

I N D O O R



USBANDS

PRESENTED BY THE CADETS

2019  
INDOOR  
PARTICIPANT GUIDE

*The mission of YEA! is to support the development of young people into magnificent human beings through participation in the performing arts.*

## **INTRODUCTION**

USBands operates alongside The Cadets and Xcape Dance Company under the banner of Youth Education in the Arts (YEA!) non-profit organization. Since its first event in 1988, USBands has supported the development of marching bands through exceptional service, adjudication and venues.

Our guiding principle is to provide ensembles, regardless of style, size and experience, an opportunity to be successful, allowing students to benefit from their involvement with scholastic music. The rules that govern USBands events are minimal by design. USBands prides itself on a user-friendly approach to support and service, in which directors and performers can fully enjoy the performance process without the concern of rules and penalties.

We've tried to simplify and streamline our offerings for participants in 2019, with an eye towards providing the best possible value and experience for you and your students. As a director, instructor, or supporter of a participating ensemble, please be sure to familiarize yourself with the material in this Guide and take full advantage of everything USBands Membership has to offer.

Thank you for joining USBands to celebrate our 31th year of service in support of music programs across the nation.

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## ABOUT USBANDS

### HISTORY

The organization now known as USBands was founded in the fall of 1988 by The Cadets Drum & Bugle Corps, with a single competition held in the former Giants Stadium. Now in our 30th season, the USBands calendar includes more than 150 local, state and regional events across the country, concluding with National Championship events in November. With over 700 ensembles participating in fall events across 30 states, USBands has grown to become the largest independent scholastic music organization in the nation.

USBands Indoor launched in 2010, with several events strategically placed throughout the Northeast region. Disciplines include marching, standstill and concert percussion ensembles, as well as color guard programs. In addition to the many high school programs who participate, ensembles from middle and elementary schools are welcome to perform. Primarily focused on engaging scholastic units, in 2012 independent units were invited to perform and compete within the circuit.

USBands offers a prestigious Concert Series in the spring, providing students across the nation opportunities to perform in magnificent symphony halls and receive feedback from top-notch adjudicators and clinicians. Other offerings include student leadership workshops, adjudicator training seminars, fundraising opportunities for music programs, and presentations to band boosters and school administrations.

### PHILOSOPHY

Our focus is centered on the educational development of today's students into tomorrow's leaders, using musical performance to provide opportunities for hands-on, interactive learning and achievement. By providing high profile performance opportunities for students, we support your educational mission and help raise awareness to the importance of scholastic music programs.

Any regulations outlined in the following pages are designed not to restrict, but rather to enhance the overall experience for our participating students. The USBands Adjudication system places strong emphasis on rewarding performance and musical repertoire in lieu of design and visual components to ensure that the performers are rewarded for achievement.

## GOALS

- To allow music educators to focus primarily on their students' experience.
- To create an atmosphere whereby music educators can use music to teach life lessons such as discipline, perseverance and commitment to excellence.
- To provide high-quality, educational and positive performance opportunities for students.
- To provide instructional support for ensemble directors and staff.
- To provide constructive and consistent evaluation and adjudication.
- To support music education by generating popular interest in scholastic music performance and competition.
- To promote innovation, creativity, and growth for ensembles around the nation.

## IMPORTANT DATES

<b>Dec 12 (2018)</b>	Registration opens for USBands 2019 Indoor Events
<b>Jan 15</b>	Self-Registration ends (Directors must contact the USBands office to add into events)
<b>Feb 1</b>	Outstanding payment due to all 2018 Membership, Registration, and Host Fees
<b>3 weeks prior:</b>	Preliminary schedule for the event will be released at <a href="http://usbands.org">usbands.org</a>
<b>2 weeks prior:</b>	Updated schedule/show specific information will be released at <a href="http://usbands.org">usbands.org</a> and sent via email
<b>1 week prior:</b>	Final event packet is released via email. This will include the final schedule and judging panels (adjudicators subject to change at any time, without notice)

USBands will release the schedule of any events with seeded performance orders. Ensemble Directors should note dates for examinations, such as the SAT's, ACT's, PSAT's, and any state examinations that are offered on the same dates as USBands events and encourage students to make necessary arrangements. In fairness to all ensembles, schedules are NOT modified based on these exams as all are affected and are aware of them well ahead of the examinations' registration deadlines.

## REGULATIONS

### PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY

#### *Scholastic*

USBands encourages participation by any student within their music program, as long as the student is in good standing as determined by each school's extracurricular activity policy. Therefore, we maintain a very liberal approach to ensemble student participation. Participants must be full time students, enrolled in the school district of the participating school. Exceptions to this policy require a written request per school district Principal or Director of Music to the Director of USBands, in advance of the start of the season.

#### *Independent*

Independent ensembles are not associated with any school or scholastic organization. These ensembles are not bound by any age limit.

\*Scholastic ensembles will not compete with or against Independent ensembles.

### CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

USBands uses a classification system that is designed to ensure ensembles of like size, style, and experiences are grouped together. A criteria-based adjudication system is utilized; each competitive class is adjusted on a separate scale that reflects its skill set and its anticipated level of proficiency.

USBands provides proficiency classifications to ensure that ensembles are competing with ensembles at or about the same relative skill level, thus providing a progressive educational experience for performers at any level.

Keeping in line with WGI terminology for each class, we need to adjust page 6 classification.

**World Class** – Display the most advance and complex skill sets, show design and performance expectations. These ensembles historically set performance standards on a national level.

**Open Class** – Display intermediate to advance skill sets, show design and performance expectations. These ensembles also have significant competitive experience on a national level.

**A Class** – Display basic to intermediate skill sets, show design and performance expectations. These ensembles may or may not have competitive experience on a national level.

**Regional A Class** – Display beginning to basic skill sets, show design and performance expectations. These ensembles likely do not have competitive experience on a national level.

**Novice Class** – An introductory class for new ensembles to provide an entry level experience. This class is reserved for ensembles that are in their first two years of existence.

**Middle School Class** – Reserved for ensembles ranging from 6th to 8th grade level.

**Elementary Class** – Reserved for ensembles ranging from Kindergarten to 5th grade level.

**Exhibition** – Exhibition ensembles will NOT receive adjudicator feedback or scores and will not be included in the critique schedule. This is a performance opportunity only.

Criteria for classification will include, but not be limited to:

- Competitive Results
- History
- Ensemble-To-Ensemble Comparison
- Other Circumstances (Ensemble Director Status, Etc.)

New ensembles will be classified in collaboration with USBands and the Ensembles Director’s selection in the online database. USBands may review and make changes to a new ensemble’s classification after the first performance in an event.

USBands reserves the right to reclassify ensembles based on the data collected at our events. If it is determined that an ensemble is in need of reclassification, a written notice will be generated by the USBands office.

Top finishers in each Class will be evaluated and may be promoted to the next class, if appropriate, as a reward for excellence and high achievement.

## **RULES OF PERFORMANCE**

### *PERFORMANCE AREA*

The performance area must be at minimum 60 feet by 90 feet. The performance area cannot be greater than 78 feet by 106 feet. A safety zone of 5 feet must extend from any boundary line to any spectator or performer seating area.

Ensembles are not required to provide a protective floor covering, mat or tarp. A basic floor covering will be used at USBands Indoor Championships.

At all USBands Indoor events, 110 Volt AC power will be located at the center line on the front AND back sidelines.

All performers will be required to wear protective footwear while OUTSIDE the performance area.

### *REPORTING TIME*

It is the responsibility of the director to ensure that the ensemble is able to report at their assigned gate time. Any ensemble reporting more than ten (10) minutes late to the gate may forfeit their performance time; if circumstances allow, an ensemble who missed its gate time due to extenuating circumstances may be permitted to perform in adjudicated exhibition at a later point in the event. A penalty or disqualification will only be assessed in extreme cases after consultation between the USBands Coordinator, a USBands Administrator and the ensemble’s representatives. Any emergency circumstances must be made known to the Event Staff directly, via telephone or in person as soon as is reasonable.

### *PERFORMANCE LENGTH*

Each ensemble will have an interval of time during which they will set up, perform, and exit. This time begins once the USBands Coordinator prompts the ensemble to enter the performance area. The interval time will last 7-11 minutes, based on the ensemble’s Proficiency Classification.

As per WGI guidelines, performance times will differ based on Classification. Timing is broken down as follows:

### **Color Guard**

Class	Interval Time	Minimum Performance Time	Maximum Performance Time	Authorized Equipment Time
World Class	10 minutes	4 minutes	7.5 minutes	3.5 minutes
Open Class	9 minutes	4 minutes	6.5 minutes	3.5 minutes
A Class	8 minutes	4 minutes	5.5 minutes	3.5 minutes
Intermediate and lower	7 minutes	3 minutes	4.5 minutes	3.0 minutes

### **Percussion**

Class	Interval Time	Minimum Performance Time	Maximum Performance Time
World Class	11 minutes	4 minutes	8 minutes
Open Class	10 minutes	4 minutes	7 minutes
A Class and lower	9 minutes	4 minutes	6 minutes

A penalty will only be assessed in extreme cases after consultation between the USBands Coordinator, a USBands Administrator and the ensemble's representatives. USBands will help in any way to accommodate issues relating to technical difficulties, electronic use, etc. and will not penalize performers because of such issues.

Any special circumstances related to your performance **MUST** be communicated directly to the USBands Coordinator on site prior to the beginning of the performance, and every attempt (without guarantee) will be made to fulfill unique requests (i.e. unusual tunnel entrances, etc.)

There will be no flying of floor covering (also known as "ballooning") to clear the floor at the conclusion of an ensemble's performance.

Floors may not be re-folded in the performance area. Most event sites will provide an area where re-folding will occur or direct ensembles to a large space outside where you can properly refold your floor. If a space is not provided, floors may be re-folded during intermission or after the conclusion of the event. The on-site coordinator will have more information about floor re-folding options specific to the event you are attending.

#### *EQUIPMENT USE*

All equipment tips on rifles, flagpoles and sabres must be padded or taped. The bottom of all props, flats, and scenery must be padded or taped to protect the competition floor from damage. All percussion instruments on wheels should have working wheels that can roll without damaging the floor or leaving any marks.

The performance floor will be inspected before and after each performance. It is necessary to do this so that we can correctly identify any damage that has occurred. If there has been damage caused, the director of the site will be notified of the offending party so that a remedy can be found. To avoid such a situation, all equipment must be examined by Event Staff before entering.

The use of fire extinguishers, water that comes in contact with the floor surface when used as a prop, animals, and/or pyrotechnics (including fire batons) is prohibited at all USBands events. This also includes the release or use of any and all materials that may result in debris on the floor.

Any questions on this issue must be directed to the USBands office at least five (5) days in advance of the event.

Any damage to the performance floor or damaging material left on the floor after a performance will result in a penalty ranging from one (1) point to disqualification, depending on the severity of the damage. The amount of the penalty given is at the discretion of the Event Coordinator and a USBands Administrator. Any and all costs

incurred to clean, replace or repair the impacted area will be the responsibility of the offending ensemble.

No gasoline-powered generators will be allowed in the competition arena.

There are no restrictions on the number or types of electronic music, instruments or amplification systems that may be used. This includes any use of voicing/singing, sampling, or other uses related to the performance of pre-recorded digital media. If there is a concern regarding the integrity of live performance, the USBands office will communicate the concern to the director.

#### *EQUIPMENT PLACEMENT AND RETRIEVAL*

Anyone (adult, student, and non-student) may place, move, or remove equipment at any time during a performance. Individuals, who are used only to move equipment, hold props, etc., and who do not appear in uniform, will not be counted in the total number of performing members.

The spirit of this policy is to keep students safe at all times. If it is determined that a "non-member" is generating "Effect" through the movement/manipulation of props, the ensemble will be notified in order to make corrections and avoid the issuance of a penalty. If the issue occurs at a Championship Event, USBands reserves the right to issue a penalty ranging from one (1) point to disqualification, at the discretion of USBands.

#### *USE OF THE NATIONAL FLAG*

If an ensemble chooses to display the American Flag, all the respect, etiquette and dignity traditionally afforded our national emblem must be shown. Failure to meet this request may result in a penalty ranging from one (1) point to disqualification, at the discretion of USBands.

#### **CRITIQUE**

Each ensemble's staff will have the opportunity to meet with Adjudicators at the conclusion of all events (excluding designated Regional and Championship Events). The order of critique will be based on performance order.

If an ensemble's staff is not present when called into the critique room, their critique time may be forfeited. The critique format may be changed by the USBands representatives, with notice to participating staff members. Directors are asked to limit their critique attendance to no more than six (6) instructors at any given time.

## **CREDENTIALS FOR EVENT ACCESS**

Credentials for Directors, staff, chaperones, and other crew members will be issued for relevant events in a given season. The credentials may only be used for access to any Event prior to Indoor Championships. Once these credentials are distributed, no others will be made available and USBands reserves the right to modify credential requirements as deemed necessary through the course of the season.

USBands tries to accommodate those who give their time and effort to its member ensembles while also attempting to protect the revenue generated by ticket sales for Event Hosts. These credentials must be displayed at all times, around the neck. Each ensemble will receive one (1) named Director's credential and ten (10) additional credentials.

Prop and equipment movers do not need special access to enter the performance area while accompanying an ensemble onto the floor. After a performance, adults who wish to re-enter the event as a spectator must purchase a ticket or present a credential upon entry.

## **ADJUDICATION**

As of 2018, USBands will still be utilizing the WGI Adjudication format. As a result, specifics regarding the adjudication process can be found at the WGI website. ([www.wgi.org](http://www.wgi.org))

From the WGI website:

Color Guards and percussion ensembles are considered part of the music education curriculum by most schools. Education is the basis for the developmental criteria, which defines the measurement for competitive advancement. WGI Sport of the Arts provides curriculum materials for classes in equipment, movement and design.

## **MISSING/LATE ADJUDICATOR POLICY**

In the rare occasion that an adjudicator does not arrive at an event, the remaining individuals will adjudicate at the direction of the Chief Adjudicator and USBands administrative staff. The scoring guidelines for the event will remain the same. The missing score will be an average of the present raw scores. Then, all numbers will be added to arrive at a final number.

If an adjudicator appears late to the event, he or she will begin evaluating immediately, but the score will not be counted in the total until the beginning of the next class.

## **INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY**

In the event of inclement weather, Directors should refer to the USBands website, social media, and email correspondence. Directors should ensure that a correct cell phone number for each director is on file in BandData. In the event that a Director cannot be reached, he or she can call the USBands contact listed at the top of the Event Information Sheet for each specific event.

A determination will be made between the USBands Event Staff, the Event Host and the Chief Adjudicator as to whether the event will be conducted as a standard competition, a postponement, or a cancellation.

## **EVENT HOST PARTICIPATION POLICY**

USBands encourages host ensembles to participate in their own event. As of 2018, all Event Hosts will perform as Adjudicated Exhibition.

Adjudicated Exhibition: The ensemble may perform "out of class" in the event. The Ensemble will receive recordings and scores. The score will not appear on the recap, and will NOT be included in the awards ceremony. The score will be eligible for seeding in Championship events (This is a change from previous seasons).

## **TYPES OF EVENTS**

### **USBANDS SHOWCASE EVENTS**

Showcase Events are designed to exceed your expectations from an educational and an experiential standpoint. USBands standards are in place to ensure a fair, impartial, and fun experience for all participating ensembles.

Showcase Events are offered FREE of charge for participants as part of their 2018-2019 USBands Membership Fee. Non-Members are required to pay a designated fee for Showcase Events in order to participate.

### **USBANDS PREMIUM EVENTS**

Premium Events were established to provide higher profile competitive events with more robust Adjudication Panels at larger high school, municipal, college and professional venues. All ensembles, regardless of membership status, are eligible to participate in Premium Events.

Premium Events often carry an additional fee for participation, separate from the Membership Fee. However, USBands Members will be rewarded with a reduced pricing structure.

## **USBANDS WINTER CHAMPIONSHIPS**

### **ELIGIBILITY**

All ensembles, regardless of membership status, are eligible to participate in the USBands Indoor Championship.

### **WINTER CHAMPIONSHIP PERFORMANCE ORDER**

USBands has established a seeding process for Championship events in order to facilitate an event with integrity, to acknowledge involvement in the USBands community, and to provide a fair process by which new ensembles can participate in USBands Premium Events.

The seeding process will determine a performance order, within competitive class, based on two factors: SCORE (50%) and PARTICIPATION (50%). In the event of a seeding tie, the REGISTRATION DATE will serve as a tie-breaker.

### **SCORE**

The SCORE component will be determined by averaging the two highest USBands scores at least five (5) days prior to the event, within competitive class (appearing on the recap), within the current competitive season. If an ensemble does NOT have two scores to determine an average, they will be placed in a random draw. In fairness to engaged USBands participants, the random draw will be significantly weighted to increase the likelihood of earlier performance times, rather than later performance times, within a particular competitive class.

### **PARTICIPATION**

The PARTICIPATION component will be determined by a points system, acknowledging the number of USBands events in which the ensemble participated, up to five (5) days prior to the event date.

Earn 1 participation point for each Showcase local contest USBands event in which they participated up to five (5) days prior to the event. This includes Adjudicated Exhibition and Event Hosts.

Earn 1.5 participation points for each Premium USBands event in which they participated up to five (5) days prior to the event.

Ensembles who are scheduled to participate in a USBands event which is cancelled for inclement weather will still receive 1 participation point for the event in question.

Earn an extra .5 participation points for participating in more than one event in a

given weekend (bonus credit begins in the 2nd event).

2 Showcase performances in a weekend earn 2.5 participation points. (1 point for event #1, 1.5 points for event #2)

3 Showcase performances in a weekend earn 4 participation points. (1 point for event #1, 1.5 points for event #2, 1.5 points for event #3)

\*\*Maximum of 6 participation points will be awarded in a weekend.\*\*

### **TIMELINE**

For seeded events, participating ensembles will be notified of their Class/Block Time at least 3 WEEKS prior to the Event. This is an approximate window of time (varies depending on the number of registered ensembles), to assist in basic planning for the Event (buses, etc.)

The SCORE and PARTICIPATION numbers will be calculated no later than the MONDAY of the Event week. Directors will be notified via email and usbands.org of EXACT performance line-ups no later than MONDAY of the Event week.

\*\*The Director of USBands may alter the performance order for any event. This will only be done in extreme cases, when necessary.\*\*

## **PARTICIPATION**

### **MEMBERSHIP AND REGISTRATION**

USBands assesses Membership and Registration fees to offset the costs associated with providing every participant the highest levels of service, top adjudicators in the field, access to professional and NCAA stadiums, and other requirements to deliver the largest competitive circuit in the nation. We strongly encourage ensembles who participate in a USBands-sanctioned event to consider taking advantage of our 2018-2019 School Year Membership, including (but not limited to) the following benefits:

- Free Registration for ALL 2017-2018 Showcase Events (Gold/Silver/Clinic/Indoor)
- Discounted Registration for ALL 2017-2018 Premium Events (Regional/State/Championship)
- Discounted Registration for Concert Series Events
- Discounts on commemorative and custom merchandise
- Discounts on instrument purchases
- Access to Summer Drum Corps Hosting and Clinic opportunities and other Cadets-related opportunities through the USBands University educational program.

Any non-member may register for a USBands Event by agreeing to pay the full Registration Fee for that specific event. Premium Events may have mandatory ticket requirements in addition to the Registration Fee.

Please contact the USBands office for a full list of entry fees, ticket requirements and prices for the 2019 season, and to learn more about Membership.

### FEE STRUCTURE

The Fee Structure is slightly different for Scholastic and Independent Units.

<b>SCHOLASTIC</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Non-Member</b>
Showcase Events	FREE w/ membership	\$75 per event
Championships - Required Tickets	\$150 + 20 tickets	\$250 + 20 tickets
Championships - Optional Tickets	\$300	\$400

<b>INDEPENDENT</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Non-Member</b>
Showcase Events	FREE w/ \$200 membership	\$75 per event
Championships - Required Tickets	\$150 + 20 tickets	\$250 + 20 tickets
Championships - Optional Tickets	\$300	\$400

### WITHDRAWAL FROM SHOWCASE EVENTS

Any ensemble may withdraw from a Showcase event up to 4 weeks prior to the event, without penalty. If withdrawal occurs within the 4 week window for any reason, a monetary fine will be imposed according to the schedule outlined below. This fine is collected on behalf of the Event Host, to be applied toward expenses and lost income and effort resulting from the late withdrawal.

### REGULAR SEASON WITHDRAWAL FEE SCHEDULE

More than 4 weeks prior to event	No Penalty
3 weeks prior to event	\$50 penalty per unit
2 weeks prior to event	\$75 penalty per unit
1 week prior to event	\$100 penalty per unit
Within 72 hours prior to start of event	\$150 penalty per unit

### PREMIUM EVENT WITHDRAWAL FEE SCHEDULE

Prior to January 1st	No Penalty
January 1st thru January 31st	25% penalty fee
February 1st until 4 weeks prior to event	50% penalty fee
3 weeks prior to event	100% penalty fee
2 weeks prior to event	125% penalty fee
1 week prior to event	150% penalty fee
Within 72 hours prior to start of event	200% penalty fee

**Withdrawal date will be defined as acknowledged, written correspondence to the USBands office ([marching@yea.org](mailto:marching@yea.org))**

Any ensemble with an outstanding penalty fee may be required to fulfill the payment obligations before taking the floor at future USBands events.

**NOTES**



**USBANDS**

PRESENTED BY THE CADETS

## **CONTACTS**

Jonathan Swengler, *Director, USBands*  
610-821-0345 x113 | jonathan@yea.org

Courtney Kuzemchak, *Operations Manager*  
610-821-0345 x117 | courtney@yea.org

Eric James, *Event Operations*  
610-821-0345 x129 | ejames@yea.org

Eric Kitchenman, *Ensemble Relations (Texas)/Adjudicator Coordinator*  
610-821-0345 x123 | kitch@yea.org

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