

In affiliation with the
Northern California Band Association



In partnership with
Winter Guard International



Solo Drum Major Rules & Regulations

Updated Winter 2023
M. Mills – VP of Winter Activities

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The Winter Activities Application will be posted on the NCBA Website on November 1st.

1. Entry Fees

- a. The fee for regular season shows is \$20.00 per unit.
- b. The fee for Championships is \$25.00 per unit.
- c. Drum Majors from each school must register at the same time. Payment for all competing Drum Majors from the same school must be paid with one payment. A \$50 processing fee will be added to each Drum Major that registers and pays separately.
- d. Applications will not be processed until NCBA is in receipt of a competing unit's entry fee payment.

2. Late Fees

- a. Applications received/postmarked after January 1st will be subject to a \$25.00 late fee.
- b. Applications received/postmarked after February 1st will be subject to a \$50.00 late fee.
- c. Applications received/postmarked after March 1st must be approved by the VP of Winter Activities and will be subject to a \$75.00 late fee.
- d. Late applications will not be processed until late fees are paid.

3. Refunds

- a. Drum Majors will only receive a refund if they submit the Request for Refund Form via email to the VP of Winter Activities 14 days or more prior to the event in which they are requesting a

refund.

b. There will be no refunds on late fees.

4. Order of Performance in each Division

a. To the best of NCBA's ability, scheduling will be based on either the postmark date that payment is received via US Mail or the timestamp of payment received via PayPal, with the earliest postmarks/timestamps going on last in their division.

CLASSIFICATIONS

1. Mace or Military classifications should be determined by the equipment used and the manner in which the competitor beats time.

a. Signal Baton or Short Mace – beating of time tip up

b. Mace – beating of time ball up

2. Classifications will be based on the following criteria, as of January 1st of the year you are competing

a. Mace or Military

i. Junior High School – Competitor is not enrolled in high school.

ii. High School Novice – Competitor has not placed at any type of drum major event (parade, solo, “L” pattern).

iii. High School Scholastic – Competitor has not placed in the “L” pattern Scholastic or Open classifications and has not placed first at any other drum major event (parade, solo, “L” pattern).

iv. High School Open – Any competitor may enter this classification.

b. Field Conducting

i. Novice – Competitor has not placed at any type of field conducting event (with band or solo).

ii. Open – Any competitor may enter this classification.

3. Competitors will remain eligible for their classification for the entire solo season regardless of awards earned after January 1st.

4. Competitors cannot compete in classifications lower than their designation; however, competitors may compete in higher classifications than their designation.

a. This could result in multiple performances at a given competition.

AWARDS

1. The show hosts, at their discretion, may supply trophies, ribbons, medals, or plaques.

ELIGIBILITY FOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

1. To be eligible for the title of “Association Champion”, middle schools must compete in a minimum of 2 NCBA Winter Activities contests.
2. To be eligible for the title of “Association Champion”, high schools must compete in a minimum of 3 NCBA Winter Activities contests.
3. Should a Drum Major who is not eligible for the title earn the highest score, the eligible Drum Major with the next highest score will become the “Association Champion”, while the Drum Major who is ineligible for the title of “Association Champion” will receive the 1st place award.
4. Competitors competing in multiple classifications will only receive an award for one classification.
 - a. For example, if a competitor places 1st in Mace Open and Mace Scholastic, then the competitor will receive the award for the higher classification and will be removed from the placement in the lower classification.

CONTEST AREA

1. “L”-pattern: L-shaped pattern, 150’ at the long leg and 70’ at the short leg.
2. Field Conducting: competition area will vary depending on the venue.

TIME LIMITATIONS

1. “L”-pattern
 - a. Timing begins after inspection once the judge has asked the competitor to begin.
 - b. Timing ends one beat after the competitor dismisses their band.
 - c. The time limit is 4 minutes.
2. Field Conducting
 - a. Timing begins once the judge asks the competitor to begin.
 - b. Timing ends one beat after the competitor dismisses their band.
 - c. The minimum time limit is 2 minutes.
 - d. The maximum time limit is 3 minutes.

SOUND SYSTEM

1. Performing units will submit their music digitally during the registration process.
 - a. Updated music submissions should be emailed to NCBA-Admin@ncbaonline.net at least a week in advance.
 - b. To avoid skipping the first couple of seconds when files are opened and played, NCBA recommends that music files have a few seconds of blank audio before their music.
2. The hosting school will provide an adequate sound system and individual to operate the sound system.
3. A volume check will be given before step off.
4. The Drum Major must communicate at check-in/or sound booth if the music needs to start after commands. Some Drum Majors use music during the opener.

DRESS

1. "L"-pattern
 - a. Drum Major must wear a drum major uniform, band uniform, or tuxedo/shirt/tie uniform with appropriate headgear and shoes.
 - b. The uniform must reflect the style which the Drum Major performs.
2. Field Conducting
 - a. Drum Major must wear a drum major uniform, band uniform, tuxedo/shirt/tie, or field uniform which reflects the theme of the music.
3. All unit representatives accepting awards must be in school uniform, field uniform, and wear shoes during the awards ceremony.

INSPECTION

1. "L"-pattern
 - a. There will be a standing inspection at the beginning of the competition line or in a designated inspection area.
 - b. Inspection errors cover the following:
 - i. Cleanliness and precision in how the uniform is worn.
 - ii. The manner in which the equipment is presented.
 - c. Examples of inspections errors include, but are not limited to:
 - i. Wrinkles

- ii. Dirt
- iii. Stains
- iv. Stray threads
- v. Improper use of Scottish or British uniform.

d. Each inspection error will be counted as a -0.1 penalty.

2. Field Conducting

- a. There is no separate inspection for field conducting competitors.
- b. Appearance will be evaluated during the performance.

ELIGIBILITY TO COMPETE

- 1. Drum Major must currently be enrolled in the program at the school which they are representing.
- 2. Drum Major must be in 12th grade or below.
- 3. Drum Major's director must be a current member of NCBA.

ROUTINE

1. "L"-pattern

- a. The following commands will be executed in the order in which they are listed:
 - i. Vocal commands as requested by the judge
 - ii. Forward March
 - iii. Left Turn
 - iv. Countermarch
 - v. Right Turn
 - vi. Salute
 - vii. Mark Time/Halt
 - viii. Dismiss Band
- b. After the forward march and following each command up to the mark time signal, some type of beating of time must be shown.
- c. Creativity and originality to the chosen style will be part of the adjudication criteria.

ADJUDICATION

1. All contests will utilize the most up-to-date approved score sheets provided by the NCBA.
2. NCBA will provide certified judges for each caption. Judges will judge for the entirety of a performing unit's show.
3. One judge will be designated as the Head Judge.
 - a. The Head Judge will act on behalf of the Association to answer any questions that should arise.
 - b. The Head Judge will be the individual assigned as the Timing and Penalties Judge.
 - c. The decision of the Head Judge will be final.
4. Judges may not judge for more than 10 hours, including breaks, at a single contest.
5. No judge will judge for more than 2 hours without at least a 10-minute break.
6. NCBA will provide adjudicators with tablets to enter scores and record commentary.
7. Judges will provide their own stopwatches to monitor for timing penalties.

PENALTIES

1. Overtime – 1.0 point per 30 seconds
 - a. Maximum time limit is 4 minutes from the signal to begin from the judge to one beat after the dismissal of the band by the Drum Major.
2. Slip – points will be deducted in the overall score affecting execution performance
 - a. A loss of control of the equipment where the break in body posture caused by the handling of equipment.
3. Drop – points will be deducted in the overall score affecting execution performance
 - a. A loss of control of the equipment where the equipment touches the ground.
4. Out of Step – points will be deducted in the overall score affecting execution performance especially in marching and maneuvering.
 - a. A period where the Drum Major is not fully in-step with the pulse of the music.
 - b. In-step is where the heel strikes the ground at exactly the pulse of the music.
5. No Salute – Disqualification
 - a. The Drum Major must be in a salute position as they cross the reviewing officer/salute line.
 - b. The ideal salute is when a Drum Major hits the salute position 6 steps before the salute line and breaks the salute 6 steps after the salute line.
6. Initiating Conversation with a Judge – 1.0 point

7. Personnel Violation – Disqualification
8. Violation of the American Flag Code – Disqualification
9. Dress Code Violation – Disqualification
10. Performing with No Shoes – Disqualification

WAIVING A RULE IN EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES

1. In extreme circumstances, any rule can be waived with approval from the VP of Winter Activities, the Head Judge, and an additional Board member.