

# NCBA Marching Band Committee Information on the 2020 Season for the Winter Meetings of NCBA Districts

The following proposals will be decided by online survey/vote following the completion of all district winter meetings. Each district should have some discussion on each of the proposals listed below.

## Proposal 1

Transition the Music Performance Ensemble caption from a How & How caption to a What & How caption.

- Currently the MPE caption consists of the following two subcaptions: Tone Quality & Intonation (50%) / Accuracy & Definition (50%). Approval of this change would result in the two subcaptions being Composition (50%) / Achievement (50%).
- Descriptors within the Composition subcaption could include but not be limited to: Musical Design/Composition Elements, Quality of Music Orchestration Through Time, Range of Musical Choices, Range of Expressive Components, Musical/Physical/Environmental Challenges.
- Descriptors within the Achievement subcaption could include but not be limited to: Tone Quality, Intonation, Rhythmic Accuracy, Tempo Control, Uniformity of Style and Interpretation, Balance and Blend, Training/Detail, Nuance, Layered and Multiple Responsibilities.

## Proposal 2

Transition the Music Performance Individual caption from a How evaluation of each ensemble family to a What & How caption.

- Currently the MPI caption consists of the following three subcaptions: Woodwinds (37.5%), Brass (37.5%), and Percussion (25%). Approval of this change would result in the two subcaptions being Composition (50%) / Achievement (50%).
- Descriptors within the Content subcaption could included but not be limited to: Depth of Musical Vocabulary, Variety of Tempo/Meter/Pulse, Range of Techniques and Defined Styles, Shaping and Expression, Simultaneous Responsibilities.
- Descriptors within the Achievement subcaption could include but not be limited to: Tone Quality & Intonation, Articulation Accuracy and Technique, Control of Tempo/Meter/Pulse, Precision of Style, Uniformity of Method, Delivery of Expressive Qualities, Training, Recovery.

## Proposal 3

Change the caption weighting to the following...

Music Effect	20%
Music Performance Ensemble	25%
Music Performance Individual	15%
Visual Performance	20%
Visual Effect	20%

was previously...

Music Effect	40%
Music Performance Ensemble	10%
Music Performance Individual	10%
Visual Performance	20%
Visual Effect	20%

## Proposal 4

Reduce the judging panel to utilize only one Music Effect adjudicator.

- Currently there are two Music Effect adjudicators. Approval of this change would reduce the number of Music Effect adjudicators to one.
- Many directors shared the concern that many of the Music Effect judges seemed to have difficulty judging within the caption of music effect. The directors commented that the ME judges commentary often centered around MPE caption descriptors.
- The use of two ME judges was originally incorporated to prevent one adjudicator from having the responsibility of determining 40% of a band's total score.

## **Proposal 5**

Remove the requirement for adjudicators to provide written commentary on judges sheets.

- Currently adjudicators are required to provide written commentary on each band's evaluation sheet. If approved adjudicators will not provide written comments on an evaluation sheet.
- The adjudicators would be supplied with a placemat of their evaluation sheet and will be required to provide recorded commentary during each band's performance.

Other items that will be addressed by the committee for the 2020 season...

- Marching Band MPA will be removed from the Marching Band Manual and will also be removed from the NCBA Policies and Procedures.
- Judge evaluation sheets will be revised to keep the same subcaption items and descriptions on the front of the sheets (except pending voting outcome regarding MPE & MPI captions) but the criteria reference descriptors on the backs of the sheets will be greatly simplified. It is the hope of the committee that simplifying the jargon on the back of the sheets will make it easier for adjudicators to better utilize the criteria reference system when determining scoring neighborhoods and subcaption scores.
- The marching band manual will be updated to reflect any approved changes resulting from the voting of the membership.
- The chief judges script will be revised to become more streamlined and may include judge training/orientation videos.
- The new tabulation system will be edited to reflect any approved changes resulting from the voting of the membership.

At the spring meeting at Honors Band in May the marching band committee will be discussing...

- Judge affiliations - Should judge affiliation conflicts be the concern of the show host and their judging panel or should the concern lay with the participating ensemble?
- Judges Training - The committee feels that it should be one of the duties of NCBA to provide professional development and continuing educational opportunities to its membership in the area of marching band evaluation. The committee will be discussing how to best provide opportunities for personnel to become better evaluators of marching band performance. These opportunities may include workshops and clinics and may also include online training videos.
- Should it be the responsibility of the marching band committee to make recommendations for adjudicator honorariums and graduated contracts?
- The committee will need to update show host applications, fees, and timelines.
- The committee will discuss additional methods to better serve a wider majority of NCBA membership and increase participation in NCBA marching band events.