

ASBOA State Marching Contest Procedures



Scheduling

The State Marching Contest will be a 3-day event. The contest would be held on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. **The grouping of the classifications on a specific day will be determined by the Executive Secretary after registration has closed. (ABA 2026)**

Each ensemble's performance order will be determined by a random draw in classification. The draw will be performed by the Executive Secretary in a forum that can be witnessed by the participating directors. (All-State 2023) The draw for State Marching Contest will occur within 5 Business Days of the entry due date. Those that want to attend the draw, in person, will be allowed to attend as long as they RSVP the ASBOA Executive Secretary within 3 business days of the set draw date. (ABA 2024)

The deadline for All Materials for SMC to be turned into the ASBOA Office is October 1. (ABA 2023)

Pre-Performance Procedures – Check-In, Warm-Up

Information in addition to these procedures, including site-specific information such as bus/truck parking procedures, the location of warm-up areas, etc. will be included in the band's pre-event communications from the event host and the ASBOA Office.

A representative from each band must check-in at the designated Band Check-In location. Representatives are encouraged to arrive and check in early on the day of the band's performance to receive any changes to competition performance times (as it is possible for these times to change due to last-minute cancellations, etc.) or event procedures made after the band's last communication from the host or ASBOA.

Director Name Badges and Field Passes will be distributed at Band Check-In. Each participating band will receive twenty (20) Field Passes. Field Passes allow the holder to travel through the warm-up and performance flow with the band and directors. Field passes may also be used to enter the Spectator Area during the performance. Each school may purchase up to 15 additional Field Passes for \$11 each. (All-State 2023)

Your band will be issued six (6) Director Name Badges, which allow the wearer to enter the Spectator Area throughout the event. (A person issued a Director Name Badge does not need a Field Pass.) Each school may purchase up to 4 additional staff passes for \$20 apiece. (All-State 2023)

Note: Student managers or other Students with the band (and involved in the band's preparation and/or performance), with or without a uniform, do not need a field pass or other credential to proceed through the event flow and onto the field with the band.

Members of ASBOA, who do not have a group competing nor have a staff pass, that wish to attend SMC may purchase a VIP ticket to watch bands from the Press Box Area. The cost of this is \$20 per day. There will be a limited number of these passes available at the discretion of the ASBOA office. (All-State 2023)

***Access to the hospitality room and second floor viewing area will require: 1. An official ASBOA issued wristband and inclusion on an approved access list maintained by the contest administration. 2. Only individuals on the approved list will be permitted access, including directors, staff, and approved personnel. Family members and guests will not be permitted unless included on the list. 3. Wristbands will be valid for one contest day only**

unless otherwise designated by contest administration. 4. Wristbands may not be shared, transferred, or reused by unauthorized individuals. (ABA 2026)

Warm-up areas will only be available at the event site and may only be used during the scheduled warm-up times at the specified warm up sites. Each band's warm-up time will be included in the final packet, made available approximately two weeks prior to the event.

Time-keeping devices such as metronomes or jam blocks, megaphones or similar voice amplification devices, and audio systems may be tested and used in music warm-up areas, but must be used with wire connected microphones, and must remain at a reasonable volume depending on the acoustics of the warm-up area and proximity to other bands/warm-up areas, judging areas, and the performance field.

The host or ASBOA Officials, in their discretion, may restrict the use of specific devices (or order discontinuation of use on-site) if they believe such devices interfere with other bands in the warm-up areas or with performances in the stadium.

Wireless microphones and audio and/or lighting control devices may interfere with performances in the stadium and, therefore, may not be used in warm-up areas.

Band report times will be at least ten (10) minutes prior to the band's start time. Distances from warm-up areas to the stadium vary from venue to venue. Bands will report to an ASBOA official at the entrance gate of the stadium. The band should be ready to enter the performance area at the designated band report time.

Only those adults with Director Name Badges or the applicable Field Pass will be allowed to enter the Performance Area with the band. Ticket holders and bus driver pass holders are not permitted to enter the Performance Area at any time. They must enter the stadium at the designated Spectator Entrance.

The band will enter the stadium at the Band Entrance gate and proceed to the Performance Area. An ASBOA official will meet the Band and lead them to the Performance Field for set-up.

Staging: Typically, Bands are staged for Performance Field entry in a designated end zone. Front ensembles, conductor's podium(s), and front-side props are typically pre-staged on the front side of the Performance Area near the 20-yard line. Staging of percussion/guard equipment, props, and other equipment also occurs in this time. Special presets or holding areas are not allowed or provided.

On-Field Procedures

On cue from an ASBOA official, the band enters the field. A band is allowed four (4) minutes to set-up and warm-up anywhere in the performance area. All performers, including any members or field pass holders used for on-field staging of equipment during the performance, must enter as described above. Pre-event communications will include additional site-specific information regarding entrance areas and access.

A Director or a director's designee(s) will be allowed to place non-permanent marks/objects to mark field placements for eight-man football hashes and numbers before they take the field for region and state competition. No time limits will be adjusted. This will be done during the regular allotted setup time with the following criteria: (ABA 2023)

1. Ensembles must be able to add and remove the markings during their allotted performance window.
2. Only painter's tape will be allowed to mark the field. The director of the ensemble must show the Timing and Penalties Judge the tape and get approval before placing any marks on the field.

3. The only markings that are allowed to be added are the ones from 8-man football that are different from 11-man football.
4. If any of these rules are violated there may be a penalty of warning to disqualification issued by the State Contest Committee and/or ASBOA Executive Secretary.

Any/all sound and/or lighting checks on the field may begin as soon as the band's four-minute setup/warm-up time begins.

Pre-recorded (or sequenced) and/or live music may be used for a "pre-show" within the 4-minute setup/warm-up time. Pre-recorded music must cease by the completion of the pre-show announcement. Pre-recorded music may be used after the Performance during the allowed "two minutes to exit," but only after the performance (live music) has ended.

Adults may enter the performance field before the performance to set up equipment and after the performance to remove equipment. Adults, including those assisting in setting up props or equipment, must be clear of the performance field for the duration of the performance. Note: This includes end zone sidelines, backfield and the backfield seating areas.

Exception: An adult may enter the performance field during the performance to attend to an issue affecting the safety of student performers or "catastrophic" equipment failure (such as failure or loss of power or connectivity to a sound system) without penalty, as determined by the Field Manager and/or Contest Director.

All non bona fide members of a marching ensemble must have a Directors' Pass or Field Pass to enter the competition area. This also includes Junior High Students.

PENALTY – Penalty is at a minimum .1 point per infraction up to disqualification at the discretion of the Contest Director. (All-State 2023)

In the case of extreme weather conditions, individuals with a Directors' Pass or Field Pass can be used to hold props for the safety of the performers. This will be left up to the discretion of the Contest Director when to implement this policy.

These individuals may NOT contribute in any way to the production, this includes moving the props for the sake of the production. Props must be moved by bona fide members of the ensemble at all times during the show.

PENALTY – Penalty is at a minimum 1 point per infraction up to disqualification at the discretion of the Contest Director. (All-State 2023)

Timing Procedure Summary:

- (a) Bands are scheduled on 15-minute intervals, with appropriate breaks as scheduled by ASBOA.
- (b) Bands are permitted four minutes prior to the designated performance time to set-up and warm-up in the performance area.
- (c) Announcement of the band begins at 3 minutes, 15 seconds into the four-minute set-up/warm-up time (45 seconds prior to the designated Performance time).
- (d) Bands are permitted a performance time of up to eleven (11) minutes on the performance field.
- (e) Bands (including students and adults), equipment, and props will have two minutes to clear the field past the exit-side goal line. Any group that takes longer than the allotted 2 minutes to clear the field after their performance will incur one of the 2 following penalties:
 1. Any group that takes between 2:01-2:59 to clear field will receive a .2 deduction from their overall final

score.

2. Any group that takes over 3:00 to clear field will receive a 1.0 deduction from their overall final score. (ABA 2017)

(f) A band's set-up/warm-up time may overlap with the prior band's exit time.

A band is allowed four (4) minutes to set-up and warm-up anywhere in the performance area. (The placement of any props or equipment must take place during this time). This time will begin at the cue of an ASBOA Official. This time will include the band's entry and set up on the performance field and any musical warm-up. Three (3) minutes, fifteen (15) seconds into the four-minute set-up/warm-up time, the announcer will introduce the band as follows:

"Joining us from [School, City & State]... please welcome the [School] Marching Band!"

(Announcer pauses for audience response.)

"[School]'s musical selections include the following:"

(Announcer reads their selections.)

"ASBOA is proud to present in State Marching Band Performance,

[Drum Major(s) name(s)] and the [School] Marching 'nickname.'" *

*If the band's drum majors are going to salute, it should occur as the announcer is reading/announcing the sentence above. However, a drum major salute is not necessary to indicate that the band is ready to start.

The performance of a pre-show during the four-minute set-up/warm-up time or any other on-field activity will not alter the time of the announcement or the timing of the performance.

Following the completion of the pre-show announcement, the first note of music or the first step or visual move (not including any drum major salute) by a member of the band will start the timing of the performance. The performance must begin within 30 seconds from completion of the pre-show announcement or timing will thereafter begin automatically.

A band is allowed a performance time of up to 11 minutes anywhere on and within the performance field. Performance timing will end with the end of live music.

Musical exits will be included in the performance time of the show. Visual exits with percussion cadence (or silence) will be included in the exit timing, and not in the time of the performance. Any cadence/music used as an exit routine must cease once the performance field is vacated.

Within two minutes of the end of the performance, bands must completely vacate the performance field past the goal line at the designated band exit. Pre-event communications will include additional site-specific information regarding exit procedures.

Electronics

Electronic units for the production or amplification of music, other sounds, lighting, and/or visual effects are permitted, provided that their use conforms to this and other applicable sections of this handbook. If power is available at a site, it may be used at the band's own risk. ASBOA or the host will seek to provide access to front sideline power as close as possible to the 50-yard line, but takes no ultimate responsibility for supplying power or the failure of a power source it provides.

All music from traditional wind and percussion instruments or electronic instruments must be performed by a student live and in real time. The use of sampled, prerecorded, or sequenced sounds of woodwind and brass instruments is not permitted. Percussion or other music must either be performed "live and in real time" or

prerecorded or sequenced for playback on a “one stroke, one note” basis. Tempo specific samples and musical loops are not permitted during the performance. Non-music sounds such as narration or sound effects may be performed either through its live performance or through the playback of the recorded sound.

PENALTY – Penalty is at a minimum 1 point per infraction up to disqualification at the discretion of the contest director (All-State 2023)

Audio volumes may be controlled with a wireless device from any place in the performance area or the spectator area open to the public for the event. ASBOA or the host cannot guarantee the operability of such devices, including the devices’ communication with other devices within the performance area. Such devices are used entirely at the risk of the user.

Contest will provide audio control space for one director/staff member, close to the same general vantage point as the general effect judges. Note: this area is not authorized to use or capture any audio or video. (All-State 2023)

Adult operation of electronic devices: An adult may operate such devices

Please note that allowing an adult to operate a soundboard does not grant permission for them to “contribute directly to the music or visual program.” The triggering of sound effects, lighting effects, voiceovers and the like is only permissible by a student performer. It is viewed that those aspects are the same as a musical contribution to the show and therefore should only be produced by students. (ABA 2019) Lighting devices and their triggered events (visual contribution) should similarly be produced by students.

Equipment Use

Off-road mechanized vehicles (defined as golf carts, garden tractors, small ATV all-terrain vehicles, etc.) will be allowed to pull equipment trailers, only for set up and take down, unless prohibited by an individual site. A protective bib must be rigged underneath the vehicle so no fluids drop to the turf or carpet. Pick-up trucks, large tractors or similar vehicles are not permitted. The participating band and its school are liable and will be held responsible for any damage to a performance area or venue caused by violation of these policies and/or actions of the operators generally.

The following are NOT ALLOWED in a performance or on the performance field:

- Any equipment, object, or material (including, but not limited to debris, powder, water, or other liquids) that may cause damage to the performance field or performance area, that presents a safety hazard, or that disrupts the scheduled flow of the contest
- Pyrotechnics of any kind, including fire, fireworks, or the discharge of arms
- Lights-out routines
- Animals
- Off-road mechanized vehicles (defined as golf carts, garden tractors, small ATVs, etc.)
- Drones or any remote-controlled helicopter, aircraft or similar items
- Hazardous equipment or illegal use of equipment
- Applicable only to enclosed venues (domes):
 - Lighter-than-air or helium-filled balloons.
 - Fog, smoke, or similar effect-generating equipment

Each venue may have its own safety and operational limitations. Use of the foregoing may be permitted upon approval by the venue on a case-by-case, site-specific basis.

The following may be used in a performance, provided they are not hazardous and do not remain on the

performance field or in the air following a performance:

- Powder or other airborne material
- Water or other (non-hazardous) liquids
- Paper, confetti, or other debris

General Conduct

Band directors/staff members may contact the host, the contest director, or the field manager at any time with questions or concerns. Directors/staff may not contact any judge beginning twelve (12) hours prior to the start of the event, through the completion of the event.

The contest director may issue warnings and/or penalties for actions and/or behaviors contrary to the ASBOA mission and core values, and/or that violate the principles of fair play and professional and collegial behavior representative of ASBOA and its mission. Such actions and behaviors include, but are not limited to:

- Warm-up on-site by a band (or any component of a band) in areas and/or at times other than those designated.
- Failure to follow directives from the host or other event staff related to conduct in any area, including parking lots, warm-up areas, etc.
- Overstays in warm-up areas that intrude into the time and space of other participants.
- Failure to abide by guidelines involving student performance, and use of electronics and equipment.
- Behaviors that compromise the safety of participants and others and/or that may violate known stadium policies.
- Verbal remarks and behaviors (at the venue, whether in or outside the Performance Area, by students, staff and/or other badge/pass holders) that are generally disrespectful and contrary to the mission or core values of ASBOA and/or general human conduct and dialogue.
- Any delay of contest, improper conduct, or infraction for which no specific rule or penalty is given.

The contest director may, after review, reduce or waive any penalty issued for violation of these procedures. Any reduction or waiver will be noted on the Timing and Penalties sheet of the band and shall serve as notice that the full penalty may be issued for future, similar infractions by the band.

Facility Usage

Renting of spaces at the site of State Marching Contest including the performance field for the purpose of rehearsal, staging, sound checks, walk-through, or any other reason to gain a competitive edge is not permissible from August 1 to the completion of SMC of the competing year.

An ensemble may perform on the field for a AAA sanctioned event (football game, contest, etc) but are not allowed to rehearse their competition show at the State Marching Contest site.

PENALTY - If an ensemble uses the state marching site or spaces to rehearse their competitive show, they will be disqualified from the event.

A written letter will be sent to the Director, Administrator, AAA Sponsor and Superintendent of the violating school, notifying them of disqualification. If timing does not permit a letter, a call will be made notifying the school of disqualification. (All-State 2023)