



NATIONAL BAND COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

INCORPORATING THE BRASS AND CONCERT BANDS OF AUSTRALIA

DRILL AND STREET MARCHING REGULATIONS

(abridged version)

REVISED 2012

1.0 GENERAL REGULATIONS

- 1.1 All street marching competitions shall be conducted in accordance with the rules contained in the National Band Council of Australia Inc. *Drill and Street Marching Regulations 2012*, which are prepared under and subject to the *NBCA Contest Regulations*.
- 1.2 For the purposes of these regulations, the term 'Parade of Bands' may be interchanged with the terms 'Street March' or 'Street Marching'.
- 1.3 The minimum number of personnel for the Street March shall be sixteen (16) instrumentalists plus percussion section and Drum Major. Bands may parade more than the regulation number of players, if they so desire.
- 1.4 It shall be optional for bands to march in five (5) or six (6) files, or for a band of less than twenty (20) players to march in four (4) files. The percussion section may be placed anywhere in the formation at the discretion of the Drum Major. Ranks including the percussion section may be two (2) or three (3) paces from the preceding rank.
- 1.5 In the event of a band in a marching competition not having the required number of players, the deficiency may be made up by non-players. Such non-players must be duly registered members with the State Governing Body. Non-players must wear a band uniform and carry an instrument in the prescribed position.
- 1.6 A declaration that personnel are registered with the band must be signed by the Drum Major of each competing band on the day of the contest. Any band not signing this declaration is not eligible to have points awarded in the marching contest.
- 1.7 The personnel and instrumentation of the band for the Street March shall be identical with that appearing at the Inspection.
- 1.8 The Drum Major shall use a whistle, staff/mace, arm signal, or any combination thereof, to direct or control the evolutions of the band whilst competing. All signals shall be given with precision. The Bass Drum may also be used for signals, which shall not be penalised by the Music or Drill Judges.
- 1.9 No oral word of command shall be given after the command "Quick March", until after the band has halted at the completion of the event. Violations of this clause shall carry a penalty of one (1) point for each offence.
- 1.10 Drum Majors shall only use a whistle when actually competing, but shall give verbal commands to direct the band on all other occasions. Precautionary words may be used prior to any command, at the Drum Major's option. Use of the staff/mace with verbal commands is also optional.
- 1.11 The Drum Major, when requested, shall verbally advise the Drill Judge of any physical disabilities prior to preparing the band for the Inspection or Street March.

2.0 POINTS AWARDED FOR STREET MARCHING COMPETITIONS

2.1 Street March Competition points shall be as follows:

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|---------------------|------------|
| Inspection | 20 points |
| Music | 40 points |
| Change of Direction | 20 points |
| Drill | 100 points |
| Total | 180 points |

2.2 In any element where scoring is carried out by deduction of points, the minimum score shall not be less than zero (0).

3.0 CONTEST INSPECTION IN MARCHING FORMATION

3.1 Inspection of all bands shall be made, if possible, prior to any marching contest, at a place appointed by the Contest Committee.

3.2 The band shall parade in marching formation then move to the Inspection point as directed by the Parade Marshal.

3.3 The Drum Major shall stand the band "At Ease" and take up a position three (3) paces in front of the front rank and in the centre of the band.

3.4 The Inspection Judge shall then approach the Drum Major, confirm the name of the band and ask "Are there any disabilities to report?". The Drum Major shall confirm and report same.

3.5 The Inspection Judge shall then give the instruction "Drum major, prepare your band for inspection".

3.6 The Timekeeper appointed by the Contest Committee shall then commence to record the time taken. The time allowed for preparation of the band shall, for a band of up to 36 players (inc. percussion), be three (3) minutes. An additional thirty (30) seconds of preparation time shall be permitted if the band has between 37 and 42 players; and a further thirty (30) seconds of preparation time shall be permitted for each group of up to six (6) players in excess of 42.

One (1) point shall be deducted for each minute or portion thereof over the allotted time.

3.7 The Drum Major shall proceed to check the covering and dressing of the band, using words of command only, and only from the perimeter of the band.

3.8 All intervals and spacings shall be two (2) 750mm paces, with the exception of the ranks containing trombones or the percussion section, which may be three (3) paces.

3.9 Timing shall cease when the Drum Major returns to the position three (3) paces in front of the centre of the band.

- 3.10 Whilst the Drum Major is preparing the band, the Inspection Judge shall check spacing, intervals, dressing, position of instruments, and the general presentation of the band. Judging shall be carried out from the perimeter of the band. The Inspection Judge may take a further two (2) minutes to complete the adjudication from when the Drum Major returns to his/her position.
- 3.11 The timekeeper appointed by the Contest Committee shall notify the Inspection Judge when the time has expired. At such point he/she must cease to judge the band.
- 3.12 One (1) point shall be deducted for each offence in relation to the following:
- Unsteadiness in the ranks;
 - Untidy presentation;
 - Irregularities in dress;
 - Irregular colour of footwear;
 - Incorrect dressing;
 - Incorrect intervals;
 - Incorrect position of attention;
 - Incorrect drill movements;
 - Incorrect words of command;
 - Incorrect position of instruments;
 - Dirty instruments (allowance to be made for use during contest);
 - Dirty accoutrements;
 - Talking in ranks; and
 - Drum Major excessive time.
- Total points deducted shall not exceed twenty (20).
- 3.13 Instruments such as Basses, Euphoniums, Baritones and Horns may be held under the left arm, bells to the front, or held in a vertical position, provided they are held in a uniform manner, except that it is permissible that Basses only be held in a vertical position while Euphoniums, Baritones and Horns are held under the left arm, bells to the front. Cornets, Flugel Horns and Trombones shall be held in the left hand in a perpendicular position, bells toward the ground, the left arm bent at right angles, elbow close to the side, forearm and wrist horizontal. Piccolos and Flutes are to be held in the left hand in a perpendicular position, the left arm bent at right angles, elbow close to the side, forearm and wrist horizontal. Clarinets and Oboes are to be cradled in the left arm, without strap or sling, left hand grasping the edge of bell. Saxophones and Bassoons are to be suspended from straps and held by both hands in the normal playing position. Other instruments are to be held in a neat and uniform manner and on straps where appropriate. All drums are to be on straps or harnesses, in the normal playing position, beaters held at the position of attention. Cymbals are to be carried by the side, arms fully extended.
- 3.14 The fact that uniforms and instruments are not new shall not be taken into account when deducting points.
- 3.15 When physical hardship may occur in the opinion of the Inspection Judge, he/she may direct the Drum Major to rest an individual player after inspection.
- 3.16 Lyres and music are permitted on inspection, providing that uniformity is observed. Personal items such as watches, rings, and sunglasses may be worn.

- 3.17 Where contest organisers deem it necessary, bands may be inspected immediately prior to the commencement of the Street March without a formal 'inspection preparation' of the band, or without addressing the Inspection Judge.

4.0 STREET MARCHING COMPETITIONS

- 4.1 At all National Band Championships, the Street March competition shall be graded.
- 4.2 A plan of the Street March route shall be forwarded to all bands at least two (2) calendar months prior to the contest. Maximum distance shall be six hundred (600) metres, including at least one (1) change of direction. The plan should indicate the assembly area, inspection point, start point, change(s) of direction, saluting base, finish line/halt point and dispersal area, along with advice of any obstacles or special conditions along the route.
- 4.3 Each band shall march over the Street March course as directed by its Drum Major in the order of the draw, as published in the official programme. Drum majors may be asked to confirm the name of their band by the adjudicator or marshal prior to stepping off.
- 4.4 Bands shall be judged on Drill and Music at any point from when the Drum Major is given the signal to 'carry on' by the Contest Supervisor, or his/her Delegate, until the band as a whole crosses the finish line or reaches the designated halt point. If a band halts before the finish line, then the halt shall be judged and judging will not cease until the band as a whole is stationary, the music has ceased and the drum major has given the command to either fall out or stand at ease.
- 4.5 Bands may parade more than the regulation number of players if they so desire, in block formation, in the Street March competition.
- 4.6. When the Drum Major gives the command "Band – Ready", the band shall bring their instruments to the 'ready' position in a uniform manner.
- 4.7 Drum Majors are encouraged to flourish in the Street March, and may march up to five (5) paces in front of the band while flourishing.
- 4.8 Bands are allowed Flag Bearers or Banner Carriers, provided that they march not less than twenty (20) paces in front of the band.
- 4.9 While the band is playing on the march, all instruments shall be carried in the playing position, in a uniform manner. Trombones and cornets shall be carried horizontally. One (1) point shall be deducted for each offence. Any player physically unfit to carry out this rule shall be granted an exemption, but the Drum Major shall notify the Drill Adjudicator, when requested, prior to the step off.
- 4.10 The complete band must be playing as it passes the saluting base. Penalty for non-compliance shall be two (2) points.
- 4.11 A band may perform evolutions of a forward-moving nature during the event, and there shall be no restriction on the type of evolution used at changes of direction on the route.

- 4.12 On entering the 'Change of Direction', the band shall have a maximum of thirty (30) seconds to conduct the change of direction. Judging shall be carried out on the basis of both execution and entertainment, with a mark out of ten (10) to be awarded to each element.
- 4.13 When countermarching, all trombones may be raised or lowered uniformly from the horizontal.
- 4.14 For each member that moves outside the designated area, one (1) point shall be deducted, with a maximum total deduction of six (6) points.
- 4.15 Bands shall disperse when and as directed by the Marshal. Failure to observe this or any other proper direction shall incur a penalty of five (5) points. If no direction is given as to when to move off the marching area, the Drum Major shall ensure the area is cleared as soon as practicable.
- 4.16 For street marching competitions, points shall be deducted as follows:
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| Unsteadiness in ranks | 1 point for each offence |
| Incorrect covering/dressing | 1 point for each offence |
| | (max. 2 pts per file/rank per section) |
| Incorrect intervals | 1 point for each offence |
| Incorrect position of attention | 1 point for each offence |
| Incorrect drill movements | 1 point for each offence |
| Incorrect position of instruments | 1 point for each offence |
| Oral word of command after "Quick March" | 1 point for each offence |
| Out of step | 1 point for each offence |
| | (per section of march) |
| Band fails to play over entire street march | 2 points |
| Band does not play as it passes the saluting base | 2 points |
| Members of band move outside area | 1 point for each offence |
| | (max. 6 pts per evolution) |
| Failure to comply with an official's direction | 5 points for each offence |

5.0 MUSIC

- 5.1 Bands shall be judged by the Music Adjudicator on their playing whilst on the march. The judging of music shall commence when the band marches from the start point and shall cease when the band passes the finish line, or halts, at the conclusion of the designated route.
- 5.2 The band and/or percussion section must play continuously from the commencement of the Street March until the halt. Penalty for non-compliance two (2) points.
- 5.3 Bands may elect to use alternative music whilst executing a change of direction or other evolution during the course of the march, but must submit all music as required by the conditions of contest
- 5.4 Music shall be judged on suitability, balance, variety, and sound.

6.0 APPOINTMENT OF JUDGES

- 6.1 The responsibility to appoint the Drill and Music Judges shall be with the State Governing Body.
- 6.2 There shall be appointed:
- a. One Chief Drill Judge;
 - b. A minimum of two (2) Assistant Drill Judges; and
 - c. A Music Judge.

7.0 DUTIES OF DRILL JUDGES

- 7.1 When a Drum Major's prize is included in the Contest Schedule, the following matters will be taken into account-

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|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Department | Staff Signals/Drill |
| Dress and Bearing | Marching Style and Ability |
| Drill at the Halt | Band Marching Performance |
| Words of Command | Staff Flourish |
| Control | Precision and Efficiency |

- 7.2 The duties of the Chief Drill Judge are:
- a. To co-ordinate the duties of all Drill Judges for the Street March Competition and to ensure that each band is judged in a consistent manner.
 - b. To ensure that the Drill Judges judge in accordance with the N.B.C.A. Inc. Drill and Street Marching Regulations, and any further contest rules specified on the contest schedule.
 - c. To check the prescribed marching area with the Contest Supervisor, or their delegate, to ensure that it is suitable, before the contest commences.
 - d. To apply an appropriate penalty to any band that does not comply with the rules of the contest.
 - e. To be responsible to co-ordinate a meeting of Drum Majors, Judges and Marshals, where practicable, prior to the Street March Competition.
 - f. To forward any suggested changes and improvements for marching competitions to the National Band Council of Australia Inc. and the State Governing Body following each competition.
- 7.3 The Chief Drill Judge shall not be a competing Drum Major.
- 7.4 Drill Judges shall confine all verbal and written remarks to the actual work being judged.

8.0 DEFINITIONS

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|-------------|---|
| ALIGNMENT | Any straight line on which a band is formed or is to be formed |
| BLANK FILE | A front rank person with no person covering him/her |
| COVERING | The act of a body placing itself directly to the rear of another |
| DEPTH | The space occupied by a band from front to rear |
| DRESSING | To take up alignment correctly in a rank |
| DRILL | (a) The training of a bandperson to execute certain movements (b) The action of a group executing certain movements in concert |
| EVOLUTION | A movement by which a band changes direction or formation during a marching performance. |
| FILE | The front rank person and all persons covering him/her |
| FLANK | Directing The flank by which the band shall march or dress Inner That nearer to the Directing flank Outer That opposite to the Inner or Directing flank |
| FLOURISH | Enhanced staff drill, other than for directing or controlling the progress and/or evolutions of the band, to make a display for effect. |
| FORMING | A movement by which a band brings forward a flank on a fixed or moving pivot |
| FRONT | The direction in which a band is facing or moving at any given time |
| FRONTAGE | The extent of ground covered laterally by a band |
| INCLINE | The movement by which ground is gained to the front and flank simultaneously |
| INTERVAL | The lateral space between persons or bands on the same alignment or in depth |
| JUDGE | (a) The act of assessing a task completed by a band or bands (b) The person appointed to make the assessment |
| PACE | A measurement of distance (750 mm) |
| PACING | Rate of progress (i.e. paces per minute) |
| RANK | A line of persons side by side |
| SINGLE FILE | A column of files |
| TURNING | A movement by which a band takes up a new alignment |
| WHEELING | A movement by which a band changes direction on a fixed or moving pivot |