

CBA Judges: Amplification and Use of Electronics

All Judges should be aware of proper sound reinforcement. The use of synthesized sound and amplification must enhance authentic and characteristic band sounds without distorting, over amplifying soloists, small ensembles or the whole ensemble.

While synthesized sound and amplification are allowed, music judges must adjudicate the sound reproduced for authentic and characteristic sounds, in addition to correct balance and blend of the ensemble throughout the entire program.

Lack of quality and clarity due to amplification is not to be rewarded in any music or effect caption. Judges must take this into consideration when ranking and rating.

Commentary for sound reinforcement which **does not** enhance authentic and characteristic band sounds should be addressed to the director/staff and in the final wrap up.

CBA Rule 6.03—2022 Rulebook [See](#) Section 6: Electronics

6.03 Use of Microphones for Non-Soloists and Featured Ensembles Use of Amplification: CBA allows the use of amplification of all front ensemble instruments, instrumental, string or vocal soloists and featured ensembles.

*A featured ensemble is considered any group of students within the marching band featured both musically and visually simultaneously during the performance.

- Amplification of any individual(s) within the band that is not a soloist or a featured ensemble is not allowed.
- Soloists or featured ensembles may not continue to be amplified after the solo or feature is concluded.

*Amplifying individuals through the sound board during tutti sections leads to an intentional misrepresentation of what is being performed by the band as a whole. This misrepresentation of the acoustic quality by enhancing a few players is not allowed and will result in immediate disqualification. All soloists and featured ensembles may be miked during their feature section and must be queued out of the sound board when concluded to avoid disqualification.

Shotgun mics are allowed with the understanding Music Judges are instructed to adjudicate the sound reproduced for proper wind sonority and balance/blend.