

ARTICLE VIII

Selection of Adjudicators and Judging Standards

SECTION A. Selection

1. The ASBOA Executive Secretary is to assign judges for **Marching Assessment (ABA 2025)** and Concert Assessment for all regions. (Revised ABA 2011) In regions where there are two different sites and dates, the judging panel does not have to be the same. (ABA 2016) For concert assessment, two of the four judges are to have completed concert adjudication training. **For marching assessment, two of the three judges are to have completed marching adjudication training. Marching adjudication implementation time frame – two of the three judges are to be trained using the concert adjudication training for the 2026 school year, two of the three judges are to be trained using either model for the 2027 school year, and two of the three are to be trained using the marching adjudication training starting with the 2028 school year. (ABA 2026)**
2. No adjudicator can judge a relative at region marching assessment, concert assessment, or solo and ensemble festival. (ABA 2007)
3. Adjudicators for both Arkansas State Concert and Arkansas State Marching Contest shall not have judged at the state contest in the previous 3 years. The Executive Secretary is allowed to use a repeat judge from the past 3 years in an emergency situation. (ABA 2021)

SECTION B. Principles of Employment

1. A judge should reside outside the region in which he/she is employed to judge. Judges for state concert assessments must reside outside the state.
2. A judge should be currently involved in or retired from teaching, conducting or performing in the field in which he/she is employed to judge. (Revised ABA 2003)
3. A judge must have a college or conservatory background in music.
4. A judge will be required to read those sections of the ASBOA Handbook which apply to his/her assignment.
5. Concert judges shall not be allowed to judge two consecutive years in the same region, nor should they be allowed to judge a region assessment and the state assessment.

SECTION C. Judging Standards and Instructions (To be read aloud to the judges before a marching or concert assessment is allowed to commence.) (Revised ABA 2000)

1. The rating system of adjudication will be used for all region and state assessments, with five honor ratings. Each competing soloists, ensemble or organization shall be assigned a rating designating the excellence of its performance, as follows:
 - (a) DIVISION I - (Superior) - Represents the finest conceivable performance for the event and the class of participants being judged, worthy of the distinction of being recognized as being among the very best.
 - (b) DIVISION II - (Excellent) - Reflects an unusual performance in many respects, but not worthy of the highest rating due to minor defects, yet is a performance of distinctive quality.
 - (c) DIVISION III - (Good) - A good performance but one that is not outstanding. The performance shows accomplishment and marked promise, but is lacking in one or more essential qualities.
 - (d) DIVISION IV - (Fair) - A performance that shows some obvious weaknesses. These may reflect obvious weaknesses in complete sections of the ensemble or lack of rehearsal time. (Revised ABA 2008)
 - (e) DIVISION V - (Poor) - A performance which reveals much room for improvement. The director should carefully check his/her methods of instruction.
2. If a judge gives a rating other than Division I, he/she is expected to explain on the comment sheet, what the student, or group, should do to improve the performance.
3. Plus or minus ratings are not to be used for marching, solo-ensemble, concert or sight-reading events at region or state assessment.
4. **Circle or underline marks on the rubric are not allowed to be changed on any adjudicator sheet at a region or state event after a judge has turned in their form. When the sheet is turned in with a rating written at the bottom of the sheet that does not match the circles or underline marks in the rubric, the adjudicator will be asked to change their rating to match their circle or underline marks and initial the change. (ABA 2026)** For the region marching, concert, and sight-reading assessments, the rubric will be combined with the score sheet. **All score sheets for assessment events will be uploaded as a PDF into the region's Google Drive before the score sheets are released to the director. (ABA 2024)**
5. The marks placed by the adjudicator in the areas of concern should accurately reflect the ensemble's overall rating. (ABA 2012)
6. (a) Judges shall not confer before ratings are placed on the comment sheets, and those sheets collected for tabulation.
(b) **For Region Marching, Concert, and Sight-Reading judges shall not hold sheets. (ABA 2026)**
7. At Region Concert Assessment and State Concert Contest ensembles may perform tuning notes, chord, scale, or chorale on stage limited to 60 seconds before their performance. They may also play a tuning note or chord between pieces. (ABA 2025) All bands and orchestras will warm-up in the warm-up area, perform in the performance area, and sight-read in the sight-reading room during concert assessment for the sake of standardizing what all organizations are expected to do. (ABA 2013)
8. Directors are not allowed to provide letters or information (including thank you notes) to the judges at ASBOA Region Assessments or State Contests. It shall be the responsibility of the event host to check director's score packets prior to being given to the judges to ensure no additional information is provided other than what is on the rating/score sheets. Providing additional information that may influence a judge's rating/score will result in a penalty up to disqualification from the event. (ABA 2025)
9. Judges shall report any act of discourtesy by a music director to the assessment host, who shall forward the report to the ASBOA Executive Board for action.
10. Judges shall call to the attention of the host any irregularities of procedure on the part of a participant. No rating or comment sheets will be given to a participant who fails to follow established procedures.
11. Solos and Ensembles:
 - (a) Soloists and ensembles may use music with no penalty.
 - (b) Junior and Senior High School soloists may play with or without accompaniment at Region Assessments.
 - (c) Senior High School soloists MUST play solos with accompaniment at Region level to qualify for State Assessment, and with accompaniment at State Assessment in order to be eligible for a 1st division rating, unless the solo is specified "unaccompanied".
 - (d) Each student is to be judged on performance only and is not to be persecuted because of the inadequacies of a director or the physical surroundings of the event.