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US Scholastic Band Association

# 2008 RULEBOOK

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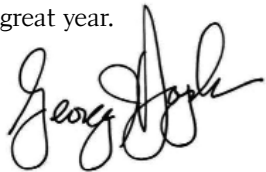
*Revised: September 2, 2008*

## INTRODUCTION TO USSBA

Welcome to the 2008 US Scholastic Band Association marching band season. This is a celebration of our 20th Anniversary and since its inception in 1988, USSBA has taken pride in the growth of the organization, the support and development of member bands and the ongoing pursuit of excellence. One of the basic principles of USSBA has always been to provide bands, regardless of style, size, and experience, an opportunity to be successful in the competitive arena.

The rules that govern USSBA competitions are by design, limited and general. As the director and staff of a participating band, please review the material found in this book. Each year as we assess the season, feedback from directors is very important. Defining rules and responsibilities is part of the “fine tuning” process that we follow. Please do not assume anything. Read carefully, be informed and if you have ANY further questions regarding USSBA shows, please feel free to call the office. We will be happy to clarify any questions you might have.

Thanks for being a part of the USSBA experience and best wishes for a great year.



George Hopkins  
Executive Director, Youth Education in the Arts

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

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## HISTORY

The organization known today as the US Scholastic Band Association was formed in the Fall of 1988 by THE CADETS Drum & Bugle Corps. There was one competition and it was held in Giants Stadium. Now in this 20th Anniversary Season, there will be over 130 local, state and regional events across the country, concluding with the USSBA National Championship in November. With over 725 bands participating in events, USSBA has become the largest independent scholastic music organization in the Nation.

USSBA and THE CADETS are under the Youth Education in the Arts banner. In addition to the marching band events and serving as a resource to music programs across the country, USSBA programs include student leadership workshops, judge training seminars, and presentations to band boosters and school administrations. Other music related youth activities are coordinated through USSBA personnel. The commitment to excellence in each of these programs is based on a model that has been the foundation for success of THE CADETS through the years.

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

## PHILOSOPHY

The USSBA's focus is (1) on the educational development of today's music student through hands on, interactive learning opportunities, (2) to enhance the awareness and importance of music programs in the schools, and (3) provide opportunity to experience quality events. The goal of the rules outlined in the following pages is not to restrict but rather enhance the programs within the world of marching music.

In the marching band arena, the USSBA adjudication system rewards achievement through evaluation of performance and effect. The form(s) or method(s) a band chooses to communicate their idea(s) is/are wide open to all styles.

## GOALS OF USSBA

- To provide educational, quality and positive performance opportunities for high school band students
- To provide experienced instructional support for band directors and staff
- To provide constructive and consistent evaluation and adjudication
- To support music education by generating popular interest in band performances and competition
- To promote innovation, creativity, and growth for bands in the region and the nation

## MEMBERSHIP

Performing members must be full time students, enrolled in grades 7 through 12 of the competing/performing school.

Band Directors must complete and return the official USSBA Registration Form prior to their first appearance in a USSBA show.

Bands performing in more than one (1) USSBA Show must pay a membership fee of \$365.

## USSBA CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

### CLASSIFICATION: GROUPS

USSBA classification for participating bands is based on the total number of performers. This includes playing members, auxiliary (color guard, majorettes, etc.), and command personnel (drum majors, guard captains, etc.).

This does not include members of an American Flag Section (or Honor Guard) when these members do not move or otherwise add to the effect of the program during the band's performance.

Group I:	<u>1 to 43 members</u>
Group II:	<u>44 to 58 members</u>
Group III:	<u>59 to 77 members</u>
Group IV:	<u>78 to 103 members</u>
Group V:	<u>104 to 140 members</u>
Group VI:	<u>141 or more members</u>

Members of every band are counted by a USSBA Official at each competition. Bands exceeding the numbers in their assigned group will be re-classified accordingly. It is the discretion of the on-site USSBA Show Coordinator to implement the classification at that show. USSBA will confirm the number discrepancy with the band director the following week. The Group assignment for the remainder of the season will come from the USSBA office.

**CLASSIFICATION: CLASSES**

A band's classification of "Open" or "A" is delineated in Regional, State, National Championship and other select competitions. There is no delineation of "Open" or "A" Class at local shows during the season.

"Open" Class is generally more seasoned or experienced bands with access to greater resources.

"A" Class is generally for bands in the process of building a program, new to the competitive setting, limited resources or other circumstances impacting the program.

"Festival" Class allows bands to perform in a non-competitive setting at any of the USSBA-sanctioned shows, including the Regional and Championship events.

Festival Class bands will receive judges' tapes, score sheets and will be awarded ratings of Superior (90-100), Excellent (80-89), Good (70-79), or Fair (69 & below). Only the rating is announced and will appear on recaps. A participation plaque will be presented to each Festival Band.

Bands may choose to perform in non-judged exhibition. Exhibition bands will NOT receive critique tapes or judges' sheets and will not be included in the critique schedule unless requested. A participation plaque will be presented to these bands.

An ad-hoc committee, designated by the USSBA office, will resolve any questions regarding delineation of "Open" or "A" Class within each grouping. The committee may include band directors, judges, and/or USSBA Administrators. Any Band Directors serving as part of the review cannot make recommendations on schools in their same group.

A listing of bands by classification is available from the USSBA office. A director wishing to appeal the assigned classification must submit a written request, signed by that director and the school principal. The reason(s) for the appeal must be stated in the request. Appeals for review must be received in the USSBA Office by August 1 and a ruling will be made prior to the band's first competition.

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

- Scoring
- History through the years
- Band Director Status
- Direct observation
- Comparison to other bands in the Group
- Potential

New bands to the USSBA will be classified in collaboration with the band director's selection on the Registration form. The USSBA may review and make changes to a new band's classification after their first performance in a USSBA event.

No changes in classification can be made after the next to last weekend in October.

**RULES OF PERFORMANCE****PERFORMANCE AREA**

The basic performance will be a regulation size football field, 160 feet wide by 300 feet long, marked in 5 yard intervals from goal line to goal line. The band may start or conclude its performance anywhere on or off the competition field. There are no boundary penalties.

**HASH MARKS**

The USSBA will only guarantee hash marks measured at 53'4" from each sideline and marked every 5 yards. In most regions of the country these are considered to be "high school hash marks".

**REPORTING TIME**

Bands must report to the gate fifteen (15) minutes prior to their performance time. Reporting later than that time may result in a 0.50 point penalty for every minute late. Any band reporting more than ten (10) minutes late may be disqualified from the competition. The band may be permitted to perform in judged exhibition at a later point in the show. This decision will be made by the USSBA show coordinator.

Any emergency circumstances must be made known to the designated USSBA show staff person directly via telephone or in person as soon as is reasonable.

**PERFORMANCE AND JUDGING TIMES**

Each band will have an interval of time on the field established by the USSBA during which they will set up, warm up, perform, and exit the field. This time begins once the USSBA Show Official prompts the band to enter the performance area. The interval time will be no less than thirteen (13) minutes and no more than fifteen (15) minutes. This will be determined on a show by show basis.

A penalty of up to five tenths (0.50) of a point may be assessed for each sixty (60) seconds over the designated maximum time for the show. This penalty must be approved by the Show Coordinator and a USSBA administrator.

The Show Coordinator may start time on a band if they fail to enter the primary performance area when instructed to do so.

Warm-ups may flow directly into the program and may be played in any direction. Any special circumstances related to your performance MUST be communicated directly to the USSBA Show Coordinator on site.

## EQUIPMENT USE

Motorized vehicles moving equipment on and off the field must be in top condition and equipped with a diaper (a covering to assure there is no leakage) if gas powered. Any pit or prop equipment pushed or pulled onto the field surface must have large inflatable tires or tires with a minimum of 8 inch wheels (pneumatic wheels/casters). Any equipment with smaller wheels must be lifted and placed into position.

The use of mechanized vehicles during the performance is prohibited. Mechanized vehicles may not drive onto the performance field. The penalty for violation of this rule is disqualification.

The use of fire extinguishers, water as a prop, live animals, or pyrotechnics (including fire batons) is prohibited at all USSBA shows. This also includes the release or use of any and all materials that may result in debris on the field. The penalty for violation of this rule ranges from one (1) point to disqualification at the discretion of the Show Coordinator and a USSBA administrator.

Any damage to the field or damaging material left on the field after a band's performance will result in a penalty ranging from one (1) point up to disqualification, depending on the severity of the damage. The amount of the penalty given is at the discretion of the Show Coordinator and a USSBA Administrator. Any and all costs incurred to clean, replace or repair the impacted area will be borne by the offending band.

There are no restrictions on the number or types of electronic music, instruments or amplification systems that may be used.

## EQUIPMENT PLACEMENT AND RETRIEVAL

Anyone (adult, student, non-student) may place, move, or remove equipment any time during a band's 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 of the band.

## USE OF THE NATIONAL FLAG

The use of the national flag is optional. If a band does choose to display the American Flag, all the respect, etiquette and dignity traditionally afforded our national emblem must be shown.

Failure to display the flag properly will result in a one point (1.00) penalty.

## CRITIQUES

Each band's staff will be assigned fifteen (15) minutes to meet with judges at the conclusion of all shows (excluding designated regional championship contests). The order in critique will be based on performance order. Three bands' staff will be admitted into the critique room at a time. The three groups will rotate through three stations of judges: music, visual and effect at five minute intervals. When a special Guard and/or Percussion judge is on the panel, they will be included in the critique as follows: The Guard judge will team with the Overall Effect judge the Percussion judge will team with the Music Individual and Music Ensemble judge. If a band'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 USSBA Show Coordinator with notice to participating bands.

## WITHDRAWAL FROM USSBA SHOWS

Any band may withdraw from a USSBA-sanctioned show up to three (3) weeks prior to the event without penalty. After that point, a withdrawal will result in a monetary fine and **suspension from further USSBA events** until that fine is received by the USSBA. The fine will then be forwarded to the show sponsor to be applied toward expenses and lost income resulting from the withdrawal.

The monetary fine schedule is as follows:

Group I:	\$250	Group II:	\$300
Group III:	\$350	Group IV:	\$400
Group V:	\$450	Group VI:	\$500

## PASSES - STAFF, CHAPERONE, AND CREW ACCESS

Passes will be issued for each member band for a given season based on group size assigned. The passes may be used for access to any USSBA show prior to Championships. Special passes or wristbands will be issued to bands participating in shows designated as Championship Shows. Once these passes are distributed, no other passes will be made available. These passes must be displayed at all times at events.

The Pass allocations are as follows:

Group I:	10 passes	Group II:	15 passes
Group III:	20 passes	Group IV:	20 passes
Group V:	25 passes	Group VI:	25 passes

## ADJUDICATION

The USSBA uses a 5-box Criteria Reference System on all adjudication sheets. Each box includes a range of numbers that move upward during the season. Sample sheets are available online: [www.usbands.org](http://www.usbands.org)

State Championships, Northern and Southern States Championships, the National Championship or other designated USSBA Shows utilize five adjudicators to determine the ranking and rating as follows:

<u>Visual Performance</u>	20 points
<u>Individual Music Performance</u>	20 points
<u>Ensemble Music Performance</u>	20 points
<u>Overall Effect, Music Emphasis</u>	20 points
<u>Overall Effect, Visual Emphasis</u>	20 points

These shows also include two additional judges:

Percussion	20 points
Color Guard	20 points

The scores of these judges determine the Percussion and and Guard caption awards.

At the National Championship competition, a double judging panel is used. The number resulting from the average in each caption (with the exception of Guard and Percussion) is used to determine the rank order.

Local Shows are delineated as either SILVER STAR or GOLD STAR shows:

Silver Star Shows - utilize four adjudicators to determine the ranking and rating as follows:

<u>Visual Performance</u>	30 points
<u>Individual Music Performance</u>	20 points
<u>Ensemble Music Performance</u>	20 points
<u>Overall Effect</u>	30 points

In Silver Star Shows separate Percussion and Color guard scores are given by designated adjudicators from the panel above.

Gold Star Shows utilize four adjudicators to determine the ranking and rating as follows:

<u>Visual Performance</u>	30 points
<u>Individual Music Performance</u>	20 point
<u>Ensemble Music Performance</u>	20 points
<u>Overall Effect</u>	30 points

In Gold Star Shows two additional judges determine Percussion and Color guard scores

Percussion	20 points
Color guard	20 points

In either case, the Percussion and Color guard judge scores are not included in the determination of ranking and rating.

SCORING AND POLICIES for State Championships, Northern and Southern States Championships, the National Championship or other designated USSBA Shows:

The USSBA system for the Shows noted is based on 40.0 points per judge. With 5 judges having 40.0 points available, the raw score is out of a possible 200.00.

This number is then divided by 2 to reach the total score out of a possible 100. (The Percussion and Color guard scores are based on 20.0 points and do not count in the total score.)

*Example:*

Effect Music	25.0
Effect Visual	30.0
Music Perf-Ind	27.0
Music Perf-Ens	28.3
Visual Perf	31.0
<hr/>	
Raw Score	141.30
Divide by 2 =	Final Score: 70.65

**MISSING ADJUDICATOR POLICY**

**State Championships, Northern States Championships, the National Championship or other designated USSBA Shows**

These shows have a minimum of five adjudicators. In the event a judge does not arrive at the event, the remaining four judges are to be reassigned using the following policy.

- If one music judge is missing, the remaining two should be assigned to Music Performance Ensemble and Overall Effect (Music). If a percussion judge has been assigned to the show, the percussion judge should be moved to one of the music captions. The chief judge will make this assignment.
- If one visual judge is missing, the remaining judge should be assigned to Overall Effect (Visual). In this instance the judge should discuss performance, but general discussion and assignment of scores should be from an overall perspective. If a Color guard judge has been assigned, the Color guard judge should be moved to one of the visual captions. The chief judge will make this assignment.

Each adjudicator will assign scores, using the 40 point sheet. The scoring guidelines for the week will remain the same. The tabulator will add the four raw scores and divide by four (4).

This average will be used as the “placeholder” for the missing 5th raw score. Add all five raw scores, divide by two (2) and arrive at a final score/percentage. Basically the performance is being judged with 4 judges. There is an assumption the score for the missing caption would be near the average for the other 4.

*NOTE: If a judge appears late to the show, he should begin judging immediately, but his score should not be counted in the total until the beginning of a new group or class.*

*Example:*

Effect Music	25.0
Effect Visual	30.0
Music Perf-Ens	28.3
Vis Perf	31.0
<hr/>	
	Raw Score: 114.30
Divide by 4 =	28.575 (round up)
Calculated Missing Fifth Score: 28.6	

Then use the normal procedure to arrive at the total score.

Effect Music	25.0
Effect Visual	30.0
Music Perf-Ens	28.3
Vis Perf	31.0
Music Perf-Ind	28.6
<hr/>	
Raw Score	142.9
Divide by 2 =	Final Score: 71.45

**MISSING ADJUDICATOR POLICY for LOCAL SHOWS (4 Person Panel):**

In the event a judge does not arrive at the event, the remaining three judges are to be reassigned using the following policy.

- If one music judge is missing, the remaining judge will be assigned to Music Performance Ensemble. If a percussion judge has been assigned to the show, the percussion judge should be moved to either Music Ensemble or Music Individual. The chief judge will make this assignment.
- If the Visual Performance judge is missing, the remaining judge will be assigned to Visual Performance. If a Color guard judge has been assigned, the Color guard judge should be moved to either Visual Performance or Overall Effect. The chief judge will make this assignment.

Each adjudicator will assign scores, using the specified point sheet. The scoring guidelines for the week will remain the same. The tabulator will add the three raw scores and divide by three (3).

This average will be used as the “placeholder” for the missing 4th score. Then add all four scores to arrive at a final score/percentage.

Basically the performance is being judged with 4 judges. There is an assumption the score for the missing caption would be near the average for the other 3.

*NOTE: If a judge appears late to the show, he should begin judging immediately, but his score should not be counted in the total until the beginning of a new group or class.*

An example of scoring for a missing judge in a 4 person panel:

Judge 1 = 20 points (Music Individual)

Judge 2 = 20 points (Music Ensemble)

Judge 3 = 30 points (Visual Performance)

The missing Judge 4 = (Overall Effect) would ordinarily have 30 points available

Judge 1 = gives 15 out of 20 (75%)

Judge 2 = gives 18 out of 20 (90%)

Judge 3 = gives 26 out of 30 (87%)

Totals for the 3 judges present  $59/70 = 84\%$

The total percentage of each judge present is divided by 3 and that percentage of the missing judges available points is added to the scores of the other 3 judges, becoming the total score for the evening.

### CAPTION AWARDS

In addition to placement awards, Special Awards will be presented at local, Regional and Championship shows.

At 5 person panel Silver Star Shows and at 4 person panel local shows, these awards will be judged by the assigned panel.

At 5 person panel Gold Star Shows, Percussion and Color guard will be judged by additional assigned judges to the panel. The following special awards may be given:

Best Music

Best Visual

Best Overall Effect

Best Color Guard

Best Percussion

*Best Visual, Music and Overall Effect:* Awarded to the band with the highest average score in those respective captions. The Visual Performance score relates to Best Visual

4 person panel – Best Visual =  
average Visual Performance score and Overall Effect score

Best Overall Effect =  
Highest Overall Effect score

Best Music =  
average of Music Individual and Music Ensemble

*Best Color guard:* Awarded to the band with the highest combined score awarded by the Overall Effect Judge and the Visual Performance Judge, in the absence of a color guard judge.

*Best Percussion:* Awarded to the band with the highest combined score awarded by the Overall Effect Judge and the Ensemble or Individual Music Performance Judge, in the absence of a percussion judge. There is a special awards box on these sheets.

### INCLEMENT WEATHER

In the event of inclement weather, the following procedures should be followed.

- Band directors should report to the USSBA Show Coordinator at the 50 yard line.
- Only music will be evaluated. Thus, the scores of only three judges will be counted in determining the final score.
- Individual Music Performance will be judged from the same level of the performers.
- If a Visual, Percussion and/or a Color guard judge are/is present, they may judge all units as they normally would, however in THIS clinic setting, there is no score assigned. The show sponsor determines whether to allow the Color guard to perform indoors.
- Ensemble Music Performance and Effect will be judged from the stands.

Each adjudicator will assign scores as they would normally do. The scoring criteria for the week will remain the same.

### HOST BANDS PERFORMING IN SHOWS

Bands hosting a show have the following options:

- Compete - If a host band decides to compete, it will compete at the same time as other bands in its class. The host band will have the option of performing last in its class. The score will be included on the re-cap sheet and will be included as a possible "high score".
- Perform in judged exhibition - Numerical scores of bands performing in judged exhibition will not appear on the recap, and will not count towards high scores for championship seeding.
- Perform in a non-judged exhibition – no sheets, no tapes.

If a host band decides to perform in either type of exhibition, time of performance will be determined by the show host.

The host band will decide which option it will take no later than two weeks before the show date. This information must be communicated to the USSBA office and will be included on the official show sheet. There is no cost for the host band to perform. They are not counted in determining the cost for the show.

## STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

### PARTICIPATION

All bands, whether members or non-members of the USSBA are eligible to participate in the US Scholastic Band Association State Championships.

Each State Championship show has a fee requirement associated with the event. There are 2 options to fulfill this requirement:

1) Pay the entry fee

OR

2) Fulfill a ticket requirement. The USSBA offers bands an option to convert the entry fee into a set amount of tickets. This provides an opportunity for the band to raise the funds to cover the fee. Each band will receive an allotted number of tickets for the event. The band's cost will be discounted from the face value of the ticket.

If a band is only participating in State Championships and not Northern or Southern States Championships, the ticket requirement is per table 1.

If a band is also participating in either Northern or Southern States Championships, the ticket requirement is per table 2.

### STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS TICKET INFORMATION

Required tickets are shipped to each school at least two weeks prior to the event, along with additional optional tickets. Any unsold tickets, along with all required monies are due at registration for the State Championships.

Tickets will be sent to the attention of the band director at the school address. In addition, an e-mail, fax, or standard mail will announce their mailing. A signature, acknowledging the receipt of tickets, will for the purpose of the USSBA, act as confirmation of delivery. **It is the band director's responsibility to claim tickets, distribute tickets, and to manage the process.**

**Table 1**

#### **Ticket Requirement**

#### **Bands that DO NOT Participate in Northern States Championships**

Group I	37
Group II	50
Group III	71
Group IV	94
Group V	115
Group VI	143

**Table 2**

#### **Ticket Requirement**

#### **Bands that DO Participate in Northern States Championships**

Group I	18
Group II	25
Group III	35
Group IV	45
Group V	55
Group VI	70

### STATE CHAMPIONSHIP SEEDING

The performance order within a group/class will be determined by random draw in the first week of October. The place and time of the draw will be announced. The order of the show will be posted at [www.usbands.org](http://www.usbands.org) no later than 5:00 pm the day following the draw. Bands may add into the State Championships after this date. If they do, their performance time will be first in their group and class.

### USSBA NORTHERN STATES CHAMPIONSHIPS

To qualify for inclusion in the USSBA Northern States Championships, a band must:

- Be an active member of the US Scholastic Band Association.
- Participate in at least one (1) USSBA-sanctioned contest, excluding championships. Participation in host shows will count towards this requirement. If Championships is the only USSBA show attended by the unit, they may perform in exhibition but will not be considered in the ranking and rating, provided all other requirements are met.
- Pay the Membership Fee and pay all outstanding debts prior to Championships.
- Fulfill a ticket sales requirement. Refer to the Ticket Sales Requirement table.
- Register for Northern States Championships by the third Monday of October.

### NORTHERN CHAMPIONSHIPS TICKET INFORMATION

Northern States Championships have a fee requirement associated with the event. There are 2 options available:

(1) Fulfill a ticket requirement. Each band will receive an allotted number of tickets for the event. The band's cost will be discounted from the face value of the ticket. Bands can sell the tickets at face value (keeping the difference) or sell them at a discounted price.

(2) Pay an entry fee equivalent to the Ticket Requirement

# of Members	Tickets	# of Members	Tickets	# of Members	Tickets
Under 20	25	90-99	125	200-209	270
20-24	30	100-109	140	210-219	280
25-29	35	110-119	150	220-229	295
30-34	45	120-129	165	230-239	310
35-39	50	130-139	180	240-249	320
40-44	55	140-149	190	250-259	335
45-50	65	150-159	205	260-269	345
51-59	75	160-169	215	270-279	360
60-69	85	170-179	230	280-289	375
70-79	100	180-189	245	290-299	385
80-89	115	190-199	255	300 +	400

(3) Band Directors are required to submit an accurate count of the members in their band by Oct 1st. The number will be verified by USSBA personnel at a variety of events. If the USSBA office does not receive this count by Oct 1st, the highest number in that band's group size will be used in determining that band's ticket requirement. Any exceptions must be approved by the USSBA.

Tickets are shipped to each school at least two weeks prior to the event, along with additional optional tickets. Any unsold tickets, along with all required monies are due at registration.

Tickets will be sent to the attention of the band director at the school address. In addition, an e-mail, fax will announce their mailing. It is the responsibility of the band director to claim these tickets. A signature, acknowledging the receipt of tickets, will for the purpose of the USSBA, act as confirmation of delivery. It is the band director's responsibility to claim and to distribute the tickets, and to manage the process.

#### ***NORTHERN STATES CHAMPIONSHIP PERFORMANCE ORDER:***

The highest score achieved from the beginning of the season through and including all shows on October 26 with a random draw (described below) will determine the order of performance. This new system has developed as a practical opportunity for bands competing on a regular basis and the bands who may not reside in a region where events are available on a weekly basis.

Following the completion of shows on October 26, 2008 the order of performance will be drawn in the USSBA Allentown office. This official order will be posted on the website by the close of business on Monday, October 27.

#### ***Specifically:***

- All Bands with a season high score below 69.9 will be entered in a draw and perform first in their group and class of competition.
- All Bands with a season high score of 70.0-74.9 will be entered in a draw
- All Bands with a season high score of 75.0-79.9 will be entered in a draw
- All Bands with a season high score of 80.0-84.9 will be entered in a draw
- All Bands with a score of season high of 85.0-89.9 will be entered in a draw. These bands will perform just ahead of those bands who receive a 90 or more.
- All Bands with a season high score of 90 or more will be entered in a draw and these bands will perform last in their group and class of competition.

To assist in planning transportation to the Championship, performance times for groups and classes will be published well in advance of October 26th.

#### ***“SPECIAL” CIRCUMSTANCES***

USSBA reserves the right to act in accordance with the principles of the organization as deemed necessary. Accidents, crisis and other “special” circumstances could create the unexpected. USSBA and the assigned “event manager” for a specific contest, reserve the right to act in accordance with the values of the USSBA including, but not limited to: fairness, kindness, and inclusion.

#### ***USSBA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP***

The concluding event of the USSBA season is the National Championship competition. This year it will be held in the Naval Academy Stadium (Annapolis, MD).

- Bands compete according to Group size, no classification.
- Performance order is determined by random draw within each Group.
- The Band achieving the highest overall score, regardless of Group size will be named the USSBA National Champion.
- Caption awards are presented in each Group. Additionally, the highest scoring Color Guard and Percussion regardless of Group will be named as the National Champion in those captions.
- There is an entry fee for bands selected to participate in this show.