

**THE AMERICAN LEGION
NATIONAL CONVENTION
RULES**



CONCERT BAND CONTEST

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SECTION ONE - HISTORY

1.0 History

Color guards and marching bands have been an important part of American history. In early history, flags were used for a number of purposes. A detachment of soldiers was usually assigned to protect the flag. As history moved forward, color guards were used to lead marching bands, drum and bugle corps and other types of marching units. During the third convention of The American Legion, a resolution was passed making a band contest a feature of each National Convention. At a later convention, color guard competition also became a feature of The American Legion Convention. Since then, The American Legion, having its foundation in the military, has designated these classes of competition to the preservation and education of our country's rich and patriotic history of honor guards and bands by all of our Legion Family Organizations. The American Legion is dedicated to upholding proper protocol, point of honor, and due and proper respect for our National Colors in all ceremonial situations.

SECTION TWO - GENERAL REQUIREMENTS AND RULES

2.0 TIME AND PLACE

The Competitive Concert Band and Exhibition Class will be held in the National Convention city starting at a time to be designated by the Convention Commission (henceforth referred as CC). The contest site will be in an appropriate location designated by the CC.

2.1 SUPERVISION

Competition will be under the supervision of the CC. All interpretations and rulings made by the CC 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. The rules set forth in this packet will be the rules established for The American Legion National Contests.

2.2 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The American Legion sponsored contest participants that are qualified for participation at the National Convention may receive the contest entry forms by requesting them from the National Convention & Meetings Office (NCMO) or by going to The American Legion website and downloading the proper contest entry form. Each entry form must be certified by the Adjutant of the units sponsoring Department. Mail entry forms to The American Legion National Headquarters, National Convention & Meetings Office, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206. No award will be made to any unit until National Headquarters of The American Legion has approved its eligibility.

The American Legion National Contest does not limit the number of bands allowed to compete in the National Contest from any State Department.

2.3 CONVENTION REGISTRATION

Competitive concert band and exhibition class members will no longer be required to register at the National Convention UNLESS an individual desires to enter the exhibit hall or the general sessions. Then the individual must register as a guest unless they have previously registered as a delegate or an alternate through their department. Those participants who are 18 years of age and younger must still register, but their registration will be at no charge.

2.4 MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES

This is a required meeting. One representative of each competing unit will meet with the Chief Judge of Contests prior to the contest at a time and place to be designated by the Chief Judge. The purpose of this meeting is to receive instructions and transact any business, which may come before such meeting. Failure to attend the meeting may put the unit into a penalty situation.

Any contest declarations and spiel sheets must be turned in at the Meeting of Representatives.

2.5 JUDGES

The Chief Judge, judges, tabulators and other contest staff are selected each year based upon their experience, consistency, professionalism and communication skills along with the understanding and ability to uphold the rules and regulations as outlined in the manual. The judges are to rank and rate the unit participants using the subjective scoring system. In all classes, this system has been devised to reward and encourage the continuing development and quality achievement of excellence, taste, style, projection, and variety.

Judges for the Competitive Concert Band Class will consist of one Chief Judge, one Inspection judge, three Music judges, Tabulation judge, and the Digital Technician. For the Exhibition Class, only the three Music judges will be provided to deliver constructive comments only.

SECTION THREE - COMPETITIVE CONCERT BAND RULES

3.0 PURPOSE

The intent of this contest is to present The American Legion Concert Bands, composed of members from The American Legion Family and local community, in a manner of dignity, style and bearing associated with a military concert band. In this class, concert bands will compete against each other. They will receive judge's comments, performance ranking and rating and any American Legion awards designated for this class.

3.1 ELIGIBILITY

The Competitive Concert Band Contest is open to all American Legion Bands. Each competing band must have a minimum of 30 instruments. 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, County or Post organization of The American Legion. Drum Majors participating in the contest will be counted toward the minimum membership and are subject to judging and other requirements. There is not an age restriction for Concert Bands.

3.2 INSPECTION

The inspection will certify that the required number of participants are available for competition, and to ensure personal appearances and condition of uniforms are both professional and identical. Uniforms should be in accordance with each band director’s judgement of visual presentation. The formal inspection process for each member will no longer take place. However, a general inspection of the members entering the stage will take place and if an infraction is noticed, a penalty will be assessed.

3.3 SELECTIONS and PENALTIES

Bands in this class will select their music and stay within the allowed performance time. Each Concert Band will be allowed to select three (3) selections of their choosing using the following guidelines:

1. One selection must be a quickstep style march - (a spirited march tune usually accompanying a march in quick time).
2. Two songs of their choice that are of contrasting nature.

All selections will be judged. The judges must be provided with the music scores (see Appendix A, page 8) for the three selections. All scores must have the measures numbered.

Each band will have 10 minutes for setup and teardown and up to 30 minutes for their performance. The overall time limit for each band entering the stage to exiting the stage shall not exceed 40 minutes.

A Concert Band Color Guard is no longer required for the Competitive Concert Band class. The National Colors will be posted prior to the start of the band activities.

PENALTIES

- (a) One (1) point penalty for failure to provide scores for all judges
- (b) One (1) point penalty for failure to number the measures in the judges music scores
- (c) One (1) point penalty for failure to stay within each of the timing limits

3.4 OTHER PENALTIES

- (a) The failure of any concert band to report at the time set for reporting 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.
- (b) 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.

3.5 PROTESTS

Any protests 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 no 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 National Convention & Meetings Office.

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.

3.6 PRIZES

All prize money will be allocated at the discretion of the Convention Commission as authorized by the National Executive Committee. The winner of Competitive Concert Band Class will receive a Guidon and trophy. The current, approved monetary award is as follows:

1st Place - \$5,000

2nd Place - \$4,000

3rd Place - \$3,000

Participation Fee - \$1,000 will be distributed to all competing bands

3.7 TIE BREAKER

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

SECTION FOUR - EXHIBITION CONCERT BAND RULES

4.0 PURPOSE

This class was developed to give American Legion Bands that do not compete in the Competitive Concert Band Contest an opportunity to perform before an audience in a concert setting and also receive constructive comments on their performance from a panel of three judges.

In this class, bands do not compete against other bands and do not receive a score. They will, however, receive judge's commentary on their performance that can be used at the band's discretion. Their performance will not be compared to other band performances.

Each band in this class can select up to three songs of their choice. The total time for playing their selections is less than 30 minutes.

4.1 ELIGIBILITY

This class is open to American Legion Bands not competing in the Competitive Concert Band Class.

4.2 INSPECTION

There is no inspection in this class; however, the Exhibition Concert Band must be composed of members from The American Legion family and local community. The Exhibition Concert Band must present themselves in a manner with dignity, style, and bearing associated with a military concert band.

4.3 PRIZES

Any prize money will be allocated at the discretion of the Convention Commission as authorized by the National Executive Committee. All Exhibition Concert Bands, currently, will receive a Certificate of Participation and \$1,000 for participation.

APPENDIX A

Concert Band Sheet



THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL CONTESTS

CONCERT BAND

PURPOSE: To display the proper military, historical and honored traditions bestowed towards the flag of the Constitutional Republic of the United States as established in 1776, its citizens and their country by demonstrating the proper conduct and excellence befitting the ceremonial presentation of such in a national competitive situation.

Name of Unit:

TONE (blend, balance, control)	
Max: 20	
INTONATION (chords, melodic line, tutti)	
Max: 20	
TECHNIQUE (articulation, facility, precision, pulse, tempo)	
Max: 20	
INTERPRETATION (expression, phrasing, style, tempo)	
Max: 20	
MUSICAL EFFECT (artistry, fluency, balance)	
Max: 15	
OTHER FACTORS (stage presence, choice of music, instrumentation)	
Max: 5	
TOTAL SCORE	
Max: 100	

Judge: _____