LINES

1. Each show will provide an indoor facility with a 50' X 74' competition floor clearly marked by orange cones and white floor tape. **Only the front line will be the penalty line**, but will continue unmarked for the remainder of the court. There will be no penalty for sidelines or backcourt line.
2. Unit members may start the show off of the 50' X 74' but all unit members must remain in the 50' X 74' competition area during the entire show once they have entered.
3. ***The Timing and Penalty Judge may have the unit enter to floor to mid-court if it does not hinder the exiting unit. Be sure to follow the directions of the Timing and Penalty Judge.***
4. **ENTRENCE:** The T & P judge may bring the next performing unit onto the floor to mid-court if it does not interfere with the exiting unit. Mid-court can also be the length of the of the competition floor. The unit must not cross the mid-court line until indicated by the timing and penalty judge.
5. The show host will provide each contestant with a diagram of the performing area with the entrance for the unit and the exit. Performing units must follow these directions and if a unit has a performance floor it should be set to unfold for that site.

TIME LIMITATIONS:

Junior High & High School Novice: minimum 2 minutes - maximum 5 minutes
High School: minimum 3 minutes - maximum 6 minutes

The timing begins when the music starts or with the first movement. Timing ends with the obvious conclusion of the show. The equipment crew is not included in the timing of the show. All units will have a total of 10 minutes to set up perform and clear the floor.

FOOTWEAR:

Contest hosts have the option of specifying prior to the show date if boots or other hard-soled shoes need to be taped over before performing on their gym floor. ***Units who perform without shoes must provide their own floor. Those who do perform with their own floor must enter and exit with shoes that cover the entire foot while setting the floor and removing the floor. It is recommended that the shoes be placed next to the covered floor.***

Units who perform without shoes must wear shoes during the awards ceremony.

EQUIPMENT REQUIRMENTS:

1. Groups will supply all of their own instruments. **Grounded equipment must have protection on any area that touches the contest floor.** Judges may stop the competition and disqualify any unit who has any equipment that may damage a contest floor.
2. Drum Lines that perform without shoes must provide their own floor. Those who do perform with their own floor must enter and exit with shoes that cover the entire foot while setting and removing the floor. Units that perform without shoes must wear shoes during the awards ceremony.
3. There will be no wind or string instruments used. String instruments are defined as those typically used within an orchestral setting (string bass is excepted).
4. Taped music will not be allowed. Instrumentation is limited to those instruments typically utilized and recognized as part of a percussion section. Also allowed are electronic percussion equipment and those electronic instruments recognized as normal stage band rhythm section instruments. **Wind controllers, wind instruments and/or string instruments (other than string bass) may not be used.** No pre-recorded music or pre-recorded audio effects may be used. A performing member must generate all electronically produced sounds in "real time". The use of sequencers or any sequenced copyrighted material is not allowed. The generation of any electronic sound must be triggered by an implement of hand striking the key, instrument or pat (note to arrangers: the effects created by electronic can be unique, wonderful, and effective. However, if the intent is to disguise a particular sound or have the blend so uniform you cannot tell what the sound source is, credit by the adjudicators will not be received for achievement).

ADJUDICATION:

All contests will utilize approved score sheets and judges from the *Northern California Band Association* as follows:

1. All adjudication will be done using SD card recorders supplied by the judge. The Timing & Penalty judge is responsible for timing each group and assigning penalties. The show host will supply score sheets and SD cards for each unit to be judged
2. No judge will judge more than two hours at a time without a break. (minimum of 10 minutes).
3. Each panel will consist of 2 percussion judges and 1 timing and penalty judge. The senior judge with the most NCBA judging experience and/or and officer of the NCBA board will act on behalf of the association to answer any questions that should arise. The decision of that judge will be final.

PERSONNEL:

All members of the competing unit must be enrolled at the school they are performing with. No non-performers may enter the competition floor while the unit is in competition and being adjudicated. Non-performers include parents, directors, instructors, or other support personnel.

A performer is defined as a unit member who meets all of the criteria of using standard equipment and/or is visually available in the competition area for the purpose of adjudication.

PENALTIES:

1. There will be a 0.1 point penalty for each 5 seconds of overtime/undertime.
2. Unprotected equipment = disqualification.
3. Drum Lines without shoes will not be allowed to perform unless they provide their own floor
4. Use of unauthorized personnel or non-performers = disqualification.
5. Use of wind instruments, string instruments, or taped music = disqualification.
6. All boundary penalties shall be 0.1 of a point per offense; all exit and entry penalties shall be 0.1 of a point per offense, up to a maximum of two (2) points. Any non-performer entering the competition area while the unit is still being adjudicated will cause the unit to receive a 1 point penalty. The Timing and Penalty Judge will physically indicate when the floor is clear.
7. Any unit that has any performer who removes clothing during their performance on the Competition floor, either in front or behind backdrops, to the point where it would violate State Education Code requirements or the requirements of a school dress code will have their performance terminated immediately and will be disqualified. Any school that is disqualified for this reason will have their school administration notified by the NCBA Board of Directors.
8. Any intentional violation of the American Flag Code will result in the disqualification of The unit in competition.
A copy of the American Flag Code may be obtained from any NCBA Officer, Timing and Penalty Judge or the Contest Coordinator
9. Violation of the prohibited activities of the NCBA will result in disqualification of the unit in competition. These areas are:
 - a. Live animals (DQ)
 - b. Explosive devices of any kind or fire batons. (DQ)
 - c. Black out shows (DQ)
 - d. The release of lighter than air balloons of any size (DQ)
 - e. Flying of Floors (recommended not to be any higher than waist high)
(5 pt penalty)

RECLASSIFICATION:

The first show of the season (for each unit, including percussion) will be set into a classification based on the average scores from the previous year. Guard and percussion units will be notified prior to the start of the new season. Units will have the right to appeal this decision to the Winter Activities Committee.