

MUSIC BYLAWS—ARTICLE 7

7.1 OBJECTIVE

- 7.1.1 Interscholastic music activities are intended to supplement and enrich the secondary music curriculum. These activities provide goals for the development of musical skill and understanding for both the individual and the participating group. These activities enhance citizenship, teach the individual responsibility, promote loyalty and develop a sense of school pride.

7.2 ELIGIBILITY

- 7.2.1 Participation by students in any music contest shall be governed by the eligibility rules that govern all activities, Article 2, NSAA Bylaws, except participation for remuneration does not constitute ineligibility.
- 7.2.2 **Certificate of Eligibility.** Prior to the first date permitted for interschool competition in each activity, each member school shall submit an on-line list of all students participating and eligible to participate in each activity.

7.3 CLASSIFICATION

- 7.3.1 **Method.** Schools shall be divided into five classes with classification based on the enrollment in grades nine, ten and eleven according to the enrollment figures submitted to the Department of Education on the last Friday of September of the preceding school year.
- 7.3.2 Music Classes Are as Follows:
- | | |
|----------|------------------------------|
| Class AA | Enrollment of 601 or greater |
| Class A | Enrollment of 301-600 |
| Class B | Enrollment of 151-300 |
| Class C | Enrollment of 75-150 |
| Class D | Enrollment of 0-74 |
- 7.3.3 Schools are to compete by classes in all large ensemble events. A school may compete in a higher class, provided it competes in such higher class in all events in which it enters. However, a school may not compete in a class lower than the one indicated by its enrollment.

7.4 COMPETITION AND SANCTIONS

- 7.4.1 Schools may not enter any music contest or festival in which the renditions of soloists and/or organizations are rated, judged or in any way classified, unless such contest or festival is sponsored or approved by the Board of Directors.
- 7.4.1.1 The sanctioning of music contests is governed by Article 1.8, NSAA Constitution. Sanctioning of events held during the summer months is not required.
- 7.4.2 **Sunday Competition.** No school which is a member of the NSAA shall be permitted to engage in any interschool contest on Sunday.
- 7.4.3 **December Moratorium.** There shall be five consecutive days in December during the holiday season where there shall be no practice and no interschool competition by individuals or teams in any music activity. Music groups may perform if there is no practice in school facilities and the performance is local and on a volunteer basis. The specific dates of each five-day period will be set by the Board of Directors three years in advance.

7.5 DISTRICT COMMITTEE

- 7.5.1 **Organization.** Each NSAA district shall have a District Music Committee which consists of the District Managing Committee and two music directors who shall be appointed annually by the District Managing Committee.
- 7.5.2 **Duties.**
- 7.5.2.1 Select the date, site, and contest director for their district music contest.
- 7.5.2.2 The District Music Committee will elect a music coordinator from the Committee. The coordinator will arrange for the administration of the district music contest and represent the district on a state-wide advisory committee.
- 7.5.2.3 **The State Music Coordinators Advisory Committee.** The coordinator from each of the six NSAA legislative districts will meet once each year with the NSAA staff. This meeting will be held in the spring following the district music contest, with the purpose of evaluating the district contest.

7.6 DISTRICT CONTESTS

- 7.6.1 The Board of Directors may schedule and arrange for District Music Contests, but shall not schedule for a State Music Contest.

- 7.6.2 **District Entries.** Schools may enter the District Contest nearest them with approval from the director of the contest they wish to enter and from the music committee from each of the two districts involved. The deadline for approval shall be December 1 prior to the contest.
- 7.6.2.1 **Date Due.** The entries to the District Contest must be submitted on-line via the NSAA Website by midnight Central Time, March 20, prior to the contest. No late entries are permitted.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 7.6.2.1

Reference:

7.6.2.1

- (1) *Due to the transition to the electronic submittal of District Music Contest entries, no hard copy entry forms will be accepted. All schools must complete and submit their District Music Contest entries electronically no later than midnight Central time, March 20, prior to their contests.*
- (2) *Any school that does not submit the electronic entry by the deadline will be notified by the NSAA and given two school days to submit their electronic form. A \$500 late administrative fee will be paid to the NSAA in addition to regular District Contest fees for the late entry to be allowed within this two-day period.*
- (3) *A school may substitute personnel for existing legal entries up until the scheduled performance of that entry, for example student B may replace student A in a trumpet solo entry or vocal duet entry or string quartet entry, which will not require making a change to the contest schedule.*
- (4) *A school may make additions to their contest entries after the entry deadline with permission from their contest site director, providing they do not exceed the legal number of entries for their class. A \$50 administrative fee will be paid by the requesting school to the contest site for each added entry.*

- 7.6.2.2 **Entry Fees.** The District Music Committee shall determine the entry fees for District Music Contests. All fees shall be submitted for the District Music Contest according to each district's requirements immediately after the March 20 entry deadline. An additional charge may be made for schools from outside the district.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 7.6.2.2

Reference:

- 7.6.2.2 *Due to the transition to the electronic submittal of District Music Contest entries, payment for contest entry fees must be sent to the contest site address specified on the electronic entry submission acknowledgement immediately after the March 20 deadline unless payment is required at a different time by the host director or NSAA district involved. Schools will not be allowed to participate at the district music contest until the designated district host receives the required fees.*

- 7.6.2.3 **Contest Schedules.** The site director(s) for each District Music Contest location shall provide complete contest performance schedules to their participating schools no later than 14 days before the start of their District Music Contest.

7.7 DISTRICT CONTEST RULES

- 7.7.1 **Compliance with Rules.** Any entry failing to comply with the rules in this section is subject to a penalty by the District Contest Director and/or Music Committee.
- 7.7.2 **Music Selection.**
- (a) All large ensemble events will choose their own selections with the recommendation that two contrasting selections be used.
 - (b) All solo and small ensemble events will choose their own selections with the recommendation that one selection be used.
 - (c) The 1976 copyright law is very clear on the use of copying music. Some provisions of the law state: Copying shall not substitute for the purchase of books, publishers, reprints, or periodicals.
 - (d) Copying is permissible for the following uses:
 - (1) Emergency copying to replace purchased copies which for any reason are not available for an imminent performance provided purchased replacement copies shall be substituted in due course.
 - (2) For academic purposes other than performance, multiple copies of excerpts of works may be made provided that the excerpts do not compromise a part of the whole which would constitute a performable unit such as a section, movement or aria but in no case more than 10% of the whole work.
 - (e) Copying is prohibited for the following uses:
 - (1) Copying to create or replace or substitute for anthologies, compilations, or collective works.
 - (2) Copying for the purpose of performance except as in (d)(1) above.
 - (3) Copying for the purpose of substituting for the purchase of music except as in (d)(1) and (d)(2) above.

(f) Exceptions to prohibited copying include:

- (1) If a piece of music is out of print, permission may be obtained from the publisher to make copies for performance use.
- (2) If music (or scores, etc.) has been ordered but not received, a copy of the order may be attached to a copy.
- (3) If a pianist has an awkward page turn, pages may be copied as long as the pianist has an original copy at the piano.

7.7.3 **Number of Entries.** A school may have a maximum number of entries as determined by class.

7.7.3.1 A school wishing to enter strings (violin, viola, cello, bass viola) will have additional entries determined by class, which must be only string entries as defined in the list of acceptable events.

7.7.3.2 Maximum entries by class:

Class AA	48 plus 16 strings, plus 2 piano solos
Class A	36 plus 12 strings, plus 2 piano solos
Classes B and C	30 plus 12 strings, plus 2 piano solos
Class D	24 plus 12 strings, plus 2 piano solos

7.7.4 All soloists must be in the ninth grade or above. Students in Class AA and A choral groups must be in the ninth grade or above. In choral events in Classes B, C, and D, and in instrumental ensemble events in all classes, students in the junior high school and below may be included.

7.7.5 **Large Ensembles.**

7.7.5.1 Large groups shall be bands, orchestras, mixed choruses*, madrigals/chamber choirs, jazz choirs, show choirs, and men's/women's choruses and jazz bands. Each NSAA District Music Coordinator will determine the number of Large Ensemble entries allowed in each District Music Contest.

* The term **Mixed Chorus** in the Large Ensembles category shall not mean the requirement exists for both genders of students to be included for those schools comprised of a single gender only (non-coed schools).

7.7.6 **Small Ensemble Events.**

7.7.6.1 All small ensembles shall have a maximum of 24 in a group.

7.7.6.2 **Vocal Ensembles:**

Boys Duet	Girls Duet	Girls Double Octet
Boys Quartet	Girls Trio	Mixed Duet
Boys Octet	Girls Quartet	Mixed Quartet
Boys Double Octet	Girls Sextet	Mixed Octet
Barbershop Quartet	Girls Octet	Mixed Double Octet
Girls Triple Trio	Double Sextet	

7.7.6.3 **Instrumental Ensembles:**

Woodwind Trio	Woodwind Quintet (Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Horn, Bassoon)	
Flute Duet	Flute Trio	Saxophone Trio
Flute Quartet	Saxophone Quartet	Clarinet Duet
Saxophone Sextet	Clarinet Quartet (4B Flat Soprano)	Horn Trio
Clarinet Trio	Horn Quartet	Mixed Clarinet Quartet
Drum Quartet or Quintet	Trombone Trio	String Trio
Trombone Quartet	String Quintet	Mixed Brass Quartet
String Quartet	Brass Sextet	String Sextet
Cornet or Trumpet Duet	Violin Quartet	Cornet or Trumpet Trio
Cornet or Trumpet Quartet	Piano Trio (Violin, Cello, Piano)	
Brass Quintet	Percussion Ensemble	

7.7.6.4 Any ensemble not listed above should be entered as a Miscellaneous ensemble. Each school may enter as many Miscellaneous ensembles as it wishes, as long as it does not exceed the maximum number of entries for that class.

7.7.6.5 Unlimited small ensemble entries, vocal and instrumental, are allowed, but exact duplication of personnel will result in disqualification from that event.

7.7.7 **Unqualified Events:**

Any entry that is non-musical in nature (for example, baton twirling) or is primarily comprised of instruments or voice parts not common in standard literature (for example, accordion, harmonica) that would require the opinion of additional judges should not be included in District Music Contests. However, final decision pertaining to such events rests with the District Music Committee or its designate.

7.7.8 Solo Events.**7.7.8.1 Vocal Solos:**

- (a) Female voice
- (b) Male voice

7.7.8.2 Instrumental Solos:

Violin, viola, cello, string bass, piccolo, flute, oboe, English horn, bassoon, clarinet (including alto, bass, etc.), baritone/euphonium, saxophone (including alto, tenor, etc.), cornet or trumpet, trombone, French horn, piano, tuba, percussion.

7.7.9 Time Limits. All events shall be limited in time as follows. These time limits include time for preparation on stage, tuning, playing, and exit. Time between numbers is included in the time of performance. Any performance violating these time limits will receive a rating which has been lowered one division.

Class AA

Band or Orchestras 25

Mixed Chorus* 18

Jazz Band 20

Show Choir 20

Men's/Women's Chorus 12

Madrigal/Chamber Choir 12

Jazz Choir 15

Class A

Band or Orchestras 25

Mixed Chorus* 18

Jazz Band 20

Show Choir 20

Men's/Women's Chorus 12

Madrigal/Chamber Choir 12

Jazz Choir 15

Classes B, C, D

Band or Orchestras 22

Mixed Chorus* 15

Jazz Band 20

Show Choir 20

Men's/Women's Chorus 12

Madrigal/Chamber Choir 12

Jazz Choir 15

Small Ensembles: All Classes 6

Solo Events: All Classes 6

* The term **Mixed Chorus** in the Large Ensembles category shall not mean the requirement exists for both genders of students to be included for those schools comprised of a single gender only (non-coed schools).

7.7.10 Scores. It is strongly recommended that the measures be numbered for all scores provided to adjudicators. Performers or their accompanists using illegally copied music will not be allowed to perform.

- (a) Solo and Small Ensemble Scores. The performer shall provide the judge with an original score for each solo and small ensemble entry. Proof of a second original score must also be presented for the accompanist and for the performer (if the performance is not memorized).
- (b) Large Ensemble Scores. With the exception of show choirs only, the director shall furnish the judges of large ensembles with one original score for each selection for each judge, (three sets of scores for three judges). Show Choir directors assume responsibility for the legality of the musical arrangements performed.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 7.7.10

Reference:

7.7.10 For all District Music contest performances, judges presented with or observing photocopied sheet music without required permissive documentation shall deem the music as illegally copied and shall not allow the performance to begin, continue, or be critiqued and rated.

7.7.11 Memorization. Memorization is not mandatory for any solos, small or large ensembles.

7.7.12 Accompanying and Directing.

7.7.12.1 Any regular piano accompanist or one chosen by the Contest Director may act as official accompanist. An accompanist is required when an arrangement includes piano accompaniment.

7.7.12.2 Students or non-students, including directors, may serve as accompanists. The use of the same accompanist for two or more schools should be avoided to prevent scheduling conflicts.

7.7.12.3 Tape-recorded accompaniments are permissible.

7.7.12.4 Large ensembles and small ensembles with eight or more members may perform with or without a conductor.

7.7.12.5 Directors are not allowed to give vocal assistance to their group, or play with their band or orchestra.

7.7.13 Ratings.

7.7.13.1 Judges will rate contestants both in solo and ensemble as follows:

- (a) Division I
- (b) Division II
- (c) Division III
- (d) Division IV
- (e) Division V
- (f) Pluses or minuses will not be used with the ratings. (It will be the Contest Director’s responsibility to see that this is understood by the judges before the contest begins).

7.7.13.2 Contest directors shall facilitate the return of judges' rating sheets to directors immediately following the close of the contest, but in no case later than seven days following the close of the contest.

7.8 JUDGES

7.8.1 **Selection of Judges.** All judges shall be selected and contracted by the Music Committee or its designate from a list of approved adjudicators compiled by the NSAA. It is recommended that a judge who has given private instruction to an individual contestant during the current year not be allowed to rate or criticize that individual contestant in contest solo events.

7.8.2 **Number of Judges.** All solos and small ensembles shall be judged by one judge and all large ensembles shall be judged by three judges.

7.8.3 **Regulations and Instructions to Judges:**

- (a) All judges shall be expected to become acquainted with and to cooperate with the rules of the contest in rendering fair, accurate and constructive judgment.
- (b) All judges shall be expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner. Judges shall not fraternize with directors or discuss contest performances with unofficial persons. Judges shall not in any way communicate with other judges in large ensemble events during a contest performance.
- (c) If contest rules are violated, the judge shall rate the contestant without prejudice but shall make note of the alleged violation on the judges sheet. It shall be the duty of the District Contest Director to make final ruling on the alleged violation.
- (d) Adjudicators shall be guided by the following definitions of ratings:
 - 1. Division I shall represent an outstanding performance.
 - 2. Division II shall represent an excellent performance that is outstanding in some respects.
 - 3. Division III shall represent a good average performance but not outstanding in any respects.
 - 4. Division IV shall represent a below average performance in most respects.
 - 5. Division V shall represent a poor performance.
- (e) Official judging sheets as supplied by the Nebraska School Activities Association shall be used for all events. Adjudicators shall submit prepared and rated judging sheets at the finish of each event, or at the finish of each session.
- (f) The ratings of the three judges used for concert performance shall be averaged to determine the final rating as follows

	I	II	III	IV	V
1	1 1 1	1 2 2	1 3 3	1 4 4	1 5 5
1	1 1 2	1 2 3	1 3 4	1 4 5	2 5 5
1	1 1 3	1 2 4	1 3 5	2 4 4	3 5 5
1	1 1 4	1 2 5	2 3 3	2 4 5	4 5 5
1	1 1 5	2 2 2	2 3 4	3 4 4	5 5 5
		2 2 3	2 3 5	3 4 5	
		2 2 4	3 3 3	4 4 4	
		2 2 5	3 3 4	4 4 5	

7.8.4 **Points of Judging:** Each of the adjudicator’s scoring sheets provide for the rating of appropriate solo or ensemble performance elements using the following scoring definitions:

- 1 Point – Consistently outstanding
- 2 Points – Strong; Occasional inconsistencies
- 3 Points – Repeatedly inconsistent
- 4 Points – Consistently Weak
- 5 Points – Unacceptable

Adjudicator's scoring sheets comprised of 7-performance elements employ the following rating system to convert the ballot's total points into a final Division Rating:

Total Points	Final Rating
7-10 -----	Division I
11-17 -----	Division II
18-24 -----	Division III
25-31 -----	Division IV
32+ -----	Division V

Adjudicator's scoring sheets comprised of 9-performance elements employ the following rating system to convert the ballot's total points into a final Division Rating:

Total Points	Final Rating
9-13 -----	Division I
14-22 -----	Division II
23-31 -----	Division III
32-40 -----	Division IV
41+ -----	Division V

Adjudicator's scoring sheets comprised of 11-performance elements employ the following rating system to convert the ballot's total points into a final Division Rating:

Total Points	Final Rating
11-16 -----	Division I
17-27 -----	Division II
28-38 -----	Division III
39-49 -----	Division IV
50+ -----	Division V

Appropriate scoring sheet captions for District Music Contest Points of Judging are selected from the following performance elements:

- 7.8.4.1 **Tone.** Beauty of tone along with control, characteristic timbre, maturity, energy, blend and tuning or vibrato where appropriate, of the various instruments/voices and group as a whole.
- 7.8.4.2 **Intonation.** The individual's/group's tonality awareness and pitch center in relation to scales, intervals, chords and unisons - where appropriate.
- 7.8.4.3 **Precision.** The individual's/group's performance accuracy to the printed page: rhythms - note/rest values; bowings; duration, beat - pulse/steadiness; correctness of meters; ensemble feel - where appropriate.
- 7.8.4.4 **Technique.** The individual's/group's performance related to percussion: stickings, rudiments, rolls - rudimental/orchestral, body/hand/instrument positions.
- 7.8.4.5 **Facility.** The individual's/group's ease of performing: fingerings/positions/bowings/shifts/printed notes; articulations; breathing/phrasing; posture; instrumental or vocal dexterity; and attacks/releases.
- 7.8.4.6 **Balance.** The group's harmonious adjustment of volume and timbre between instruments or voices applied to: voices/sections/ensemble, and melodies/harmonies/accompaniments.
- 7.8.4.7 **Expression and Interpretation.** The individual's/group's: phrase shape, style contrasts in tempo/dynamics/articulation, feel for the musical line and textual inflection - where appropriate.
- 7.8.4.8 **Diction.** The individual's/group's overall enunciation with clarity of consonants, purity/naturalness of vowels, diphthongs, syllabic inflection and stylizations.
- 7.8.4.9 **Other Factors.** Additional aesthetic considerations pertinent to the type of solo or ensemble ranging from: choice of music, discipline, stage presence/appearance, poise, feeling of ensemble, arrangements, musical variety, sequencing, pacing, showmanship, energy, facial projection, time/rhythmic feel, fills, back-up, instrumentation, accompaniment, effects, grace, tuning, and memorization – if required.
- 7.8.4.10 **For Directors Only.** Critiques (which should be noted on a page separate from the scoring sheet) shall be directed to the instructor.

7.9 AWARDS

- 7.9.1 Awards to students and groups shall be governed by Article 2.15, Awards to Students and Schools.