

I N D O O R



USBANDS

2020
INDOOR
PARTICIPANT GUIDE

The mission of YEA! is to support the development of young people into magnificent human beings through participation in the performing arts.

INTRODUCTION

Since its first event in 1988, USBands has supported the development of marching bands through exceptional service, adjudication, and venues. Our guiding principle is to provide ensembles, regardless of style, size and experience, an opportunity to be successful, allowing students to benefit from their involvement with scholastic music. The rules that govern USBands events are minimal by design. USBands prides itself on a user-friendly approach to support and service, in which directors and performers can fully enjoy the performance process without the concern of rules and penalties.

We've tried to simplify and streamline our offerings for participants in 2020, with an eye towards providing the best possible value and experience for you and your students. As a director, instructor, or supporter of a participating ensemble, please be sure to familiarize yourself with the material in this Guide and take full advantage of everything USBands Membership has to offer.

Thank you for joining USBands to celebrate our 31st year of service in support of music programs across the nation.

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ABOUT USBANDS

HISTORY

The organization now known as USBands was founded in the fall of 1988 by The Cadets Drum & Bugle Corps, with a single competition held in the former Giants Stadium. Now in our 31st season, the USBands calendar includes more than 100 local, state, and regional events across the country, concluding with National Championship Marching Band events in November. With over 500 ensembles participating in fall events across 30 states, USBands has grown to become the largest independent scholastic music organization in the nation.

USBands Indoor launched in 2010, with several events strategically placed throughout the Northeast region. Disciplines include marching, standstill, and concert percussion ensembles, as well as color guard programs. In addition to the many high school programs who participate, ensembles from middle and elementary schools are welcome to perform. Primarily focused on engaging scholastic units, in 2012 independent units were invited to perform and compete within the circuit.

PHILOSOPHY

Our focus is centered on the educational development of today's students into tomorrow's leaders, using musical performance to provide opportunities for hands-on, interactive learning and achievement. By providing high profile performance opportunities for students, we support your educational mission and help raise awareness to the importance of scholastic music programs.

Any regulations outlined in the following pages are designed not to restrict, but rather to enhance the overall experience for our participating students. The USBands Adjudication system places strong emphasis on rewarding performance and musical repertoire in lieu of design and visual components to ensure that the performers are rewarded for achievement.

GOALS

- To allow music educators to focus primarily on their students' experience.
- To create an atmosphere whereby music educators can use music to teach life lessons such as discipline, perseverance and commitment to excellence.
- To provide high-quality, educational and positive performance opportunities for students.
- To provide instructional support for ensemble directors and staff.
- To provide constructive and consistent evaluation and adjudication.
- To support music education by generating popular interest in scholastic music performance and competition.
- To promote innovation, creativity, and growth for ensembles around the nation.

IMPORTANT DATES

Jan 5	Event Hosts: Signed contract, insurance certificate, directions, start times, and any special circumstances due to USBands by 5 p.m. Ensembles: Unrestricted withdrawal period ends (Self-Registration remains open, but Directors must contact USBands to withdraw from events)
Jan 15	Event Host deposit due. Ensemble Self-Registration ends (Directors must contact USBands to add into events)
Feb 1	Outstanding balance payment due for all 2020 Membership, Registration, and Host Fees
31 Days prior	Scheduling and withdrawal deadline All scheduling requests are due by 5 p.m. Eastern thirty-one days prior to the day of the event. Any ensemble that may need to withdraw from a Showcase event has until this time to do so without penalty (see withdrawal schedule for penalty details).
24 Days prior	A preliminary schedule for the event will be released at usbands.org
12 Days prior	USBands will release the final event packet via email. This will include the final schedule and judging panels (adjudicators subject to change at any time, without notice).

*For Championships, because it is a seeded event, the final schedule will not be released until 5 days before so that the most recent scores can be factored in.

Ensemble Directors should note dates for examinations, such as the SAT's, ACT's,

PSAT's, and any state examinations that are offered on the same dates as USBands events and encourage students to make necessary arrangements. In fairness to all ensembles, schedules are NOT modified based on these exams as all are affected and are aware of them well ahead of the examinations' registration deadlines.

REGULATIONS

PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY

Scholastic

USBands encourages participation by any student within their music program, as long as the student is in good standing as determined by each school's extracurricular activity policy. Therefore, we maintain a very liberal approach to ensemble student participation. Participants must be full-time students enrolled in the school district of the participating school. Exceptions to this policy require a written request per school district Principal or Director of Music to the Director of USBands, in advance of the start of the season.

Independent

Independent ensembles are not associated with any school or scholastic organization. These ensembles are not bound by any age limit.

*Scholastic ensembles will not compete with or against Independent ensembles.

CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

World Class – Display the most advanced complex skill sets, show design, and performance expectations. These ensembles historically set performance standards on a national level.

Open Class – Display intermediate to advanced skill sets, show design, and performance expectations. These ensembles also have significant competitive experience on a national level.

A Class – Display basic to intermediate skill sets, show design, and performance expectations. These ensembles may or may not have competitive experience on a national level.

Regional A Class – Display beginning to basic skill sets, show design, and performance expectations. These ensembles likely do not have competitive experience on a national level.

Novice Class – An introductory class for new ensembles to provide an entry level experience. This class is reserved for ensembles that are in their first two years of existence.

Middle School Class – Reserved for ensembles ranging from 6th to 8th grade level.

Elementary Class – Reserved for ensembles ranging from Kindergarten to 5th grade level.

Exhibition – Exhibition ensembles will NOT receive adjudicator feedback or scores and will not be included in the critique schedule. This is a performance opportunity only.

Criteria for classification will include, but not be limited to:

- Competitive Results
- History
- Ensemble-To-Ensemble Comparison
- Other Circumstances (Ensemble Director Status, Etc.)

New ensembles will be classified in collaboration with USBands and the Ensembles Director’s selection in the online database. USBands may review and make changes to a new ensemble’s classification after the first performance in an event.

USBands reserves the right to reclassify ensembles based on the data collected at our events. If it is determined that an ensemble is in need of reclassification, a written notice will be generated by the USBands office.

Top finishers in each Class will be evaluated and may be promoted to the next class, if appropriate, as a reward for excellence and high achievement.

RULES OF PERFORMANCE

PERFORMANCE AREA

The basic performance area will be a regulation size high school basketball court, 50 feet by 70 feet. Floor coverings may be no larger than 78 feet by 106 feet. A safety zone of 5 feet must extend from any boundary line to any spectator or performer seating area. All hosts must provide an area that is a minimum of 70 feet by 100 feet to ensure a 5-foot safety zone in each direction.

Ensembles are not required to provide a protective floor covering, mat, or tarp. A basic floor covering will be used at USBands Indoor Championships.

At all USBands Indoor events, 110 Volt AC power will be located at the center line on the front AND back sidelines.

All performers will be required to wear protective footwear while OUTSIDE the performance area.

REPORTING TIME

It is the responsibility of the director to ensure that the ensemble is able to report at their assigned gate time. Any ensemble reporting more than ten (10) minutes late to the gate may forfeit their performance time; if circumstances allow, an ensemble who missed its gate time due to extenuating circumstances may be permitted to perform

in adjudicated exhibition at a later point in the event. A penalty or disqualification will only be assessed in extreme cases after consultation between the USBands Coordinator, a USBands Administrator, and the ensemble’s representatives. Any emergency circumstances must be made known to the Event Staff directly, via telephone or in person as soon as is reasonable.

PERFORMANCE LENGTH

Each ensemble will have an interval of time during which they will set up, perform, and exit. This time begins once the USBands Coordinator prompts the ensemble to enter the performance area. Timing is broken down as follows:

Color Guard

Class	Interval Time	Minimum Performance Time	Maximum Performance Time	Authorized Equipment Time
World Class	10 minutes	4 minutes	7.5 minutes	3.5 minutes
Open Class	9 minutes	4 minutes	6.5 minutes	3.5 minutes
A Class	8 minutes	4 minutes	5.5 minutes	3.5 minutes
Intermediate and lower	7 minutes	3 minutes	4.5 minutes	3.0 minutes

Percussion

Class	Interval Time	Minimum Performance Time	Maximum Performance Time
World Class	11 minutes	4 minutes	8 minutes
Open Class	10 minutes	4 minutes	7 minutes
A Class and lower	9 minutes	4 minutes	6 minutes

A penalty will only be assessed in extreme cases after consultation between the USBands Coordinator, a USBands Administrator, and the ensemble’s representatives. USBands will help in any way to accommodate issues relating to technical difficulties, electronic use, etc. and will not penalize performers because of such issues.

Any special circumstances related to your performance MUST be communicated directly to the USBands Coordinator on site prior to the beginning of the performance, and every attempt (without guarantee) will be made to fulfill unique requests (i.e. unusual tunnel entrances, etc.)

There will be no flying of floor covering (also known as “ballooning”) to clear the floor at the conclusion of an ensemble’s performance.

Floors may not be refolded in the performance area. Most event sites will provide an area where refolding will occur or direct ensembles to a large space outside where

you can properly refold your floor. If a space is not provided, floors may be folded during intermission or after the conclusion of the event. The on-site coordinator will have more information about floor refolding options specific to the event you are attending.

EQUIPMENT USE

All equipment tips on rifles, flagpoles, and sabres must be padded or taped. The bottom of all props, flats, and scenery must be padded or taped to protect the competition floor from damage. All percussion instruments on wheels should have working wheels that can roll without damaging the floor or leaving any marks.

The performance floor will be inspected before and after each performance. It is necessary to do this so that we can correctly identify any damage that has occurred. If there has been damage caused, the director of the site will be notified of the offending party so that a remedy can be found. To avoid such a situation, all equipment must be examined by Event Staff before entering.

The following items are NOT allowed as part of a performance at a USBands event:

- fire extinguishers
- water that comes in contact with the floor surface when used as a prop
- animals
- pyrotechnics (including fire batons)
- discharge of arms
- pressurized canisters
- dry ice
- smoke machines
- compressed air
- helium, including helium balloons
- motorized vehicles
- drones or other remote-controlled airborne devices
- hover boards
- glass objects that may shatter and leave shards of glass on the floor — any equipment with the potential to break must have proper safety coverings (i.e. mirrors of acrylic rather than glass or screen protectors on video monitors)
- release or use of any and all materials that may result in debris on the floor beyond the performance time

Any questions on this issue must be directed to the USBands office at least five (5) days in advance of the event.

Any damage to the performance floor or damaging material left on the floor after a performance will result in a penalty ranging from one (1) point to disqualification, depending on the severity of the damage. The amount of the penalty given is at the discretion of the Event Coordinator and a USBands Administrator. Any and all costs incurred to clean, replace, or repair the impacted area will be the responsibility of the offending ensemble.

No gasoline-powered generators will be allowed in the competition arena.

There are no restrictions on the number or types of electronic music, instruments, or amplification systems that may be used. This includes any use of voicing/singing, sampling, or other uses related to the performance of pre-recorded digital media. If there is a concern regarding the integrity of live performance, the USBands office will communicate the concern to the director.

EQUIPMENT PLACEMENT AND RETRIEVAL

Anyone (adult, student, and non-student) may place, move, or remove equipment at any time during a performance. Individuals, who are used only to move equipment, hold props, etc., and who do not appear in uniform, will not be counted in the total number of performing members.

The spirit of this policy is to keep students safe at all times. If it is determined that a “non-member” is generating “Effect” through the movement/manipulation of props, the ensemble will be notified in order to make corrections and avoid the issuance of a penalty. If the issue occurs at a Championship Event, USBands reserves the right to issue a penalty ranging from one (1) point to disqualification, at the discretion of USBands.

USE OF THE NATIONAL FLAG

If an ensemble chooses to display the American Flag, all the respect, etiquette, and dignity traditionally afforded our national emblem must be shown. Failure to meet this request may result in a penalty ranging from one (1) point to disqualification, at the discretion of USBands.

CRITIQUE

Each ensemble’s staff will have the opportunity to meet with Adjudicators at the conclusion of all events (excluding designated Regional and Championship Events). The order of critique will be based on performance order.

If an ensemble’s staff is not present when called into the critique room, their critique time may be forfeited. The critique format may be changed by the USBands representatives, with notice to participating staff members. Directors are asked to limit their critique attendance to no more than six (6) instructors at any given time.

CREDENTIALS FOR EVENT ACCESS

Credentials for Directors, staff, chaperones, and other crew members will be issued for relevant events in a given season. The credentials may only be used for access to any Event prior to Indoor Championships. Once these credentials are distributed, no others will be made available and USBands reserves the right to modify credential requirements as deemed necessary through the course of the season.

USBands tries to accommodate those who give their time and effort to its member ensembles while also attempting to protect the revenue generated by ticket sales for Event Hosts. These credentials must be displayed at all times, around the neck. Each ensemble will receive one (1) named Director's credential and nine (9) additional credentials for a total of ten (10).

Prop and equipment movers do not need special access to enter the performance area while accompanying an ensemble onto the floor. After a performance, adults who wish to re-enter the event as a spectator must purchase a ticket or present a credential upon entry.

ADJUDICATION

As of 2018, USBands will still be utilizing the WGI Adjudication format. As a result, specifics regarding the adjudication process can be found at the WGI website. (www.wgi.org)

From the WGI website:

Color Guards and percussion ensembles are considered part of the music education curriculum by most schools. Education is the basis for the developmental criteria, which defines the measurement for competitive advancement. WGI Sport of the Arts provides curriculum materials for classes in equipment, movement and design.

A Class Color Guard performances will be judged according to the following criteria:

Individual Analysis Equipment - 20 points from one judge

Vocabulary - 7points

Excellence - 13 points

Individual Analysis Movement - 20 points from one judge

Vocabulary - 7points

Excellence - 13 points

Design Analysis - 20 points from one judge

Composition - 10 points

Excellence - 10 points

General Effect - 20 points each from two judges

Composition - 10 points

Excellence - 10 points

Open Class Color Guard performances will be judged according to the following criteria:

Individual Analysis Equipment - 20 points from one judge

Vocabulary - 10 points

Excellence - 10 points

Individual Analysis Movement - 20 points from one judge

Vocabulary - 10 points

Excellence - 10 points

Design Analysis - 20 points from one judge

Composition - 10 points

Excellence - 10 points

General Effect - 20 points each from two judges

Composition - 10 points

Excellence - 10 points

Marching Percussion Ensembles will be judged according to the following criteria:

Effect: Music - 30% from one judge

Overall Effect 15%

Music Effect 15%

Effect: Visual - 20% from one judge

Overall Effect 10%

Music Effect 10%

Music: 30% from one judge

Composition 10%

Performance Quality 20%

Visual: 20% from one judge

Composition 10%

Performance Quality 10%

Concert Percussion Ensembles will be judged according to the following criteria:

Music - 50% from one judge

 Composition 20%

 Performance Quality 30%

Artistry - 50% from one judge

 Program 20%

 Fulfillment 30%

MISSING/LATE ADJUDICATOR POLICY

In the rare occasion that an adjudicator does not arrive at an event, the remaining individuals will adjudicate at the direction of the Chief Adjudicator and USBands administrative staff. The scoring guidelines for the event will remain the same. The missing score will be an average of the present raw scores. Then, all numbers will be added to arrive at a final number.

If an adjudicator appears late to the event, he or she will begin evaluating immediately, but the score will not be counted in the total until the beginning of the next class.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

In the event of inclement weather, Directors should refer to the USBands website, social media, the BAND app, and email correspondence. Directors should ensure that a correct cell phone number for each director is on file in BandData. In the event that a Director cannot be reached, he or she can call the USBands contact listed at the top of the Event Information Sheet for each specific event.

A determination will be made between the USBands Event Staff, the Event Host, and the Chief Adjudicator as to whether the event will be conducted as a standard competition, a postponement, or a cancellation.

EVENT HOST PARTICIPATION POLICY

USBands encourages host ensembles to participate in their own event. Event Hosts will perform as Adjudicated Exhibition.

Adjudicated Exhibition: The ensemble may perform "out of class" in the event. The Ensemble will receive recordings and scores. The score will not appear on the recap, and will NOT be included in the awards ceremony. The score will be eligible for seeding in Championship events.

TYPES OF EVENTS

USBANDS SHOWCASE EVENTS

Showcase Events are designed to exceed your expectations from an educational and an experiential standpoint. USBands standards are in place to ensure a fair, impartial, and fun experience for all participating ensembles.

Showcase Events are offered FREE of charge for participants as part of their 2019-2020 USBands Membership Fee. Non-Members are required to pay a designated fee for Showcase Events in order to participate.

USBANDS INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

ELIGIBILITY

All ensembles, regardless of membership status, are eligible to participate in the USBands Indoor Championship.

WINTER CHAMPIONSHIP PERFORMANCE ORDER

Seeding for USBands Championship events will be based on the average of a group's two highest scores earned at least five days prior to Championships. Groups with one or fewer scores leading up to Championships will be placed by random draw prior to those groups with two or more scores.

Date of registration will be used as a tie-breaker for seeding.

TIMELINE

For seeded events, participating ensembles will be notified of their Class/Block Time at least 24 DAYS prior to the Event. This is an approximate window of time (varies depending on the number of registered ensembles), to assist in basic planning for the Event (buses, etc.)

The SCORE numbers will be calculated no later than the MONDAY of the Event week. Directors will be notified via email, the BAND app, and usbands.org of EXACT performance line-ups no later than MONDAY of the Event week.

****The Director of USBands may alter the performance order for any event. This will only be done in extreme cases, when necessary.****

PARTICIPATION

MEMBERSHIP AND REGISTRATION

USBands assesses Membership and Registration fees to offset the costs associated with providing every participant the highest levels of service, top adjudicators in the field, access to professional and NCAA stadiums, and other requirements to deliver the largest competitive circuit in the nation. We strongly encourage ensembles who participate in a USBands-sanctioned event to consider taking advantage of our 2019-2020 School Year Membership, including (but not limited to) the following benefits:

- Free Registration for ALL 2019-2020 Showcase Events (Gold/Silver/Clinic/Indoor)
- Discounted Registration for ALL 2019-2020 Premium Events (Regional/State/Championship)

Any non-member may register for a USBands Event by agreeing to pay the full Registration Fee for that specific event. Premium Events may have mandatory ticket requirements in addition to the Registration Fee.

Please contact the USBands office for a full list of entry fees, ticket requirements and prices for the 2020 season, and to learn more about Membership.

FEE STRUCTURE

The Fee Structure is slightly different for Scholastic and Independent ensembles.

SCHOLASTIC	Member	Non-Member
Showcase Events	FREE w/Membership	\$75 per event
Championships Required Tickets	\$150 + 20 tickets	\$250 + 20 tickets
INDEPENDENT	Member	Non-Member
Showcase Events	FREE w/\$200 Membership	\$75 per event
Championships Required Tickets	\$150 + 20 tickets	\$250 + 20 tickets

WITHDRAWAL FROM SHOWCASE EVENTS

Any ensemble may withdraw from a Showcase event up to thirty-one (31) days prior to the event, without penalty. If withdrawal occurs within the 31-day window for any reason, a monetary fine will be imposed according to the schedule outlined below. This fine is collected on behalf of the Event Host, to be applied toward expenses and lost income and effort resulting from the late withdrawal.

Regular Season Withdrawal Fee Schedule

More than 31 days prior to event	No Penalty
15-31 days prior to event	\$50 penalty per unit
6-14 days prior to event	\$75 penalty per unit
<5 days prior to event	\$100 penalty per unit

Premium Event Withdrawal Fee Schedule

Prior to January 15th	No Penalty
January 16th - 31 days prior to event	25% penalty fee
15-30 days prior to event	50% penalty fee
1-14 days prior to event	100% penalty fee

Withdrawal date will be defined as acknowledged, written correspondence to the USBands office.

Any ensemble with an outstanding penalty fee may be required to fulfill the payment obligations before taking the floor at future USBands events.

NOTES





CONTACTS

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