

Colorado Bandmasters Association

2011 Marching Committee

February 5, 2011

Marching Committee Members

Voting Members:

Ken Ovrebo	Marching Co-Chair
WL Whaley	Chief Judge
C. Wayne Manzanares	Marching Co-Chair
Doug Dalton	Music Coordinator of Jefferson County
Stoney Black	Colorado Springs Town Mtg. Rep.
Mathew Arau	Northern Region Town Mtg. Rep.
Ed Roush	Jefferson County Town Mtg. Rep
Garren Cuthrell	Pueblo Town Mtg. Rep.
Paul Traugott	Western Slope Town Mtg. Rep.
Orlando Otis	Metro Town Mtg. Rep.
Darren DeLaup	At Large Rep.
Del Brickley	At Large Rep.
Matt Drase	At Large Rep.
Paul Farus	At Large Rep.
Derek Smith	At Large Rep.
Darren Dukart	At Large Rep.

Non-Voting Present:

Mark Cellar	audience
Becca Manzanares	Recording secretary

Wayne opened the meeting by reminding the committee that CBA Marching Affairs is a self-governing group. The changes that we make today can and will be implemented this season. We conducted regional town meetings all over the state and gained good feedback this year. There are three components to marching band in Colorado: 1) administrative – decision making and organizing, 2) private competitions – aligning as many of these contests as possible with CBA’s philosophy and guidelines, 3) regional and state competitions – making sure our approach to conducting culminating activities is best for bands.

1. **Band size versus school size to determine competition classes. Moderated by WL (Attached artifacts: 2010 Band Numbers; Potential Band Size Classifications)**

WL opened the discussion by asking the town meeting representatives to report on the feedback from their town meetings. The Colorado Springs, Northern, Pueblo, and Western slope meetings were unanimously in favor of a classification system based on school size. The Metro East meeting had a slight majority favoring band size based classes, and the Jeffco meeting was split. The meeting reps followed up with their constituents, and the majority of the metro east (including those who did not attend the meeting) was for a school size classification system; whereas the Jefferson County constituents remained split.

The Jeffco Rep read comments from some of his schools that supported band size based classes. They felt that it would be comparing apples to apples, giving small bands a better chance.

A comment was made that under a school size based system you could even out the classes, evening the number of bands in each class.

Another comment was made that we should work under a system that doesn't first benefit "my band," but instead promotes music education in Colorado. By switching to a band size based classification we discourage band directors from having large, thriving programs and encourage them to have smaller programs, limiting the number of students involved.

Other comments were made about budget cuts and their impact on programs.

It was also brought up that resources available to the metro area are not available to the Western slope schools. Therefore, those schools whose elementary schools are cutting music education should be creative in order to continue to build their programs.

Another point brought up at the Jeffco meeting was regarding fairness for the rest of the state. Is it fair for a band that has 50 in a school of 900 to be competing against a band that draws 50 in a school of 1,600?

The comment was made that many of the programs that are smaller, are smaller not due to failures in elementary programs but for other reasons that CBA should support and help to alleviate.

WL suggested that CBA offers more creative, practical solutions to dealing with budget cuts, cuts in elementary/feeder programs, finding resources, etc.

Motion: CBA Marching should keep the current school size based classification system.

In favor: 16 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

2. Under a school size based classification system, should CBA allow non-state qualifier bands to petition down a class for one year? Moderated by Ken

(Attached artifacts: Regional Qualifying Scores from 2008, 2009, 2010)

This topic came out of an informal discussion following the Jefferson County town meeting. The thought was that this move would offer band directors a year to help rebuild their program.

One point was brought up that a new school that, due to the time of the October count, reports out with an unrealistically low school enrollment could petition down a class due to not qualifying for state the previous year, and compete potentially two classes down.

A comment was made that this would be a logistical nightmare. How many bands could we add in to 1A/2A/3A state competition? From a judging standpoint, you can only competently judge a certain number of bands in a day. A suggestion was made that we not allow any petitions at all and just have bands compete in their enrollment-based class. Wayne clarified that some schools report out on students that are not allowed in the building for any classes; those are prime examples of schools that appropriately use the petition system. Another comment was made that there are programs that are consistently at the bottom who might feel competitive under such a petition system.

A band director suggested that the petitioning system should include a public committee that hears the case and makes the decision.

Motion: CBA should allow non-state qualifiers to petition down a class for the period of one year.

In favor: 0 Opposed: 16 Abstain: 0

The discussion was continued on the topic of the establishment of a sub-committee to decide the cases of bands who want to petition down a class for any reason. The general consensus was that this seemed fair and equitable to all bands. A suggestion was made that the sub-committee have a member from every class. The petitions should be made public in efforts of CBA transparency.

Motion: The CBA Marching Committee will appoint a competition class sub-committee to evaluate cases of bands petitioning down a class.

In favor: 16 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

(The new deadline will be August 15th for bands petitioning down a class.)

3. CBA judging sheets – review/evaluation/approval. Moderated by WL

(Attached artifacts: Revised CBA sheets, including box ranges on the front of the sheet, with some subcaptions reversed)

WL presented the revised sheets. On the Music Ensemble sheet, the subcaptions were flipped. All sheets have the box range in each subcaption and total box. The comment was made that putting the precise box descriptors would help clarify the indicators for each box. Another comment was made that if the back of the sheet is too wordy, no one looks at it. The suggestion was then made that a rubric be created that is posted on the website to detail the performance descriptors for each box. WL will work on this, and the rubric will be posted.

Motion: The revised sheets were accepted with proposed changes.

In favor: 16 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

4. Should CBA change the number range for Box 1 from 0-20 to 0-60, Box 2 from 20-60 to 60-100, and Box 3 from 60-140 to 100-140? Box 4 and 5 numbers would remain the same. Moderated by WL

(Attached artifacts: Proposed box system comparison)

Rationale: adjusting the numbers in Box 1, 2, & 3 allows for proper judge feedback and proper box placement based on the criteria without the use of extremely low scores. The question was asked whether we want bands to be scored with a system that compares bands to bands within Colorado, or do we want to keep our scoring system relative to all bands in the country? Comments were made that we should be comparing bands within the state. Others said that by focusing within, we fail to view our bands in a realistic light. Another comment was made that when we score based on national averages, others, including parents and administrators, don't understand how a band could win a state championship with what they view as a 45%. WL asked for a philosophy statement, asking the question, "Do you want our judges to look at our bands on a state level or on a national level?" WL was asked what other states are doing. Most of the out-of-state competitions that he works judge on a regional or state basis. The question was asked how that works for a judge new to the state. That's one of the reasons we hold sheets to help the judges visualize an average. The suggestion was made that judges be allowed to give their perspective, based on their knowledge. The point was then made that some of the judges we bring in are not as willing to put aside their national perspectives. Another member commented that we're bringing in national experts who have a national perspective and we're asking them to take on a perspective (state based) that they may not be comfortable with. Not everyone views the purpose of bringing in national experts as to employ their national perspective; some band directors view that purpose as to bring fair, fresh, impartial views. This was countered with a judge's perspective that reads may not be as impartial when judges are not familiar with a state scale. The question was asked that since most of the competitions that use out of state judges are primarily attended by 4A/5A bands, is this not a large school issue? It was answered with the need for a statewide philosophy.

The question was asked how many committee members prefer that judges be instructed to consider bands on a national scale. 3

Colorado level: 9

Abstain: 4

WL then presented the proposed new box system, which allows judges to put bands in the correct box without giving bands a bottom-line score that is crushing. A comment was made that the score is for the kids; the box is for the director. This system makes it more fair because you're giving the director the same message without penalizing the kids. This point was confirmed by another band director. Box 3 is limited in numbers, but this system would open up box 2, which we had tried to avoid in previous years.

Motion: CBA will adopt the proposed change to the box numbering system.

In favor: 14 Opposed: 1 Abstain: 1

5. Should CBA recommend to all private contests that they hire a color guard and percussion judge for comments only? No score will be given nor will there be any trophy awarded. This would be done in prelims only. It would also be done at regionals but not at state. Moderated by Wayne

Regional competitions would be allowed to raise their entry fees by \$25 in order to make up for the added costs. A comment was made that all band directors were trained in percussion; we were not all trained in color guard. This director believed that there was more of a need for a specific judge for color guard comments, instead of percussion. Another band director commented that, without percussion instructors, smaller schools and schools outside the front range, don't have the same access to proper instruction and would value the additional, specific feedback. The question was asked why are we singling out percussion instead of woodwinds? A comment was made that a percussion section could make or break a band, whereas a woodwind section wouldn't. The judges' commentaries would be techniques oriented only. The assertion was made that anything we do to help educate bands is helpful. For some bands, the schism between the band and the percussion sections (and in some cases, the color guards) was highly destructive to the bands in the past. The suggestion was made that we offer clinics at CBA and CMEA. There is no score involved. Does this matter? Many band directors are still opposed to the separation of percussion for specific commentaries, while others are adamant about the need for schools outside of the front range area. The suggestion was made that CBA tell the sanctioned competitions that they can offer this commentary, but not at regionals. There was consensus that the decision to offer or not offer color guard and percussion judges would not affect CBA sanctioning for any private contest.

Motion: Private, CBA sanctioned competitions are allowed to offer the option of providing specific percussion and/or color guard commentaries, without scores and awards.

In favor: 16 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

The question was then asked about regionals. Can one regional offer these commentaries but not the others? The comment was made that all regionals should offer the same resources. A former percussion instructor asserted that, without a score, we could possibly avoid the divisiveness that once existed. However, there was a general consensus that what is done at one regional should be done at all regionals. The recommendation was made that every panel include a percussion and color guard expert.

The discussion as to the use of percussion and color guard commentaries at regionals was tabled to allow committee members to get more feedback from the bands in their areas.

6. Should CBA consider rotating class performance blocks for quarterfinals, semis, and finals?

Moderated by Wayne

4A/5A Competition

With the current system, there is consistency, and band directors are able to plan ahead based on the expectations for their performance. If we go to a rotating schedule, band directors are still able to create a plan; it just alternates every year. Currently, the 4A bands are incurring a greater cost because they're at the stadium first and have to wait until the end of finals. This cost is even greater for bands traveling from the western slope. The rotating system would share the burden of travel expenses between 4A and 5A. At this point, 4A bands typically pay 40% more than 5A bands.

Motion: CBA should rotate 4A and 5A class performance blocks, based on even and odd years.

In favor: 8 Opposed: 2 Abstain: 6

1A/2A/3A Competition

The comment was made that typically, there is a size difference in bands between classes, thus the reversal of performance blocks would not be feasible.

Motion: CBA will not rotate 1A, 2A, 3A class performance blocks.

In favor: 12 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 4

7. Should CBA consider changing the seeding for regionals? Presently, we have a blind draw in groups of four with the regional champion from previous year in last spot. (Options: reverse order

from previous year, complete blind draw, or blind draw in groups of 6 or ???) Moderated by Wayne

Comments from band directors not present were in favor of a complete blind draw. A point was made that this could be detrimental to the lower scoring bands that may be slotted following a very high scoring band; this could result in a lower than normal score for the struggling band, which could potentially cost this band a qualifying placement.

Motion: The seeding system will not change.

In favor: 15 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 1

8. Should CBA post all judging assignments for regionals and state on the web site prior to the events? And if so, when? Moderated by WL

WL asked judges that have worked in Colorado their opinion about this; most of the judges requested that they not be posted a month or more out. Others would make decisions about specific areas to focus on with their band based on judges they'll be facing. The general consensus was that posting the judges was a good step toward more transparency.

Motion: CBA will post all judges for CBA regionals and state assignments as soon as they are confirmed and contracted.

In favor: 16 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

9. Should CBA offer a ratings system for all contests, as an option for bands instead of the current rating system? Moderated by Ken

This was a suggestion that came from the town meetings. Private contests and regionals could offer this, as a "contest within a contest". One concern is how to score such a system, which could easily parallel our current scoring system, with judges scoring as normal and the chief judge translating that score to a rating. The question was asked as how a 33 is different from a IV? What does that change for the band? The committee agreed that more should be done to help educate and help band directors.

Motion: CBA will not implement a rating system for marching band competitions.

In favor: 16 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

10. Site rotation for 1A/2A/3A State competitions. Keep the same or change? Moderated by Wayne

The suggestion was made that we make it a four year rotation: north, metro, south, and western slope. The point was also made that the Western Slope bands would then have to travel 3 out of every 4 years.

Motion: CBA keeps the same 3 year 1A/2A/3A State competition rotation.

In favor: 16 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

11. Should CBA increase the number of out of state judges for 1A/2A/3A State Semifinals and Finals? Moderated by WL

WL presented a comment from a nationally-recognized in-state judge who enjoys judging the competition and felt like this is punishing him for living in Colorado. This also presents a significant increase in costs and travel logistics. The comment was made that students don't always understand why other band directors are judging them. Another comment was made that at 4A/5A State, bands get judges who have fresh eyes; 1A/2A/3A bands don't always get that. Others appreciated the fact that they are making connections with in-state band directors and judges who could possibly come and help their band. Small school bands from the north are asking for the same panel. **The recommendation from the committee is that WL will hire as many out-of-state judges as is feasible for the 1A/2A/3A State championships, given the location.**

12. Clarification of the entrance, exit, and prop rules Moderated by Ken

(Attached artifacts: Article 1: Field Performance; General Regulations, Definitions, and Contest Management)

Ken presented a clarification of the rules regarding entrance, exit, and prop rules. Ken, Rob Yost, Bruce Fox, WL Whaley, and Wayne Manzanares have had input on these clarifications. This document represents no changes to the rule book, but rather rewording and clarification of rules already in place. Ken also informed the committee that each year the current timing and penalty judges meet with Wayne to discuss the rules, changes, and penalties in order to align their practice. The T & P judges would also develop a recap sheet to share with the chief judge and the other T & P judges to make sure everyone knows what to watch for. The T & P judges have also made a point to be very strict with rule enforcement early in the season to make sure that the bands take care of any rule infractions before state competitions.

Motion: The side boundaries for pre-staging are moved from the external goal lines to the goal zone lines. Bands are allowed to pre-stage in the goal zone FOLLOWING THE EXIT OF THE PREVIOUS BAND FROM THE FIELD.

In favor: 16 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

At this point, Del Brickley had to leave the meeting, due to a prior obligation. There were 15 voting members from this point.

13. Recommendation as to the length of entrance and exit announcement. Moderated by Wayne (Attached artifacts: Current announcement form)

The entrance announcement form is not designed to include arrangers, drill designers, etc. We are working on consistency of announcements from contest to contest, especially the entrance announcements. In order to avoid any appearance of bias by past performance, WL would like to exclude all numbers (dates and how many times you've won an award) in the exit announcement. The announcement form will be modified and distributed to band directors.

14. Procedure for CBA uses to sanction private contests. Moderated by Wayne

We need to clarify the guidelines used to sanction private competitions. Starting in 2011, non-sanctioned events will not be publicized through the website. The suggestion was made that an application be created for contests to complete in order to be sanctioned. The minimal requirements are abiding by the CBA Marching Rulebook, adopting the number of judges, scoring system, and basic philosophy of the CBA Marching committee.

15. 2010 October counts and class assignments for the 2011 season. Moderated by Wayne (Attached artifacts: 2010 October Count and 2011 Competition Classifications)

Wayne presented the numbers drawn from the CHSAA website. This year two 1A bands combined and competed in class 2A. There was some concern about the possibility of band programs being able to combine at will. Wayne reiterated the CHSAA rule that allows students from a school that does not have a marching program are allowed to participate in the

Motion: Any bands wishing to combine with another high school band and compete as a combined program must petition and be approved by the competition class subcommittee.

In favor: 15 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

Wayne reviewed changes in class assignments for the 2011 season; please see the posted enrollment numbers.

The question was asked as to whether the 1A class should be re-structured in order to build up that class. There was talk about looking at the numbers for class assignments. There is a natural break around 450 to redo classes 1A and 2A. There was also the point that 1A band directors are not complaining about the field of competition.

The delineation between 1A and 2A discussion will be tabled until feedback from the 1A/2A band directors is sought.

	Semifinals	Finals
1A Competing Bands: ???	???	???
2A Competing Bands: ???	???	???
3A Competing Bands: 12		
4A Competing Bands: 31		
5A Competing Bands: 26		

16. Policy for what items are prohibited in any stadium. Moderated by Ken

Ken reminded the committee that this policy has been in place; air horns have been added to the list. He stated that CBA has a responsibility to help protect the facilities, track, field, etc. This year, damage was done to a track when parents brought silly string and distributed it to the students.

Motion: Any damages incurred to any part of the stadium facilities will be charged to the inflicting band.

In favor: 15 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

At this point, Darren DeLaup had to leave due to a prior obligation. There were 14 voting members from this point.

17. 2011 Regional qualifying events week. Moderated by Wayne

Last year, the small schools in the southern region contacted CBA with concerns about the schedule of regionals and PSAT, which is scheduled on that Wednesday. We moved the Southern regional to Tuesday, which created significant issues in the parking lots because school is dismissed early on Wednesday but not on Tuesday. Northern regionals also has a conflict on Tuesday.

Regionals week discussion is tabled until more contact can be made with site hosts.

Monday: 5A Metro

Tuesday:

Wednesday:

Thursday: 2A/3A/4A Metro

18. Rulebook changes - Previously covered in Item 12

19. Test dates for 2011

(Attached artifacts: 2011 Test Dates)

Wayne distributed the testing dates for the 2011 marching season.

20. State Entry Form changes – Moderated by Wayne

We will work to implement a system with GoogleDocs entry forms and announcements. We will also use back up plans.

21. State Championship Parade – Moderated by WL

The CBA Executive Board has decided it will not continue to fund the State Championship Parade if it doesn't at least break even. WL has gone to the Arvada Harvest Parade Festival Committee and asked for a \$ 2000 sponsorship, and the committee has asked for a 10 year commitment from CBA. CBA has agreed to commit to hosting any State Championship in conjunction with the Arvada Harvest Parade.

Date: September 10th

22. CBA Policy regarding state championships seeding in the case a regional qualifying event is canceled. Moderated by Wayne

This is a reiteration of a rule already in place. In such a case, a subcommittee would be appointed to seed those bands. The seeding would be based on criteria from all 2011 CBA sanctioned events. No other events will be considered. If a band has not participated in any CBA sanctioned events, the subcommittee will determine how to seed that band (i.e. possibly asking for a DVD of a performance to be reviewed by the subcommittee).

23. 2011 Field Shows. Moderated by Ken

Ken talked with Mark Arnold recently with the Blue Knights, who has sponsored the Friendship Cup competitions. The Friendship Cup is expanding their series of competitions from 2 to 4, based on feedback from directors asking to have a series of contests that are not as heavily competitive and where smaller bands can be more successful. Mark talked about his appreciation and support for CBA and the state championship setup. He supports the regional qualifying system, as well; he also expressed a desire to partner with CBA more in the future. One of the ideas he threw out was to sell tickets to state championships online, perhaps even offering reserve seating at a premium cost. Mark, however, is not heavily involved in the Friendship Cup series but will sit down with George Lyndstrom to make sure that these competitions will not be seen as competing with CBA. There needs to be more public support for CBA because it's an organization that is made up of band directors for band directors. CBA also needs to educate new band directors as to the philosophy and work of CBA. WL recommended that Wayne, Ken, and perhaps the site hosts for private competitions meet with George and Lynn Lyndstrom, as well as Mark Arnold to discuss the committee's concerns.

Ken and Wayne will call George to schedule a meeting with them and site hosts to express the committee's concern.

Note: Ken and Wayne have since met with George and Mark to discuss the committee's concerns. After the discussion, they agreed to limit the number of field show competitions in the 2011 season to three.

24. New Business

Judges training – we would like to host a judges' training on July 16th, the Saturday following the CBA convention. WL has been asked to provide a second date of training, which would be more of a follow-up for the directors. This date would be closer to the season. August 6th is one of the only available dates; it would be an afternoon/evening.

State Championships Date - The Air Force Academy football schedule is published, and both our first two dates are available. October 21st and 22nd is our first choice. The 1A/2A/3A State Championship will be the following Monday in order to keep judges over.