

The Oklahoma Bandmasters Association will sponsor a "Marching Band Championship Competition" on October 14, 2023 for bands in Class 1A - 2A - 3A and Class 4A; October 21, 2023 for bands in Class 5A; and on October 28, 2023 for bands in class 6A Division 1-6A Division 2. The following Rules and Regulations will apply for the 2023 competition.

RULES AND REGULATIONS 2023 (revised 7/21/22)

1. There will be 4 OBA Marching Contests held each fall: 1A - 2A - 3A contest, 4A contest, 5A contest and 6A Division 1 - 6A Division 2.
2. This years OBA Marching Band Championship Contest will be open to 30 bands at each site consisting of ONLY Oklahoma Bands. OBA Championship applications will be available at the summer convention.
3. Applications must be filled out completely and must be signed by the high school principal or district superintendent and by the band director, stating eligibility to all participating students according to the standards set by the OSSAA.
4. OBA entry forms must either be accompanied by a school purchase order OR a school/personal check and be postmarked/submitted on or before the entry deadline. Failure to enter by the deadline date will result in the entry fee being DOUBLED for the OBA Contest. The fee will be printed on the application.
5. In order for an Oklahoma band to participate in an OBA Marching Contest, the Head Director must be a CURRENT member of Oklahoma Bandmasters Association BEFORE the Marching Contest draw is to be held.
6. Classification will be determined by OSSAA average daily membership (ADM) and set to align with the same class as your FOOTBALL TEAM.
7. Finalist bands and class winners from the previous year will be guaranteed a spot in the current year's contest if their entry form is received by the deadline. Competing bands must have directors that are members in good standing with the O.B.A. organization.
8. The scheduling of bands for preliminary competition will be in an open draw process.

The Oklahoma Bandmasters Association plan of Adjudication will be used as described in the following paragraphs. The decision of the judges will be final.

- A. Judges will be selected from current adjudication lists used across the United States. All members of the OBA Board of Control can submit names to be considered as possible judges. Any names in question will be voted upon by the Board of Control at the January meeting.
- B. Judges will be paid by a fee set by the OBA Executive Board and suggested by the OBA Marching Band Board of Control.
- C. With the exception of the Timing and Penalties judge, all adjudicators must come from outside the state of Oklahoma.
- D. Bands of America adjudication sheets will be used. Judges will be assigned to the following captions:
 - Visual Performance Individual
 - Music Performance Individual
 - Visual Performance Ensemble
 - Music Performance Ensemble
 - Visual General Effect
 - Music General Effect 1 and 2

- E. The timing and Penalties Official will check minimum and maximum show length, time block and keep track of any violations.
 - F. Any personal appeal to an adjudicator can result in suspension from future OBA marching competitions. Criticisms and recommendations for the competition may be submitted in writing to the contest chairman.
9. Each band will receive a numerical score. The numerical scoring will be used to determine the bands which shall advance to the evening finals competition.
10. The total band scores will be computed by adding the scores for each of the major categories and dividing by ten. Penalties will be subtracted from the final total (100 points possible)
11. The 12 highest scoring bands will advance to the finals competition that evening.
12. No roman numerical rating will be given.
13. Finalist bands will be announced as soon as possible after the last band in prelims has performed. Finals performance positions will be determined by a top six and bottom six draw.
14. Rules for the finals competition shall be the same as those for the preliminaries.
15. Prelim recordings may be picked up after all bands have performed in preliminary competition. Non Finalist bands may also have their critique sheets. Finalist bands will not receive critique sheets until after finals. No recap sheets will be handed out until after finals.
16. The following awards shall be presented after Prelims:
Participation awards
Caption awards (High Visual, High Music, High GE)
(ONLY for the 1A-3A and 6A1-6A2 contests)
Third, Second and First place awards for each class (medallions)
(ONLY for the 1A-3A and 6A1-6A2 contests)
Announcement of Finalist Bands
17. The following awards shall be presented after Finals:
Finalists will be massed on the field for presentation of awards
Twelfth place to Fourth place
Caption awards (High Visual, High Music, High GE)
Third, Second and First place
Third, Second and First place medallions will be given at the 4A and 5A contest at this time
18. Definitions:
Contest site: All grounds adjacent to the competition area, which are supervised by the contest management, including indoor warm up rooms (no practice field to be made available).
Competition Field: The rectangular space contained in and including the white boundary lines plus the dead zones 15 feet off the front sideline from goal line to goal line.
Performance Area: The competition field plus the grounds immediately adjacent.
Warm up Area: An area assigned to each band for preparation prior to performance.
Boundary Lines: The boundary lines of the competition field shall be defined as 0 or goal line for pre-placement and end zone line to end zone line for the boundaries in which to perform your show.
19. An announcement form will be made available to participating bands on which they will be allowed to list material pertinent to their show.
20. The competition field shall be the regulation size of a football field. The boundaries shall be marked.

21. No band may use the competition field for practice on the day of the contest.
22. Competition personnel, directors, and contest officials are permitted on the competition field at any time. Prop holders for stabilization CAN be adults, HOWEVER, if the props are moved DURING THE SHOW, they have to be STUDENT personnel.
23. Each participating band will be sent a warm-up time and a performing time. At the staging time, the band must be in close proximity to the field and ready to report "on the line" when given instructions to do so.
24. Each participating band will be scheduled in a 17 minute time block. This block starts with an announcement from the official announcer or a designated official. The band should be prepared to line up, do a pre-placement and/or a musical warm-up, have announcements read, present the show and exit within the 17 minute time block. Pit crews and equipment people may set up on a cue from the timing and penalties judge prior to the beginning of your 17 minute time slot.
25. Performance Timing:
 - A. A band is allowed four (4) minutes to set-up and warm-up anywhere in the Performance Area.
 - B. A band is allowed a Performance time of 7 to 11 minutes anywhere on the Performance Field. The timing will begin at the conclusion of the four-minute set-up/warm-up time, following the announcement that "OBA is proud to present in preliminary/finals Performance Drum Majors _____ and _____ and the _____ H.S. Marching 'nickname.'" If the first step or first note of music has not occurred within 30 seconds of conclusion of the announcement, the timer will commence timing. Musical exits will be included in the time of the show. Visual moves with percussion cadence (or silence) will generally be included in the exit timing, and not in the time of the Performance.
 - C. Bands should completely vacate the Performance Field within two (2) minutes of the end of the Performance. We define vacating the Performance Field as being outside/clear of the goal line (the goal line being used for and in the direction of the exit) with all personnel, equipment, and props. Penalties shall be assessed only when it is determined by the Contest Director that the band exiting is not making concerted efforts or substantial progress in complying with the rule. Bands that "troop" the stands, exit the field in the wrong direction, or have props or equipment that cannot be promptly removed will be penalized.
26. Bands shall approach the performance area with no sound.
27. Band personnel may not enter the competition field during another bands performance. (Bands may be led into the performance area only after the first 12 minutes have elapsed in the previous bands time block) A band may not take pre-placement or warm up until the announcer gives instructions to do so. (Exception in Rule #25)
28. With the exception of the field commander or drum major, who may cross the boundaries at will, no bandsman may re-enter the field once he has exited. Violation of a boundary is defined as having both feet entirely outside the boundary line. Regular auxiliary units must remain within the boundaries during the first 6 minutes of the show. With the exception of the front boundary, band members may not leave and re-enter the field at any time during their performance.
29. A competing Band Director may conduct only from outside the boundary.
30. Bands may not begin their actual performance until notified by the designated officials with a statement similar to: "And now joining us from Bug Tussell High School, the Bug Tussell High School Band" which will be announced at the 3:15 time mark OR earlier if indicated by the Director.
31. All bands will retire from the field to the indicated exit (as instructed by the contest director in pre-information before the contest) and completely exit the performance area.
32. Minimum show length is six minutes.

33. All adjudicators will judge the entire show. Judging time begins with the first note of music or the first step by the band proper (not including pre-placement). Judging time ends when, (a) the last person crosses the boundary line or (b) at the last music sound or (c) when the drum major salutes.
34. Bands must clear the performance area as soon as possible after the show time has elapsed. No trooping of the stands in preliminary competition following the show.
35. There will be no time in motion rule, but such shall be consideration for the judges in awarding rankings and/or scores.
36. Dropped equipment may be picked up during a show without penalty.
37. Falling to the ground or returning to position will not be penalized. An injured person may leave or be taken from the field but may not return. No penalty for altering path to avoid a fallen person.
38. No fireworks, gun shots, smoke bombs, fire batons, live animals, etc. will be permitted.
39. Penalties: Taken from the 100 total possible points)
 - Illegal use of competition field for practice: Disqualification.
 - Ineligible personnel on competition field: Disqualification
 - Excessive sound approaching or leaving the competition field: 2 points.
 - Boundary Violations: 0.5 points per individual violation, maximum of 5 points for a single violation shared by a large number of personnel.
 - Use of fireworks, etc. as in Rule #38: Disqualification.
 - There shall be no penalty for late arrival as long as the band shows up in time to perform at their scheduled time.
 - Exceeding the 17 minute time block: 0.5 points per each 15 seconds or fraction thereof.
 - Exceeding warm-up time in warm up area: 5 points.
 - Less than minimum show time. 1 point for each 30 seconds or fraction thereof.
 - Band personnel entering the competition field during another bands performance: Disqualification.
 - Beginning pre-placement, warm-up or show before time: 1 point.
40. Video Equipment will be allowed, however bands are only allowed to video their own band.
41. This contest does not include an inspection of bands.
42. Use of the National Colors is optional, and care should be taken for proper flag etiquette.
43. This contest is sanctioned by the Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association.
44. Oklahoma Bandmasters Association shall carry liability insurance during on-premises related events at the contest sites.
45. Further instructions may be sent to competing bands should the need arise.
46. The most current Bands of America Handbook will be followed for all other items.