**“Contest of Champions”**

**Invitational Marching Contest**

**Established 1962**

*“Where the important goal is not winning, but the discovery of the very best in each of us.”*

Grand Champion - regardless of classiﬁcation

Reserve Grand Champion - regardless of classiﬁcation

Honorable Mention - regardless of classiﬁcation

Tennessee State Championship

Kentucky State Championship

Each Band Rated Within Speciﬁed Classiﬁcation:

First Place — Second Place “AAA” Classiﬁcation

First Place — Second Place “AA” Classiﬁcation

First Place — Second Place “A” Classiﬁcation

Finalist Cups

**For additional information, contact**

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**Advisory Board**

Reed Thomas, MTSU Director of Bands, Craig Cornish, MTSU Associate Director of Bands, Contest Winner 1986, 1995, 1996, Jennifer Stembridge, Assistant to the Directors and Contest Coordinator, Joe Allison, Judging Panel, Tom Tucker, Contest Winner 1965, 1967, 1969 Stan Baskin, Retired Educator (MTSU)

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Middle Tennessee State University

# DECLARATION OF PURPOSE

The Contest of Champions was conceived and established for the improvement of bands and dedicated to those unusual men and women who pursue perfection whether it be on the football ﬁeld or the concert stage.

The “Contest of Champions” is produced and directed by the men and women of the Middle Tennessee State University Band of Blue. Our purpose is as follows:

*“To provide a contest vehicle comparable in operation to the*

 *perfection of the superior bands who choose to enter the competition”*

*“To present a panel of recognized judges utilizing a scoring system agreed to by participants as being acceptable”*

*“To present an event that is educationally sound and beneﬁcial to the individual”*

*“To administer the contest without charge to the bands”*

*“To be a part of a program which is enjoyable to the audience as well as the participants”*

We are assisted in attaining our goals by the president of Middle Tennessee State University and many of his staff members. The directors of the Middle Tennessee State University Band of Blue donate their time and services as do all the band members.

As a result of its ﬁnancial success, the contest affords many unique opportunities for students, directors, and spectators:

* no entry fee for participating bands
* the best adjudicators from across the nation
* commissioned compositions
* Tennessee Wind Band Conference
* free clinics and conferences for students, graduate credit for directors
* outstanding composers and conductors presented for the continuing education of area musicians
* scholarships to outstanding high school musicians

# ELIGIBILITY

Up to 28 bands are accepted to compete in the Contest of Champions. Bands are invited as a result of application or past performance at the contest. Bands applying for the ﬁrst time must furnish contest ofﬁcials with a resume of accomplishments in both concert and marching for the previous two years and a video tape of the previous year’s marching band. The application will be evaluated by the board of advisors and accepted at the board’s discretion.

# INSTRUCTIONS TO ADJUDICATORS

Contest results in the past years have been considered strict but fair; this is expected by the participating directors. The following rating description as stated in the NIMAC “Standards of Adjudication” will be adhered to:

**RATING I (Superior)** - The best conceivable performance for the event and the class of participants being judged; worthy of the distinction of being considered for the championship position.

**RATING Il (Excellent)** - An unusual performance in many respects but not worthy of the highest rating due to minor defects in performance. A performance of distinctive quality.

**RATING III (Average)** - A good performance, but not outstanding. Showing accomplishment and marked promise, but lacking in one or more essential qualities.

Lower ratings are not essential in view of the reputation of the contest and the previously earned ratings of the participating bands.

Though constructive criticism is desirable and appreciated by the participating directors, the primary concern of the judge is to accurately project the numerical rating of a performance. Following this appraisal, judges are encouraged to make objective, constructive comments on the performance.

Though we wish to win friends and inﬂuence people, this does by no means indicate that all bands must receive superior ratings. On the contrary, we hope to continue the standards as established by the contest. Directors and bandsmen who have attended in the past think of a superior rating at the Contest of Champions as truly a mark of distinction.

# CLASSIFICATION

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 0-80 Musicians\* | A |
| 81-120 Musicians\* | AA |
| 121- above Musicians\* | AAA |

Bands may enter a higher classiﬁcation but not a lower class. This must be indicated on the entry form in order to be accepted by the contest ofﬁcials.

*\*Musicians are deﬁned as Wind and Percussion members*.

# ADJUDICATION

Caption style adjudication will be employed in both preliminaries and ﬁnals using a 6 person judging panel and the Tennessee Bandmasters Association evaluation system.

* Two judges (one in the press box and one on the field) will evaluate musical performance with a possible twenty points per judge.
* One judge will evaluate music effect worth a total of twenty points.
* One judge will evaluate visual effect worth a total of twenty points
* Two judges (one in the press box and one on the field) will evaluate visual ensemble .with each judge having a total of ten points.

**Judges for the current year can be found online at mtsu.edu/coc**

# RATING PROCEDURE

The resultant sum from adjudicators, less violations if any, will indicate the rating on the following scale:

75.0-100 Superior, I 60-74.9 Excellent, II 40-59 Average, III

Ratings will be determined as a result of preliminary performance.

# SHOW REQUIREMENTS

There are no basic maneuvers required. Bands are expected to present a well-rehearsed aural and visual performance, executed only by students from their respective school (K-12). Only these students will be allowed to be on the field during a band’s performance.

# PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Bands will perform in class order beginning with Class A, then Class AA and then Class AAA. Ofﬁcers of the MTSU Band of Blue, in the presence of the band, will draw starting times for each band within each classiﬁcation.

Contest ofﬁcials reserve the right to alter the above procedure in order to allow a band to attend. Various state, regional, and national exams do not constitute a basis for exception (February 1986). A request for this procedure must be submitted in writing prior to the dead line date and signed by the director and principal. Bands must, however, perform within their classiﬁcation.

# CONTEST SCHEDULE

Bands will be scheduled in 14-minute intervals for performance unless otherwise noted on the schedule. Each band will have a 20-minute period in a staging area prior to warm-up. A 25-minute period in a warm up area convenient to both staging and performance areas will be provided. The warm-up period is scheduled 35 minutes prior to performance. Independent warm-up is permitted provided it is not in close proximity to the ofﬁcial contest warm-up areas. (See violation section.)

# PERFORMANCE PROCEDURE

At the printed time of performance, the band will be announced, regardless of their physical position in the stadium area. The band will proceed with the knowledge that the 14-minute clock has begun. On ﬁeld warm up is at the discretion of the director.

When the band is in position, the drum major must present the band to the adjudicators with a salute. The announcer will then respond, “Band, you may begin your performance.” Ten seconds after this introduction, the 12-minute clock will begin. (See violation section in regard to timing penalties.)

# FINALS

Following the preliminary competition, eight bands will perform in the ﬁnal competition, which will be considered open competition with no classiﬁcations. The eight bands will represent the eight highest scoring bands of the day.

Those bands appearing in the ﬁnals will be scored by the same procedure as in the preliminaries. Preliminary scores will not carry over to ﬁnals. Immediately following the announcement of ﬁnalists, directors will draw for order of performance in ﬁnals. This drawing will be held at the 50 yard line on the performance side.

In the event no Class A or Class AA bands are included in the ﬁnal eight, the highest scoring band from each class will appear in the ﬁrst and second ﬁnals position in exhibition only.

Scoring and rules for ﬁnals will be the same as for prelims; however, judges will switch captions. Bands must present the same performance for both prelims and ﬁnals.

# TIE BREAKERS

All ties will be broken in the following manner:

The highest sum resulting from adding together all music judges’ scores will break the tie.

# VIOLATIONS

Any band violating a printed rule published in the contest rules will be penalized 5 points. Speciﬁc violations are as follows:

* Exceeding the 14-minute time limit
* Failure to adhere to the 6- to 12-minute performance time limits
* Obstructing physically or musically the performance of the next band
* Delaying the contest

Having anyone other than a student or a director in the performance area during the actual performance. (This includes operation of any technical or sound device systems).

Failure to report to the proper place on time will drop a band to last on the performance schedule, or, according to the discretion of the contest ofﬁcials, be cause for disqualiﬁcation.

# AWARDS

GRAND CHAMPION

The award-winning band score must reﬂect the highest score of any band in ﬁnals regardless of classiﬁcation or state. The band will receive a Contest of Champions coat of arms and a grand champion flag. Each member of the band will receive a patch representing a replica of the coat of arms. The director will be awarded a personal gold medallion in recognition of outstanding accomplishment, and join the “Legion of Masters” with associated lifetime privileges.

RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION

The reserve grand champion represents the second highest score in ﬁnals regardless of classiﬁcation or state. The band will receive a trophy indicative of their outstanding performance. The director will receive a sterling silver medallion in recognition of outstanding accomplishment.

HONORABLE MENTION

The honorable mention score will reﬂect the third highest score in ﬁnals regardless of classiﬁcation or state. The band will receive a trophy indicative of their outstanding performance. The director of the honorable mention band will receive a personal bronze medallion in recognition of meritorious accomplishment.

FINALIST CUP

All bands competing in ﬁnals will receive a silver cup in recognition of outstanding accomplishments.

TENNESSEE AND KENTUCKY GOVERNOR’S CUPS

These trophies will be awarded to the highest scoring Tennessee and Kentucky bands participating in the Contest of Champions. The trophy becomes the possession of the recipient for a period of one year, at which time the trophy will be presented to the new winner. A wall plaque will also be presented to the winner as a permanent acknowledgment of accomplishment.

CLASSIFICATION AWARDS

A ﬁrst- and second-place trophy will be presented to the two highest scoring bands in Class A, Class AA and Class AAA as a result of preliminary competition. These awards will be presented at the conclusion of the preliminary competition.

SUPERIOR PERFORMANCE AWARD

Bands receiving the rating of superior within their classiﬁcation will receive a custom award.

# PASS IN REVIEW

Following the evening performance, those bands appearing in ﬁnals will participate in a *Pass in Review* of the audience ending in a predetermined position on the ﬁeld. Bands are expected to perform appropriate music of approximately one minute in duration for this portion of the awards program. Complete details will be provided. The presentation of final awards will follow immediately.

Order of march will be the same order as performance in the ﬁnals. Retiring from the ﬁeld following the awards ceremony should be in reverse order of ﬁnish. Bands are requested to pass in front of the Grand Champion.

# ANNOUNCEMENT OF RATINGS

Directors, assistant directors, and drum majors will be asked to report to a speciﬁc position on the sidelines following prelims. Those bands not competing in finals will be presented with taped comments and a directors’ gift (score sheets may be picked up at the conclusion of the final competition). Complete information as to the final award ceremonies and the *Pass in Review* will be included in the directors’ packets.

Following the final awards ceremony, finalist directors will be presented with taped comments, score sheets and a directors’ gift. Penalties will be announced during the awards ceremony as the ratings are read.

# MISCELLANEOUS

Contest guides will be assigned and at your disposal from the time you arrive. Guides will be on duty at the warm-up room and performance area. Guides are provided to assist, however, it is the band director’s responsibility to meet all time guidelines.

Hash marks on Jones Field are 60 feet from the sidelines. This is standard under NCAA rules.

Video/DVD equipment and tape recorders are not allowed in the stadium. Still photography is confined to the spectator area.

Middle Tennessee State University is an AA/EEO employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its program and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Executive Director of Institutional Equity and Compliance, 1301 E. Main Street, CAB 220, Murfreesboro, TN 37132,

615-898-2185.



