

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT BOA EVENTS

Who can enroll in Bands of America events?

All high school bands are eligible to enroll in BOA Regional and Grand National marching band championships. BOA defines a high school band as one in which all participating members are registered at the same high school, and students from all feeder elementary, junior high and middle schools; or one where members are part of a single band with a recognized joint program and membership in such band is the only high school marching program offered to students. All events are open on a first-come, first-served basis. Bands do not have to enroll in a Regional Championship to enroll in Grand Nationals. Applications must be signed by both the director and the school principal or superintendent and must be accompanied by the Participation Cooperative Fee. We also encourage new participants and veterans of BOA events alike to consider the Fall Preview Experience events being offered. These early season, non-competitive exhibition/evaluation events will afford bands the opportunity to perform at BOA events and receive an immediate clinic/evaluation experience from one of our BOA evaluators. See the separate application packet for these events.

How are performance times scheduled?

Performance times are scheduled based on a random draw. Applications received on or before a designated postmark date each year (Jan. 31 for 2007) are eligible for the initial draw, after which performance times are based on postmark of application, with the earlier postmark receiving the later performance time. If more applications are received by the designated postmark date than spots in a show, a Bands of America point system is used to determine which bands are eligible for the initial draw. Points are allotted based on band participation over the previous four years. The point system does not affect performance times in any other way. A returning previous year's champion band is given its choice of prelim performance time.

How is classification determined?

Bands are classified by school enrollment, grades 10-12 only. Currently, Class A is 600 students and less, Class AA is 601-1149, Class AAA is 1150 and above. For purposes of determining enrollment, your principal must verify enrollment, consider all those students in the grades 10-12 population that are eligible to participant in band.

Why aren't the bands' classifications announced?

By nature, appreciation of arts requires subjective reactions. However, BOA tries to keep all participating bands on as level a playing field as possible. We do not announce or publish band classifications before or during events so that no one, including judges, has preconceived expectations of a band's performance based on class. The adjudicators are to judge what they hear and see without regard to classification.

What are the Division Ratings?

A division rating of I, II, III or IV is awarded to each band based on their preliminary performance, with a division rating of "I" falling within the highest scoring range. Division ratings do not play into the selection of finalists, which is based on overall score regardless of class.

How are finalist bands selected?

The top 10 scoring bands regardless of class are invited to perform in the evening's Regional Finals. If there are 45 or more bands participating in a Super Regional, the top fourteen (14) scoring bands regardless of classification will advance to Finals. If there are less than 45 bands, the top twelve (12) scoring bands regardless of classification will advance to finals. If a Class Champion is not among the highest scoring bands advancing to Finals, they will be invited to perform at Finals in exhibition.

How are performances adjudicated?

Bands receive taped evaluations and scoresheets from each judge. Each band also receives a Division Rating based on score. Bands of America utilizes a criteria reference adjudication system. Adjudicators use the criteria reference to assign their rating and ranking of each band.

It is Bands of America's position that the music is the more important aspect of the performance, with marching as the presentation and visual enhancement. Similarly, more emphasis is placed on general effect than on fine-line perfection.

Therefore, the point allotment is as follows:

1. 20 points Music Performance Individual (on the field)
2. 20 points Music Performance Ensemble (from a vantage point in the upper stands or box)
3. 20 points Visual Performance Individual (on the field)
4. 20 points Visual Performance Ensemble (from a vantage point in the upper stands or box)

5. 40 points Music General Effect (two judges with 20 points each, added for 40 points total)
6. 20 points Visual General Effect

The Music Performance scores are averaged, the Visual Performance scores are averaged, then those averages are added to the General Effect total, any penalties subtracted, to arrive at a final score (maximum 100).

Who are the BOA Adjudicators?

Bands of America judges are well-established experts in the music educating, marching and pageantry field, with their educational philosophy and background taken into consideration as much as their career accomplishments. Panel assignments are made by the Chief Judge and reviewed by the President of BOA. Before any assignments are made, each potential judge must complete an "affiliation form" listing all bands with which they have any kind of relationship. This enables BOA to create judging panels whose members are unaffiliated with any of the participating bands.

What is the policy on electronic recording devices in the stadium?

Videotape or audio recording equipment is not allowed in the stadium.

Camera Policy

Still frame cameras are allowed into venues and may be used from stadium seating. However, use of professional cameras is prohibited on the field unless the user had appropriate media credentials. No video and audio recording devices are allowed except for news media with appropriate credentials.

Copyright compliance at BOA.

As a leader in the music education activity, Bands of America takes care to comply with copyright laws. We have heard some say, "BOA's requirements are too much." BOA has no copyright requirements. BOA only insists that its participants show us evidence that they have complied with the law by providing written permission from copyright owners to perform musical arrangements. By doing so, we can also meet our own requirements for compliance.

Almost to the very last copyright owner, that permission says an arrangement cannot be duplicated or recorded in any form by the user, without further permission from the copyright owner. Under the copyright laws, the venue where a performance is held is responsible for, and liable for, any copyright violation in its facility. Venues, in turn, pass those obligations on to Bands of America. What this means is that almost all stadiums require BOA to guarantee

that all copyright laws are in compliance. BOA is held accountable.

All bands in Bands of America Championship events are required to provide written permission from copyright holders for special arrangements. BOA, in turn, secures the necessary live performance rights, and the right to record, duplicate and distribute the contents of performances.