

**UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE
AREA D MARCHING CONTEST**

November 2, 2024

TO: All Directors of Class 6A Participating Bands
in the Area D Marching Band Contest

FROM: Jerry & Cheryl Babbitt, Contest Chairmen
& Philip Flynn, Contest Site Host

SUBJECT: 2024 Area D Marching Band Contest

Congratulations on having been selected to represent your Region at the Area Marching Band Contest, to be held on November 2, 2024, at the North East ISD - Heroes Stadium, in San Antonio. The Claudia Taylor Johnson H.S. Band & Band Parents are your contest hosts and will do everything possible to make this a positive experience for you and your students. Please read the following information carefully to help you prepare for the contest. Best wishes for success!

JUDGES

The judges for the 6A Area D Marching Band Contest are:

Brad Allen (Fossil Ridge HS) (Music)
JD Janda (Houston) (Music)
Ronnie Rios (Harlingen) (Music)
Steve Andre (Keller) (Visual)
Alan Harkey (McKinney) (Visual)

*Judges will change captions in the Finals.

ENTRY FORMS

- The following items are available under the **Area D Marching Contest** section of the **UIL Music 18** webpage and need your immediate attention. <https://www.uilmusicregion18.com/area-forms-and-information.html>
- **Area Marching Contest Entry Form** – There is a **\$400 entry fee** for bands competing in the Class 6A Area D marching contest.
- Please make checks payable to UIL Area D Marching. Or, for your convenience, you may pay online at: [Band Entry Fee](#)
- **Announcer's Script:**
[https://www.uiltexas.org/files/music/2017 Fillable Marching Band Script.pdf](https://www.uiltexas.org/files/music/2017%20Fillable%20Marching%20Band%20Script.pdf)
- **PepWear Information** for T-shirt orders & miscellaneous souvenirs
- Area Contest patches: Southwest Emblem: to be sold at the PepWear Booth on site
- Levo Audio Visual: Make sure that you have communicated with them if you want them to video record your band. Email levoav@gmail.com
- Information from the UIL State Office, with specific Area Marching Contest Information:
<https://www.uiltexas.org/music/marching-band>

• ***NOTE: THERE IS NO FORM 1 REQUIRED AT THE AREA CONTEST**

***Scan and email the Area Marching Contest Entry Form & Band Script to Gerald Babbitt at: uilregion18@icloud.com**

CONTEST PERFORMANCE ORDER & SCHEDULE AVAILABILITY

Each Region Executive Secretary will be given the area performance numbers for their region prior to the region marching contests. At the conclusion of your region contest, each Region Executive Secretary will give the advancing directors the opportunity to draw for their Area D contest performance position. A complete and final schedule will be distributed to your UIL Region Executive Secretary, and you will receive the schedule information from him. **The schedule will also be posted on the UIL Region 18 web site: www.uilmusicregion18.com** We will input the information into our computer on site and the schedule will be available to everyone ASAP, after the conclusion of the last region contest. **Prelims will begin at 9:45 AM and end at 5:15 PM. Finals will begin at 7:30 PM and end at 10:15 PM.**

ADMISSION CHARGE:

The admission charge is **\$10.00 per person** for the general public. This one-time admission charge of \$10.00 will allow admittance to **both prelims and finals**, with the visible wristband, which will be attached upon initial admission to the stadium. School administrators will be admitted free upon presentation of their District UIL pass or school ID. Admission wristbands for chaperones and bus drivers can be picked up at the check-in station. **Each competing band will receive one wristband for every 10 students, with a maximum of 20 wristbands per band.**

Admission tickets are all digital through the Hometown Ticket App and can be purchased here: <https://tinyurl.com/UILAreaD>. Heroes Stadium has a clear bag policy. Also, football teams coming in as a group, with their coach/sponsor and wearing their jerseys will be admitted free. Admission wristbands for chaperones and bus drivers can be picked up at the check-in station. **([BUY ONLINE HERE](#))**

FIRST AID

A First Aid facility will be available. There will be water, ice, and other minor emergency supplies on hand. In the event of a larger emergency, the local EMS will be on call. Ask any contest worker for assistance if needed.

ARRIVAL, PARKING, UNLOADING

MAP - The enclosed map indicates: 1) A stadium layout, 2) Specifics regarding traffic/site logistics, & 3) shows all locations referenced throughout these instructions. It also indicates where spectator parking is located. Please have your students relay this information to their parents.

Directions to Heroes Stadium

From North of San Antonio/Heroes Stadium

- Take I-35 South
- Exit 167B toward Thousand Oaks/Starlight Terrace.
- Merge onto Interstate 35 Access RD
- Turn Right at Thousand Oaks Dr. – Stadium is on the left.
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From South of Heroes Stadium

- Take I-35 North
- Exit 167B toward Thousand Oaks/Starlight Terrace.
- Merge onto Interstate 35 Access RD
- Turn Left at Thousand Oaks Dr. – Stadium is on the left.

Or, you may Google: [Heroes Stadium](#)

CHECK IN – Upon arriving, directors should proceed to the check in station located just below the press box on the home side by the VIP parking (see location on stadium map). You need to turn in all of the above-mentioned forms that are due **before** your performance (Entry Form & check, and Announcer's Script). You may also request up to a maximum of 20 admission wristbands for your bus drivers, chaperones, etc. **Please limit these “passes” to the chaperones who actually accompany your band on your busses.**

ESCORTS - The check in station will be expecting you approximately 30 minutes before your warm-up time. Escorts/monitors will stay with you throughout your participation in the contest. They will assist you in maintaining your schedule and solving logistical problems. Please give them your total cooperation so that they can be of maximum service to you and your students.

BUS PARKING - Parent volunteers will direct you to appropriate parking position in the Outer West lot. ***ALL BUSES AND TRUCKS MUST ENTER off of WURZBACH PKWY ONTO DAVID EDWARDS DR. AS SHOWN ON THE MAP. BUS AND TRUCK EXIT WILL BE OUT THE SAME WAY (DAVID EDWARDS DR. ONTO WURZBACH PARKWAY). PARENT VOLUNTEERS AND POLICE OFFICERS WILL HELP GUIDE BUS AND TRUCK TRAFFIC. UPON ARRIVAL, PROCEED TO THE CHECK-IN TABLE. ONCE BUSES ARE PARKED THEY WILL STAY IN THAT PLACE. MAKE SURE YOU TAKE EVERYTHING YOU NEED FROM THE BUSES TO WARM-UP.***

Equipment Truck Parking – Trucks will follow buses in and will be ESCORTED AND ASSIGNED an equipment parking area in the West Lot. Trucks will be able to stay in their positions for the duration of the contest (NOTE: Trucks may be asked to relocate to another parking area if sufficient space is not available). Unfortunately, there will not be any additional space for parent volunteer vehicle parking in the truck parking area. Be sure to complete the Parking Survey Google Form provided via Email.

Spectator Parking – Spectators should park in the lot on the North or East Parking Lots of the stadium complex. Both spectator parking lots are easily accessible off of Thousand Oaks Drive.

Storage - Please arrange to store cases/equipment during and after your performance on your buses and/or equipment trailer/truck.

Uniforms - There will be no changing facilities available. Please have your students wear uniforms or change on your buses.

WARM-UP

Your warm-up time begins when the monitor tells you, “Your warm-up time may begin.” **You will not be allowed to begin early.** ***THIS INCLUDES BANDS, PIT, AND ALL AUXILIARY UNITS.*** The warm-up will take place outdoors. You will have 30 minutes in the warm up area. Please note that the warm-up area surface consists of gravel asphalt. There is a separate warm-up area for the Color guard and Pit. The Color guard warm-up area is a regular paved surface and allows for movement and stretching on the ground. The Color guard may stay in the band warm-up area if desired. The choice is up to each band. Pit percussionists will have a separate warm-up area directly behind the home side of the stadium. Please be prompt in entering and leaving the warm up area. **NO PLAYING OF INSTRUMENTS IS ALLOWED EXCEPT IN THE WARM-UP AREA AND ON THE FIELD DURING PERFORMANCES. THIS INCLUDES PERCUSSION.**

Wireless frequencies may not be in operation anywhere on venue grounds during any 8-minute performance clock throughout the contest. You may perform a sound check of wireless equipment during the 5-minute set-up. UIL rules do not allow for a “do-over” due to any circumstances, including electronics malfunction.

NOTE: THE USE OF AMPLIFIED METRONOMES (WIRELESS OR HARD-WIRED) IS NOT ALLOWED IN WARM-UP. (Bluetooth frequencies do not cause wireless interference. You may allow Bluetooth wireless frequencies at your discretion).

*As a courtesy to all other performing groups, please remember that percussion sounds travel all too well; instruct your students to keep their volume at a minimum during warm-up. Please do not allow your students to play their instruments ANYWHERE other than the performance field and specified warm-up areas, **PARTICULARLY PERCUSSION**. As a courtesy to all other performing groups, please remember that percussion sounds travel all too well; instruct your students to keep their volume at a minimum during warm-up.*

STADIUM ENTRANCE

Performance, student re-entry, and spectator entrances are indicated on the enclosed map. You may want to post this in your band hall/website to avoid confusion. Please remind your students to be **VERY QUIET** while moving as a courtesy to other bands that may be performing. Your band will be held just inside the entrance gate until your field entrance time. **Electricity is provided on the sideline.**

All Bands will enter through the southwest gate and then to and through the center of the end zone and exit through the south gate in the center of the end zone.

Front Ensembles/Pits “on deck” to compete will be staged just off of the track adjacent to the SW stands. Please ask percussion instructors to follow directions of parent volunteers as the Pits are asked to move from one “ready” area to another.

Exiting pits/front ensembles will need to proceed back through the south gate. Entering and exiting ensembles will be using the same gate. Keep to the right. This will put you right back to your equipment trucks. Please ask percussion instructors to follow directions of parent volunteers.

A monitor will advise you when it is time to move to the ready position. In order for the contest to remain on schedule, it is essential that you be prepared to proceed promptly and efficiently as directed. **(Please be courteous to the monitors; they are trying to help you, as well as all others following you.)**

MOVEMENT TO FIELD

FRONT ENSEMBLE/SIDELINE EQUIPMENT AND BAND STAGING:

Logistics permitting, allow a band’s front ensemble and front sideline equipment to move to the 20-yard line on the front sideline during the prior band’s 2-minute field exit time. Additionally, allow a band to stage students in the end zone up to the goal line during the prior band’s 2-minute field exit time. This process is followed at the state contest.

Getting on and off the field for pit and props:

During the performing band's 2 minute exit, you will move down the ramp and can gather in the area behind the end zone, coming up as far as the goal line. Once the 5 minute field entrance time begins, all equipment and performers may take the field. At the conclusion of your performance, you will have 2 minutes to exit the field (outside the side lines and/or end lines). There will be a water station at the exit.

As stated in the UIL C&CR, Section 1105:

(g) PERFORMANCE REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES:

- (1) Performance Time: Each competing band shall occupy the football field for not less than five or more than eight minutes. Any band that leaves the field in less than five minutes or fails to complete its performance in eight minutes shall be disqualified.
- (2) Movement to Field Position: The contest chair will determine the ready position each band will assume prior to entering the field of competition. The position shall provide efficient and prompt access to the football field without interfering with other bands as they perform. This location will be clearly described in the marching contest packet.
- (3) Official Time: The official time for each band will be kept according to the following:
 - (A) The contest chair will designate an official timekeeper.
 - (B) In order to allow ample time for the judges to complete their critiques, bands will be scheduled with five minutes between performances and a maximum of fifteen minutes per band.
 - (C) Bands may use the five minutes prior to their performance in any way they deem appropriate in order to assume their starting position and prepare for the beginning of their show. Activities may include warm-up and/or cadence.
 - (D) Each band will be announced with 45 seconds remaining on the 5-minute clock. The beginning of their announcement will indicate that the performance time shall begin in 45 seconds.
 - (E) The actual timing and adjudication for the show will begin at the end of the five minutes.
 - (F) At the conclusion of each band's performance the post script will be read while the band will have two minutes to exit the field and clear the marching surface of all equipment, instruments and props. The use of either instrumental or verbal cadence is optional. **A band that fails to be clear of the field (outside the sidelines or endlines) or continues to use instrumental or verbal cadence at the end of the two minutes will be disqualified.**
 - (G) A band leaving equipment or instruments on the sideline in such a manner that these items impede the movement of the next band into its starting position is subject to penalty in accordance with Subchapter E.

❖ Following is the exact way we will run the clock at the Area D contests:

- Opening Script (to be read with 45 seconds (00:45) remaining on the 5-minute clock). "THE (FIRST, NEXT, FINAL) BAND IN CONFERENCE 6A, etc.", as on the UIL official script.
- With 20 seconds (00:20) remaining on the 5-minute clock the announcer will read the next statement, which begins with "Drum Majors...."
- The remaining 20 seconds will be shown on the stadium clock (as requested by

many directors), as well as backed up on a stopwatch. The 5-minute clock will be run all the way to 0:00 and then the 8-minute clock will begin immediately. *(However, at State, the stadium clock will go dark at 00:20 and timing will be done by stopwatch only.)

- **Judging will begin when 7:59 appears on the scoreboard clock.**
- **At the end of the 8-minutes, the clock will be reset to 2 minutes**
- **Post Script** (to be read at the beginning of the 2:00 field exit)

Electronic Equipment: Electronic equipment may be used under the following provisions:

(A) All electronically produced music including narration and sound effects shall be performed live and in real time by eligible students.

(B) Pre-recorded music, instrumental or vocal, may not be used.

Amplification: Amplification of instruments or voice may be used with the following restrictions:

(A) All equipment must be operated by eligible students. Exception: a non-student may intervene solely for the purpose of addressing an equipment failure and must submit a written justification for doing so to the contest chair after the performance.

(B) All cables must be safely placed on the field and/or sidelines. **Students may not cross over on-field cables, covered or not, during a performance.**

(C) A power generator or DC power source may be placed on the field, provided there is a protective barrier between the power unit and the turf and all cords are contained safely within close proximity to the equipment that is being supplied with power.

(D) **Wind instruments may be amplified only for solo and/or small ensemble features of up to ten performers at one time.**

Local Ground Rules. Failure to comply with local ground rules and regulations outlined by and/or approved by the Area Executive Committee may be cause for disqualification or other penalties as listed in Subchapter E. Such rules should be sent to all participating schools at least 14 days prior to the contest.

***If you have any questions concerning the use of electronic equipment, please call Gerald Babbitt.**

POST PERFORMANCE

If your band is exiting the field toward the press box, they need to turn left to exit the stadium. Water will be provided as bands exit the field. A monitor will escort your band to the stadium exit. You may re-enter the stadium to observe the contest. Please note the student re-entry gate.

Band Seating – Band students should sit on the visitors' side upon completion of their performance. Their uniform or band shirt will admit them to that area. Please note the band re-entry gate on the enclosed stadium map. **The Press Box side stands will be open to directors, school officials, and PAID spectators only. If your students wish to view the contest from the press box side, they must purchase a \$10.00 ticket, and be wearing a wristband.**

Directors, remind your students that audio & video recordings are being made of all performances and that **noise must be held to an absolute minimum.**

PRESS BOX ACCESS

Press box access is limited to judges, contest officials, and workers **ONLY!** A director needing to communicate with contest headquarters should check with the adult monitor stationed at the entrance to the field or at the check-in station. **PLEASE** do not place us in the awkward situation of having to ask you to leave the press box.

CONTEST RESULTS

At the conclusion of the preliminary competition, **ONE DIRECTOR FROM EACH COMPETING BAND** will be requested to appear on **LEVEL 2** of the press box for a verification period before the contest results are announced. Access to Level 2 is by elevator which is located on the back side of the Press Box Building, on the ground floor. Please display credentials to access this area. **PLEASE HELP US WITH THIS BY DESIGNATING ONLY ONE DIRECTOR TO ATTEND THE VERIFICATION. THIS HAS BECOME A PROBLEM IN THE PAST, AND HAS JUST ADDED CONFUSION TO THE PROCESS BY HAVING TOO MANY PEOPLE IN THE AREA. THE MEETING AREA IN HEROES STADIUM IS VERY SMALL, SO ONE TICKET PER BAND WILL BE ISSUED FOR ONE DIRECTOR'S ADMITTANCE TO THE VERIFICATION PERIOD.** The bands which will advance to the Finals competition will be announced in performance order. Directors may pick up re-cap sheets **during** the verification period. Have your drum majors prepared to enter the track for the presentation **at the conclusion of the Prelims and the awards ceremony after the Finals Competition.**

If your band is selected to advance to state competition, please be prepared to declare your intention to participate in the state contest. Report to Gerald Babbitt for State contest information and scheduling. You will draw for your performance slot at the State Contest.

VIDEO RECORDING

Please see the website attachment regarding **Video Authorization Policy - Area 2024**

CONCESSIONS

The concession stands, **on the Home side**, will be open all day.

REMINDERS

1. Any questions/problems should be directed through your monitor or the contest staff to the Press Box.
2. Bands may play in the following areas **ONLY**:
 - A. **Assigned** warm-up sites (**facing away from stadium**),
 - B. Field warm-up during 5 minutes prior to performance,
 - C. Contest performance.
3. **Contact with the judges at any time is prohibited.**
4. Be sure to inform your band parents that **balloons are prohibited** at any UIL event.

QUESTIONS?

Do not call the State UIL Office with questions concerning this contest. Please call Jerry or Cheryl Babbitt, at 512/268-1504 (home), 512/656-3798 (Jerry's cell), or 512/415-7731 (Cheryl's cell) if you have questions or need additional information. For specific NEISD or Heroes stadium information, you may contact Philip Flynn (pflynn@neisd.net; Cell: 210-275-3838).