

THE AMERICAN LEGION  
CONTEST RULES  
CONCERT BAND CONTEST RULES

1. PURPOSE

The intent of this class is to present The American Legion Concert Bands, composed of members from The American Legion Family and local community, in a manner with the dignity, style and bearing associated with a military Concert Band.

2. TIME AND PLACE

The Concert Band Contest will be held in the National Convention City starting at a time to be designated by the National Convention Commission (NCC). The contest site will be in an appropriate location designated by the NCC.

3. SUPERVISION

Competition will be under the supervision of the NCC. All interpretations and rulings made by the NCC are made within the framework of the national rules. These rules, properly mandated by the National Executive Committee (NEC), are not subject to review, correction or waiver, unless the NEC, properly constituted, in proper session, makes such review, correction or waiver.

4. ENTRY FORMS

The American Legion sponsored CONCERT BANDS who are qualified for participation may receive the entry form by requesting it from the Director, National Convention and Meetings of The American Legion, P.O. Box 1055, and Indianapolis, IN 46206. The entry form must be certified by the Adjutant of the unit's sponsoring Department and sent to the Director of National Convention and Meetings.

5. ENTRY

All competing units shall, not later than 30 days prior to the date of competition, forward their contest entry form via their Department Adjutant to the Director, National Convention and Meetings, The American Legion, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206. No award will be made to any unit until the National Organization of The American Legion has approved its eligibility.

## 6. ELIGIBILITY

The Concert Band Contest will be open to all American Legion bands. Each band must have a minimum of 30 instruments, plus a Color Guard. At least 20% of the “playing members” must be bona fide members of The American Legion, Sons of The American Legion and/or the American Legion Auxiliary in good standing and must bring their current year American Legion Family membership card to the contest site. Each concert band must represent a Department, District, and County or Post organization of The American Legion. Drum Majors “taking any part in the contest” will be counted toward the minimum membership, and are subject to judging and other requirements.

Each concert band must have participated in its Department contest and parade (or parade only if no contest is held) within the current year. In the event that a Department conducts neither contest nor parade, units affected may still qualify for entry into the National Contest by obtaining written verification of this fact from its Department Adjutant and include it with the entry form. No member shall compete with more than one band.

**COLOR GUARD:** The minimum Color Guard will consist of the U.S. Colors\*, the banner of The American Legion sponsoring organization and the required two (2) pieces of authorized equipment. The Color Guard must be bona fide members of The American Legion in good standing. Extra silks and banners, not included in the basic Color Guard, are considered a part of the band proper. Colors may be pre-posted prior to the contest and retrieved after the contest. If the Color Guard “participates in any part of the contest after posting the colors,” it will be subject to judging and other rules and a member count will be taken and applied to the minimum membership.

- \*Definition: The Institute of Heraldry, Washington, D.C. has specified in Title 4 of the U.S. Flag Code, that the 50-Star American Flag is the flag of the Country (U.S. Colors); therefore, all others shall be treated as banners. All banners and flags shall be dipped at a reviewing stand except the 50-Star Flag of our Country.

**INSPECTION:** will consist of a certification that the required number of personnel are available for competition, that required equipment is being carried on to the area of competition and to insure that basic personal appearances and condition of uniforms, equipment, instruments (including mouthpieces) and protective caps are in accordance with a military inspection. At the request of the inspection judge, unit members will be required to show their current American Legion Family membership cards.

## 7. PARADE

Each unit entering the contest must participate in the National Convention parade with all competing personnel. Members who are physically handicapped (not to exceed 10 percent) may be excused from parading without penalty provided that such personnel are declared at the MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES as indicated in Rule 8. Specific written permission for "other band members" to be excused must be obtained from the NCC Chairman, the Chief Judge of the Contests and the Director, National Convention and Meetings. Further, these Concert Bands must parade with their respective Department unless excused by their Department Adjutant and the NCC Chairman. **If a band member did not participate in the concert band contest they may not participate in the parade.**

## 8. MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES

One representative of each concert band will meet with the Chief Judge of Contests prior to the contest at a time and place to be designated by the Chief Judge, to receive instructions and transact any business that may properly come before such meeting. Declarations, in triplicate, must be handed in at the Meeting of Representatives. Order of appearance in the contest will be based upon the postmark of the entry form (i.e. First in last on). The defending champion of each concert band class will be the last band to perform in the contest.

## 9. JUDGES

The National Convention Commission and Chief Judge Of Contests shall select three musical judges. Judges will be given absolute privacy, and will submit individual score sheets without consultation.

## 10. POINTS

(a) Tone (Beauty, Blend, Control)	20 Points
(b) Intonation (Chords, Melodic line, Tutti)	20 Points
(c) Technique (Articulation, Facility, Precision, Pulse, Accuracy)	20 Points
(d) Interpretation (Expression, Phrasing, Style, Tempo)	15 Points
(e) Musical Effect (Artistry, Fluency, Balance)	15 Points
(f) Other Factors (Stage presence, Choice of Music, instrumentation)	10 Points
TOTAL	100 Points

## 11. SELECTIONS

Each concert band will be allowed to play a warm-up number of its own selection before playing the official contest numbers, not to consume more than five (5) minutes of time. The musical portion of the number will not be judged.

**Any violation of the maximum time shall result in a one tenth (0.1)-point penalty for each three (3) seconds, or fraction thereof.**

All bands will be required to play in order:

- (a) A march of its own selection not to consume more than five (5) minutes of time. For purposes of this competition, a march is defined as a piece of music designed to regulate or accommodate the movements of people. There is no intent, however, to restrict or limit any efforts in the General Effect of the band performance, i.e. dynamics, tempo, staging, musical or visual impact.

**Any violation of the maximum time shall result in a one tenth (0.1)-point penalty for each three (3) seconds, or fraction thereof.**

- (b) A selection of their own choosing other than a street march.

The overall time for each concert band from the Posting of Colors to the Concert Band exiting the performance area will not exceed 40 minutes.

**Any violation of the maximum time shall result in a one tenth (0.1)-point penalty for each three (3) seconds, or fraction thereof.**

Each concert band will furnish three (3) copies of the conductor's score of its March and selection.

## 12. PENALTIES

- (a) A band violating any requirement of Rule 6 will be disqualified, and its position and standing in the contest will be forfeited.
- (b) The Failure of any concert band to report at the time set for it to report will be penalized one-half point. For each 15 minutes or part thereof and up to the conclusion of the contest another one-half point will be assessed.
- (c) A band violating any rule, or part of a rule, for which no specific penalty is provided will be penalized for each violation, not less than one point nor more than disqualification, at the discretion of the Chief Judge of Contests.
- (d) Violation of Rule 7 will result in disqualification for this year and the ensuing year.
- (e) Any band violating Rule 8 will be assessed a 2-point penalty.

### 13. PROTESTS

Any protest regarding these contests will in all respects, conform to and be disposed of according to these rules. Protests must be filed with the Chief Judge of Contests, not later than 30 minutes following the conclusion of the contest. Copies of the protest must be given to any other concert bands involved or affected by the protesting group. The protesting concert band must be represented by a proper officer at a meeting on a date, time and place as announced by the Chief Judge of Contests. Copies of protests, review of the decision and rulings may be obtained from the office of the Director, National Convention and Meetings.

Audio-visual recording equipment may be allowed in the area of competition at the discretion of the Chief Judge of Contests; however, no such evidence will be admissible at a protest meeting.

### 14. PRIZES

All prize money will be allocated at the discretion of the National Convention Commission as authorized by the National Executive Committee. The winner of band contest will receive a Guidon and trophy.

### 15. TIE BREAKER

In case of a tie for first place, the band with the highest tone and technique scores will be declared the winner.